

# October



# The Mountain Top Messenger

OCTOBER 2023

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, LCMS ASHLAND, WI

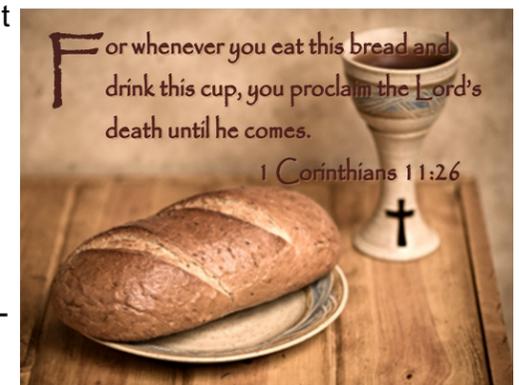
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>Elders</b> Oct. 1 John P. Oct. 4 John S. Oct. 8 Doug Oct. 11 Darryl Oct. 15 Andy Oct. 18 Scott Oct. 22 Randy Oct. 25 John P. Oct. 29 John S Nov. 5 Scott			<b>2023</b>			
<b>1</b> 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Service 9:45am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Service 9:45am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study	<b>9</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Altar Guild Meeting	<b>10</b> 9:00am Circuit Office Secretary Workshop 1:00pm Sewing Circle	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Service 9:45am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	<b>16</b> 5:30pm Council Mtg	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Winkel 9:00am	<b>21</b> <b>SATURDAY, 21st</b> <b>5:00pm</b> <b>Harvest Dinner</b> <b>and</b> <b>Entertainment</b>	
<b>22</b> 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Service 9:45am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study	<b>23</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>24</b> 1:00pm Sewing Circle	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Service 9:45am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study	<b>30</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>31</b>	<b>October Altar Guild</b> Paula Pruss 715-292-1898 Eleanor Munson 715-682-8155  <b>Nov. 5th Turn Clocks Back</b>			

Welcome to October, I am coming to you a couple days late this month, sorry if it has caused any inconvenience. I am writing to you this month from the Fall Pastor's Conference in Wisconsin Rapids. It has been beautiful here and I have heard it was beautiful there as well. Highs in the 80's, but rumor has it the shoe is about to drop. So, take out your jackets and check your furnaces.

For each of the conferences, spring and fall there is a topic of study. They bring in a guest speaker usually from one of the seminaries and we have basically a mini seminary class. This time the topic is Holy Communion. The presenter is Rev. Dr. Ziegler from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. Now one might wonder, how can someone talk about Communion for 3 days? Great question, but let me assure you first and foremost, it can be done. Actually, both seminaries offer classes on Holy Communion that run a full semester. Prof. Ziegler is from Germany originally and still has quite an accent so sometimes he is a little hard to follow, but the man is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to Holy Communion. He is particularly well versed on the things that Dr. Martin Luther had to say about communion.

We focused on a number of major points, issues such as how can we be sure that Christ's body and blood are truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine? Does Holy Communion truly grant the blessing of forgiveness of sins? What about those who believe and teach that Holy Communion is only a symbol and something you just do as a remembrance. And then what about "close" or "closed" communion as practiced in the LCMS? I wish I had the time and the ability to sit down and write this all out in detail, but then I believe you might be receiving a semester length class in a very long paper. So, at this point I am considering a Bible Study for all of you so that we could discuss some of these issues as well as any others that you might have concerning thoughts about the Sacrament

I know this probably doesn't make for very good reading, but I am hoping that it might be thought-provoking and perhaps instill some future conversations amongst us either individually or as a group. The topic is truly amazing, and I believe it is something that perhaps we don't learn enough about it. I am guessing that perhaps the last time some of you talked about it or discussed it was in your confirmation classes. So, think about it and as you come across questions or concerns write them down, email them, or text them to me. Because I can assure you that if you have questions others here at Zion do as well. I think that's enough about that for now, but I will leave you with a thought that has caused me to take another look at what Holy Communion means to me. So, without further ado, "Holy Communion is the only true meal where you can say, you are what you eat."



Ponder that.

(cont. on next page)

We have lots of things coming up, we say goodbye to our dear friend Fran, her funeral will be Saturday October 14, visitation at 10, service at 11, and lunch to follow, always remember, it is not truly a goodbye, but merely, until we meet again.

