

MARCH 2025



The Mountain Top Messenger

March 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: March 9 Scott 12 JohnS 16 Doug 19 Darryl 23 JohnP 26 Andy 30 JohnS April 2 Doug 6 Scott 9 JohnS 13 Andy 17 Doug 18 Darryl 20 7am Darryl 9am Scott & Doug 23 JohnP 27 Andy 30 Randy						1 March Altar Guild Becky Sapper 715-682-8867 Paula Pruss 715-292-1898
2 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	3 10:00am Bible Study Dartball	4	5 6:00pm Worship Service	6	7	8
9 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study	10 10:00am Bible Study 5:00pm Evangelism Mtg. 6:00pm Altar Guild Mg. Dartball 7:00pm Tournaments	11 1:00pm Sewing Circle	12 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich 6:00pm Worship Service	13 P9:30am LFOJ Chapel	14	15
16 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:30am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	17 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Council Mtg Dartball 7:00pm Tournaments	18	19 1:00pm Hospice Group-Gathering 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich 6:00pm Worship Service	20 9:00am Winkel	21	22
23 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm Mellen	24 10:00am Bible Study	25 1:00pm Sewing Circle	26 6:00pm Worship Service	27 1:30pm Northern Lights	28 6:00pm LIFT Fellowship Night	

Well here we are March already, it has been a crazy first few days of the month as you can tell because I was late getting this to Lynn and I slowed down the whole newsletter process, sorry about that. And then with Lent starting, the snow storm on Ash Wednesday and the cancelling of the first soup and sandwich it just keeps adding up.

So as promised in my last two newsletter covers I am going to dive into the first Commandment today. It is a familiar one, it is a big one, perhaps the Big one. Numero Uno.

“ You are to have no other gods.”

Or in other words we are to recognize, regard, believe in, worship, only the God. Our God, Yahweh, God Almighty, is and should be the only God we regard. In his large catechism Dr. Luther asks the following question; *“What does “to have a god” mean, or what is God?”*

Answer: “A “god” is the term for that to which we are to look for all good and in which we are to find refuge in all need.”

We can then say to have a god is nothing other than to trust and believe in that one with your whole Heart. Dr. Luther says, *“it is the trust and faith of the heart alone that make both God and idol. If your faith and trust are right, then your God is the true one. Conversely, where your trust is false and wrong, there you do not have the true God.”* He continues; *“For these two belong together, faith and God. Anything on which your heart relies and depends, I say, that is really your God.”*

That last statement is the one we are going to spend a little time on, for I believe it is a statement to which we can all relate to one degree or another. As we examine that statement let us think about what people of today let their hearts rely and depend on. I believe the list could almost be unending but for the sake of discussion let’s stick to the big ones that pop into our minds. First and foremost, on the list would be what? Money? It’s an easy choice, the world tries to tell us that if we have enough money everything will be fine, we will be happy. And as long as we have enough money life will be great, we will be popular, we can have everything that we could want, we will be content. Just a side question for you, have you ever met anyone who told you they had enough money? That they didn’t need any more, that wanted you to perhaps take care of their extra money? One of the other things that comes with or after money is stuff, personal possessions, property, things. He with the most toys wins! And not only do we need stuff, but we need more, bigger, better, faster, you name it

(Continued on next page)

February 17, 2025

1. **Call to Order** – John Pruss, President
2. **Opening Prayer with Devotion** – Darryl Warren, Head Elder
3. **Roll Call** – John Pruss, President
Darryl Warren, Elder & Education
Nick Jarvela, Trustees
Jule Jarvela, Secretary
Tiffany Darling, Treasurer
Tami Thimm, Financial Secretary
Joann Martikonis, LFOJ
4. **Approval of Minutes** – 1- Nick Jarvela 2- Darryl Warren MMC
5. **Pastor's Report** – None (on vacation)
6. **Approval of Treasurer's Report** – 1- Darryl Warren 2- Tami Thimm MMC
7. **Approval of agenda** – with additions 1- Darryl Warren 2- Nick Jarvela MMC
8. **Board Report**
 - A. Elders – None
 - B. Trustees – None
 - C. Financial Secretary – None
 - D. Education – None
 - E. Evangelism – None
 - F. LFOJ – This month's budget ahead, attendance at 26 (23 fulltime), dishwasher received, needs installation
9. **Official Acts** – Baptism – Nellie Marie Neibauer – February 9, 2025
10. **Old Business** – None
11. **New Business**
 - A. Budget discussed and areas where savings might be made. Will be presented at Annual Meeting on February 23, 2025. 1- Nick Jarvela 2- Darryl Warren MMC
 - B. Sunday School checking account – Balance will be given to youth attending the Gathering and account will be closed. 1- Darryl Warren 2- Nick Jarvela MMC
 - C. Art Supplies in Church basement were offered to LFOJ. Any remaining will then be offered to the members of the congregation.
 - D. Memorial Committee – Will discuss the use of funds at the Annual Meeting on February 23, 2025

