



The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI JULY 2021

As I was preparing to write this month's cover I was having some difficulty, as a matter of fact this is my third written attempt, not to mention the countless mental attempts that didn't make it to print. My problem was what could I say this month that I haven't said before? Or at least what could I say in way I haven't said it before. After all I don't want to become too repetitious, boring, or predictable. So, as I was quietly beating my head against the wall, I looked at my phone and noticed my verse of the day had come in, no better time to look at it then when I struggle with myself. Here is what it said, *⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.*" (Revelation 21:4).

This is the good news of salvation in a sentence. What more could you, or I, or anyone else ask for. As a pastor I deal with all of the things mentioned in this verse on almost a daily basis. Death, mourning, crying, and pain, all things you and I deal with far more often than we would like. Sometime far closer than we would like. We would all like to forget that we are sinners. Whether we want to or not, we sin, day in and day out, some days are better than others, some days are worse than others. But regardless of the day, we are sinners. Paul tells us in *Romans 3:23* "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*". That's us sinners, Paul also tells us in *Romans 6:23* "*For the wages of sin is death,*". So, because we are sinners, because there is death, we all at one time or another experience death, mourning, crying and pain. They are all part of living in this sinful and fallen world.

You might be saying at this point, thanks pastor for the cheerful news, and in this world, if that's all there was, you would be right. But thank good there is more. There is that verse of the day *⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.*". That is the good news, that even while we do experience those things far more regularly than we may want, they are only temporary, they are not all that there is, not even close. The verse proceeding our verse of the day really helps set the stage; *³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people and God himself will be with them as their God.* Think of that, when the crying, death, pain, and mourning of this world

(cont. on next page)

have passed we will be with God! What does it say, *"the dwelling place of God is with man"* God wants to be with us! He wants us to be with him, He wants us to be his people, He wants to be our God! Just as it was in the beginning, God wants to be with His creation. And what will he do with us in His new creation? *⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.*" I look forward to those former things passing away, and because of God's promise of salvation for me through His Son's blessed death and resurrection, I can bear, for now, the death, the mourning, the crying, and the pain, because I know through faith in my Savior Jesus Christ, this too shall pass, *"And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."* (Psalm 23:6b)

I would like to take a moment and thank everyone who helped out while June and I were on vacation, particularly Pastor Bob Kitson, Darryl Warren, and Andy Pruss. Bob and Darryl for doing an excellent job of preaching God's Word and Andy for making sure both services were recorded and posted to our social media sites. Again thank you, it truly helped me to relax and unwind a bit. June and I had a wonderful time visiting family, visiting tourist attractions, just getting to spend some uninterrupted time together for those 10 days.

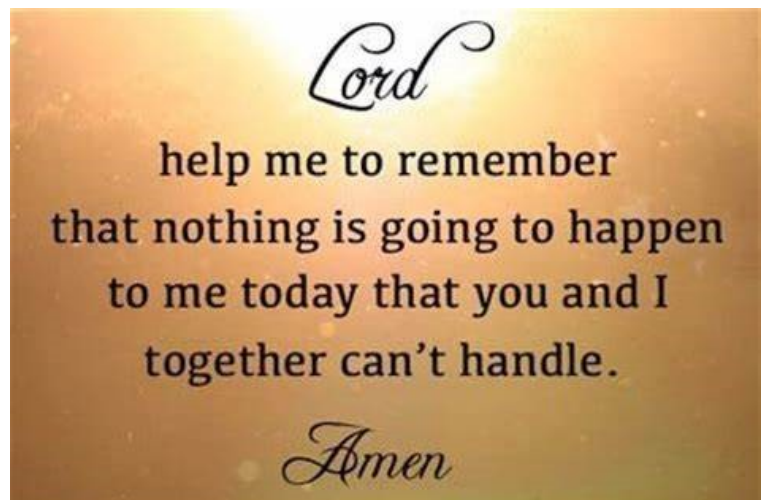
On a couple other quick items we are going to continue with Wednesday nights as online only for a while yet. Also we are planning a church picnic for Sunday, July 25, it will be an outdoor church service followed by the picnic, more info to follow. I would also just like to take a moment and thank all of you for your support, I couldn't do what I do without all of you and your support.



