



The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI OCTOBER 2020

God Blessings to all of you as you read this October newsletter, I pray it finds you well. With it being October already I find myself rapidly preparing for winter and realizing that in just a few short weeks I will have to start preparing for Advent. As I was starting to write this most recent version I was looking around my office contemplating what to write, I looked at my bulletin board and notice that the last church calendar that I have posted was March. It reminded me of those things you see every now and then, an example might be the clock on the Titanic that stopped when the ship sank. Or a calendar page found in the rubble of the World Trade Center from September 11th. The only real difference is I don't know of any particular time or exact date when this current world changing event occurred, some say January in Wohan, China, other say February when the first case was detected in the USA. Others say March, because that is when the lockdown began. Regardless of what date you pick, we have all been impacted by this latest event. And I am guessing what many people, including myself are considering is, how long, and what permanent changes it will bring to our lives. We already have more temporary changes than I think any of us could have imagined back in January, February, or March. I just look at the things that have changed around here. Who would of thought in this short period of time that the internet would become our many way of offering a worship experience to our people? Who would have thought that we couldn't meet in the narthex before worship and say hi, or gathered after for coffee and cookies? I am probably not the only one who longs for a potluck. We are now looking at beginning an online Sunday school program. And following the closing of the school system this week we are now looking at conducting confirmation classes via Zoom. I have limited my home visits, I feel most of our shut-ins are being safe and social distancing, it is myself that I worry about, I do not want to be the one who shares this virus with others and through the normal course of my duties, while I follow as many safety practices as possible, probably have more contact with others many of you. So with all that being said, what's the plan?

(Cont. on the next page)

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Well, I will continue to carry on and faithfully share the Gospel and rightly administer the sacraments. In the past three weeks I have performed two baptisms, and a wedding. All while practicing the three “W”’s, washing my hands regularly, wearing my mask, and watching my distance. We will continue to offer Sunday morning in person services, while practicing those same 3 W’s, we will continue with our live and recorded services available on our Website, YouTube channel, Facebook page, and app. We will hopefully within the next few weeks be initiating a Sunday school online, I also hope to have a Zoom session going for confirmation. We are planning on having confirmation service for last years 8th Graders on October 25, Reformation Sunday, it is yet to be determined if that will be during service or a private service after. I am also within the next few weeks going to be looking at doing a separate children’s video message once or twice a month and that may be in conjunction with Sunday school. We are still working on improving the sound balance on streaming and also trying to incorporate the congregational responses and singing.

With all that being said you might ask, so what do we do? How long do we keep this up? How long do we wait? Well, it may sound like a simple answer to complex question, but we wait as long as we have to. As Christians we sometimes forget that as Christians, that is what we are called to do. Not necessarily to wait to go back to church, or to enjoy coffee and cookies, or an occasional potluck. But we are called to wait for the glorious return of our savior Jesus Christ. We like generations of Christians before wait for that day when “...*the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an **archangel**, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*” (1 Thessalonians 4:16). All the other stuff, that stuff going on around us each and every day. It’s just stuff. It is what goes on in fallen, sinful, world. And while we do our best to cope with it, we must always remember, while we are in the world, we are not of the world. We are Lord’s and as long as we are his, as long as we have built our faith on that rock of Christ’s church, Christ himself has assured us “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”. (Matt 16:18b). We are that church, we are the body of Christ. While we are both sinner and saint, we are the Lord’s, and He will prevail. Keep the faith, be strong, be steadfast, be enduring, until we are either called home to be with the Lord, or we witness His glorious appearing. Be safe, be healthy, be strong, be not afraid to call on one another for support. Always remember; “*And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*” (Matt 29:20b)

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

In His Service,
Pastor Rick

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am in-church service and live streamed
Wednesday Evening Service - live streamed 6:30pm
(a more in-depth look at Sunday's service)
Sunday School - 3yrs.—5th grade At-home lessons
Bible Studies—currently cancelled.

