



The Mountain Top Messenger

JANUARY 2022

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH - LCMS, ASHLAND, WI

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|-------------|-----------|
| Jan. 2 Darryl Jan. 19 Doug | Jan. 5 Randy Jan. 23 Randy | Jan. 9 Andy Jan. 26 Darryl | Jan. 12 Scott Jan. 30 Scott | Jan. 16 John Feb. 2 John | Feb. 6 Andy | 1 |
| 2 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP | 3 10:00am Bible Study | 4 | 5 6:30pmWorship Epiphany Live-streamed | 6 6:30pm Women's Bible Study | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study and Sunday School | 10 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Altar Guild | 11 1:00pm Sewing Circle | 12 6:30pmWorship 6:30pm Bible Study and Prayer | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study and Sunday School 2:00pm LGP | 17 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Church Council | 18 | 19 6:30pmWorship 6:30pm Bible Study and Prayer | 20 6:30pm Women's Bible Study | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study and Sunday School | 24 10:00am Bible Study | 25 1:00pm Sewing Circle | 26 6:30pmWorship 6:30pm Bible Study and Prayer | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study and Sunday School | 31 10:00am Bible Study | 1 | 2 6:30pmWorship 6:30pm Bible Study and Prayer | 3 | 4 | 5 |



JANUARY
Brenda Schwiesow
715-682-4292
Janet Houle
715-682-2387

OFFICIAL ACTS

Transfers:

Mike and Diane Cashman, 12-09-2021 to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS), Merrill, WI
Alan and Lisa Sunie 12-30-2021 to Mount Olive Lutheran Church (LCMS) Weston, WI

With Christ in Peace

Walter Schutte 11/19/2021

Happy New Year! Welcome to the year of our Lord 2022. Advent and Christmas have come and gone; I don't know about you but the whole holiday season seemed to just fly by. While being a very crazy time of year for being a pastor, I also found it quite rewarding. I enjoyed our Advent theme based on John 1:1-18, The Word Became Flesh, and I also enjoyed how all of that tied together with our Christmas theme; the reminder that the cradle leads to the cross. I was also exceptionally please that so many of you partook in so many of the services. I wish you could see what it looks like from my vantage point when the lights go dark and we all sing Silent Night in candlelight, it is a truly moving experience.

So, now as we prepare for Epiphany and then move into the more relaxed time following Epiphany that gives us a moment to catch our breath and reflect. Reflect on all that our Lord has done for us and continues to do for us each and every day. On Wednesday January 5th we will be celebrating Epiphany (a day early). The day the Magi arrive to worship the Christ child and give him the gifts they have brought from afar. That service will be on Wednesday evening at 6:30. As we hear the babe receiving His gifts, we will be reminded of the far greater gift that He gives to us. Then as we move into the time after Epiphany we are going to do a sermon series based on the seven miracles of Jesus in the Gospel of John, we will look at one of the seven miracles on each of the seven Sundays of Epiphany. This series follows along after our series on John Chapter one from Advent. I believe you will find it enlightening as we dig deeply into Christ's 7 miracles. Remember how John begins his Gospel? "In the beginning ..." (John 1:1) John starts off as though he's writing a new creation story. *And he is!* The 7 days of creation correspond to Christ's 7 signs that illustrate the nature of God's *new* creation—where there is beauty, healing, abundance, resurrection and life! I am looking forward to it, I hope you are as well.

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone for all of their help this Advent and Christmas season; all of those who so beautifully decorated the church, those who did coloring pages for our advent calendar, the altar guild for their outstanding work keeping everything clean and fresh, all of the elders for their assistance, our organists and trumpet player, and anyone else I may have missed.

