



The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI January 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: Jan. 5 JohnP 8 Doug 12 Scott 15 Darryl 19 Randy 22 Andy 26 JohnS 29 JohnP Feb.2 Doug 5 Scott						
January Altar Guild Tami Thimm 715-919- 0695			1	2	3	4
5 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:45am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study	6 10:00am Bible Study	7	8 6:00pm Worship Service	9 9:30am LFOJ Chapple	10	11
12 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:45am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study	13 10:00am Bible Study	14 1:00pm Sewing Circle	15 6:00pm Worship Service	16 Winkel	17 6:00pm LIFT	18
19 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:45am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study	20 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Council Meeting	21	22 6:00pm Worship Service	23	24	25
26 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:45am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study	27 10:00am Bible Study	28 1:00pm Sewing Circle	29 6:00pm Worship Service	30 1:30pm Northern Lights	31	

God's blessings to you this New Year. Here we are entering into the year 2025. As I think of this year I am amazed. In just a few more days I will hit 70, yet another of those milestone birthdays that end with a Zero. I am both amazed and thankful to have made it this far. As I have gotten older I hear of and know more and more people who haven't made it this far. I thank the Lord daily for allowing me to continue my journey this side of His eternity. While I do look forward to Eternal Life at peace with the Lord, I think there is still work here that he has for me to do, and I thank Him for that opportunity.

I have to mention here that one of the things we have accomplished recently is that the Monday morning Bible study group has just finished reading through the entire Bible. It took 12 years and made it through the delay of a pandemic but we finished in the Book of Revelation the week before Christmas. I want to thank all of you who have persevered for so long to achieve this goal. I spoke with Pastor Hyvonen to let him know we are finishing up as he was the one who initiated the study and he asked me to pass on his congratulations for all of those who finished up. We have been in discussions on what to tackle next and I believe we are going to take a look at the Augsburg Confession to start. If you would like to join us we start at 10:00 AM on Monday mornings and the study runs for an hour to an hour and a half.

I also wish to take a moment to thank all of you who shared Christmas Cards and gifts with June and I. We are very grateful and will do our best to thank each of you individually, but in the hustle and bustle of the season sometimes we miss someone. Thank you again and I pray that all of you had a Merry Christmas as well.

Just a reminder on our Wednesday evening services, which will be resuming on January 8th, the services will be starting 6:00 PM. Please join us if you have the opportunity.

On a closing note, I have been a little lax the last couple of months in the scriptural study content in my newsletter covers. I am sometimes challenged to find topics that might be of interest to all of you. So I have decided to help elevate some of the stress and taking on a topic that will get us through the upcoming year. Starting in February and for the next ten months, we are going to take a look at the Ten Commandments from both views of Dr. Luther in the Catechism and how those commandments conflict with the world view today. I think it will be an interesting study and will be helpful to us all. Let me know what you think, not only now as a teaching choice but as we go forward so I can

Continued on the next page.

From the previous page

have some feedback as to whether or not it is an informative study. I am excited for the research, presentation, and response. So as we prepare for this study, feel free to pull out four confirmation books and read through the Ten Commandments. If you have any particular questions please feel free to get them to me and we can address them in the study. If you don't have a copy of the small catechism, there is one located in LSB hymnal in the pews, I have a few extra in my office, I think there may be a couple in the library in the conference room, or I can certainly print off for you the sections regarding the Ten Commandments any time. Let's get to it in the New Year!

I pray the Lord bless you in this 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.

Amen.

Pastor Rick

L. I. F. T. Lutherans in Fellowship Together

Next gathering for LIFT will be January 17, Friday at 6 PM at church. Fellowship, card game and bingo plans will be on the agenda.
Bring your own beverage and a snack to pass (cheese and crackers, etc)

A Prayer for January Blessings

Heavenly Father, as January begins, I ask for Your blessings to cover every aspect of my life. May Your favor rest upon me, and may Your grace be evident in my daily activities. Help me to recognize and appreciate the blessings You provide, and let Your love inspire me to be a blessing to others.