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479

Office Hours: M/T/TH 8:30-4:30 W 12-8 F Off

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M-W 8:30-2:30

Days and times may change upon need of work.

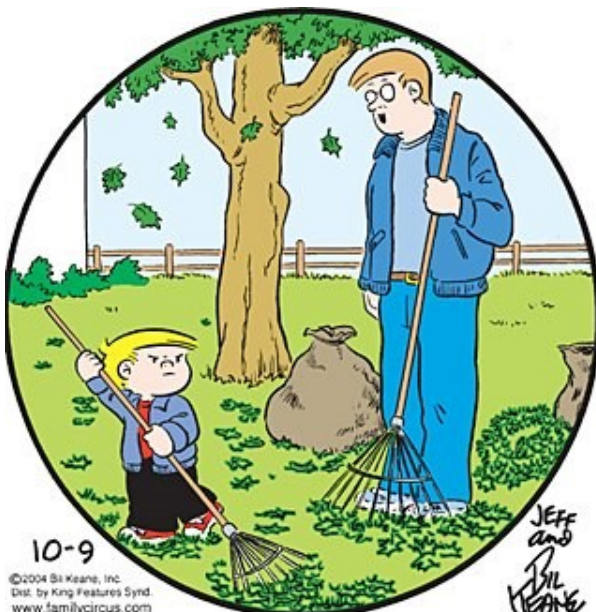
Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 Head Elder: Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185

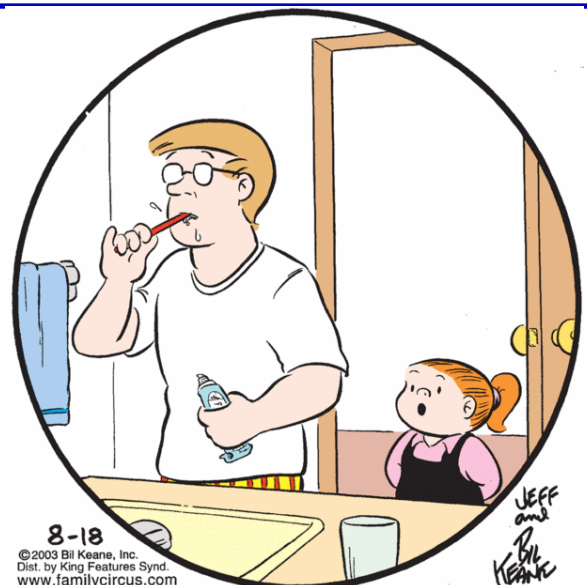
LFOJ Administrator: Karyn Leino 715-682-6075

Below is a portion from the State's Emergency Order which Ashland County has posted on their Facebook Page, Sept. 22nd. Even though this is a continuation of the order, we thought we would post a portion of it. It hasn't been enforced up to this point, and it may never be, but the biggest issue is being considerate of others. The order lists exceptions and a religious person giving a presentation is able to remove the mask as long as there is a six foot distance from people.

Every individual, age five and older, in Wisconsin shall wear a face covering while indoors or in an enclosed space, other than a private residence; and in other settings, including outdoors when it is not possible to maintain physical distancing. This order remains in effect until November 21, 2020 or until a subsequent or superseding order.



"Cheer up. Pretend they're dollar bills."



"Daddy, did Jeffy tell you what he did with your toothbrush today?"

SCRIPTURE COOKIES

Look up each verse to find out which ingredients you'll need to make your cookies!