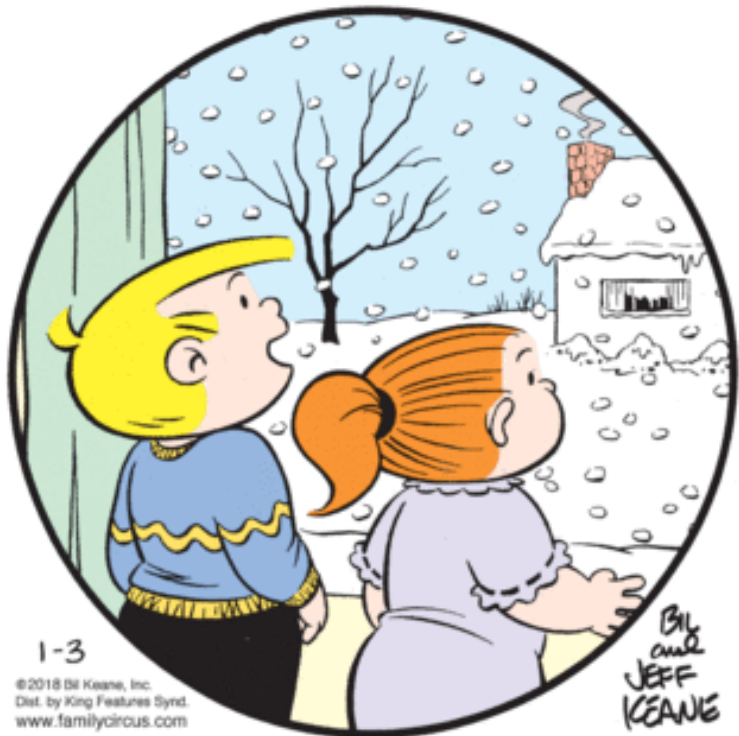
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This is most certainly not an I or me operation, it takes the whole family and I cannot express enough gratitude for all of you and all that you have done. That also includes all of you who came to partake in worship as well as all of those who watched us online. I pray that it was a meaningful experience for all of you and helped bring you closure to your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I also wanted to thank everyone for their cards and gifts, I unfortunately did not do well in getting out Christmas cards this year, for that I am sorry. But know that all of you are in my prayers always. Again thank you all God bless.

I really can't think of much else at the moment as we head into the New Year, a couple of things to look forward to; June and I will be attending the Best Practices Ministry Conference in Phoenix in February, Pastor Scot Holabeck will be covering for me the Sundays I am gone, and a reminder that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, this year, I believe we will all be amazed at how quickly it will be upon us. I can't say it enough, thank you for all of your help and support and God Bless you all as we enter the New Year!

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Pastor Rick



“This year is gettin’ better every day!”

O God,
your days are without beginning
and without end. We dedicate
this coming year to you.

As the new year begins, I look to
You for our hope, joy, and peace.
Give me the courage to do all that
You ask of me.

I thank You that You are with me,
that You are in me.
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Below is the first of several articles about leaving coins on a grave. I have never heard of it. I may be in the minority group with liking cemeteries. I like to walk around and look at names and dates. When I saw this article I thought I would pass it on to others who might enjoy it. Lynn

Leaving Coins on a Grave: Meaning & History

By Aubrey / [Memorials](#)

Today we’re going to be talking about the meaning and history behind leaving coins on a grave. Have you ever seen a penny, nickel, dime, or even quarter sitting on a headstone? You may have wondered who left it there, and why.

As it turns out, someone didn’t accidentally lose the contents of their wallet while visiting the cemetery. And no, ghosts probably aren’t leaving the coins there, either. Coins on graves are left intentionally by people who stop by the grave to pay their respects.

Let’s take a more detailed look at this practice, and what it signifies.

History of Leaving Coins on Gravestones

Leaving coins on gravestones is a fairly common practice, developed over centuries through a blend of myth and ritual.

Ancient Greek Myth of Charon and the River Styx

To see the bigger picture of why people traditionally leave coins on gravestones, we first have to go back in time a little. Okay, back in time a *lot*. All the way back to ancient Greece.

Ancient Greek mythology tells us the story of Charon. He was the fabled **ferryman of the underworld** believed to navigate departed souls across the River Styx and into the land of the dead.

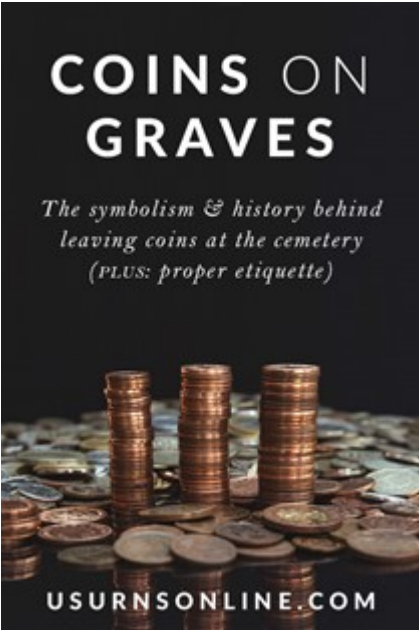
Charon needed payment to be able to carry out this service, and so coins were placed over the eyes or in the mouths of the deceased as remittance. Consequently, if no bribe was offered to Charon, access across the river was denied, and the soul of the deceased was cursed to roam its banks for a hundred years.