October 21<sup>st</sup> is our musical review and potluck. I think it will be an amazing time and I am looking forward to seeing all of our local talent as well as enjoying a great meal.

We have movie night coming up November 10<sup>th</sup>, a great opportunity to share in good company good snacks and learn a little more about Dr. Martin Luther.

And on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we begin Advent. I am working on a special Advent series that focuses not only on Christ's first Advent as a babe in the manger, but also, His second Advent when He returns to judge the living and the dead. Remember fellow sheep, we look forward to that day with great anticipation.

I think that is enough for now, thank you now and always for all your support, and now,

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

God Bless you all! Pastor Rick

Hello!

Thred offers digital courses that can be accessed whenever is convenient for you and your congregation!

Have you considered that everyone has a digital voice? Thred is here to help you meet people where they are and engage topics of faith online with authenticity and confidence.

Thred ([thred.org](http://thred.org)), LHM's digital outreach program introduced a new look and refined vision in July. Its focus on encouraging an open and honest conversation about life, faith, and Jesus has not changed, however.

Thred is a free resource that includes blogs and digital courses that can help your staff, leaders, and members of your congregation see their social media and digital interactions as an opportunity to share their faith online.

We have two new courses that are currently available at [thred.org/courses](http://thred.org/courses). The blurbs below can be shared with your congregation members so they can meet people where they're at and engage in topics of faith online with authenticity and confidence.

*Your Digital Voice* has seven core principles for having more meaningful online conversations. Those completing the course's nine lessons can sign up for the Digital Conversation Pledge. It's a statement of intent to use social media wisely, in ways that lift others up, seeking genuine connections and being mindful of others' spiritual postures. Pledge takers join Thred in its mission of cultivating vigorous spiritual conversations online.

*Guiding Godly Digital Conversations*, assists learners in discovering how to connect with others in meaningful digital conversations, regardless of where they are in their spiritual walk. Those completing the course's eight lessons will gain insights into discerning where people are in their spiritual thinking and how to engage them more effectively.

Each course gives tangible examples of what people see in digital spaces, with suggestions on things to try. Your congregation members can head over to [thred.org/courses](http://thred.org/courses) to see the course library. More courses will be added soon.

Your faith matters to the world. Let's explore how this looks online together!

With love, The Thred Team



## Zion Lutheran Church Council

September, 18, 2023

**Call to order – President, John Pruss**

**Opening prayer – Pastor Williams**

**Roll Call –** John Pruss, President                      Nick Jarvela, Trustees

Darryl Warren, Elders & Education

Jule Jarvela, Secretary                      Chuck Chronis, Financial Secy

Lisa Guski, Treasurer                      Lori Anderson, Evangelism

Joann Martikonis, LFOJ                      Pastor Williams

**Approval of Minutes –** 1- Nick Jarvela 2- Chuck Chronis MMC

**Pastor's Report**

Preaching the Stewardship Series

LWML Fall Rally – Sept. 24 in Marengo, Winkel – Sept, 21

Sunday School & Confirmation begin Sunday, Sept. 24

**Approval of Treasurer's Report –** 1- Darryl Warren 2- Nick Jarvela MMC

**Approval of Agenda –** 1- Chuck Chronis 2- Lori Anderson MMC

**Officials Acts -** Wedding – Jordan Yilitalo & Danielle Hassell 08-12-2023

Baptism – Ava Williams 08-16-2023

Transfer – Matt Papka 07-18-2023

**Board Reports**

**Elders –** None

**Trustees –** LFOJ painting completed except for eaves, Church bell will be dealt with soon, Blakeman called to deal with plugged outside drain, elevator permit renewed

**Financial Secretary –** None

**LFOJ -** Dealing with license renewal, had pop in inspection ( 2 demerits for incomplete paperwork), enrollment improving, finances still struggling

**Evangelism –** Fall Harvest Potluck & Program on Oct. 21, planning Movie Night in Nov., work began on college care packages for Dec., Directory sent in

**Education –** Sunday School & Confirmation begins Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>

**Old Business**

LCEF loan for roof closed. Proceeds to arrive on or before Oct. 10

Roof repair will begin in the Spring by Kulp Roofing

LFOJ basement carpet and flooring completed

Interested candidates for Treasurer's position

Janitor position open as of end of Oct.