God Bless you all.

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



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

1111—11TH AVE WEST

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

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service 6:30pm live streamed

Sunday School - 3yrs.—5th grade At-home lessons (Sept-May)

Bible Studies—currently cancelled.

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 M8-3, T/W/Th 11-3

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

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

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.

Walt Schutte Arlene Zimmerman
Violet Basina Madge Houle Nancy Zehe

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	Lynda Koppelman
Alice Balmer	Mary Siefers
Penny Larson	Francis Balmer
David Gustafson	LeAnn Billing
Vi Basina	Andrea Gunderson
James Fletcher	Dave Pearson
Colton Ledin	Brett Everman
Walt Schutte	Judith Wismeth
John Schutte	Cheryl Hildebrandt
Nancy Beiersdorf	Madge Houle
Danny Pocernich	Sherry Gurski
James Lavasseur	Diane Sandor
Haylee Fisher	Larry Tody
Harold Larson	Sally Gustafson

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

I'm saying a prayer
for you today,
That God will touch you
with His healing hand
and give you the comfort
and peace you need to
get through the day.





Mustard Seed

Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

Daughters of the King **Esther -- Woman of Courage**

In the Word

Esther's Story: [The Book of Esther](#)

Then Esther told them ... "I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish" ([Esther 4:15a, 16b](#)).

Of the Word

Like a TV drama, Esther's story had a beauty contest, sinister plots, betrayal, and courage. Esther, a Judean, was taken captive by an edict of the king because he was looking for a replacement wife. From all the women in the king's harem, beautiful Esther was the one chosen. God had a plan for her!

An evil plot had been laid to destroy all the Jews of the kingdom. Esther, being a Jew, would not have escaped. After three days of praying and fasting she summoned the courage to go before the king unannounced, which could have resulted in her death. Esther was not turned away. The king learned of the evil plot, and the Jews were saved.

Confronting problems isn't easy but ignoring them can cause serious consequences. Where can we find courage to say what has to be said or do what has to be done? ... *fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand ([Isaiah 41:10](#)).* Our God is bigger than any problem we will ever face. We can rely on God's promise to always be with us.

Walking with my Lord

Holy Spirit, embolden me with courage to do what I must. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: *Daughters of the King*. Marcia Gomulka and Myrna Lou Meyer, authors. 18/34 ©2013 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. www.lwml.org

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186. REJECTION AT NAZARETH

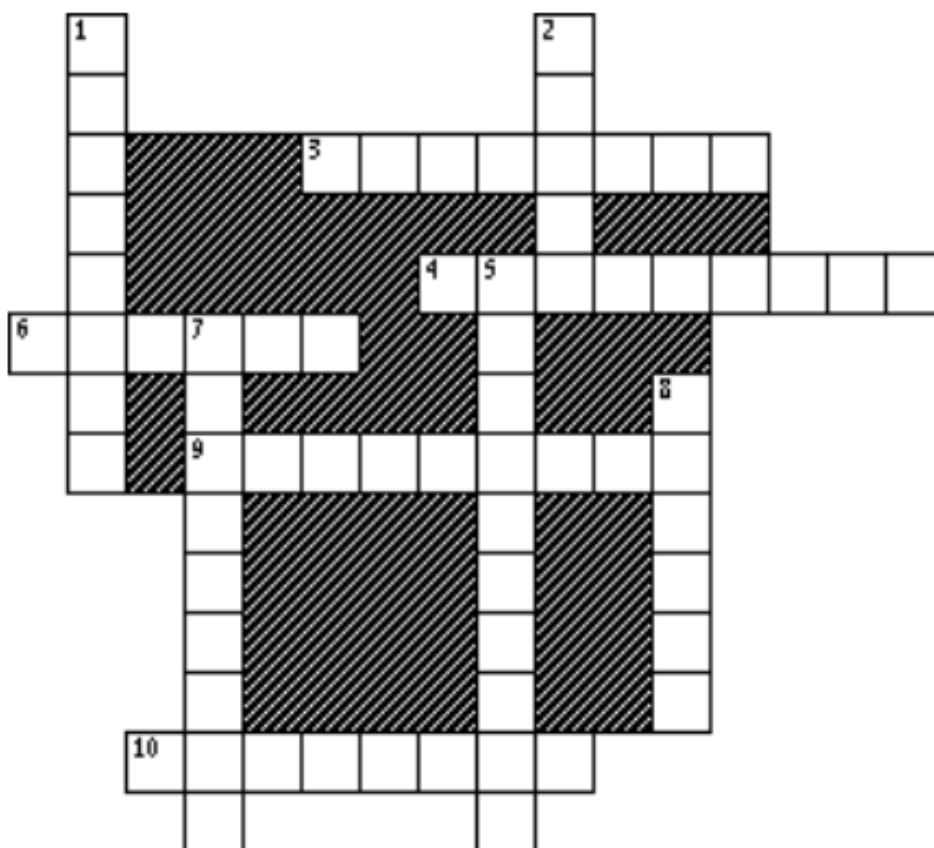
(MARK 6:1-6)



