



The Mountain Top Messenger

JUNE 2022

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, LCMS ASHLAND, WI

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: May 29 Darryl June 1 Scott June 5 Doug June 8 John June 12 Darryl June 15 Doug June 19 John June 22 Darryl June 26 Scott June 29 Doug July 3 Andy July 6 John July 10 Darryl July 13 Doug July 17 Andy July 20 Scott July 24 John July 27 Darryl July 31 Andy Aug. 3 Scott						
			1 6:30pm Service 6:30pm online prayer service	2 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	3	4
5 9:00am Service 6pm NWD Convention through Monday	6	7	8 6:30pm Service 6:30pm online prayer service	9	10	11
12 9:00am Service	13	14	15 6:30pm Service 6:30pm online prayer service	16 Winkel Glidden 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	17	18
19 Father's Day 9:00am Service	20	21	22 6:30pm Service 6:30pm online	23	24	25
26 9:00am Service	27	28	29 6:30pm Service 6:30pm online prayer service	30		



Jule Jarvela 715-682-0385
Judy Nevala 715-682-2927

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism Kali Mae Kokely
5-15-2022

Happy June! If memory serves me correctly there are no federal holidays in June. It is just a month of Monday through Friday 9-5 and enjoy your week-ends or summer vacation. It is also the month where our church year does its best to match nature. Following Red on Pentecost, June 5th, and White for Holy Trinity Sunday June 12th, we then go to green, our season after Pentecost is indeed green and stays green for 19 weeks.

The season following Pentecost is a season of growth, much like our summer months. We grow in scripture and in our knowledge of Christ. I believe it is very appropriate to be in green, it matches the grass and the trees, green means go! So while there is no official Bible Study this summer season, I am encouraging all of you to take just a couple extra minutes every day to read your scriptures. If you have a computer or smart phone I encourage you to sign up for one of the Bible verse a day web sites. The one that I use is called 'Bible Gateway' and is available on both computer and either Android or Apple phones. They can even link together so both your phone and your computer are in sync with your Bible reading. The app sends you a new scripture verse every morning so that is there for you to read at your leisure. It also tracks how well you are doing in reading your daily scripture. I just checked mine and I have read my daily verse every day for the last 40 days. I had been near 300 and then missed a day around Easter, actually it was Easter day that I missed. But I do have my streak of 214 continuous weeks of reading scripture without missing a week going. That's 4 years and 6 weeks without a miss, there you go, a challenge for you. One other feature of the Bible Gateway app has the reading plans, they have plans to help you read a book of the Bible. Theme based reading of the Bible, or even the entire Bible, they send you daily reminders of what you are to read and even have features to help you catch up if you get behind. It is a great way to get through the Gospels and the Epistles, you even have the option to have your daily reading read to you so you can listen to it anywhere. I enjoy listening while driving in my car.

(continued on the next page)

- 1) A towel. 2). An icicle. 3) A stamp. 4) An earthworm. 5) Because they peel. 6) A hot dog.
7) An ice cream sundae! 8) A puddle. 9) On a SUNday. 10) Air, wind and planets!
11) The night. 12) A coconut. 13) It waves! 14) I Scream. 15) It gets wet!

So, hopefully you will give it a try and as all the things in nature grow this summer you can grow as well in your reading and understanding of scripture. If you have any questions or would like any help in setting up a Bible app on your phone or computer, please let me know, I would be happy to assist you. Speaking of computers, that reminds me that I am still looking for a person or persons who might be interest in helping out with our online services. We could really use a couple of people to help out with our recording and live posting or our online services. It is not a difficult process, and we can train on your schedule. So, if you think the Lord might be calling you to help us reach out digitally with our online services please give me a call or let the office know. To date we have not missed a worship service since we began in March of 2019 and have posted almost 400 videos. So, again if you would like to help with our digital presence in the world please see me.

I think that is enough for now. I pray you all have a wonderful summer. Be safe and enjoy all the glorious gifts God has given us.



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



5-30
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"Mommy! How can I tell if this skeeto came from the West Nile?"
Bill Keane

Glory be to God...
for clear blue skies and sunny days
for fresh green grass and leafy trees
for vivid purple flowers and well-tended gardens
for fluffy white clouds and gentle breezes
for bright red buses and busy streets

Glory be to God...
for people stepping out with sandaled feet
for children playing games with delighted squeals
for picnics and street parties
for street traders and market stalls
for long days and short nights
for open-topped buses and open-necked shirts.

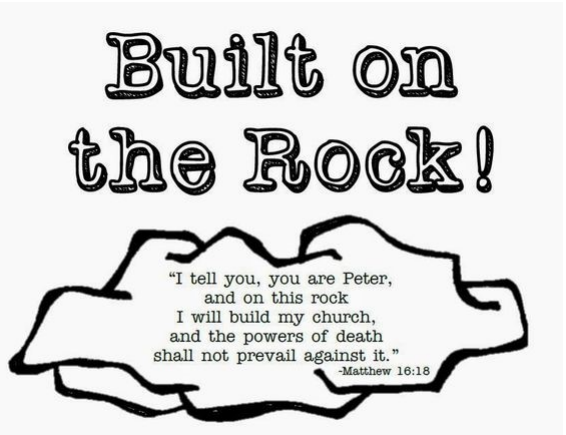
Glory be to God...
for seasons
for summer
for sunshine

view to a further insight into Northern antiquities, and to help his studies in the early English tongue. His edition of Cynewulfs beautiful poem of the Phenix from the Codex Exoniensis, the Anglo-Saxon (so-called) text, with a preface in Danish, and a fri Fordanskning (free rendering in Danish), published in 1840*, is a result of this journey and enforced leisure. Tired of his long silence, his numerous friends and admirers proposed to erect a church for him, and form themselves into an independent congregation, but this was not permitted. He was allowed, however, to hold an afternoon service in the German church at Christianshavn. There he preached for eight years, and compiled and wrote his hymn-book, Sang-Vdrk til den Danske Kirkce ("Song-work for the Danish Church"). He still worked on towards his object of raising the Christian body to which he belonged from the condition of a mere slate establishment to the dignity of a gospel-teaching national church. In 1839 (the year of the death of King Frederik vr., and the accession of his cousin Chrisliem vni.) the suspension was removed, and he was appointed chaplain of the hospital Vartou, a position which he held till his death. In 1863 the king (Frederik vn.) conferred on him the honorary title of bishop. The good old man died suddenly, in his 89th year, on Sept. 2, 1872, having officiated the day before. As Kingo is the poet of Easter, and Brorson of Christmas, so Grundtvig is spoken of as the poet of Whitsuntide.