Next Council Meeting – March 17, 2025

Adjournment – 1- Nick Jarvela 2- Tami Thimm MMC Lord's Prayer

LIFT—Lutherans in Fellowship Together

February gathering was filled with fun, fellowship, snacks, and much more! 13 of us played Trivia and later Swoop (a new card game.) Our next get together will be March 28th, Friday, 6:00pm. Please bring a snack and verage. Come and join us for a fun evening!

The First Commandment

“You must not have any other god but me.”

(Exodus 20:3)

Continued from previous page

we need it, or at least the world tells us we do. If that wasn't the case we would still be using iPhone 1's. Now we might think that this is something that plagues people of our age, this age of plenty, of instant gratification, the age of lighting communications and short attention spans. But alas, this is an issue with sinful man,

sinful from the fall of Adam and not just something that has come about in the twentieth and twenty first century. The following was written by Dr. Luther in 1529:

“There are some who think that they have God and everything they need when they have money and property; they trust in them and boast in them so stubbornly and securely that they care for no one else. They too, have a god -mammon by name, that is money and property – on which they set their whole heart. This is the most common idol on earth. Those who have money and property feel secure, happy, and fearless, as if they were sitting in the midst of paradise. On the other hand, those who have nothing doubt and despair as if they knew of no god at all. We will find very few who are cheerful, who do not fret and complain, if they do not have mammon. This desire for wealth clings and sticks to our nature all the way to the grave.”

It is easy to fall into the trap of this false God, Satan is always at work finding ways to lure us away from the one true God and to follow all those false gods out there. Following the one true God can only be accomplished through faith. That faith includes trusting that God will provide for all our needs of body and soul. We must remember there is nothing wrong with having money or property or possessions, where we go wrong is when those things become our desire. When instead of thanking God for all that he has blessed us with we simply want more and walk away from God to seek those other gods. We must trust the Lord, He will provide. Dr. Luther closes off this first commandment lesson this way: *“if the heart is right with God and we keep this commandment, all the rest will follow on their own.: Keep a right heart with God, allow Him to work within you.”*

Until next month, when we look at the second commandment.

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

Pastor Rick



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

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am live streamed
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm
Sunday School - 1st - 7th grade Sunday 8:45am (Sept.-May)
Bible Studies
 Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am (Sept.-May)

1. Called to order by John Pruss, President
2. Opening prayer by Pastor Scott Holoubek
3. Attendance – 22 No new members attending
4. 2023 Minutes as printed. Motion to accept 1- Carol Key 2- Nick Jarvela MMC
5. 2023 Financial Report as printed. Motion to accept 1- Nick Jarvela 2- Rick Nutt MMC
6. New Business:
 - A. Nick Jarvela reviewed the process of the roof repair. Will inform congregation of timeline of repairs as soon as he is informed by the contractor.
 - B. Tami Thimm has assumed the position of Financial Secretary and Andy Pruss has assumed the position of Treasurer. Motion made by Nick Jarvela and seconded by Paula Pruss to accept the changes. MMC Thanks to Lisa Guski and Chuck Chronis for years served.
 - C. Zion in need of new Sexton. Rate of pay is \$15.00/hr.
 - D. A motion was made by Sandy Frisco, seconded by Judy Nevala and carried to begin a campaign to defray the cost of the roof repair. A donation box will be placed in the Narthex and any ideas for other money raising events can be brought to John Pruss.
7. Adjournment. 1- Randy Spangle 2- Paula Pruss MMC
8. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479
Office Hours: M /T/Th 9-5 Wed. 12-8 Fri. off
 Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.
Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M/T/Wed 8:30-2:30
 Days and times may change.
Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 Head Elder: Darryl Warren 715-492-0488
Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185
LFOJ Administrator: JoAnn Martkonis 715-682-6075
Website www.zionashland.org **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com



Be Patient

Romans 8:25

But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Proverbs 15:18

A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel.