**New Business –** None

**Next Meeting -** October 16, 2023

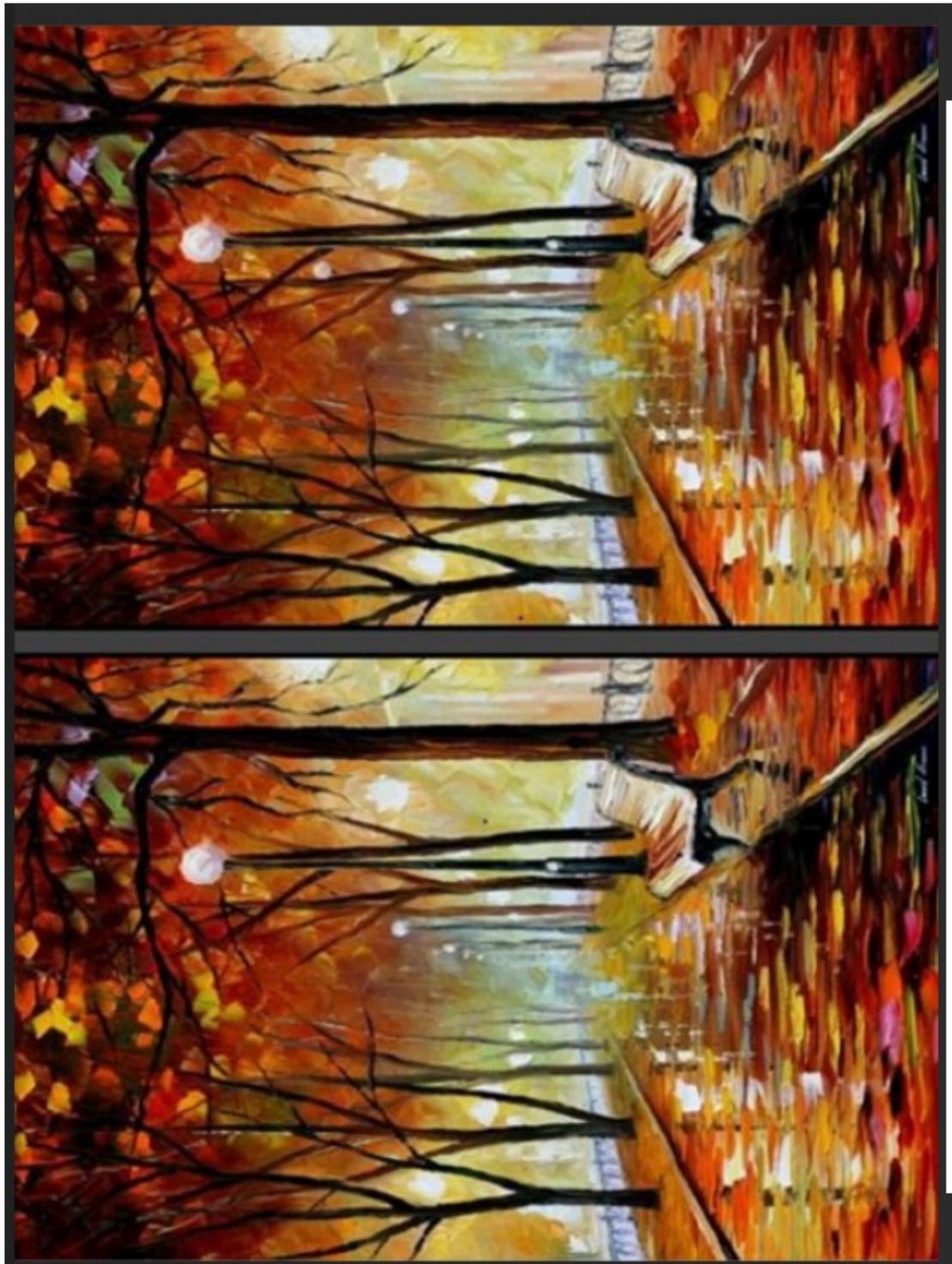
**Adjournment –** 1- Chuck Chronis 2- Lisa Guski MMC

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted, Jule Jarvela, Secretary



Find 12 differences.