1/2 CUP "His talk is smooth as _____" Psalm 55:21

1/2 CUP "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than _____ to my mouth." Psalm 119: 103

1 "As one reaches into a nest, so my hand reached for the wealth of the nations; as people gathered abandoned _____, so I gathered all the countries..." Isaiah 10:14

2 TSP. "Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a _____ offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." Ephesians 5:2 (*Vanilla is a fragrance*)

1 CUP "The kingdom of Heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about 60 pounds of _____." Matthew 13: 33

1/2 TSP. "You are the _____ of the earth." Matthew 5:13

1/2 TSP. "A little _____ works through the whole batch of dough." Galatians 5:9 (Use **baking soda** not yeast)

1 TSP. "I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and _____." Proverbs 7:17

3/4 CUP "...There were plentiful supplies of flour, fig cakes, _____ cakes, wine, olive oil, cattle and sheep, for there was joy in Israel." 1 Chronicles 12:40

2 CUPS "Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear _____." Mark 4:7 (*Oatmeal is a type of grain*)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
 Beat the butter and honey for one minute. Add eggs and vanilla and beat on medium for another minute.
 In a separate bowl, mix flour, oats, baking soda, salt, & cinnamon.
 Slowly add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients.
 Stir in raisins and drop by spoonfuls on a cookie sheet.
 Bake for 12-14 minutes.

*The NIV translation was used for each scripture reference.

Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter (at room-temperature)
 1 egg
 1 cup white whole wheat flour
 1/2 tsp. baking soda

1/2 cup honey
 2 tsp. vanilla
 1 tsp. salt
 1 tsp. cinnamon





Mustard Seed

Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

Living in Praise **Humble Praise**

In the Word

"Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you — majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?" Exodus 15:11

Of the Word

In a culture where inflated résumés and GPAs are the norm, humility lies largely forgotten. We're told to tout our triumphs and fill in the gaps with positive — if not positively true — accomplishments. As Mother Teresa once observed, however, "It is our emptiness and lowliness that God needs and not our fullness."

Humility brings us face to face with ourselves, emptying us of our pretenses, our self-pride, our claims to power. Then it shows us Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection bridges heaven and earth. Through Him, we have access to God our Father, whose power and authority reign supreme. We have received the Holy Spirit, whose wisdom goes far beyond anything we could even imagine. We cling to the genuine merits of Jesus Christ, our God and our Friend, whose love for us knows no bounds.

Yes, humility puts us in our place — which is right where God wants us so He can lift us and fill us with His wisdom. A humble spirit praises Him, not from the emptiness of its accomplishments, but from the fullness of His love.

Walking with my Lord

Grant me a meek and lowly heart, O Lord,
So You can fill it with Your love, according to Your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Being a Christian is like being a Pumpkin:



God picks you from the patch and
brings you in. (John 15:16)

Then He washes all the dirt off of you.
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all
the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds
of doubt, fear, hate, and greed.

(Romans 6:6)

He carves you a new smiling face.

(Psalm 71:23)

And He puts his light inside of you to
shine for all the world to see.

(Matthew 5:16)



In October the LWML will once again be placing the box in the narthex for collection of mites and will remain there to accept mites at any time during the month. All donations are appreciated and work to further the mission work of the LWML in our country and around the world.

Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Matthew 22:1-14

Word Search Puzzle

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

PARABLES	STREET	INVITED	BANQUET
GUESTS	HEAVEN	KINGDOM	CORNERS
SERVANTS	CATTLE	COME	OXEN
FILLED	REFUSED	WEDDING	DINNER



Sunday Attendance:

Aug. 16 18
 Aug. 23 22
 Aug. 30 31
 Sept. 6 26
 Sept. 13 41
 Sept. 20 26

FYI - We wanted to again express that we are following distancing guidelines with people sitting in every other pew and usually only 1 or 2 at each end, unless a family unit sits in a pew. We suggest masks and almost everyone wears a mask in and out of church and may take them off during the service. You may have noticed the other week we had 41 in attendance.

It was wonderful to have that many there for a service. There still were safe seats for about 15 more people. If everyone who has attended church at least once comes we may be over the amount of available seats. But we have other places in mind of where people can be placed. Also, we have a plan. If our numbers start becoming more consistent with attendance of 40 or more we will go to two Sunday services, times haven't been set. We want people to feel safe and secure.