Millie waits for her companion, Edward, to catch up with her on their hike..

PRAYERS for Home-bound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

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

*Ingrid Pocernich
 Arlene Zimmerman
 Violet Basina*

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

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

*David Wright
 Jordan Thimm
 Andrew Pruss*

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

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



Brad Prill	Vi Basina
James Fletcher	Harold Larson
Linda Stenroos	Steve Key
Tim Erickson	Patty Hmielewski
Jean Wickman	Pam Ekholm
Nick Frisco	Tom Anderson
Riley Bretting	Mike Trimble
Jamie Klema	Karen Piff
Molly Colgrove	Linda Parrish
Chuck Sandor	Carl Kubley

Mary Dahl Sheryl Hildebrandt Dwayne Lynch Sandy Bosma
 Don Pocernich Ingrid Pocernich Bill Swartz Larry
 Hildibrandt Sandy Lind Karen Wayne Casey Chuck
and those in our hearts
Immanuel, Mellen and Trinity, Berglund Congregations while they seek a new Pastor.

Dear Lord,
 Life can be overwhelming at times, and we humbly ask for your divine strength for our loved ones. Strengthen their resolve, fortify their spirits, and help them overcome any challenges they face. Grant them the courage to persevere in the face of adversity, for we know that through you, they can find the strength they need. Thank you for being their unwavering source of strength. Amen.

Lent: A Time to Recharge, Renew & Draw Closer to God

All are from the dust, and to dust all return. — Ecclesiastes 3:20 (ESV)

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.



The inspiration for the theme is drawn from [Concordia Commentary Isaiah 40-55](#) by Dr. R. Reed Lessing. Although Isaiah pulsates with richness and depth, chapters 40-55 contains some of the best-known, most-cherished, and theologically significant texts in the Bible. These chapters teach an orientation to the Lord and the world that Jesus endorsed, sharpened, and laid as the foundation for the Christian Church.

Lent is a penitential season during which God's baptized people celebrate their Baptism through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the true and only Savior, the one foretold by God's prophet, and the only one who can restore humankind to a relationship of life with God through His suffering and death.

FEBRUARY LFOJ NEWSLETTER

TOTVILLE NEWS: Greetings from the Infant Room!

We've had a lot of illnesses going around lately as everyone is aware. Hopefully we have seen the worst of it, and all of the children will be able to return soon.

Warmer temps are supposed to be on the way, so we can spend some time outside once again!

Welcome to our newest baby, Linnea. We are anxious to meet and get to know her. Reagan and Otilie are talking more and learning new words every day.

Lainey, Evie and Elouise are getting more and more mobile. Gabe and Adalynn are adjusting well.

Thank you all for entrusting your little ones to our care. We enjoy having them!

We hope everyone had a happy and joyful Valentine's Day.

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

- Denise and Nikki

TODDLER TIDBITS: The Toddler room is working very hard on potty training. Just as a reminder, I keep a chart of potty times on a white board behind the bathroom door. We have been going through a lot of stickers lately as a reward for each time the kids use the potty.

In March, we will be learning about pets, spring, and the five senses! The plan is to take advantage of the nice weather when we have it, whether it is playing outside or just going on a walk. So please make sure we have a signed walking field trip form on file if you haven't already signed one. Thank you!

-Jane and Michelle

LEARNER LANE: The Learner themes this month included GroundHogs, Valentine's Day, feelings/emotions, and pirates!

We read the Bible stories of Ruth and Naomi, Solomon asks for wisdom, The promised land, and Joseph and his coat.

This month, we welcomed Lilith and Isaiah to our room! They are a great addition, and it makes me happy to see the room filling up.

Our Valentine's exchange was a huge success! Thank you all for your participation. The kids had a blast passing out their treats.

Wishing you all well for the remainder of the month. Warmer days are ahead!