"He is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."
ISAIAH 53:3

186. REJECTION AT NAZARETH

(MARK 6:1-6)



- 10 ACROSS "He is despised and _____ by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." **ISAIAH 53:3**
- 7 DOWN "Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His _____ followed Him." **MARK 6:1**
- 9 ACROSS "And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the _____." **MARK 6:2**
- 5 DOWN "And many hearing Him were _____." **MARK 6:2**
- 6 ACROSS "...saying, 'Where did this Man get these things? And what _____ is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands!'" **MARK 6:2**
- 4 ACROSS "Is this not the _____, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?..." **MARK 6:3**
- 3 ACROSS "And they were _____ at Him." **MARK 6:3**
- 2 DOWN "But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without _____ except in his own country.'" **MARK 6:4**
- 8 DOWN "Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and _____ them." **MARK 6:5**
- 1 DOWN "And He marveled because of their _____." **MARK 6:6**

Impressed, the woman went home with him that evening and, three days later she became his step-mother.

MARK 6:30-44 Scrambled Words

1. POEALTSS _____
 2. FBAKSLSTEU _____
 3. AOTB _____
 4. NRKEOB _____
 5. LCSSIDEIP _____
 6. TIUIRSTDBE _____
 7. FSEDE _____
 8. FIISFTE _____
 9. HSIF _____
 10. IVFE _____
 11. GDEAHERT _____
 12. USRNDHDE _____
 13. ESUJS _____
 14. VSELAO _____
 15. PPEOEL _____
 16. EEPSIC _____
 17. SSDTAIIFE _____
 18. SHPEE _____
 19. EPESDHRH _____
 20. SNKAHT _____
 21. ASOUTDSHN _____
 22. EETVLW _____
-

Funny Story About Toddlers ~ The Cup of Tea

Well,.....One day my mother was out and my dad was in charge of me.

I was maybe 2 1/2 years old and had just recovered from an accident.

Someone had given me a little 'tea set' as a get-well gift and it was one of my favorite toys.

Daddy was in the living room engrossed in the evening news when I brought Daddy a little cup of "tea," which was just water.

After several cups of tea and lots of praise for such yummy tea, my Mom came home.

My Dad made her wait in the living room to watch me bring him a cup of tea, because it was "just the cutest thing!"

My Mom waited, and sure enough, here I come down the hall with a cup of tea for Daddy and she watched him drink it up.

Then she says, (as only a mother would know . . .)

"Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get water is the toilet?"

A good story with a moral: The Unlucky Man.

Once there was a man who lived in a beautiful log cabin. He seemed to have everything but was never happy. The man believed it was because he was unlucky (but in fact it was because he was bored.)

One day he had enough and he went to a very old and wise woman to find out why he was not lucky. The old and wise woman thought about it and told him he must visit God and ask him that question. "Where do I find God?" The man asked.

"Travel to the West until you reach the end of the world and there you will find God," said the Old woman. So the man set off to find God and ask why he was not lucky. He walked for a day, he walked for a week, he walked for a month and he even walked for a year until he came to a clearing which was surrounded by wolves.