Grundtvig holds a unique position in the cultural history of his country. Grundtvig and his followers are credited with being very influential in the formulation of modern Danish national consciousness. He was active during the Danish Golden Age, but his style of writing and fields of reference are not immediately accessible to a foreigner, thus his international importance does not match that of his contemporaries Hans Christian Andersen and Søren Kierkegaard.

Tune: Composer: Ludvig Mathias Lindeman

Ludvig M. Lindeman (b. 1812; d. 1887) was a Norwegian composer and organist. Born in Trondheim, he studied theology in Oslo where he remained the rest of his life. In 1839 he succeeded his brother as the organist and cantor of Oslo Cathedral, a position he held for 48 years up until his death. Lindeman was appointed Knight of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav, and was invited to both help christen the new organ in Royal Albert Hall in London, as well as compose for the coronation of King Oscar II and Queen Sophie of Sweden. In 1883, he and his son started the Organist School in Oslo. Lindeman is perhaps best known for his arrangements of Norwegian folk tales; over the course of his life he collected over 3000 folk melodies and tunes.



BUILT ON THE ROCK - HYMN

Short Name: N. F. S. Grundtvig
Full Name: Grundtvig, N. F. S. (Nicolai Frederik Severin),
Birth Year: 1783 Death Year: 1872
Nicolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig was the son of a pastor, and was born at Udby, in Seeland, in 1783. He studied in the University of Copenhagen from 1800-1805; and, like some other eminent men, did not greatly distinguish himself; his mind was too active and his imagination too versatile to bear the restraint of the academic course. After leaving the university he took to teaching; first in Langeland, then (1808) in Copenhagen. Here he devoted his attention to poetry, literature, and Northern antiquities. In 1810 he became assistant to his father in a parish in Jutland. The sermon he preached at his ordination, on the subject "Why has the Lord's word disappeared from His house," attracted much attention, which is rarely the case with "probationers" sermons. On his father's death, in 1813, he returned to Copenhagen, and for eight years devoted himself mainly to literature. The poetry, both secular and religious, that he produced, drew from a friend the remark that "Kingo's harp had been strung afresh." In 1821 King Frederik vi. appointed him pastor of Prasloe, a parish in Seeland, from which he was the next year removed to Copenhagen, and made chaplain of St. Saviour's church in Christianshavn. From the time of his ordination he had been deeply impressed with Evangelical church sentiments, in opposition to the fashionable Rationalism and Erastianism of the day; and adhered to the anti-rationalist teaching of Hauge, whose death at this time (1824) seemed to be a call to Grundtvig to lift up his voice. An opportunity soon presented itself; Professor Clausen brought out a book entitled Katholicismens og Protestantismens Forfatning, Ldre, og Ritus ("The condition, teaching, and ritual of Catholicism and Protestantism"). This book was replete with the Erastian Rationalism which was so especially distasteful to Grundtvig, who forthwith, in his Kirkenes Gjenmæle ("The Church's Reply," 1825), strongly opposed its teaching, and laid down truer principles of Christian belief, and sounder views of the nature of the Church. This caused a sensation: Grundtvig (who had not spared his opponent) was fined 100 rixdollars, and the songs and hymns which he had written for the coming celebration of the tenth centenary of Northern Christianity were forbidden to be used. On this he resigned his post at St. Saviour's, or rather was forced to quit it by a sentence of suspension which was pronounced in 1826, and under which he was kept for 13 years. He took the opportunity of visiting England in 1829, 30, and 31, and consulting its libraries, mainly with a



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1111-11TH AVE WEST
ASHLAND, WI 54806

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am live streamed
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm and online Prayer Service 6:30pm
Sunday School Starts September 2022

Pastor Rick Williams -
715-209-0479

Office Hours:
M/TH 9:00-5:00 T off
W 12:00-8:00 F 9:00pm-1:00pm
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

E-mail
secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

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

LFOJ Administrator:
Karyn Leino 715-682-6075



cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family

PRAY LIST

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during

Brad Prill
Alice Balmer
Francis Balmer
Vi Basina
Andrea Gunderson
James Fletcher
Taylor Sprague
Sheryl Hildebrandt
Max Beiersdorf
James Lavasseur
Russel Joyner
Diane Beiersdorff
Terry Haas
Yvonne Mertig
Tim Zwetow
Melanie Bush
Herman Wartgow
and those in our hearts

Madge Houle
Penny Larson
David Gustafson
John Schutte
Dave Pearson
Brett Everman
Larry Tody
Harold Larson
Sherry Gurski
Lisa Thomson
Carmella Kortekaas
Jerry Turney
Linda Stenroos
Ann Williams
Heather Gust
Penny Nelson-Newman
Ingrid Brand

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

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

Emily Dickrell will graduate this year from Ashland High School. She hasn't decided yet on her future plans, but has a lot of thoughts and skills to go over while she works.

Kaitlyn Dickrell graduated from Chippewa Valley Technical College on May 20th in their respiratory therapy program. She has a job at Region's Hospital in St. Paul, and loves her work. (She has been working part time there for about 6 weeks, in addition to clinicals and school, so she has been pretty busy).