-Ms. Hanna

UPDATES:

We saved enough money to get a new dishwasher/sanitizer machine for the center. It should be installed and running by next week! Thank you to everyone who helped us make this possible and to those who are helping install it.

God Bless,

Tressa Groom

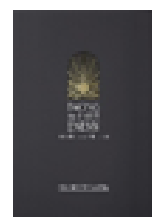
Director

JoAnn Martikonis

Administrator

God's Not Dead 2 DVD *God's not dead...but they're trying to kick him out of the public square!*

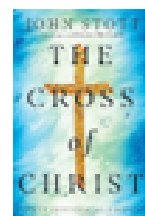
Welcome back to Hope Springs...where Grace Wesley teaches high school history. She is on the hot seat with the school district after she answers Brooke Thawley's question about Jesus during a classroom discussion. Suddenly Brooke becomes a pawn in an epic court case that could cost Grace the career she loves.



Facing the Last Enemy: Death and the Christian book by Dr. Guy Waters. When we're standing at the gravesite, death gives little closure and leaves many questions unanswered. Despite the common claim that "dying is just a natural part of life," Is that true? In this book, Dr. Guy Waters provides the Bible's answers to essential questions about death, dying, and what comes after this life. Here is balm for the grieving, counsel for caretakers, and guidance to help God's people rest in Christ's victory as we come to life's final battle.

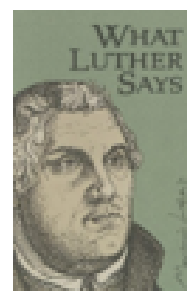


The Great Divorce book by C.S. Lewis. The writer finds himself in Hell boarding a bus bound for Heaven. This is a starting point for an extraordinary meditation upon good and evil, Anyone living in the ghostly realm can take the bus to someplace brilliant and beautiful. But in the end, most choose to return to the grey world, full of excuses, fears, or vices they cannot stand to lose.

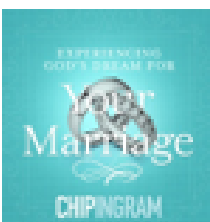


The Cross of Christ book by John Stott. Why should an object of Roman distaste and Jewish shame be the emblem of our worship and the axiom of our faith? And what does it mean for us today? "I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross. . . . In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?" This confronts readers with the centrality of the cross in God's redemption of our pain-filled world.

What Luther Says. Book by Martin Luther. Luther, the contrarian, the disrupter, the defiant rebel. This compilation of his teachings, however, demonstrates to a modern reader why Luther is known as "the Great Reformer," and gives a balanced and exhaustive look at what he really believed. His writings are especially needed today when so many professing Evangelicals are lured away to counterfeit gospels! As Luther predicted would happen: "The situation is destined to become worse later on, so that the entire world will oppose the Gospel, cast reflections on this Word, and condemn it."

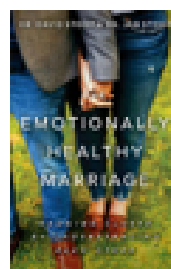


Investing in Your Marriage



Experiencing God's Dream for Your Marriage: Couples or group bible study by Chip Ingram 12 DVD sessions. Would you like a fresh breeze to blow in your marriage? Do you long for a marriage where intimacy and communication are a reality instead of a dream? Experiencing God's Dream for Your Marriage is a topical series by Chip Ingram that examines God's design for marriage, with practical instruction to help you make your marriage what God desires it to be.

The Emotionally Healthy Marriage: Growing Closer by Understanding Each Other. Book by Dr. David Stoop When it comes to a successful, satisfying marriage, it's not about how many workshops you've attended, how many counseling sessions you've experienced together, or which conflict resolution tools you've been taught. What it really all comes down to is emotions--understanding your own and your partner's, and then walking hand in hand through those inevitable situations where emotions run high.



What Are the 5 Colors of Lent?

An in-depth look at the five colors plucked from God's rainbow that usher us through this important time of spiritual renewal and growth.

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Lent is a season of spiritual growth and change. So it might help to look at it through God's rainbow of colors. In particular, five hues are associated with this holy time of year on the liturgical calendar.

The five Lent colors are:

Green Purple Blue Yellow Red



But what do these colors mean? How can we think about them as we move through our Lenten journey, and how can they help us better understand the meaning of Lent?