**N  
O  
V  
5th**



**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 - 8th grade **Sunday** 8:45aam  
**Bible Studies**  
**Sunday** 10:15am **Monday** 10:00am

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

**Office Hours:**  
**M/T/TH** 9:00-5:00  
**W** 12:00-8:00 **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

**Website**  
[www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org)

**E-mail**  
[secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com)

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

**LFOJ Administrator:**  
**JoAnn Martikonis**  
715-682-6075



## **PRAY LIST**

**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  
Sheryl Hildebrandt  
Harold Larson  
Diane Beiersdorff  
Linda Stenroos  
Steve Key  
Tim Erickson  
Patty Hmielewski  
Doug Prueter

Riley Bretting  
Mike Trimble  
Jamie Klema  
Mike Ariens  
Carol Schuelke  
Karen Piff  
Molly Colgrove  
Linda Parrish  
Mary Koosmann  
Caelee Aschenbrenner  
and those in our hearts

### **PRAYERS 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*

### **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*

Immanuel, Mellen and Trinity, Ironwood Congregations while they seek for a new Pastor.

## Positive Thinking *by* STEPHEN *on* JUNE 13, 2011

Jerry was the kind of guy you love to hate. He was always in a good mood and always had something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a unique manager because he had several waiters who had followed him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the waiters followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?" Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood.' I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life."

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested.

"Yes it is," Jerry said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life."

I reflected on what Jerry said. Soon thereafter, I left the restaurant industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it. Several years later, I heard that Jerry did something you are never supposed to do in a restaurant business: he left the back door open one morning and was held up at gunpoint by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, his hand, shaking from nervousness, slipped off the combination. The robbers panicked and shot him. Luckily, Jerry was found relatively quickly and rushed to the local trauma center. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Jerry was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body. I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?"

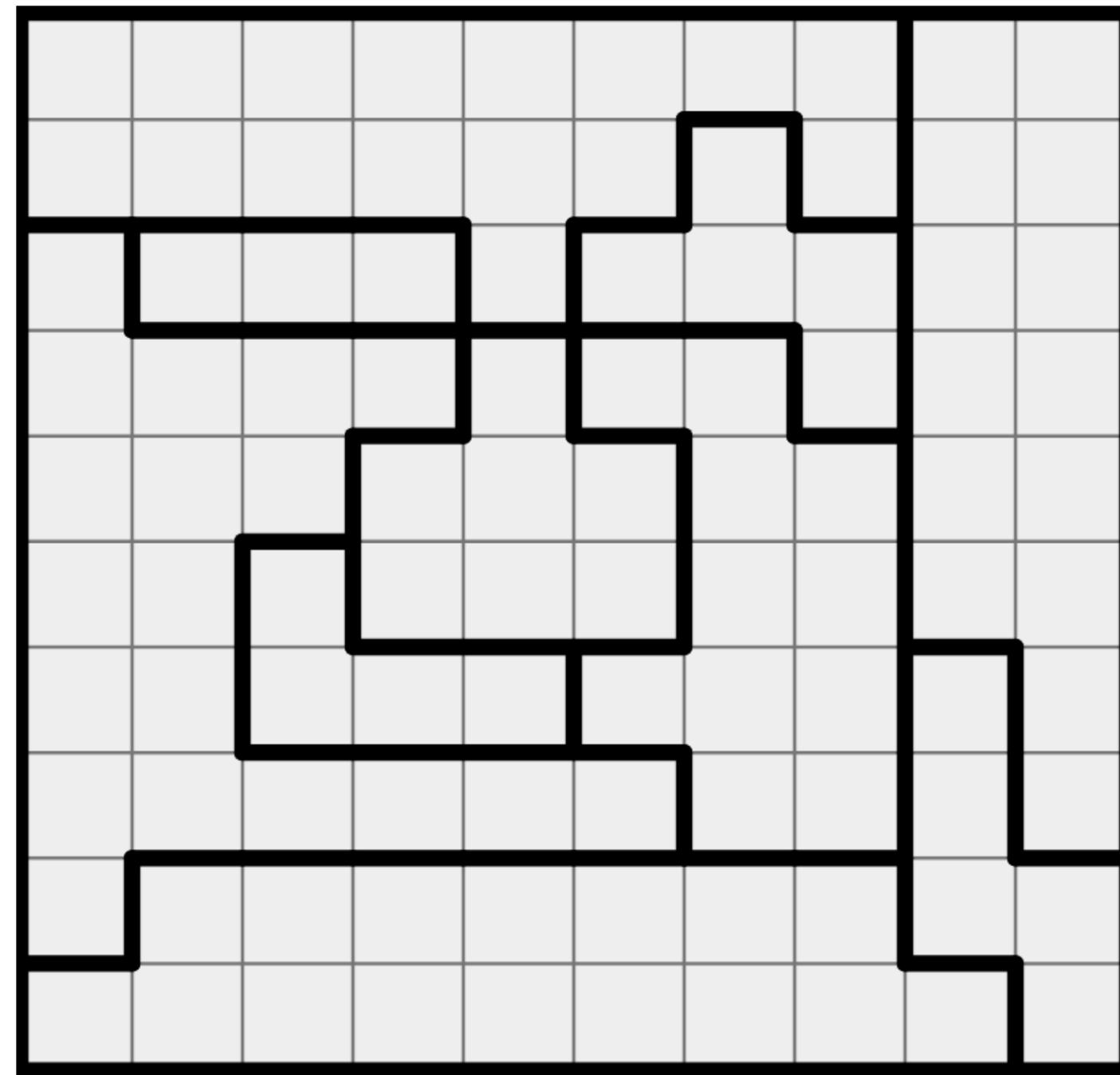
I declined to see his wounds, but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. "Then, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live, or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked. Jerry continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the emergency room and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read, 'He's a dead man.' I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well, there was a big, burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. 'Yes,' I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply... I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Bullets!' Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.'"