Justin Esala - Graduating May 13, 2022 from Northwood Technical with a degree in Accounting. Will be working full-time for Washburn Ironworks as an Accounting Assistant.

Logan Esala - Graduating June 5, 2022 from Washburn High School. Planning on working full-time until he decides what he would like to go to school for.



Dear Zion family, sisters and brothers in Christ – Children of God – Heirs of His promise – FAMILY.

We are embarking on a small but necessary project for our Christian Church Family. We are putting together a picture directory. **Please mark you calendar for next fall Oct. 17-18 for a picture taking day.** It will be just in time for Christmas cards, and everyone will receive a free 8x10 photo, and a free picture directory. Please contact a member of Evangelism to sign on to help. Lori Anderson, June Williams, John and Liisa Eyerly.

The Day of Pentecost

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

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



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

- 1. 18-25-10-24-6 _____
- 2. 13-1-24-6 _____
- 3. 20-1-21-21 _____
- 4. 19-25-10-18-16 _____
- 5. 20-1-17-16 _____
- 6. 19-25-21-26 _____
- 7. 18-22-1-17-1-8 _____
- 8. 18-22-16-9-15 _____
- 9. 21-9-24-23-10-9-23-16 _____
- 10. 19-16-9-14-16-24 _____

- 1) What gets wetter the more it dries? A towel.
- 2) What lives in winter, dies in summer, and grows with its roots upward. An icicle.
- 3) What travels all the way around the world but always stays in one spot? A stamp.
- 4) I have no eyes, no ears, and legs, and yet I help move the earth. What am I? An earthworm.
- 5) Why do bananas use sun cream? Because they peel.
- 6) What do you call a dog on the beach in summer? A hot dog.
- 7) I am a frozen treat. I am not in a cone. I do not have a stick. Part of my name sounds like a day of the week. What am I? An ice cream sundae!
- 8) What would you call a snowman in summer? A puddle.
- 9) Which day of the week is best to go to the beach? On a SUNday.
- 10) What passes under the sun but makes no shadow? Air, wind and planets!
- 11) What comes once a day but leaves every morning? The night.
- 12) What is brown, hairy and spends all of its time on the beach? A coconut.
- 13) How do we know if the ocean is friendly? It waves!
- 14) What does every ghost eat in the summer? I Scream.
- 15) What happens if you throw a purple sun hat into the water? It gets wet!

The Work of the Holy Spirit



"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come." John 16:13 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 16:12-15 (NIV).

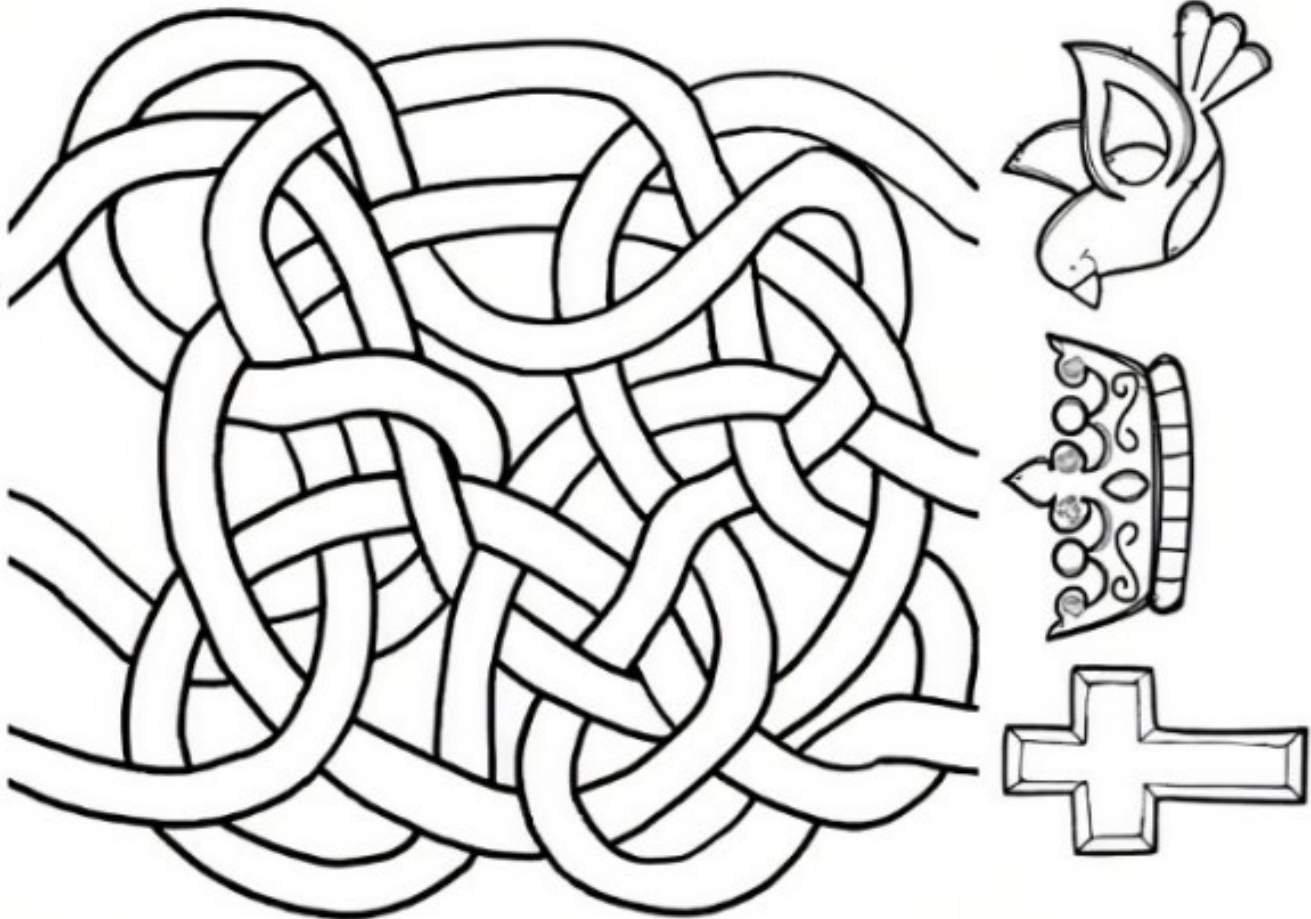
F P T V V S P I R I T C A A S
E C L Q X I Q P V R V O P H D
A G U I D E O C T H T M E I I
F A T H E R W R Y E E M P F
A C H S U H S L U V K A U U X
H J E O G R L D T G N N R C R
T V W P A E L R H W W G O S A
B M D E T Z C F U W N D A W R
P Y B X O M V U P O T N N Z N
C B F D X U W Z L G L O R Y G
U F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