The Meaning Behind the Lent Colors



1. Green: New Life

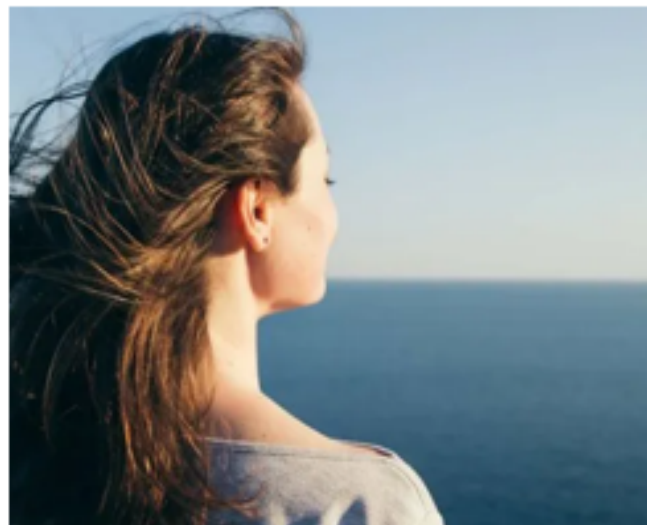
The very word "Lent" means *spring* and as the cool of winter fades, we look for all the green signs that the season of hope and redemption is at hand. The grass comes up, the leaves slowly burst forth on the trees. Bulbs that we planted in the fall, digging deep into the earth, push up and show their true colors. As you pray in Lent, you are looking to be fertilized and watered with God's purifying love. You're not green with envy; you're green with new life. May it come.

2. Purple: God's Love

Purple has always been the liturgical color associated with Lent, when ministers of God wear purple vestments and the altars where we worship are often decorated with purple cloth. Purple has long been the color linked with royalty and nobility. Why? Because it was especially expensive to produce, made from thousands of mollusk shells. Only the rich could afford it. If the kings could wear it, shouldn't it be appropriate for the King of Kings?

God came down to Earth and was reborn in Jesus as we become reborn in Him. Purple then becomes a link to what God put in our reach. We all deserve the purple, crowning ourselves with God's infinite love.





3. Blue: Reflection

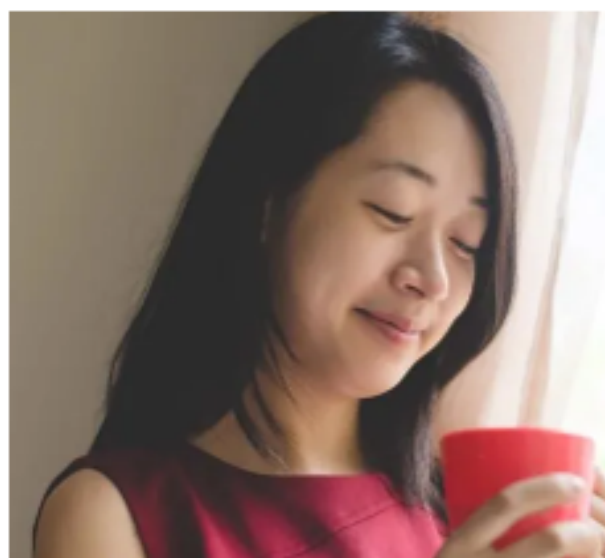
Lent is a time of deep reflection. When we offer ourselves up to the Lord in contemplative prayer, it is common to tap into sorrow and sometimes painful memories. We see our dark side. We remember our losses. We can be smitten with unexpected sadness. We find ourselves singing “the blues,” literally. But that very process is a letting go. We feel God’s forgiveness. The very singing of the blues becomes a way of healing. The clouds disappear. The blue skies open up. The air shimmers. Blue becomes crystal clear vision.



4. Yellow: The Light Within

We are nothing without the warmth and golden light of the sun, waking us up in the morning, following us through the day, dropping over the horizon at day’s end, God with us always. Yellow is that God-given hue that when mixed with blue forms green or mixed with red becomes orange. It is the very light within.

In our Lenten meditations we stop whatever we are doing at different times during the day and connect directly to God who is always there to connect to us. Like the sun. There’s nothing soft about yellow. It is strong, life-giving, life-sustaining. With Lent you see how each moment is golden, not to be missed.