A HUNTER'S BLUE MOON ON OCTOBER 31ST

In October 2020, we're in for a special lunar event:

a Blue Moon on October 31—

But that's not the only thing that makes this October special. The month will contain both the Harvest Moon *and* the Hunter's Moon, which are unique as far as full Moon names go.

October's Two Full Moons

Why these names are unique has to do with the fact that the Harvest Moon and the Hunter's Moon are the only two full Moon names associated with an astronomical event rather than a particular calendar month, which means that the names aren't tied to a specific month's full Moon.

Instead, the **Harvest Moon** is defined as the full Moon that happens nearest to the [Autumnal Equinox](#) (September 22, 2020), while the **Hunter's Moon** is the full Moon that directly follows the Harvest Moon.

Typically, this means that the Harvest Moon occurs in September, followed by the Hunter's Moon in October. This year, however, October will contain two full Moons—on the 1st and 31st—which means that both the Harvest Moon AND the Hunter's Moon will occur in October, and that the Hunter's Moon will also be a **Blue Moon!**

So what happens to September's full Moon name if it's not called the Harvest Moon? It takes on one of its alternate names: the [Full Corn Moon](#).

When to See the Blue Moon

Venture outdoors on the night of October 31, 2020, to catch a glimpse of a bewitching full Moon—the Hunter's Blue Moon! This full Moon will reach peak illumination at 10:51 A.M. EDT on Halloween morning, but will appear full that night, too.

WHAT IS A BLUE MOON?

Need a refresher on what a Blue Moon actually is? We get a lot of questions about the term, including:

Is "Blue Moon" a scientific term used in astronomy?

Did this term originate with Native American folklore, like a number of the other [full Moon names](#)?

Does a Blue Moon really look blue?

In truth, the answer to all of these questions is "no."

The modern understanding of "Blue Moon" only took off in the 1980s. It was a result of a much earlier mistake printed in a 1946 issue of *Sky & Telescope* magazine, and since then, the term has gone viral in the media.