James 1:17

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” Thank You for Your unchanging goodness and the blessings You shower upon me.
Amen.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY MISSION

“SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY



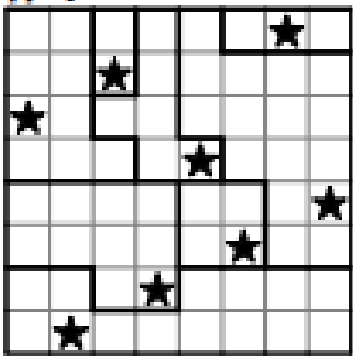
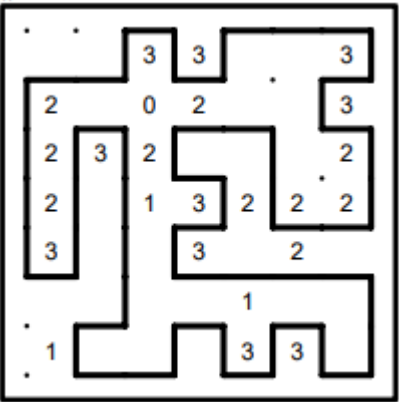
During January and February we will be collecting Soup and other non-perishable items for the BRICK.

Drop off your items in the narthex.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE BRICK.

Monetary donations also accepted, make your checks out to the BRICK.

ANSWERS



RIDDLES

- 1. An echo.
- 2. Candle
- 3. Map'
- 4. All the people were married
- 5. 4 sister 3 brothers
- 6. IV
- 7. ENT First letter of numbers

Crazy Eights Answer:
 $888 + 88 + 8 + 8 + 8 = 1,000$.
This is the kind of math riddle you can work out with times tables, or by simple logic.

Perplexing problem

Tricksy, tricky! You have to think more broadly. Here's a hint:
Think about the [numbers on a clock](#). When it is 11 a.m., adding

My Deaf friend now knows Jesus can calm her fear

By PENELOPE SOMEN, IMB missionary in Southeast Asia Jan 2, 2025

When I first got here as a missionary, I learned that people wouldn't whistle because they fear that might summon a demon. They wouldn't clean their homes at night because they believe that might upset demons. They live terrified of evil spirits. For my Deaf friends, terror often visited them in their dreams. My friend, Naiyana, is 21, and she feels that she has been haunted by a spirit her whole life. She was always aware of it, especially when she tried to sleep.

Years ago, she saw a movie about Jesus born in Bethlehem to save the world from sin. Throughout her life, Naiyana learned more stories about Jesus. When she got to college, some friends invited her to come to our group and see stories about Jesus signed in her language.

We told her about when Jesus set a man free from two thousand demons by the power of His words. When Naiyana gave her life to Jesus and chose to follow Him, she experienced peace, and the evil spirit she felt had haunted her through her whole life was gone. She told us that she still gets scared sometimes. But when she does, she can cry out to Jesus in prayer. And she knows now that He can protect her.

DECEMBER LFOJ NEWSLETTER



Happy Holidays
from us to you!

TOTVILLE NEWS: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

For the month of December, the children have listened to the Bible stories of Daniel and the Lions, Joseph and his Brothers, The Christmas Story, and Noah's Big Boat. The older children enjoy singing their favorite songs and doing the actions that go along with them. The one-year-olds, Otilie and Reagan, join in!

Soon, we will have three less children in our room as Jurek, Lyla, and Lovell will be moving to the Toddler Room.

Our youngest, Lainey, Evie, and Elouise are becoming more and more active and mobile.

Happy 2nd birthday to Lyla on the 19th and Jurek on the 20th.

God's Blessings as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our greatest gift!

-Denise and Jordan

TODDLER TIDBITS:

The Toddler room has been very busy lately! The kids have been doing great with potty training, and they all have the class routine down.

Since it has been cold outside, and the kids take their boots off when they get here, we please ask that the kids have a pair of slippers that they can keep on during the day, in case there is a fire drill and/or we need to get outside quickly. We want them to be as comfortable as possible.