On one side were these strong and vicious looking wolves. On the other was a small scrawny wolf. The man decided to walk towards the scrawny wolf. As he passed the wolf asked. "Where are you going?" "I am going to visit God and ask him why I have no luck," answered the Man. "Interesting. If you find him can you please ask why I am not as strong and as vicious as my brothers," asked the Wolf. "Of course." The man answered and he walked off. He walked for a day, he walked for a week, he walked for a month, he walked for a year until he got to a beautiful forest. The trees were vast and stretched far up into the sky but in a small clearing was a short leafless tree with wimpy branches. As the man walked by the tree called out, "Excuse me where are you going?" "I am going to visit God and ask him why I have no luck."

"Fascinating. If you find God can you ask him why I am not as tall and strong as my brothers," the tree asked. "Of course," answered the man and he walked off. He walked for a day, he walked for a week, he walked for a month, and he walked for a year until he came to a small blue house. Surrounding this house was a beautiful garden filled with vibrant colors and bright flowers. From inside the house came the most beautiful woman the man had ever seen. On seeing the man, the woman invited him in for dinner and to spend the night. The man agreed and enjoyed a wonderful feast cooked to perfection by the woman. As they ate, the man told his story and at the end the woman asked, "That is a lovely story. If you find God can you ask him why I am so lonely?" "Of course I can," answered the man. Then he went to bed. The next day he set off and walked to the West. He walked for a day, he walked for a week, he walked for a month, he walked for a year until finally he reached the end of the world. There sitting on cloud, fishing, was God. The man called out, "Excuse me. But God can you tell me why I have no luck." God looked up and said, "You have all the luck you need. It is all around you, you just don't notice it. Be more observant and you will find your luck." This made sense to the man and he began to ask the other questions he had promised but God just raised his hand, "There is no need to ask the questions. I already know what they are for I know everything." God whispered the answers into the man's ear. The man thanked God and began to walk home. He arrived first at the beautiful woman's house and knocked on the door. The woman was overjoyed to see him and asked him for her answer. "God told me why you are so lonely. You must get married." "Of course. It makes sense. Will you marry me?" The woman asked the man. "I am sorry I can not for I must find my luck. But the first nice man I see, I will send back to you," answered the man. With that he continued home until he reached the beautiful forest. The small tree saw him and asked for his answer. "The reason you are small and have no leaves is because buried beneath your roots is a chest full of gold. It is blocking you from receiving nutrients." "Of course, that makes sense. Please, some workmen left shovels over there. If you dig up the chest, you can keep the gold inside," said the tree.

"I am sorry, I can not. For I must find my luck. But the first strong man I see, I shall send back," replied the man and with that he continued on his way home. He reached the clearing of the wolves and the small scrawny wolf asked him for his answer. "The reason you are small and scrawny is because you do not eat enough. You must eat the first big stupid animal you see." And the wolf did.

These Are Gems

- To love your life, do nothing with rush or resentment, but do everything as if you love it.
- **Genius is one percent of cleverness and ninety-nine percent a very long endurance.** *Keep going and never, ever give up.*
- Change your habits and you can change anything into a possibility.
- I light a candle every day at the prayer table. Write a bit in my journal, not words of mine, but Words of His, copied out, like writing them with hand can shape my hand, can shape my life.
- Every little day has to be a little bit better: **Small things done consistently, consistently make the biggest change.**
- A pail with a pinhole loses as much as the pail pushed right over. A whole life can be lost in minutes wasted . . . in the small moments missed.

The Living Shall Never Die

By Charles L. Allen

Jesus said, "Whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." That is the most glorious promise ever made to humanity. We go to the cemetery. It is a sacred spot which we bathe with our tears, but our loved ones are not there. They never have been there. They never will be there. You bury only things that are dead, and Christ assures us that through Him we will never die. The body dies and is buried. The person does not die and therefore is not buried. We remember the words of our Lord to the man dying by His side that day. He said: "Today you shall be with Me in paradise" (Luke

Riddles

R1 Snowman

R2 The king gave them all fake seeds and the little girl was the only honest child who didn't switch