Two Types of Blue Moons

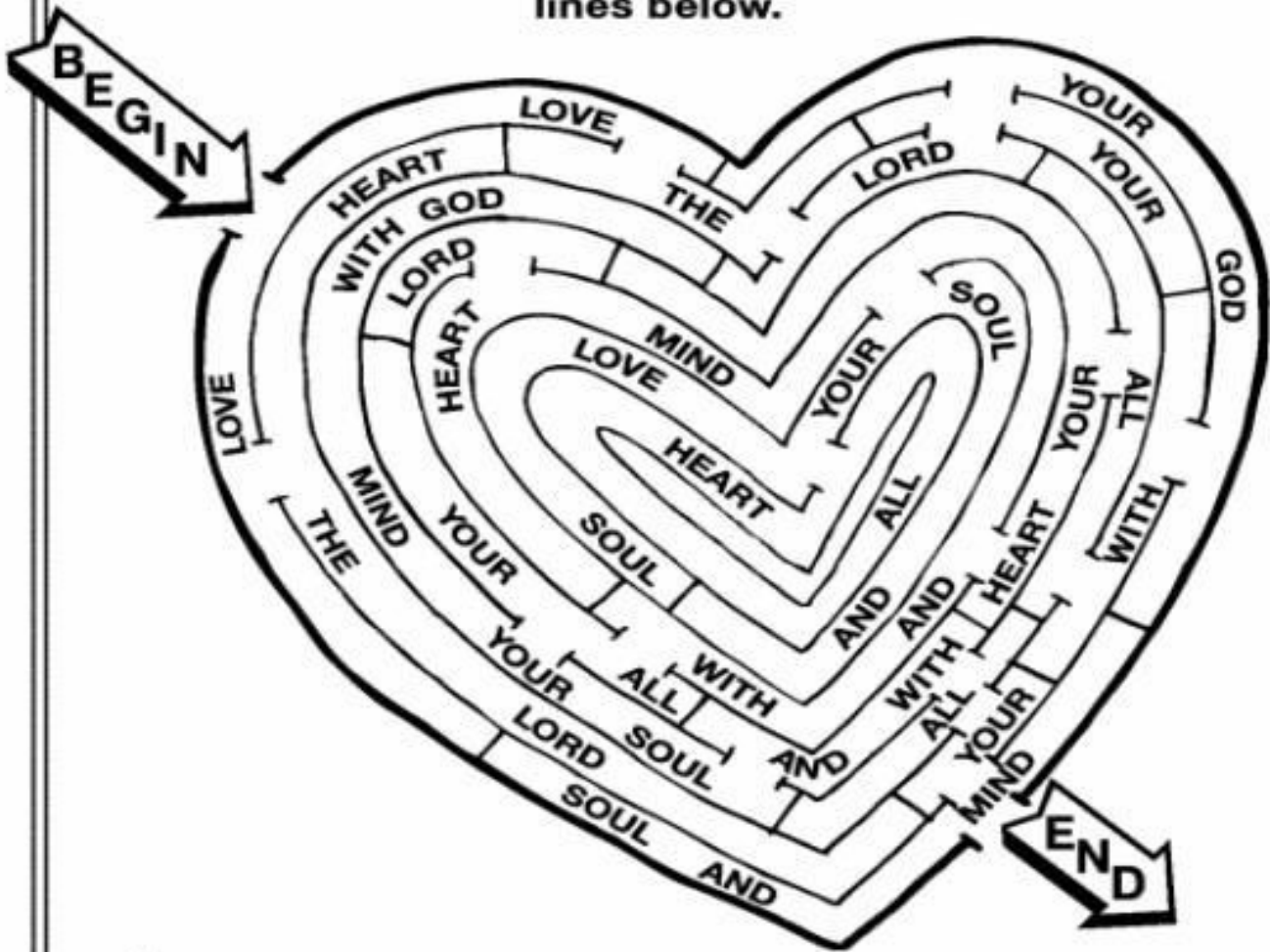
There are two definitions of the term that are commonly used today:

Seasonal Blue Moon: The extra full Moon that occurs within an astronomical season.

One season—defined by the dates of the [solstices and equinoxes](#)—typically has three full moons occur within it. If a season instead has four full moons, then the *third* full moon (not the fourth) in the season may be called a Blue Moon.

(Cont. on next page)

Find the correct path through the heart below. Write the words in order, as you find them, on the lines below.



“ _____

 _____.” Matthew 22:37

Calendrical Blue Moon: The second full moon to occur in a calendar month. It takes our Moon about 29.5 days to complete one cycle of phases (from new Moon to new Moon), so if a full Moon occurs on the first of a month, there will be a second full Moon—a Blue Moon—at the end of the month, too (except in February).

Although the latter definition is the one more commonly followed today, the former actually came first. As mentioned above, a misinterpretation of the seasonal definition in the 1940s gave way to the calendrical definition, which was later popularized in the 80s and has stuck around to today.

WHEN IS THE NEXT BLUE MOON?

As of this writing, the next Blue Moon according to either definition will occur on **October 31, 2020**, as described in detail above.

After that, we won't actually have to wait too long for another Blue Moon:

The next **seasonal Blue Moon** will occur on August 22, 2021, as the third full Moon in a series of four within that season.

The next **calendrical Blue Moon** will happen on August 30, 2023, as the second full Moon in that month.

(One more time- - cont. on next page)

The Wedding Banquet

So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. Matthew 22:10

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	R	V	G	K	W	S	T	L	X	Q	E	A	D	H	F	B	N	C	O	U	I	J	Y	M	Z

- 4-21-12-7-8-7 _____
- 22-18-3-22-8-12-14 _____
- 14-22-18-18-12-2 _____
- 1-13-2-13-17-9-12 _____
- 6-12-14-14-22-18-4 _____
- 7-12-2-3-13-18-8-7 _____
- 17-13-18-11-21-12-8 _____
- 2-12-16-21-7-12-14 _____

INVITED	WEDDING	BANQUET	DINNER
SERVANTS	GUESTS	PARABLE	REFUSED

HOW OFTEN DOES A BLUE MOON OCCUR?