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday!

-Jane and Michelle

UPDATES:

Our cooking dough fundraiser was a huge success! We made over \$1,800 dollars! A colossal thank you to parents, staff, Zion members and friends for helping us to get to this amount. The center is in need of a new dishwasher/sanitizer, so the money will go towards saving for that.

Jessica Voca started working for us this month! She will be cooking and helping out as a float.

We will be closed Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's Day.

We are so incredibly grateful for another year of caring for kiddos!

We wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday season.

God Bless,

Tressa Groom
Director

JoAnn Martikonis
Administrator

LEARNER LANE:

The themes in the Learner room this month were Christmas trees and stockings, Elves and presents, Santa, Reindeer, and New Year's.

We have been feeling awfully festive in the Learner room! The kids have been loving listening to Christmas music with our crackling fireplace.

Moving forward, I would like to ask you to send three full sets of weather appropriate clothes to keep at the center in case of accidents or spills.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break!

-Miss Hanna



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am in-church service and live streamed

Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm

Pre-recorded Online Wednesday Prayer Study 6:30pm

Sunday School - 1st - 7th grade

Women's Group Thursdays 1st & 3rd monthly 6:30pm

bible Studies— Sundays 10:15am Mondays 10:00am

Women's Bible Study 6:30AM

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479

Office Hours: M 9-5 T off W 12-8 Th 9-5 F 9-3

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

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

Days and times may change.

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

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

LFOJ Administrator: Karyn Leino 715-682-6075

Website www.zionashland.org **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

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
Janet Houle	Pam Ekholm	Nick Frisco
Karen	Wayne	Riley Bretting
Mike Trimble	Jamie Klema	Karen Piff
Molly Colgrove	Linda Parrish	Chuck Sandor
Carl Kubley	Chuck	Mary Dahl
Sheryl Hildebrandt	Dwayne Lynch	Sandy Bosma
Dave Solle	Judith Wismeth	Shawn
Diane Schultz	Tina Mashlan	Tom Anderson

and those in our hearts

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

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.