much	belong	Spirit	tell	truth
bear	guide	hears	known	speak
more	Father	glory	say	come

Father

Son

Holy Spirit



What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed's First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

"He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

"(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

"That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

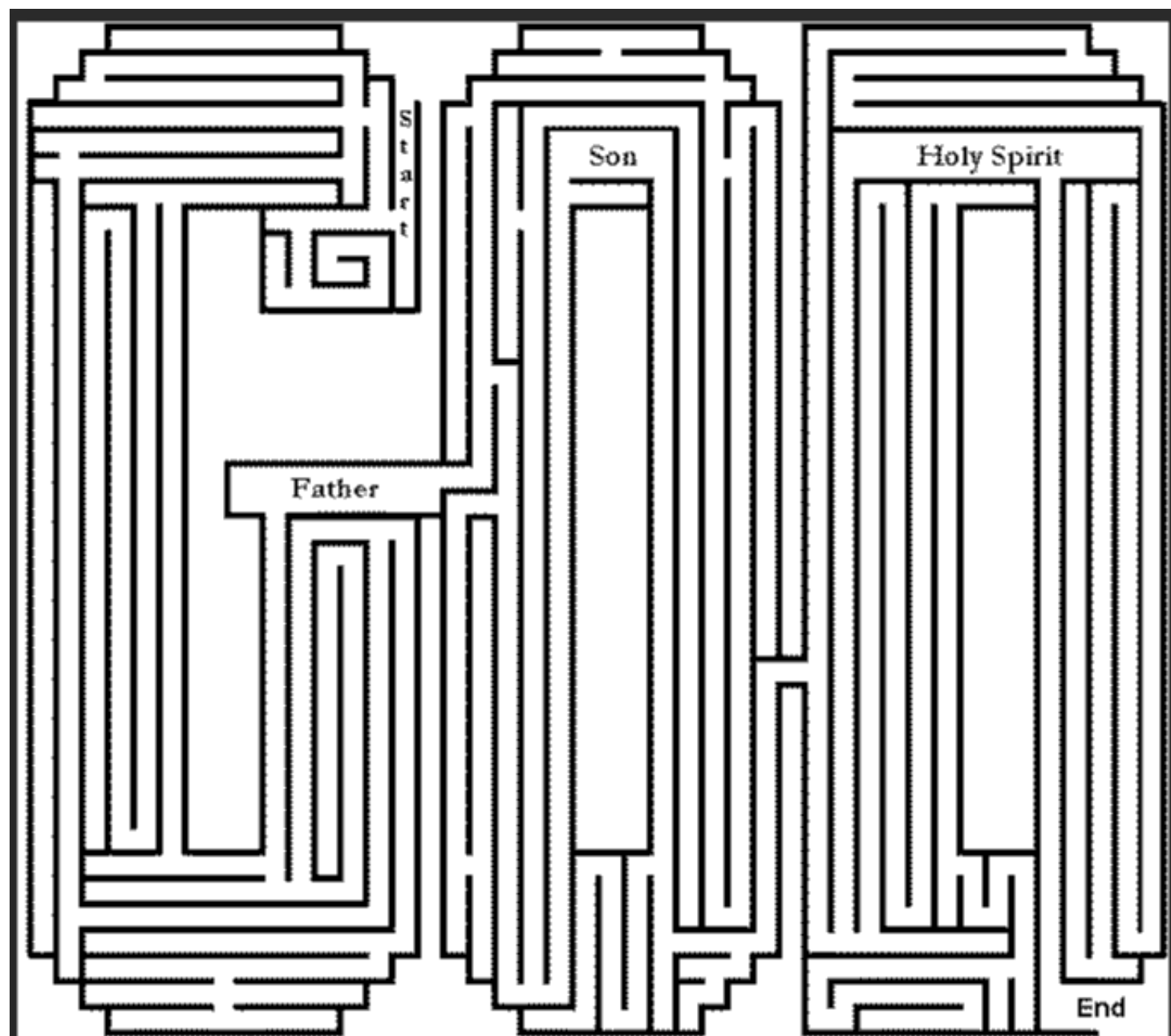
A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.



No Snow to Shovel - Need the Lawn Mowed Now

Sign up on the sheet by the Paraments Donation Poster in the Narthex. Church has all the equipment, just need YOU to SIGN it. Thanks.

Contact Nick at 682-0385 with any questions.



It - the snow - took us almost to the end of May. June Williams was our winner with the latest date guessed, May 15th. Congratulations June.

FOOD SHELF SUNDAY

Last Sunday of each Month

The BRICK appreciates your food donations each and every month. It truly helps our community giving to those who are need of food to sustain their life. It's hard to believe that these days there are still some who are surprised by a layoff, lose their home, have a dysfunctional family, can't cope with things. They need a helping hand and Zion tries to provide some help every month to The BRICK. Thank you Ron for bringing the basket of goods to The BRICK each month.



Help is needed keeping up our flower gardens in front of the church. If you can help, let the office know. Even if you haven't ever taken care of a garden, there are people who will help you.

CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME?