Jerry lived thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.



Each row, column, and bolded region contains exactly 2 stars. The stars may not be adjacent to each other (not even diagonally).

## A box of kisses *by* STEPHEN *on* NOVEMBER 19, 2008

Some time ago, a man punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree.

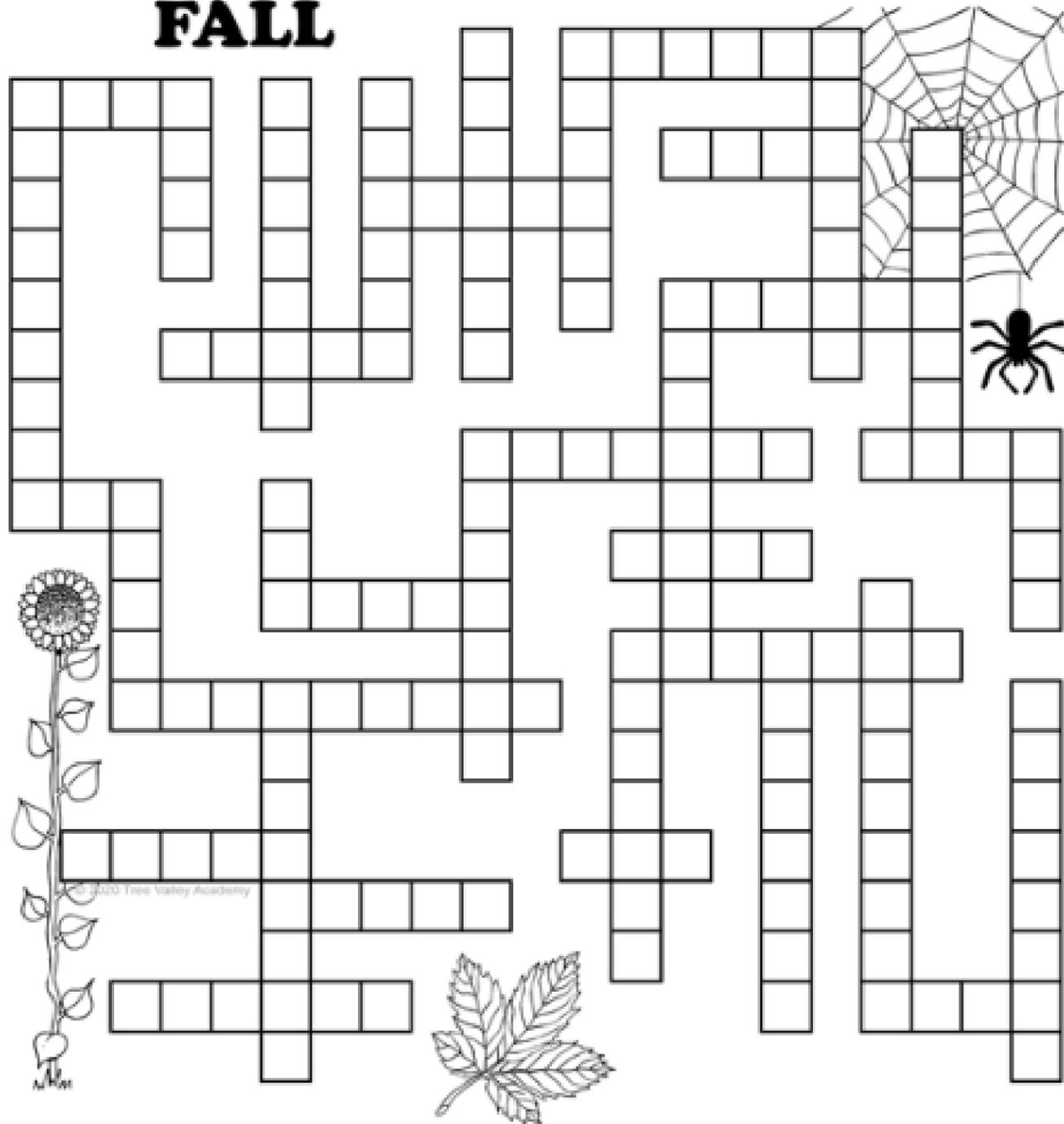
Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy." The father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, but his anger flared again when he found the box was empty.

He yelled at her, "Don't you know that when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something in it?"

The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Daddy, it is not empty. I blew kisses into the box. All for you, Daddy."

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl and he begged for her forgiveness.

# FALL



- | <b>3 letters</b> | <b>4 letters</b> | <b>5 letters</b> | <b>6 letters</b> | <b>7 letters</b> | <b>8 letters</b> | <b>9 letters</b> |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| tea              | cozy             | acorn            | chilly           | blanket          | football         | scarecrow        |
| web              | crow             | birds            | jacket           | bonfire          | November         | September        |
| yam              | fall             | brisk            | season           | flannel          | pumpkins         | sunflower        |
|                  | leaf             | crops            | spider           | foliage          | squirrel         |                  |
|                  | pile             | frost            | squash           | hayride          |                  |                  |
|                  | rain             | wheat            |                  | migrate          |                  |                  |