Most months have one full Moon, not two.

Since the Moon's period of phases is 29 ½ days, while months usually have 30 or 31 days, it's obvious that if a full Moon lands on the first day of any month except February, it will repeat again at the end.

Turns out, calendrical Blue Moons happen every 30 months on average. Two and a half years. Seasonal Blue Moons happen at a similar rate: about once every two to three years. So maybe "once in a Blue Moon" isn't so rare after all!

Two Blue Moons in a Single Year

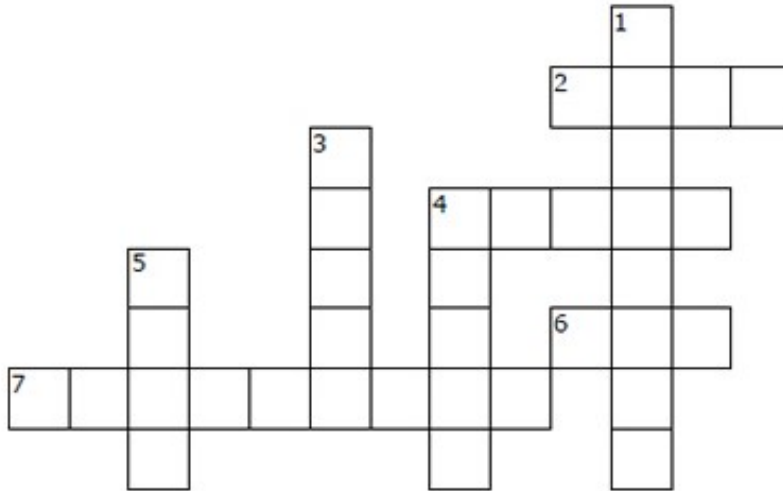
But how often do we have two Blue Moons in a single year? (As in 2018, when there were Blue Moons in both January and March, and no full Moon in February.)

This won't happen again until 2037, when we'll again have another Blue Moon in both January and March.. The End.

Paying Taxes to Caesar

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21

Based on Matthew 22:15-22 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 2. A usually flat piece of metal used for money.
- 4. A statement that agrees with fact or reality.
- 6. To give someone money in return for something.
- 7. A religious group who were strict followers of the law.

DOWN

- 1. A picture of a person -- usually showing the face.
- 3. The details of how something is going to be accomplished.
- 4. Money paid to the government.
- 5. A situation from which it is difficult or impossible to escape.