Arlene Zimmerman
Violet Basina

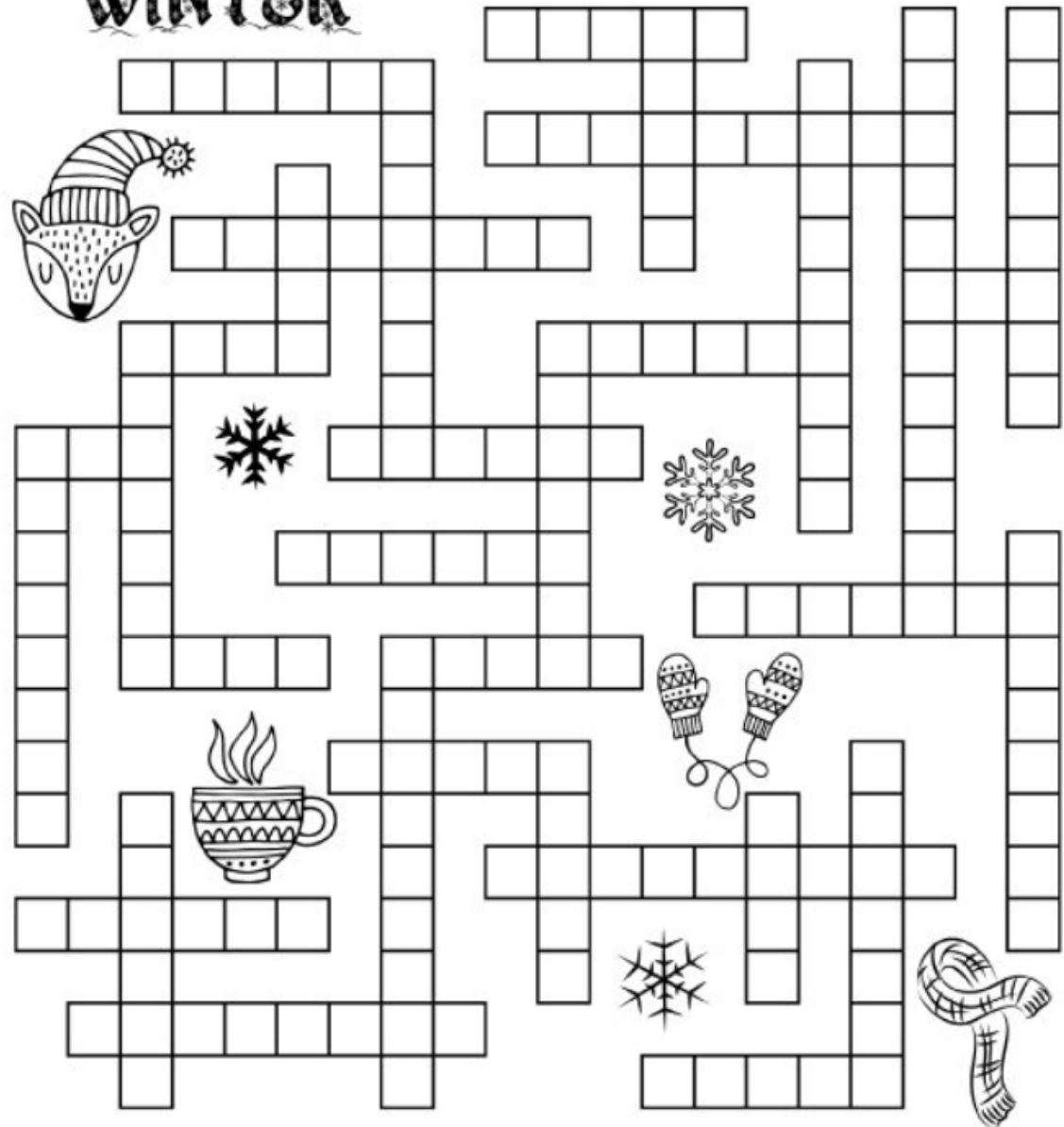
PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

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

David Wright
Jordan Thimm
Andrew Pruss



WINTER



HAT
ICE
COAT
COLD
MELT
SNOW
BOOTS
NIPPY
SCARF
SLEET
SLUSH
SNOWY
CHILLY
FRIGID
GLOVES
HEATER
JACKET
SHIVER
FLANNEL
MITTENS
SWEATHER
WINTERY
BLIZZARD
FLURRIES
HOTCOCOA
SLIPPERY
SNOWSUIT
SOLSTICE
FIREPLACE
LONGJOHNS
JACKFROST
SNOWSTORM
FREEZINGRAIN

RIDDLES

1. I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with wind. What am I?
2. You measure my life in hours and I serve you by expiring. I'm quick when I'm thin and slow when I'm fat. The wind is my enemy.
3. I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I?
4. You see a boat filled with people. It has not sunk, but when you look again you don't see a single person on the boat. Why?
5. 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?
6. How can the number four be half of five?
7. What are the next three letters in this combination? OTTFSS