Word Worm
feet meet heat
feed reed meat hear
read rear pear

Riddles
3 brothers, 4 sisters
Heroine
Map

"Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing is like shoveling the walk before it stops snowing." —Phyllis Diller
"The best way to appreciate your job is to imagine yourself without one." —Oscar Wilde
"Housework can't kill you, but why take the chance?" —Phyllis Diller
"Housekeeping is like being caught in a revolving door." — Marcelene Cox

Pool of Siloam Whirlwind Dig Ditches Wash In Jordan River God's Heavenly Army
HEART



For those who thought that Christmas was over, Epiphany, celebrated on January 6, marks the final celebratory day of the Christian holiday season! While most people begin taking down their Christmas decorations by New Year's, there is still a full week before many practicing Christians complete their celebrations of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is commonly associated with the day the Three Wise Men arrived at the manger and has several different names throughout history and cultures.

HISTORY OF EPIPHANY

Epiphany is a Christian feast day celebrating the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. In Western Christianity, the feast commemorates the visit of the Three Wise Men who followed an angel to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The day has also been referred to as Three Kings Day and Little Christmas by both Irish and Amish Christians. The Feast of the Epiphany concludes the twelve days of Christmastide and is the traditional end of the Christmas season.

As early as the fourth century, churches of the Eastern Roman Empire were celebrating Christmas on January 6. Those in the West were celebrating on December 25, which is why some places refer to the Feast of the Epiphany as Old Christmas. Since then, many cultures have developed their own names and traditions to celebrate this day. For example, in Scandinavia, they celebrate what they call Little Christmas Eve on December 23. In Spain, children traditionally did not receive their presents on Christmas Day but instead on January 6, in commemoration of the day the Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In Ireland, they also call Little Christmas Women's Christmas, because Irish men take on the household duties for the day. Other popular traditions include singing, chalking the door, having one's house blessed, eating a three kings cake, going to church, and winter swimming. It is also customary for many Christians to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve, although other Christian countries historically remove them on Candlemas, the conclusion of the Epiphanytide. According to the first tradition, those who fail to remember to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve must leave them untouched until Candlemas.



Sunday Worship Service 9:00am live streamed
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm
Sunday School - 1st - 7th grade Sunday 10:15am
Bible Studies

Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am Thursday 1st/3rd 6:30pm Women's Group

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/Th 8:30-2:30 W 11-6
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: Karyn Leino 715-682-6075