We are looking for anyone who might be interested in helping out with our live-streaming production weekly services. We would like to find one or more people to assist with the production of our services and also the posting of those services online. If think you might have an interest in helping out please contact me or leave a note in the office. We sure could use a couple of subs. Thanks, Pastor Rick



Those lobster tails came out of the oven looking like Dad’s. I picked one up and took a bite—light enough to float away! I’d mastered the lobster tail! Mama, Uncle Dominic, my sisters, everyone burst into applause.

From then on it was like Dad was an angel on my shoulder helping to guide me. In 1999 we made our first bridal mag-azine, and more followed, along with appearances on TV shows like *Food Network Challenge* and *Today*. Then, in April 2009, *Cake Boss* was born.

Every day when I walk through those bakery doors, I’m reminded of Dad, the real Cake Boss. I like to think he’d be proud of me, of our family, and proud that with hard work and a lot of faith, I’ve made good on my promise to him.

Here are 3 surefire secrets to baking a delicious cake, according to the Cake Boss

1. Baking is a science.

If the recipe says measure it, measure it. If it says a cup, it means a cup. You have to read the steps and do the method. And while you’re at it, have fun!

2. When in doubt, scrape.

Bakers have a saying: “Bakers scrape.” By that, I mean that when you’re mixing in a stand mixer, some ingredients can collect at the bottom and sides of the bowl and not be fully incorporated into whatever it is that you’re mixing. Don’t wait for me to give you permission—stop that motor and scrape those sides!

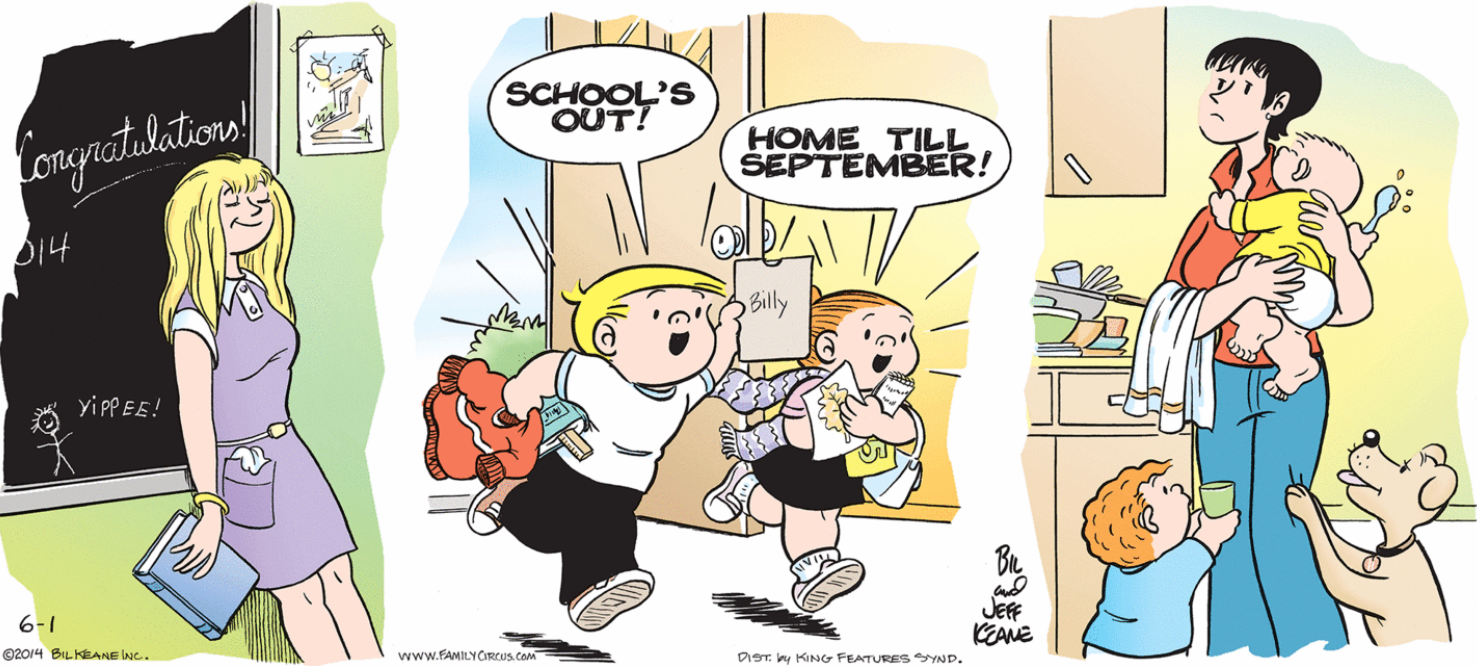
3. Freeze it.

Freezing a freshly baked cake is one of the best things you can do. It seals in the moisture (cakes tend to dry out in the refrigerator) and if you plan to ice and/or decorate the cake, you’ll have an easier time because freezing will keep it firm. For optimum trimming texture, cakes should be frozen for one to two hours. Don’t try to trim a cake that’s hard as a rock because the knife can slip—be sure the cake has a little give to it before trimming.