5. Red: Importance

Red is often the color associated with martyrs of the faith, those who gave their life over to the Lord. Red can symbolize the Passion of our Lord who gave His life for us and is often used on Palm Sunday. Later it invariably marks the feast day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came down and filled Jesus’s followers as it fills us, giving us the power and strength to do what we might never have thought we could do.

Red is the color of the stop sign or that red light that made you halt. Like you halted for the 40 days of Lent. But it was only to remember what was and is most important in life. True red-letter days. May each day bring you the colors of your true Self.

No matter how you celebrate this Lent—whether you are giving something up, growing closer to God through

Lenten prayers, or making the time to celebrate Lent as a family—think about the meaning behind these Lent colors. As you see the trees bud with green, think about new life. When you see the purple vestments at church, pray about God’s love. As you gaze up to the blue, spring sky, reflect on your progress this Lenten season. Do your Lenten prayers or meditations under the yellow light of the morning sun. If you see the color red throughout your day, take a second to think about the most important things in your life. How can you include all the Lent colors in your celebrations and prayers?

Uncover Your Divine Design: Who did God create you to be? Book by Robin Melvin. In these unsettling times, it’s easy to be overwhelmed and feel a bit lost—to forget who and Whose you are. And you’re not alone. At our soul’s core, we know we’re made for more. So we ask, “God, who am I and what do You want me to do?” Somewhere on this zig-zaggy journey, our pain and our people defined us. We formed toxic mindsets and habits that hide our divine design. But while our history reshaped us, our Creator restores us to the woman He already sees—healed, whole, and free. And so our healing begins.



Why I Believe: Straight Answers to Honest Questions about God, the Bible, and Christianity. individual or group Bible study by Chip Ingram. Responding to the perception that Christians are prejudiced, anti-intellectual, and bigoted has become a greater challenge than ever before. The result is often intimidation, withdrawal, and even doubts among God’s people about what we really believe. Chip Ingram gives solid, biblical, logical answers to satisfy the honest doubts that every believer experiences, and will provide thoughtful arguments for those who are curious about Christianity.



Fractured Faith: Finding Your Way Back to God in an Age of Deconstruction

book by Lina AbuJamra. Somewhere along the way, the Christianity you knew began to crumble. Disillusionment set in. Churches hurt you. Their people failed you. And in it all, God was silent. Is He gone? Or is God really there, waiting for you to find Him instead of the counterfeits? If you’re walking this difficult spiritual path, Lina AbuJamra understands you. After experiencing the near deconstruction of her own faith, Lina had to rebuild something more solid when the faith she once knew let her down. Lina helps you grapple with questions like:

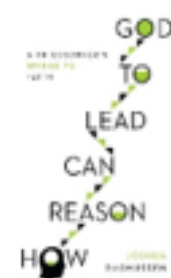
- Where is God in my pain?
- Is this how Christians are supposed to act?
- Why did my story end up this way?
- Is this the normal Christian life?
- Why is it so hard for Christians to love?

Let *Fractured Faith* help you find your way back to God. You just might discover that the real God has been waiting for you all along.



Walking Through Deconstruction: How to Be a Companion in a Crisis of Faith – book by Ian Harber. Deconstruction is a re-examining of the belief system you were raised in. Rethinking faith and discarding some previously held beliefs, sometimes to the point of no longer identifying as a Christian.

Ian Harber knows the fear and grief of deconstruction firsthand. He tells his journey of **deconstruction and reconstruction**. Deconstruction doesn’t happen in a vacuum; it is enforced by a cultural co-opting of Christianity, compromised churches, and the compounding anxieties of life. But the Christian faith has better to offer. Harber lays out a vision for the kind of faith environment that can **foster genuine reconstruction** through healthy relationships, robust doctrine, healthy institutions, a better theology of suffering, and the peace of God.



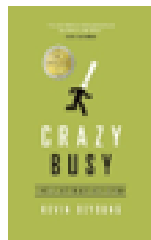
How Reason Can Lead to God: A Philosopher's book by Joshua Rasmussen

Do you seek the truth? Do you value reason, science, and independent thinking? Are you skeptical of beliefs that people maintain merely “on faith,” yet you remain interested in the big questions of life? Who am I? Where do I fit in? What is my purpose? Do you hope there could be a greater purpose to the universe, if only that were realistic? If so, then philosopher Joshua Rasmussen can encourage you in your journey. Beginning with his own story of losing faith and the belief in any ultimate purpose in life, he then builds a bridge to a series of universal truths about ultimate reality.