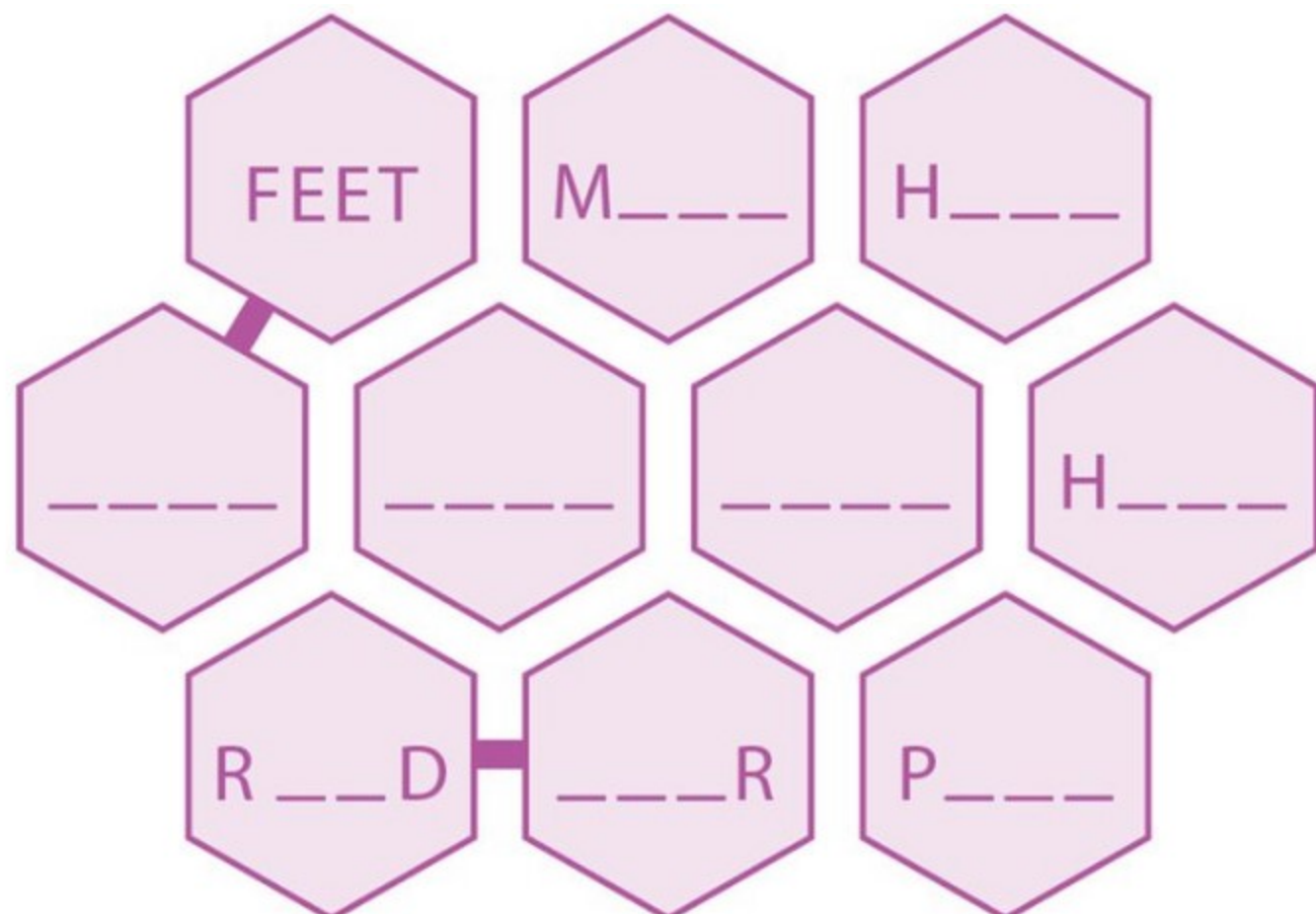
PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING
For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

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
Madge Houle Nancy Zehe

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Brad Prill | Madge Houle |
| Alice Balmer | Penny Larson |
| Francis Balmer | David Gustafson |
| Vi Basina | John Schutte |
| Andrea Gunderson | Dave Pearson |
| James Fletcher | Pastor Bob |
| Brett Everman | Judith Wismeth |
| Sheryl Hildebrandt | Harold Larson |
| Nancy Beiersdorf | Sherry Gurski |
| Danny Pocernich | Larry Tody |
| James Lavasseur | Lisa Thomson |
| Russel Joyner | Carmella Kortekaas |
| Tyler Hildebrandt | Steve Bauer |
| Diane Beiersdorff | Terry Haas |
| Tom & MaryAnn Reimer | and those in our hearts |



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



Word Worm

From wherever you start (hint: it's probably easiest to start at the top left), join the hexagons by creating a new word that is only one letter different from where you started. Each hexagon must connect to exactly two adja-

1. In the Book of John, where did Jesus tell the blind man to go wash the mud from his eyes?

*Pool of Siloam
Cove of the Sower
Sea of Tiberias
Sea of Galilee
Dead Sea*

2. How was the prophet Elijah taken up to heaven?

*Cloud
Carpet
Lightning
Whirlwind
Wings*

3. When the kings of Israel, Judah, and Edom ran out of water on their way to attack the Moab king, what did God (through the prophet Elisha) tell them to do?