|                  | soup             |                  |                  | October          |                  |                  |
|                  |                  |                  |                  | tractor          |                  |                  |

Dear parents and guardians,  
**LFOJ September Newsletter** (condensed version)  
 Happy September! We are happy to announce that the Little Friends of Jesus Newsletter is back! Thank you for being so patient, as we have gone through a lot of changes over the past year. My name is Tressa, and I am the new Director here at LFOJ. I have a lot of exciting things planned for the center and can't wait for you to be a part of it all. The new Administrator, JoAnn, has been hard at work getting things organized both in the office and at the center as well. The staff we have right now are truly wonderful. They are reliable, communicative, and hardworking. Each month, you will be updated on what is going on in each room at the center and what we have planned for the coming months. Along with room updates, the newsletter will also contain any important parent information, including weather/seasonal updates, anything the children may need, or any changes to policies/licensing that you may need to know. We look forward to sharing with you all that we do at LFOJ!

Now without further ado, let's dive into what has been going on at the center this month.

**TOTVILLENEWS:** This past month we have heard the stories of "How God made the world, Baby in the basket, the story of Saul (a changed man), and God gives His people food to eat." A few of our favorite Bible songs are "My God is so big, Peace like a River, Jesus loves me, and In the Beginning." We have been working on some fall decorations for our room. The children are doing well with saying please and thank you and asking to be excused from the table. Some of the older children are beginning to use the toilet. Since they usually want to do what someone else is doing, hopefully it will catch on!