You've heard it said that what **goes into your brain molds your thoughts, word, and deeds**. What is molding you? Television, the news, video games, popular magazines, neighborhood gossip, God's living word? **Do you need a better food source for your development?**

Modern-day Christian authors share God's wisdom diving deep into human problems. Our church library has material that delights and challenges, providing mind-blowing concepts you won't find anywhere else. Check it out, and if you can't find a topic you're interested in, request it for our collection. If you're searching others are as well.

- Culture and faith?
- marriage, divorce, sex, dating
- freedom from fear and worry
- Science and Religion
- raising children, teenagers
- my grandchild is dating a Muslim
- loneliness and the Christian
- illness and death



Crazy Busy: A (Mercifully) Short Book about a (Really) Big Problem book by Kevin DeYoung **Winner of the 2014 Christian Book of the Year Award**
"I'M TOO BUSY!" to read this book. We've all heard it. We've all said it. All too often, busyness gets the best of us. Just one look at our jam-packed schedules tells us how hard it can be to strike a well-reasoned balance between doing nothing and doing it all. Addresses the busyness problem head — and not with the typical arsenal of time management tips, but rather with the biblical tools we need to get to the source of the issue and pull the problem out by the roots.

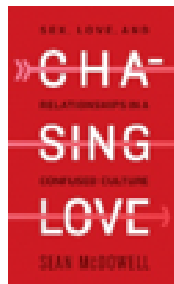


The Love Stories of the Bible Speak: Biblical Lessons on Romance, Friendship, and Faith book by Shannon Bream. Shannon draws lessons from the good, the bad, and the ugly of Biblical romances, friendships, and families. She shows how God's love is often very different from ours, turning upside down our assumptions about life, relationships, and each other. This book reminds us that, no matter where we find ourselves, God's unwavering love will sustain and guide us.

Seven Women: And the Secret of Their Greatness by Eric Metaxas
 Get seven captivating portraits of some of the greatest women who ever lived, each of whom changed the course of history by following God's call upon their lives. **Joan of Arc, Susanna Wesley, Hannah More, Sister Maria of Paris, Corrie ten Boom, Rosa Parks, and Mother Teresa!**



Chasing Love: Sex, Love, and Relationships in a Confused Culture Book by Dr. Sean McDowell. **Are you searching for love?** The love that the world tells us to pursue is all about following your heart's desires. The music we listen to, the movies we watch—tell us to keep chasing love, and we'll finally be happy when we find it. **But is that true?** What is the Christian worldview on love? When we follow Jesus, we realize that he invites us to true happiness by reorienting the focus from our desires—by first giving love—to God and to others.



When Sorry Isn't Enough: Making Things Right with Those You Love book by Gary Chapman
"I said I was sorry!" Even in the best of relationships, **all of us make mistakes**. We do and say things we later regret and hurt the people we love most. The authors unveil new ways to effectively approach and mend fractured relationships. Even better, you'll discover how meaningful apologies provide the power to make your friendships, family, and marriage stronger than ever before.