*Dig Ditches Rest
Plant Trees Use Salt
Drink Wine*

4. What did the prophet Elisha tell Naaman, an army commander, to do in order to be healed of his leprosy?

*Change Clothes Climb Mt. Sinai
Sunbathe Wash In Jordan River
Make Sacrifice*

When Samuel picked David as king, God reminded us that while people look at the outward appearance, what does God look at? 1 Samuel 16:7

5. When an enemy army tried to capture the prophet Elisha, what was it that Elisha's frightened servant couldn't see at first?

*Approaching Storm
Pharaoh's Soldiers
Persian Fleet
God's Heavenly Army
Babylonian Captivity*

After This Man Rescued a Cow from a Dairy Farm, the Two Developed the Most Unbelievable Friendship

On the edge of the city of Williamsburg, Virginia, resides Ryan Phillips and his very best friend, Jenna the cow, in just one of the many animal adoption stories that will warm your heart.

About two years ago, Ryan saw an ad for a newborn Holstein calf in North Carolina, just three hours from his home. After visiting a sanctuary in Maryland that rescues cows, Ryan's suspicion that cows are just "grass puppies" was confirmed. Playful and full of curiosity, cows have many similarities to pets you may find in your home. Since Ryan was able to see firsthand just how amazing these creatures really are, he decided to take a leap of faith and drive his Subaru Forester over to Durham, North Carolina to bring home Jenna, his very first cow.

Jenna was born on a dairy farm with her twin brother. Since female Holstein calves with a twin brother typically have a high chance of being infertile, Jenna and her brother were spray painted and prepared for slaughter just days after their birth. Luckily, the dairy farmer's daughter, Jenna, persuaded her father to find homes for these three-day-old calves instead of taking them to be killed. Jenna's brother was taken to a different sanctuary before Ryan arrived in North Carolina, so Ryan took the one remaining calf wrapped in a blanket on the long drive home. Ryan named her Jenna after the dairy farmer's daughter who saved her life.

Part 1 of 4

A girl has as many brothers as sisters, but each brother has only half as many brothers as sisters. How many brothers and sisters are there in the family?

Meet Ryan and his 1,000-pound bestie: Jenna the cow. She's brought joy to his life—



What word in the English language does the following: the first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four letters signify a great, while the entire word signifies a great woman. What is the word?

I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I?

Hidden Equation
NUMBER SEARCH

There are 10, including the example.



| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 5 | 6 + 3 = 9 | | | 1 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| 2 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| 8 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| 9 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| 9 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| 8 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 9 |
| 6 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 1 |

Instructions: Find the hidden equations! Circle each one and solve it using the operators addition +, subtraction −, multiplication ×, division ÷, and equals = (see above: 6 + 3 = 9). Get started by searching left to right, one row at a time. You can make it more challenging by working vertically, diagonally, backwards, or using two-digit numbers, for example (2 × 4 + 6 = 10 − 3 × 2).