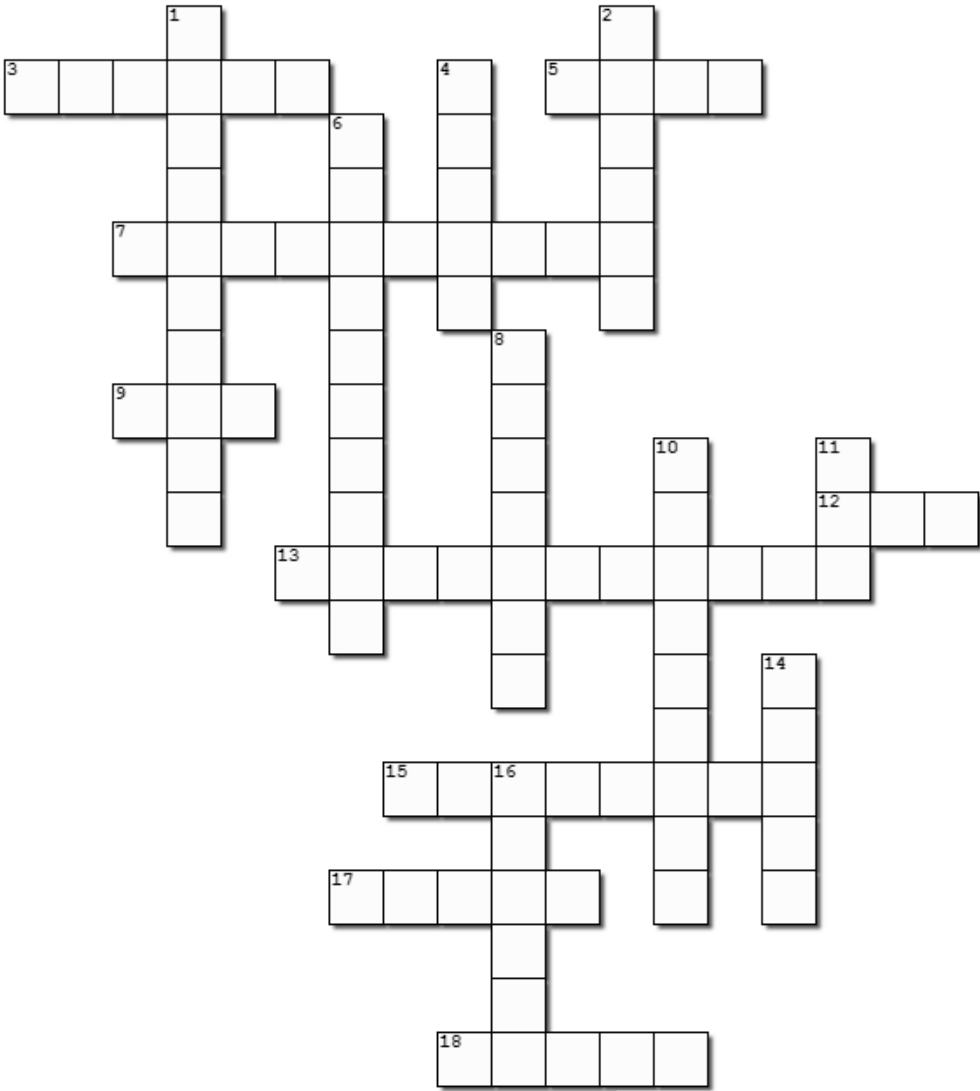
Bonus Cake Trimming Tip:

To cut a cake in half horizontally, first set it on your work surface. Bend down so that the cake is at eye level and keep your eye fixed on the point where the knife enters the cake. Apply pressure with your free hand to the top and rotate the cake against the knife, keeping it straight to get a nice, even cut. If you’re filling the cake, make the layers level with each other, trimming if necessary so that they rest straight when stacked.

Pg. 4-4



HOLY TRINITY



- CHRISTIAN
- CHURCH
- CREED
- DIVINE
- DOCTRINE
- DOVE
- ETERNAL
- FATHER
- GOD
- HOLY SPIRIT
- JESUS
- NICENE CREED
- ONE
- REVELATION
- SON
- THREE
- THREE IN ONE
- UNITY

PENTECOST QUIZ

- Pentecost shows... a. the coming of the Holy Spirit b. a day of fasting c. a mighty wind that will fill the outside d. the bible doesn't mention a thing
- After Jesus' death, the Apostle Paul still kept Pentecost. Fill in the following scripture (Acts 20:16): "For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at __, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost."
- The term Pentecost is a Greek term meaning...
- The Feast of the Firstfruits is also another name for Pentecost. In Revelation 14:4, "These are the ones who __ the Lamb wherever He goes."
- Continuing in Revelation 14:5, "These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to __ and to the Lamb."
- The Feast of Pentecost comes after which Holy Day?
- Peter had said, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin; and you shall receive the gift of the _ (Acts 2:38)."
- In Romans 5:5, "Now hope does __, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."
- Pentecost has been given all of the below names except... (Exodus 23:16;34:22, Numbers 28:26)
- True or False? After the death of Christ, the apostles gathered together on that date. And at a precise time on that date, the Holy Spirit was poured out to provide Christians access to God as a kind of firstfruits.

Altar Paraments

At the Altar Guild meeting in January the members voted to begin raising funds to replace the aging paraments on the Altar at Zion. The green set will be replaced first as they are the oldest, used the most and have non-removeable stains. Subsequent colors will follow with each set costing approximately \$3000.00 per set. A box will be placed in the Narthex for those wishing to contribute. Checks can be made out to Zion Lutheran Church Altar Guild.

Altar Parament Update

This past week we were informed by one of Zion's members that they would be willing to match each dollar given to the parament fund up to \$1000.00. This means every dollar donated would double and would help us to meet our goal even quicker. We are so blessed to have members willing to help us with our projects at Zion. Thank you to all who donate!



I knew the answer. It was the only answer as far as I was concerned. I looked Dad in the eye. “I’m gonna work full-time at the bakery,” I said. “I’m going to make Carlo’s a household name, like you always dreamed, I promise. I’m going to make you proud, Dad. Just get better.”

Tears trickled down Dad’s cheeks. “Buddy, I want you to graduate.”

“No, I want to run the bakery. We have to keep it going,” I said. That afternoon Mama drove me to school and we filled out the paperwork for me to officially leave high school. Three weeks later Dad died. He was only 54.

No matter how hard I worked—and I had to with Dad gone—I couldn’t escape my grief. Almost every night I’d demand of God, *How could you take away my father? How can you expect me to go on without him? How?*

The Carlo’s team and I kept up with orders. Except for one thing—lobster tails, and customers kept asking for them. One night, maybe three months after Dad’s death, I couldn’t take it anymore. I had to figure it out.