Zion Lutheran Church Council

December 16, 2024

1. **Call to Order** – John Pruss, President
2. **Opening Prayer** – Pastor Williams
3. **Roll Call** – John Pruss, President
Darryl Warren, Elders & Education
Nick Jarvela, Trustees
Jule Jarvela, Secretary
Tiffany Darling, Treasurer {by phone} Tami Thimm, Financial Secretary
JoAnn Martikonis, LFOJ Pastor Williams
4. **Approval of Minutes** - 1- Darryl Warren 2- Nick Jarvela MMC
5. **Pastor's Report** – Mellen called declined, will apply for Seminarian. Services going well
6. **Approval of Treasurer's Report** = Correction to read "Auditor from District Office"
1- Nick Jarvela 2- Tami Thimm MMC
7. **Approval of Agenda** with additions. 2- Darryl Warren 2- Tami Thimm MMC
8. **Board Reports**
A. Elders – Budget
B. Trustees – Handhold bars installed, sign on outside of Church, Insurance rate increase being looked into for change
C. Financial Secretary – No
D. Education – No
E. Evangelism – Soup & Sandwich Suppers, Wendy Shields organizing Youth Gathering fund raising project, boxes to college students
F. LFOJ – Made \$1800 on cookie fundraiser, enrollment good. Training new teachers
9. **Official Acts** – None
10. **Old Business**
A. Memorial Committee – John Pruss is now listed on the Bank. All previous members names are off. New members are being recruited. Balance in account is \$9000.00
List of memorials is being gathered.
11. **New Business**
A. Lift is currently now working. Quote for repair is \$1500.00. Matter tabled for now
B. Roof Repair reimbursement – Motion was made to reimburse the fund from savings and send total amount to LCEF. 1- Nick Jarvela 2- Darryl Warren MMC
C. Treasurer's Report – Detailed report given after audit with recommendations for changes. Council requested monthly report of income and disbursements.
D. Staff Christmas bonus for secretary and sexton in Chamber bucks

Next Council Meeting = January 20, 2025

Adjournment - 1- Nick Jarvela 2- Tami Thimm MMC

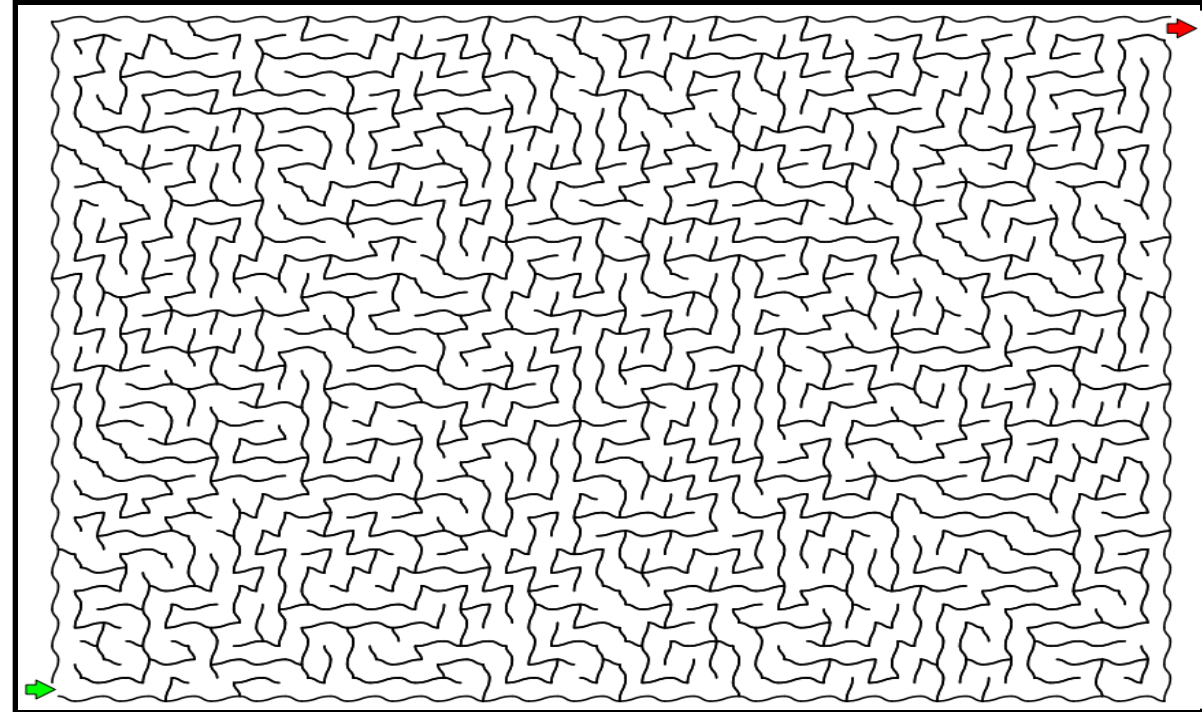
Lord's Prayer

Riddle: Using only addition, add eight 8s to get the number 1,000.