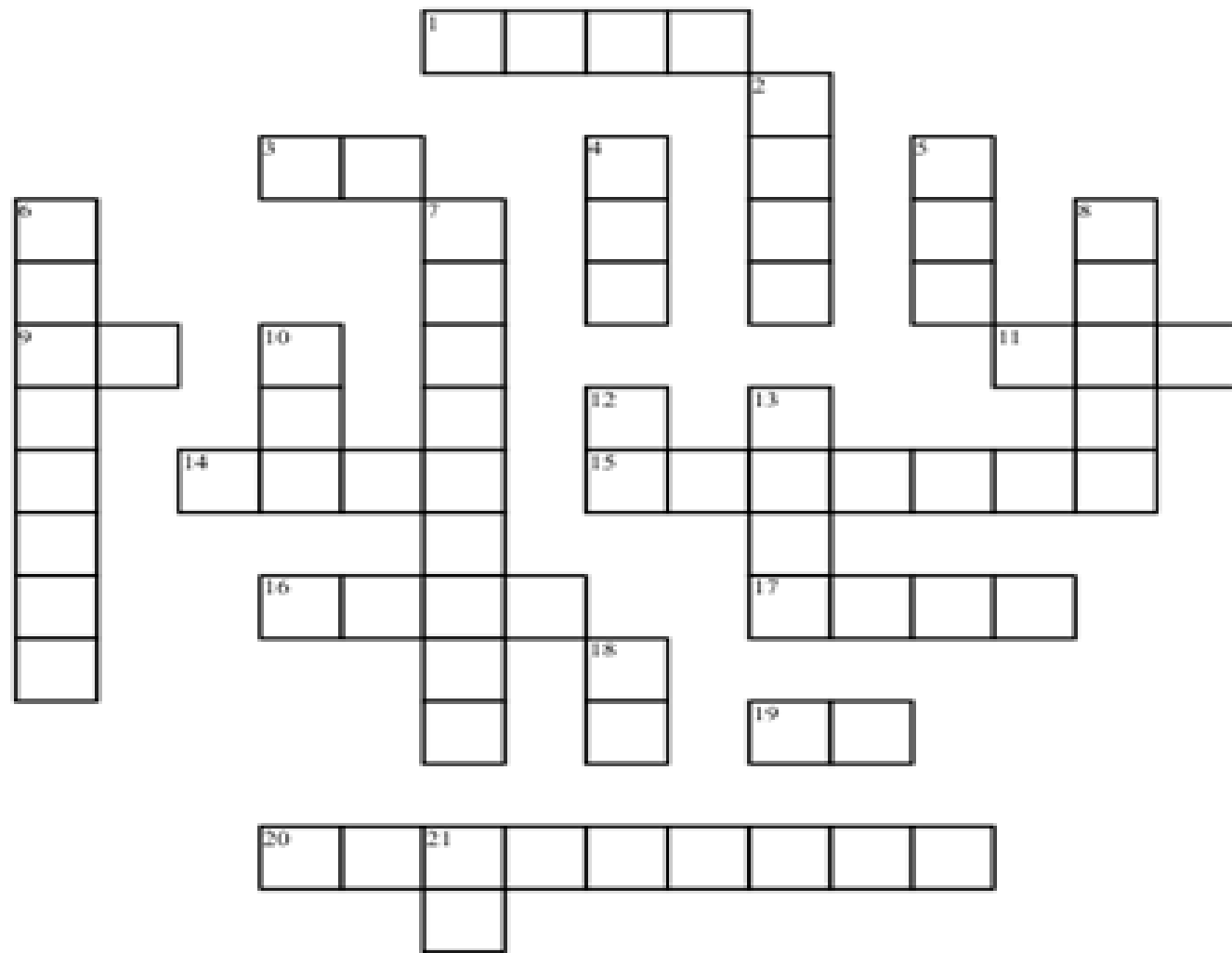
Luke 15:11-32

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

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Compassionate | Complaining | Rebellious | Desperate |
| Welcoming | Accusing | Starving | Stubborn |
| Foolish | Patient | Sulking | Waiting |
| Joyful | Loving | Unkind | Angry |
| Found | Lost | | |

Your Have According On Who Me Example
 Keep Walk The Us Join In Eyes
 In Brothers To Imitating You Those And

Philippians 3:17



My nagging wife died suddenly on a trip to Jerusalem. Funeral director, "Sir, it would cost about \$45,000 if we send her home back to the states or \$500 if we bury her here in Jerusalem."

Me: "Ship her home."

Funeral director: "But sir, why don't you bury her here in the Holy Land and you can save money."

Me: "A long time ago a man was buried here and 3 days later he rose from the dead, I can't take that chance."

The Temptation of Jesus

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Luke 4:1-2a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 4:1-13 (NIV).



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

SPIRIT	DEVIL	DAYS	JORDAN	STONE
HOLY	LIVE	ANGELS	AUTHORITY	WORSHIP
DESERT	TEMPLE	COMMAND	BREAD	WORLD
TEMPTED	FORTY	KINGDOMS	JERUSALEM	HUNGRY

My boss was honest with me today. He pulled up to work with his sweet new car this morning and I complimented him on it. He replied, "Well, if you work hard, set goals, stay determined and put in long hours, I can get an even better one next year."