**LEARNERLANE:** Happy September from the Learner room! This month, we are learning about the miracles made by God and Jesus. We are talking about Daniel in the lion's den, Jesus feeding the 5,000 and more! We had many crafts and fun projects to work on as well.

Gwyn had a birthday this month, Happy birthday Gwyn! We also had a few new kiddos start. We look forward to continuing to get to know our new friends!

**SCHOOL AGE:** The school-agers join us in the morning before getting on the bus and in the evening after school is out. We enjoy having their energy and like hearing about their school days.

**UPDATES:** We are working on hiring another staff member, at least part time, to allow for more scheduling flexibility and to accommodate more children here at the center.

In mid-August, staff, church members, and volunteers gave their time to help renovate the center. The outside was painted, new cubbies were put in, and the center was cleaned and organized! We are so thankful for the outpouring of support from our community!

We plan to begin having family nights twice a year beginning next month! I sent out a survey, and it looks like most families prefer early evening on a weekday. More to come on that in the next few weeks!. We are looking forward to getting to know your family outside of daycare hours.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to get to know your children and family! We wouldn't have a center without you and the help of the church and community!



God Bless, and have a wonderful fall.  
 Tressa Groom      JoAnn Martikonis



**MUSICAL REVUE and Harvest Dinner**  
**Saturday, October 21st 5:00pm**

Thank you to all who are signing up to participate in the Harvest Dinner musical worship revue. Please see Tiffany Darling (organist) if you haven't already registered with her for your spot on the agenda. The



choir will be practicing for the revue after church. Potluck dinner will follow, with the church providing ham and roast beef. Please sign up to bring a dish in the narthex. There is



also a request for people to help serve.

**MOVIE NIGHT -**  
 Popcorn provided –

bring your comfy folding chair, curl up and enjoy **November 10th 6:00pm**. Have you told someone you are a **Luther-an**? Martin Luther did not want adherents of this protesting faith named after him. Why not? If you use his name to identify yourself, you might want to know something about him. He has been called crazy, possessed, profane, a drunkard, a failed priest, argumentative, and intolerant, among other derivatives. Yet, he changed the course of the world's religious, political, and cultural history. Join us for the docu-drama "Luther" based on the life of Martin Luther, the religion he founded, and the faith that millions have professed for over 500 years.



December 3, 2023

10:30am

**PowerPoint presentation of the Seven Churches of Revelation Tour.**

Zion Lutheran Church  
 Ashland, WI Liisa Eyerly will give an

inside peek into one of the greatest empires in human history, as seen through the eyes of seven early Christian churches. How did they survive, thrive, or fail in this pagan Roman world where false gods tempted the faithful with money, leisure, and sexual immorality? What were God's warnings and accolades to these early believers? And why is the message so relevant to our day and age? Snacks will be served before the presentation.



**January 2024** author Liisa Eyerly will be leading a book discussion on her debut novel "Obedient unto Death" at church. A short introduction of ideas and motivations for writing the book will be followed by your questions and comments about the trials, beliefs, and culture the early Christian characters in the book experienced.



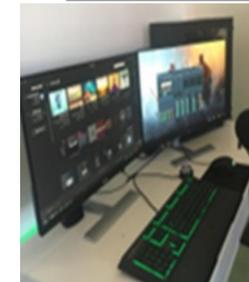
Books are available for checkout from the church office and the Vaughn Public Library. Books will be available for purchase and signing at the event. All are welcome.

2023 OCTOBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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	27	28
29	30	31				



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

apples	colorful	frost	pumpkin	squash
autumn	cozy	harvest	quilt	squirrel
birds	crow	hayride	rake	sunflower
blanket	deciduous	jacket	rustling	sweater
bonfire	equinox	leaves	scarecrow	trees
changing	flannel	migrate	season	vegetables
cider	foliage	orchards	spider	wheelbarrow



**NEEDED** one or more people to share managing the live-stream on Sunday mornings. Instruction will be thoroughly taught. Please speak with Pastor if you could help with assisting in this stewardship endeavor.