Answer: $888 + 88 + 8 + 8 + 8 = 1,000$. This is the kind of math riddle you can work out with times tables, or by simple logic. First, get as close to 1,000 as you can. From there, it's easy to figure out the rest.

The Gospel of Luke

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



ANGELS
 ANNA
 BEATITUDES
 BENEDICTUS
 BIRTH NARRATIVE
 COMPASSION
 ELDER SON
 ELIZABETH
 EMMAUS
 FORGIVENESS
 GENTILES
 GOOD SAMARITAN
 HISTORIAN
 HOLY SPIRIT
 JOY
 LOST COIN
 LUKE
 MAGNIFICAT
 MARGINALIZED
 MARY
 NAZARETH
 PARABLES
 PHYSICIAN
 POOR
 PRAYER
 PRODIGAL SON
 REPENTANCE
 SALVATION
 SERMON ON PLAIN
 SHEPHERDS
 SIMEON
 SOCIAL JUSTICE
 SON OF MAN
 SYNOPTIC
 TAX COLLECTORS
 THANKFULNESS
 WOMEN
 ZACCHAEUS
 ZECHARIAH

Guideposts Classics: Michael Landon on God's Blessings

In this story from March 1976, beloved actor and director Michael Landon shares he came to understand that he had a special talent—and it wasn't acting.

If there's one thing I can't stand people saying, it's, "I'm no good at anything ... I don't have any talent." I just don't buy that at all. To me, everyone has at least one talent, and while it sometimes takes you a lifetime to find, it does exist.

There was a time, of course, when I didn't believe that. What changed my mind was a seemingly small event that took place back in 1953.

At that time I was a skinny little high-school sophomore in Collingswood, New Jersey, a town just across the Delaware River from Philadelphia. At Collingswood High I was a good student, but as far as I was concerned, in just about every other department I was a loser.

As a funny-looking pip-squeak named Eugene Orowitz, who weighed barely 100 pounds, I desperately wanted to fit in, to be something and do something well. But because I hadn't found anything I was good at, I looked upon myself as being a total flop.

One sunny afternoon during the spring of that year, our gym class went out to the school's running track. The teacher was going to acquaint us all with various track and field events. We were shown hurdles, the broad jump, the pole vault. I stumbled weakly through them all.

"Now we'll try the javelin," the teacher said.

I watched as he picked up a gleaming metal spear about six feet long and gave it a short toss. Suddenly I was captivated and didn't know why. Something inside me began saying, "Try it! Try it!"



I had to wait my turn, though, because several others wanted a crack at the javelin too. Shy and scared, I watched them, trying not to look too eager. Finally, when everyone had had a chance to throw—the longest heave going about 30 yards—I looked at the teacher.

"Hey, Orowitz, you want to try?" he asked.

Embarrassed, I looked down, but managed to nod my head.

"Well, come on then," he said impatiently, and handed me the javelin. Behind me I could hear some of my classmates chuckling.

"Think you can lift it, Ugy?" one said.

"Don't stab yourself," another added, laughing.

As I grasped the javelin in my hand, I was seized with a strange feeling—a new-found excitement. Seeing myself as a Roman warrior about to do battle, my fears vanished. For some crazy reason, I was relaxed over what I was about to do, even though I'd never done it before.

I raised the javelin over my head, took six quick steps and let the thing go. The same voice that had urged me into throwing it, now told me it was a good throw.

I watched as the spear took off. While other students' throws had wobbled or turned cockeyed in the air, to my surprise, my throw was traveling straight and true.

My heart quickened as I saw it continue to sail, 30 yards out, then 40. As it went past the 50-yard mark, it was still going when it went crashing down beyond some empty bleachers.

For a minute nothing was said. Then someone whispered, "Holy cow!" and others began cheering and slapping me on the back. Nobody could believe what little Orowitz had just done.

Neither could I, really. And when I think back on it, the whole scene must have resembled something out of a grade-B movie.