1. POEALTSS = APOSTLES
2. FBAKSLSTEU = BASKETFULS
3. AOTB = BOAT
4. NRKEOB = BROKEN
5. LCSSIDEIP = DISCIPLES
6. TIUIRSTDBE = DISTRIBUTE
7. FSEDE = FEEDS
8. FIISFTE = FIFTIES
9. HSIF = FISH
10. IVFE = FIVE
11. GDEAHERT = GATHERED
12. USRNDHDE = HUNDREDS
13. ESUJS = JESUS
14. VSELAO = LOAVES
15. PPEOEL = PEOPLE
16. EEPSIC = PIECES
17. SSDTAIFE = SATISFIED
18. SHPEE = SHEEP
19. EPESDHRH = SHEPHERD
20. SNKAHT = THANKS
21. ASOUTDSHN = THOUSANDS
22. EETVLW = TWELVE

TINKERING WITH TENSION

12 Tips to Reduce Tension

Be realistic: Don't set yourself up for failure. Establish possible, not impossible, goals for yourself and cheer yourself on with each achievement.

Step, don't leap: Pick one aspect of your life you'd like to improve. As you begin to make gains in this area, then branch out to another.

Clear your calendar: Don't overbook your life and don't let others overbook it for you. Learn to say "no" when you need to.

Strike a balance: Adapt your schedule to include time for leisure with family and friends.

Scratch "should" and "must": These words represent demands others have placed on you. Scratch them from your vocabulary. Use instead goals and priorities you've set for yourself.

Pay the right price: Don't spend a dollar's worth of energy on a 10-cent problem.

Take a break: Put time between a stressful incident and your reaction to it whenever you can, even if it's just a slow count to 10.

Get away: Give yourself permission to enjoy some moments of solitude each day to reflect and recharge your spirit.

Laugh a lot: Laughter is the best and least expensive medicine. Take liberal doses daily.

Open up: Share the important thoughts and concerns in your life with those close to you. Sharing dispels fear and attracts support.

Move a muscle (or two): Keep a sound mind in a sound body. Make mental and physical exercise a regular part of your life.

Follow your faith: Remember that you are never alone. Faith in your God is a source of strength always available.

Unknown Facts of Our Constitution?

A draft condemned the slave trade

In one of Jefferson's earlier drafts of the Declaration of Independence, he called slavery "a cruel war against human nature" and denounced King George III for "creating and sustaining" the slave trade. The language was deleted from the final version. Jefferson owned more than 200 slaves in 1776.



The first official celebration took place on July 4, 1777

The first official national celebration of America's independence was held in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777. John Adams did not attend in protest of the date. The year 1777 was also the year the American flag was officially established.

Here's why we set off fireworks

At the first national Independence Day Celebration in Philly in 1777, 13 cannons were fired, one round for each state of the union, bells were rung, and fireworks were set off, according to the Smithsonian, which says the 4th of July fireworks tradition grew from there.

About that "pursuit of happiness"...

Arguably the most famous line in the Declaration of Independence is the second sentence of the preamble, which begins, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." But as originally drafted by Thomas Jefferson, the pursuit was not of happiness, but of "Property." As the story goes, Benjamin Franklin convinced Jefferson to make the change because "property" was too "narrow" a notion.