TAXES	TRAP	PORTRAIT	PLANS
TRUTH	PAY	PHARISEES	COIN

1. A bad one always turns up
To save is to earn
Thoughts come cheap
Expensive ones are pretty

2. A skin I have
More eyes than one
I can be very nice
When I'm done

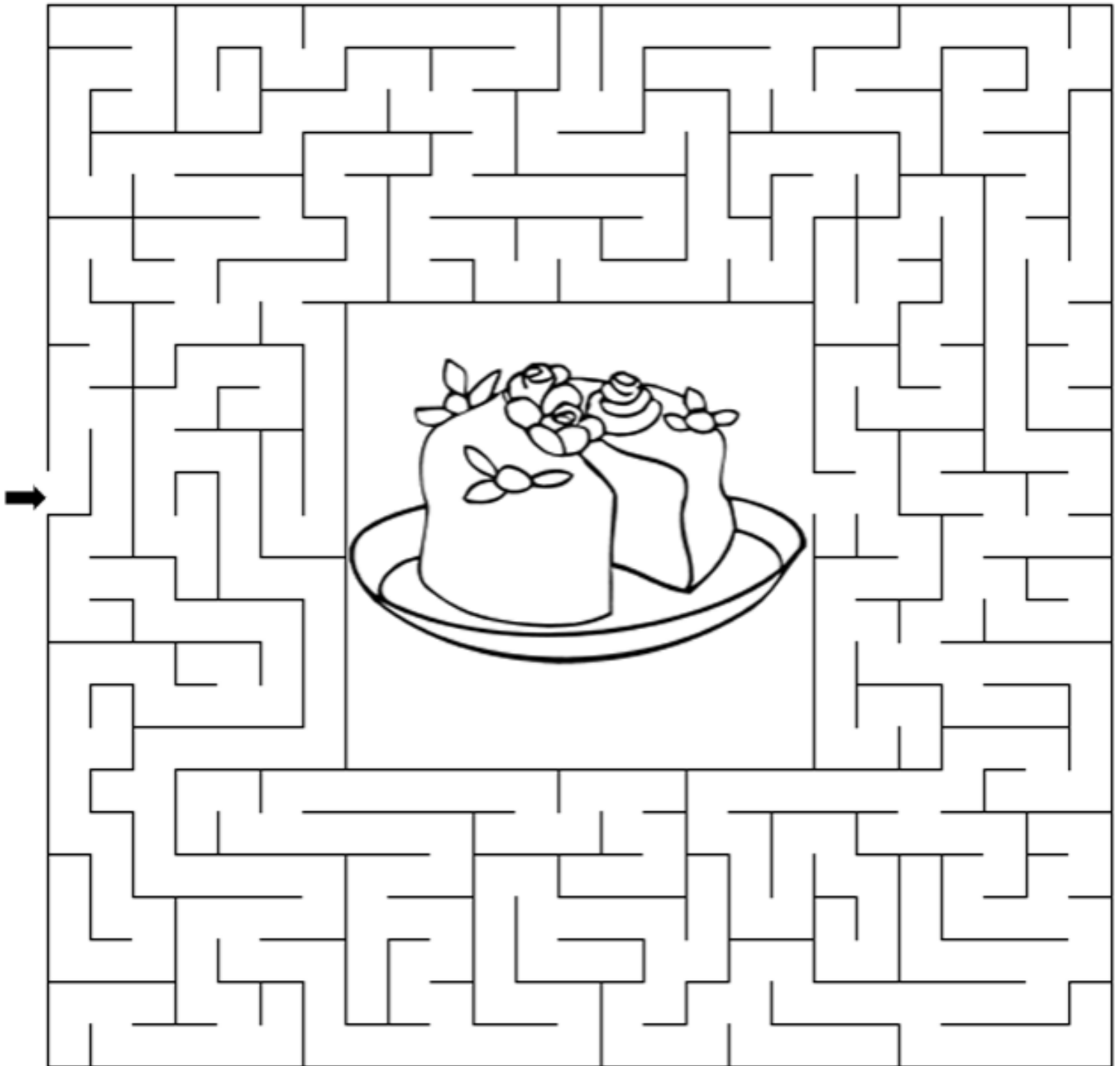
3. At the sound of me
Men may dream
Or stamp their feet
At the sound of me
Women may laugh
Or sometimes weep

4. I always go to bed
with my shoes still on
And when I hit the hay

5. I can be cracked
I can be played
I can be told
I can be made

6. I never get wetter
No matter how much it rains
But I'm always outside
All the same

Can you find your way to the wedding cake?