I ran to retrieve the javelin and when I found it, I saw the tip had been broken off in landing. Expecting a real bawling out, I took the javelin back to the gym teacher.

"Don't worry about it," he said, still shaking his head in wonder. "You keep the thing."

That night I took the javelin home with me and, much to my parents' astonishment, never let it out of my sight. The very next day I began practicing with it, and every day that summer—for six hours or more—I would throw it in a nearby schoolyard.

The joy of finding something I could do made me determined to do as well in it as I could.

By the time I was a senior and a member of the track team, all my practice paid off. I threw the javelin 211 feet that year, the best throw by any high-school boy in the country.

That record gave me a track scholarship to the University of Southern California. With my eye on the Olympics, I continued to work out until one day in college, after not warming up properly, I tore some ligaments in my left shoulder.

While I still could throw, I was never able to achieve the distance I once could, and so I gave up my track scholarship and my dream of the Olympics.

Though that was a terrible disappointment, I've learned since then that as we are developing one talent, others seem to spring from it without our realizing it. While the javelin gave me a chance to go to college, it also provided

me with a new-found confidence and the ability to shed my inferiority complex.

I was able to see the importance of that when later, after I dropped out of U.S.C., I took a job in a Los Angeles warehouse. There, a coworker, an aspiring actor, asked my help in learning his part in a small playhouse production of *Home of the Brave*.

When I began reading the script, I became mesmerized. The same kind of fascination that took hold of me when I picked up the javelin now turned me on to dramatics. Immediately I enrolled in acting school.

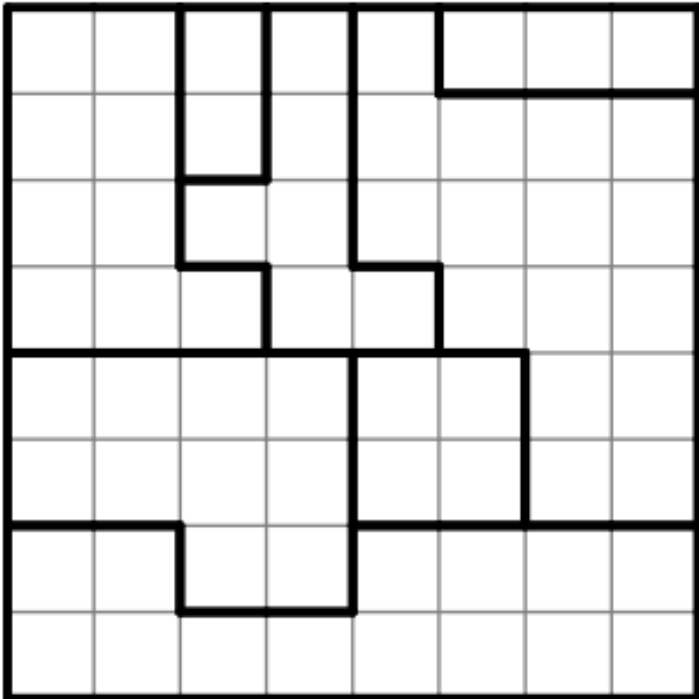
That led to small parts in movies, which in turn brought me the role of Little Joe Cartwright in *Bonanza*. That TV series lasted 14 years and while it's no longer running, it led me to still another area—directing—which I'm now using in my own series, *Little House on the Prairie*.

I'm convinced that everyone has some kind of hidden talent. God sees to it—it's that simple. The difficult part for some of us is in finding the talent.

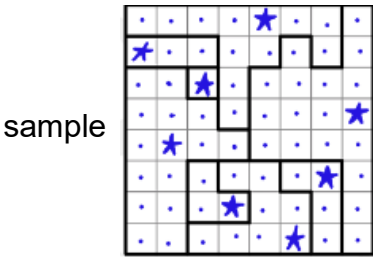
That's why I feel strongly that we must keep our minds open; we can't let ourselves be discouraged or depressed when the talent doesn't readily appear. Yet when it does, we must be prepared to grab hold of it right away.