I made a huge batch of the dough, rolled it out till it was thin enough it was almost translucent (that’s how it needs to be to achieve that light-as-air effect). But when I stretched it, it ripped. Other spots bunched up.

My uncle Dominic stood over me, shaking his head. “You should be able to do this,” he said. “You’re Buddy’s son.”

True, I had my father’s name and now his bakery. But maybe I didn’t have his hands. Maybe I wasn’t blessed. Maybe I’d never keep my promise to Dad.

That night I begged God for an answer. Did you really mean for me to be a baker? Am I just being a fool? I fell into an exhausted sleep and dreamed I was back in the basement at Carlo’s, only my father was there!

He looked vibrant and healthy. Strong. I threw my arms around him like I would never let go.

“Dad! I miss you,” I said.

He gently removed my arms and fixed me with a look. A serious look. “Listen,” he said, “I’m not here to play around. I’m here to show you how to make lobster tails one more time.”

I nodded. We moved to the work table. “Now watch,” he said.

We worked side by side, me mimicking his every move like always. He pulled the dough; I pulled it. He stretched it; I stretched it. Then something shifted—Dad was gone and there were two of me working the dough side by side.

All of a sudden those two Buddys came together. My hands and my father’s hands had become one and the same. A perfect roll of lobster tail dough stretched out before me.

I could still picture it when I woke up the next morning. I rushed to the bakery and told Mama about the dream. “Oh, Buddy! God must’ve sent you that dream,” she said, her eyes welling up.

Then I got right to work. I shoveled flour, gallons of water and some salt into the mixer and waited for the dough to form. It was the longest 15 minutes of my life! I paced around that mixer. My family stole glances at me. They probably thought I’d lost my mind.

Finally, the dough was ready. I rolled it out on the counter and let my hands do their thing. Pull, stretch. No rips, no bunched up spots. I was in a zone. Soon a perfect roll of lobster tail dough stretched before me. Just like in my dream.

Order the Events of the Pentecost

Order the Activities in Acts 2-3 of the early church.

Order	Events
___ 1.	A. Crippled man healed by Peter and John
___ 2.	B. A mighty wind filled the house
___ 3.	C. Peter preached in the temple about Jesus
___ 4.	D. 3,000 souls were baptized
___ 5.	E. The Holy Ghost filled the people in the house
___ 6.	F. The day of Pentecost
___ 7.	G. People in the house started speaking in different languages
___ 8.	H. People sold their possessions and joined the church
___ 9.	I. Peter preaches about Jesus’ resurrection on the day of Pentecost
___ 10.	J. People praised God

- Quiz Answers
1. the coming of the Holy Spirit
 2. Jerusalem
 3. 50th
 4. Follow
 5. God
 6. the Days of Unleavened Bread
 7. Holy Spirit
 8. not disappoint
 9. Feast of Chosen
 10. True



Me? I had no artistic ability. Zero. My school art projects were disasters. (Thank God for today’s computer imaging systems at Carlo’s—if we relied on my sketches to sell our cakes we’d have gone out of business years ago!)

Besides, Dad didn’t want me following in his footsteps. “You are not going to do this for a living,” he’d say in his husky Italian accent. “You are going to college.”

Still, he wanted me to learn responsibility. So he put me to work—and not in the back of the bakery where the action was. No, my job was to scrub floors and clean the bathroom, hard labor for a 12-year-old.

Eventually he let me help with food prep—cracking eggs, even decorating cookies. One day he had me put the cherries on top of our popular sugar cookies.

“Why are you doing it with one hand?” Dad asked. “God gave you two hands, do two at once!” Every task was a chance to teach me how to do things right and then do them better.

Even if I wasn’t planning on being a baker, I loved watching Dad work. His fantastic cakes were legendary in Hoboken: multitiered wedding cakes, sheet cakes, specialty cakes, you name it.

Customers would come in, see what he’d made and throw their arms around him. “Buddy! You’re the greatest! Thank you!” I thought it was pretty neat to do something that made so many people happy.

No matter how successful the bakery was, though, Dad always wanted to take it to the next level. We’d pass a newsstand and he’d blurt out, “Buddy, just imagine what it would do for our business if we got into one of those bridal magazines!” Dad was as much a dreamer as he was a worker.

Oh, yeah. The lobsters. I haven’t forgotten. We’ll get to that.

Dad taught me how to make a few things, just for fun—tea biscuits, éclairs, napoleons. “Watch my hands, Buddy,” he’d say. I picked things up pretty quickly. When I was just 16, Dad actually entrusted me to decorate wedding cakes.

I couldn’t put my design on paper, but I’d take one look at the cake in front of me and go into a zone—a place where my hands took over. It would just come. I’d step back and the cake would look great.

“Your son is unbelievable,” people told Dad. “He’s just like you!” Dad was proud but he insisted, “Buddy will do better than me. He’ll go to college.”

I mastered taralles, fondant icing, pasticiotti, all the special-ties people come to Carlo’s for. Well, except for one thing. One impossible thing.

No matter how hard I tried—and I tried and tried and tried—I could not make *sfogliatelle*, also known as lobster tails—delicious, flaky, cream-filled pastries that are a signature item at Carlo’s.



Learning to massage the dough and form it into layers as thin and delicate as parchment is like getting your Ph.D. in baking. Old school Italians rhapsodized about how feathery and light my father’s sfogliatelle were, how no others compared here or in the old country.

Yet time and time again my lobster tails failed. But I kept hope. With Dad as my teacher, I’d get it. There was plenty of time for me to learn.

Only there wasn’t. Dad got lung cancer. It was my seventeenth birthday and I was standing by his hospital bedside with Mama when he told us the diagnosis. We were all in a state of shock. Beyond shock. Then Mama whispered, “What are we going to do?”