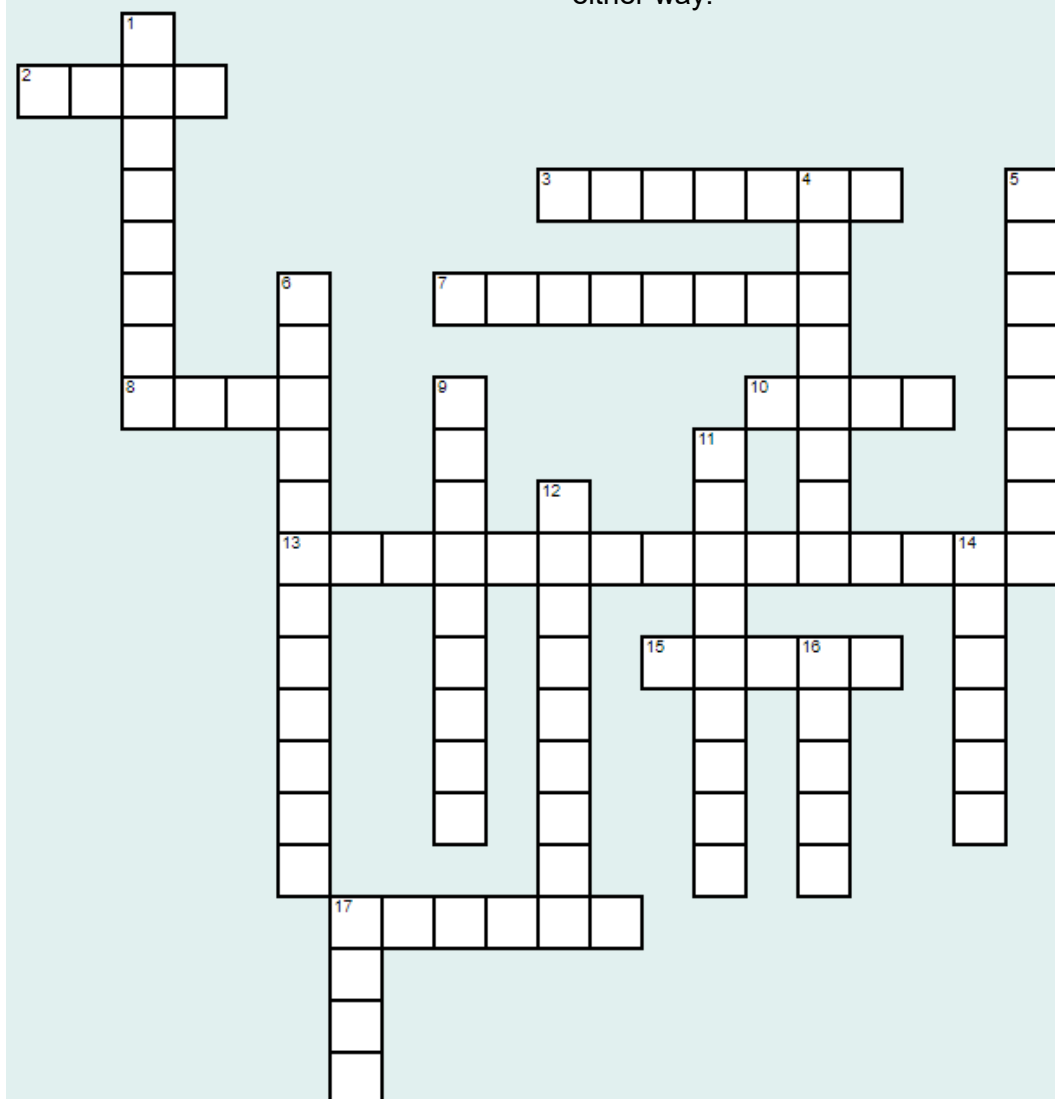
STEPDOWN
Beginning at the top of the upside down pyramid, remove one letter from the word “strides” and rearrange the remaining letters to build a new six-letter word beneath. Continue the same process to each word until you get to the bottom. (There may be more than one solution.) [Can you find the single tutu in these watermelon slices?](#)



8 DIFFERENCES

MIRACLES OF JESUS

You can fit the words in or you can fill the puzzle with clues. No peaking either way.



Across

- 2 Some did not follow Jesus because of miracles, but followed Him for... (John 6:26).
- 3 Miracles verify a true... (2 Cor. 12:12).
- 7 Jesus healed people to fulfill... (Matt. 8:14-17).
- 8 Miraculous age ceased when apostles were...
- 10 When people saw the miracles of Christ many believed His... (John 2:23).
- 13 Miracles are also called... (Acts 2:22).
- 15 Miracles were called... (Heb. 2:3-4).
- 17 Miracles prove Jesus is... (John 20:30-31).

Down

- 1 Because of the miracles many _____ Him (John 6:2).
- 4 Miracles were given when an apostle would... (Acts 8:14, 17-20).
- 5 Things that happen naturally are not...
- 6 No man can do miracles except... (John 3:2).
- 9 Miracles confirm the... (Mark 16:20).
- 11 We do not need miracles because everything has been...
- 12 Paul did not heal this man... (2 Tim. 4:20).
- 14 A miracle breaks the laws of...
- 16 How many purposes of miracles are mentioned in the Bible?
- 17 Jesus began His ministry when He performed His first miracle in... (John 2:11).

APOSTLE
CANA
CHRIST
CONFIRMED
DEAD
FOLLOWED
FOOD
LAYHANDS
GIFTS
GODBEWITHHIM
MIRACLES
NAME
NATURE
PROPHECY
THREE
TROPHIMUS
WONDERSANDSIGNS
WORDSOFGOD