Whenever I think about what made that scrawny kid pick up that javelin, I know there was a reason. God was on that high-school field whispering to me, "Here's an opportunity. Take it." And am I glad I listened to Him—glad I trusted my enthusiasm—for I not only found my talent, but I truly found myself.

Perplexing problem
Riddle: I add six to eleven, and get five. Why is this correct?

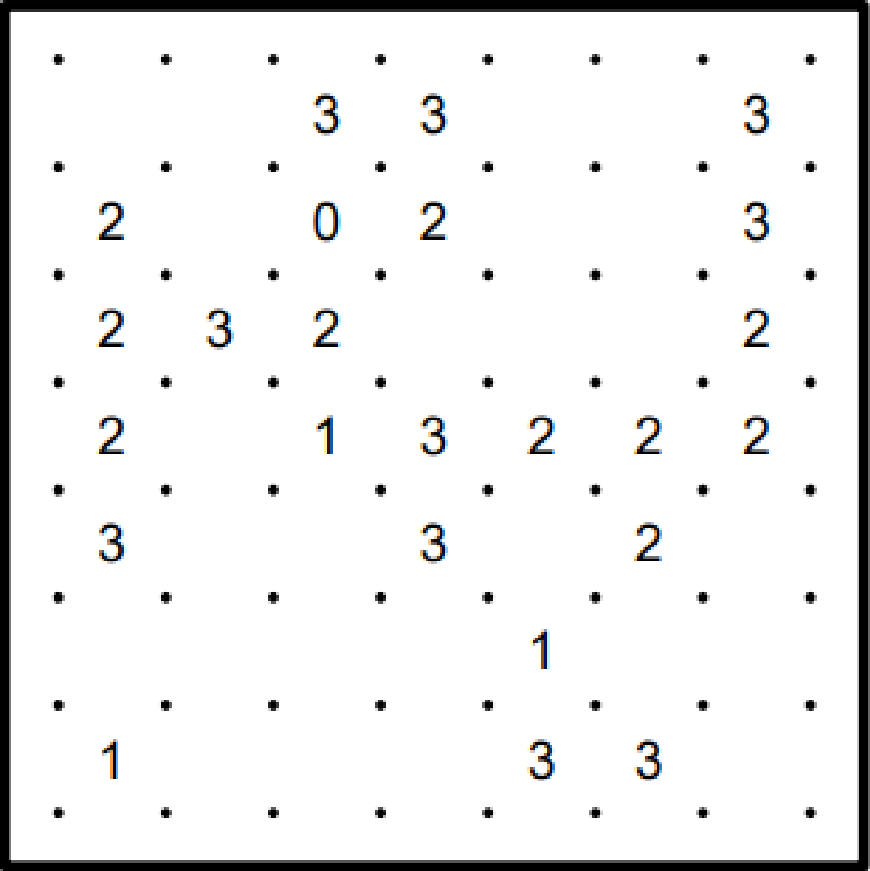
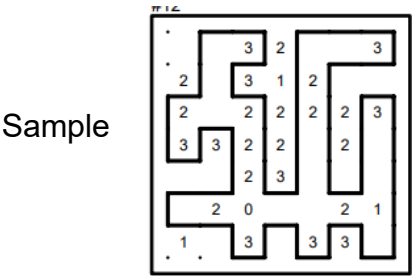


Each puzzle is divided into 8 different regions. Each region, row and column contains a single star. The stars may not be adjacent to each other (not even diagonally).



**ARE WE
HAVING FUN
YET?**

In a Slitherlink Puzzle, you connect horizontally or vertically adjacent dots to form a meandering path that forms a single loop, without crossing itself, or branching. The numbers indicate how many lines surround each cell. Empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines (from 0 to 3). There is one unique solution, and you should be able to find it without guessing. You may find it helpful to make small x's between dots that cannot be connected.



A guy said to God, "God, is it true that to you a billion years is like a second?"
God said yes.
The guy said, "God, is it true that to you a billion dollars is like a penny?"
God said yes.
The guy said, "God, can I have a penny?"
God said, "Sure, just a second."