7. Never looking back

Forward I go
If i have a limit
No one knows it
Like an eagle I fly
Like a river I flow

8. Starts with a T
Ends with a T
Has a T in it

9. The faster you run
The harder it is to catch

10. The first is in cook
The second in shallot
The third is in cheese-
cloth
And the fourth is in souf-



Paying Taxes to Caesar

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21



Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. A religious group who were strict followers of the law.
A. pharisees B. republicans C. hypocrites D. democrats
- ___ 2. The details of how something is going to be accomplished.
A. taxes B. plans C. trap D. words
- ___ 3. A situation from which it is difficult or impossible to escape.
A. trap B. plans C. truth D. coin
- ___ 4. Something that we speak or write.
A. taxes B. amazed C. words D. trap
- ___ 5. Someone who gives instructions to students.
A. teacher B. pharisees C. portrait D. Caesar
- ___ 6. A statement that agrees with fact or reality.
A. plans B. words C. truth D. trap
- ___ 7. To give someone money in return for something.
A. trap B. pay C. plans D. truth
- ___ 8. Money paid to the government.
A. trap B. portrait C. Caesar D. taxes
- ___ 9. What a person thinks about something.
A. trap B. opinion C. truth D. plans
- ___ 10. A usually flat piece of metal used for money.
A. coin B. taxes C. words D. pay

Answers to
Riddles
1- PENNY
2- POTATO
3- MUSIC
4- HORSE
5- JOKE
6- OCEAN
7- TIME
8- TEAPOT
9- BREATH
10- CHEF

YOU SHIN

NO

THE LORD
YOUR GOD

WITH
your

HEART

AND
MIND



Six Lessons Christians Must Learn From Church History

by Barry Vross 2017 Blog

Those who do not remember the past are doomed to repeat it.” George Santayana (1863-1952)

Church history reveals some lessons that Christians today would be wise to consider and reflect upon. The Christian Church has existed for 2,000 years, but it has changed and evolved significantly over that time. It is therefore important to look back and learn the lessons from the history of the Church that can help us chart a way forward today.

A few years ago I read a wonderful book on the history of the Church written by Dr. Bruce Shelley entitled, “Church History in Plain Language” (Thomas Nelson, 2008). He does a great job of documenting and summarizing the key events in the history of the Church. Based on his book, I would like to present 6 lessons that we as Christians should learn from Church history that will enable us to more effectively go forward in building God’s kingdom on earth.

Lesson #1: The Church is, and always will be, Holy Spirit driven.

As the Bible documents in the four gospels, the early Christian Church began in Jerusalem after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. The disciples were witnesses to these facts. But Jesus told them to wait for the Holy Spirit. Luke writes in the book of Acts of how the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. As a result, the disciples were led by the Holy Spirit and the Church grew rapidly as they spread the good news and lived lives very different from the prevailing Roman and Jewish cultures. Throughout history the Church has grown significantly when there was either persecution or a spiritual revival, as in England in the early 1800’s and the USA in the early 1900’s. Man can never build the Church on earth on his own apart from the Holy Spirit. The Church began under the power of the Holy Spirit, grew under the power of the Holy Spirit, and continues today only under the power of the Holy Spirit! (***“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord.” – Zechariah 4:6***)

Lesson #2: The Christian faith must be defended against false teaching.

In the first few centuries of the Christian faith the biggest challenge was defending this new belief against false gospels from gnostics and others who tried to add human logic to what God had done through Jesus. The early Church needed to solidify the basic doctrine of Christianity centered on the work of Jesus and His teachings for this new faith. The doctrine of the Trinity, and who Jesus really was, was affirmed through the council at Nicaea in 325. The basic theology of Christianity has been challenged continually over the years as man tries to add human reason to God’s Word and His saving work through Jesus. False teaching must be challenged in order to preserve the true faith. (***“But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them – bringing swift destruction on themselves.” – 2 Peter 2:1***)

[Lessons 3-6 will be printed in the upcoming two months]



2020

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

Altar Guild
 October
 Brenda Schwiesow 715-682-4292
 Eleanor Munson 715-682-8155

OFFICIAL ACTS
 Baptism
 Raelynn Josephine Gogle
 9-7-2020
 Madyson Hildebrandt
 9-12-2020
 Wedding
 Johanna Pearce and
 Zachary Hanson
 9-19-20

FYI: No Altar Guild meeting in October.