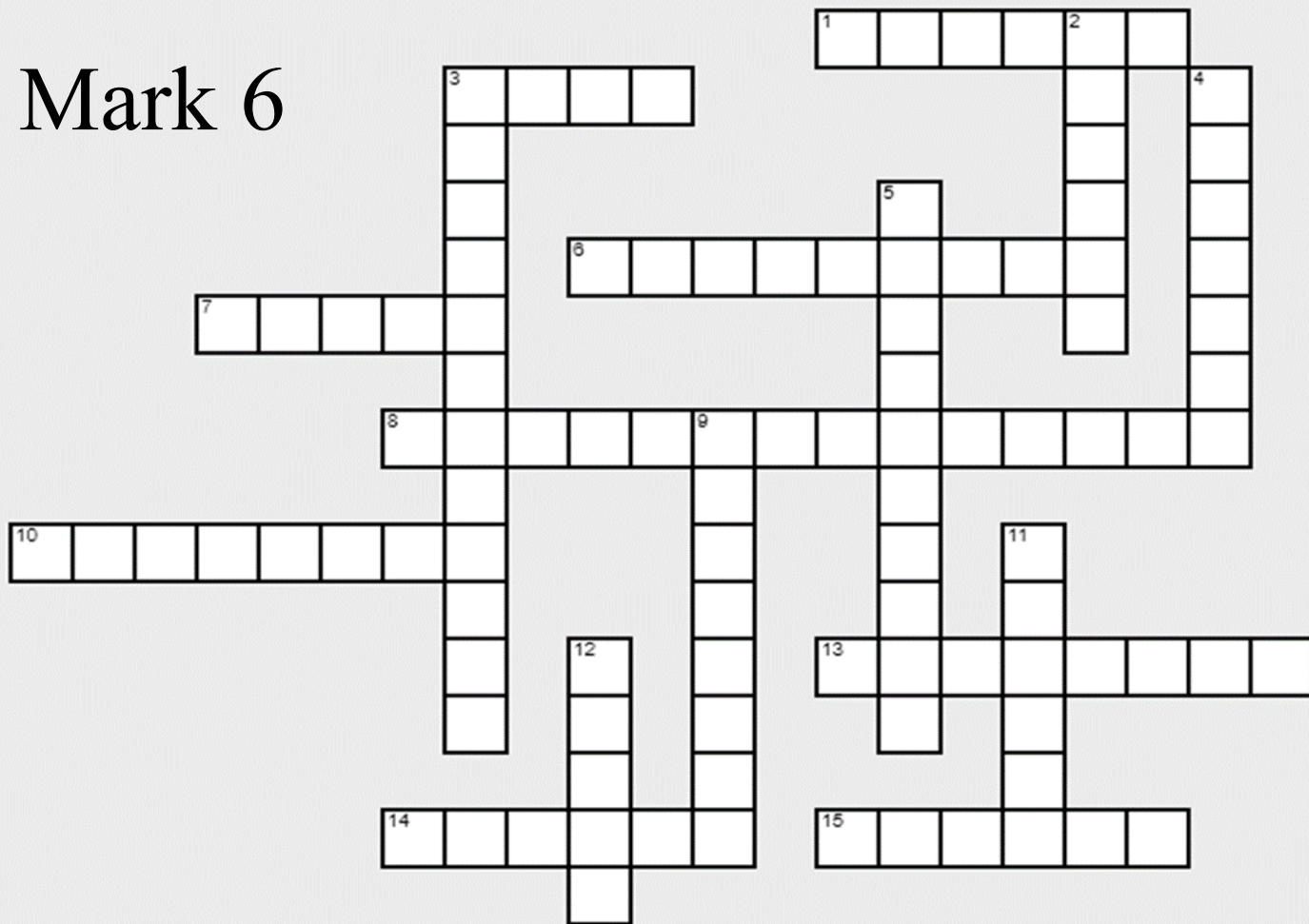
John Adams wasn't happy about the choice of dates

On July 3, 1776, John Adams, who went on to become our second president, wrote a letter to his wife, Abigail, to tell her how excited he was that Congress had voted in favor of independence. "The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America," he declared. Adams so firmly believed that July 2 was the correct day on which to celebrate American independence that he refused to appear at July 4th events as a matter of principle.

Plus our nation's constitution wasn't in place in any form until 1789

It wasn't until five years after our victory over the British in the Revolutionary War that the Articles of Confederation, the first version of what was to become the U.S. Constitution, was ratified by Congress. Since the Constitution is what actually defined our form of government and set boundaries on what our laws could and couldn't do, it's arguable that we weren't actually "born" as a country until 1789.

Mark 6



AMAZED
FIVETHOUSAND
HERODIUS
PROFET

COMPASSION
FOUR
HOMETOWN
REPENT

DEMONS
GHOST
MIRACLES
TWELVE

ELIJAH
HEROD
JOHNTHEBAPTIST
SYNAGOGUE

R1. An Heir for the King A king has no sons, no daughters, and no queen. For this reason, he must decide who will take the throne after he dies. To do this he decides that he will give all of the children of the kingdom a single seed. Whichever child has the largest, most beautiful plant will earn the throne. At the end of the contest all of the children came to the palace with their enormous and beautiful plants in hand. After he looks at all of the children's pots, he finally decides that the little girl with an empty pot will be the next queen. Why did he choose this little

Learning to Whistle Thinking no one could hear me as I loaded a UPS tractor trailer, I began to whistle. I was really getting into it when a coworker in the next trailer poked his head in. "You know, I always used to wish I could whistle," he said. "Now I just wish you could."

Previously Beautiful Teaching is not for sensitive souls. While reviewing future, past, and present tenses with my English class, I posed this question: "'I am beautiful' is what tense?" One



Spot the seven differences. This was the easiest of the bunch. Good Luck.

Church Picnic

Sunday
July 25th



Details will be forthcoming.
But.....great food, conversation,
comradery,
maybe even some (sit-down) games. If you need a
ride we can arrange
for that too.

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness." — John Steinbeck

A first grade teacher asked her class old, well known proverbs. She gave the first half of the proverb and they came up with the rest. Here we go.

As you make your bed so shall you . . .
MESS IT UP.

Better be safe than . .
PUNCH A 5TH GRADER.

You can lead a horse to water but . . .
HOW?

Don't bite the hand that . . .
LOOKS DIRTY.

An idle mind is . . .
THE BEST WAY TO RELAX.

A penny saved is . . .
NOT MUCH.

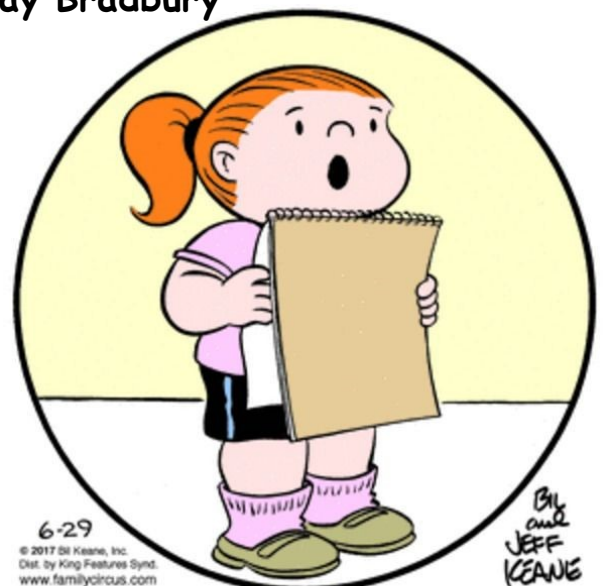
**Laugh and the whole world laughs with you,
cry and . . .** YOU HAVE TO BLOW YOU NOSE.

Children should be seen and not . . .
SPANKED OR GROUNDED.

When the blind lead the blind . . .
GET OUT OF THE WAY.

"Summer's lease hath all too short a date." — William Shakespeare

"Bees do have a smell, you know, and if they don't they should, for their feet are dusted with spices from a million flowers." — Ray Bradbury



"Daddy, what's the date of the Fourth of July this year?"

Mark 6:45–56

Jesus Walked on Water Spot the Differences

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 12 things that are different.




JULY

2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: July 4 Randy July 11 Darryl July 18 Doug July 25 Scott August 1 John Aug. 8 Andy Aug.15 Scott Aug. 22 Darryl Aug.29 Randy				1	2	3
Sunday services are in-church						
4 9:00am Service 2pm LGP	5f	6	7 Evening Pray Service 6:30pm live- streamed	8	9	10
11 9:00am Service	12	13	14 Evening Pray Service 6:30pm live- streamed	15	16	17
18 9:00am Service	19	20	21 Evening Pray Service 6:30pm live- streamed	22	23	24
25 Church Picnic Prentice Park	26	27	28 Evening Pray Service 6:30pm live- streamed	29	30	31

July Altar Guild
 Lisa Warren 715-209-8547
 Michelle Vyskocil 715-582-2498





OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism
 Rosemary Jennifer Lindquist
 4-24-21
 Jeremy and Angela Lindquist

Mathias Declan J.R. Cederberg,
 5-30-2021
 Justin and Victoria
 Cederberg