Lutheran effort contributes to decline in malaria deaths

ST. LOUIS—January 30, 2012—A recent report by the World Health Organization showed that a third fewer people in Africa are dying of malaria than in 2000 thanks to global campaigns like the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI).

The *World Malaria Report 2011* showed malaria mortality rates fell by more than 25 percent between 2000 and 2010.

The Lutheran Malaria Initiative, a partnership of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and made possible through support from the United Nations Foundation, seeks to raise \$45 million to combat malaria in sub-Saharan Africa, the region most affected by this devastating disease. With programs currently in Mali, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, LMI is reaching 2.4 million people with messages about prevention and treatment.

When the LMI campaign began in 2010, a child died of malaria every 30 seconds. Today, that rate has decreased to one child every 60 seconds.

“By God’s gracious gift, malaria is ebbing,” said the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, LCMS president. “We are so thankful for those who have given to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, and thus, played a part in bringing the number of malaria deaths down. We are continuing the fight against this terrible disease and encourage Lutherans worldwide to join the effort to help bring hope and healing to our brothers and sisters in Christ. It’s time for us to put the pedal to the metal!”

Gracie Nshambiya, a kindergarten teacher in Tanzania, is one of those people reached by LMI prevention, treatment and education programs. A mother who lost a child to malaria, she knows all too well the pain of this devastating disease.

“My child was sick, and it was diagnosed as malaria,” she said. “I had some advice from the dispensary, but I didn’t follow what I was told. And just like that, he was gone.”

Ever since, her children have slept under bed nets – a key tool in preventing malaria infection, and something she hadn’t used before. Gracie said she learned about using bed nets from her pastor, who in turn had been trained as a malaria educator through an LMI program.



Gracie realized that the best way to fight malaria is with knowledge, so she set out to make herself a malaria educator, and a community organizer of sorts.

“Since my child died, I was very eager to use the net,” she said. “And from that time, I have tried to insist with other people in my village that they should use a net, too. They saw what happened to my child.”

(Donation table by the sanctuary doors)

Children in Ghana carry home their insecticide-treated nets, which can protect them against the dangers of malaria.

Why Do You Love June?

Well, Memorial Day has come and gone (*depends when you read this*) and June has officially begun. In my mind, that means summer is here—even if the calendar says it doesn't arrive for another few weeks.

As I was working away on my computer this morning, my Twitter feed caught my eye when Guideposts Blog Network contributor Jason Boyett (someone I personally follow on Twitter because he has such great blog posts), "tweeted" the five reasons he loves June. Intrigued... I clicked on the link.

While reading how June changes his lifestyle—and mindset—I began to think about how *I* feel about this lovely month and felt inspired to share my five reasons with you.

5 Reasons I Love June

1. *I can breathe easier when I run.* There's something about the June air here in the New York area that makes me happy. Yes, we get the occasional muggy summer day when all you can do is sit still and *hope* to feel cool, but for the most part, the sun and wind work together to give my lungs a healthy charge while I'm running along the river. It doesn't have that winter bite that causes me to cough and I actually enjoy exercising as a result.

2. *There are flowers everywhere.* When June rolls around I seem to notice the colorful blooms around me a lot more. Maybe it's because I've just started walking outside for longer periods of time as the weather allows it, or maybe it's because I've started wearing brighter colors as I pull outfits from my summer wardrobe, but the fuschia, lavender, yellow and red florals that blanket the parks and gardens I pass seem more vibrant than ever.

3. *My toes feel perfect nestled in the sand.* Anyone who knows me well knows I'm a beach lover. I've been sticking my toes in the grainy sands of beaches along the East coast since I was born, and it will always be a place that I associate with family, friends, happiness—and Grandma's blueberry pie (a great way to end a long beach day). I usually kick off my beach weekends in late May, but June is when I embrace the salty smell and rolling waves as I close my eyes and let the sun pour down on my shoulders.

4. *I eat healthier.* Sure, Grandma's pie is on my summer menu, but for the most part, I tend to mind my meals a bit more when summer rolls around. The fruits are juicier, watermelon is all that more appealing and I'm more apt to choose things like salad, veggies and smoothies at the grocery store.

5. *I feel happier.* It seems silly that the start of a certain month can change my mood, but when the sun is shining through my cracked office window and my sandals remind me that my winter boots are hiding in the back of my closet, I feel a sense of calm. I guess you could say the start of summer is like a mini new year for me. It sheds light on new possibilities, brings life to plans and ideas that I may have been avoiding for awhile and gets me out and about, breathing in the reality that seasons really can change more than just the weather.

Thanks, June.

Now... what are *your* five reasons?

—Megan Cherkezian



They call me the boss. Cake Boss, that is.

Maybe you've seen my show of the same name on TLC—it's a slice of life straight from my family's historic bakery, Carlo's Bake Shop in Hoboken, New Jersey.

But it was really lobster that got me started—yes, I'll explain—and an unforgettable dream I had weeks after my father, the true Cake Boss, died, a time in my life of great doubt and grief and confusion.

Carlo's Bake Shop is a family affair if ever there was one, and a second home for my wife, Lisa, and me and our four children. I work with my four older sisters (Mama just retired after 40 years), two brothers-in-law, cousins and plenty of nonrelatives too.

I consider them all my family—or *mia famiglia*, as I like to say.

Sure, we get on each other's nerves sometimes (what family doesn't?), but we also have a lot of fun.

Together we've made everything from a six-foot-high replica of the Empire State Building to a life-sized racecar for NASCAR built from 24,000 cakes (that one took a few years off my life!) and we bake thousands of Italian pastries, cupcakes and wedding cakes each week.

I thank God that we're so busy and that I get to do what I love. But even though I'm a fourth-generation baker I didn't always think I had the gift.

There's a saying about the men in our family, that our hands are blessed by God to do this work. My grandfather and great-grandfather were bread bakers back in Italy.

My father, Buddy, Sr. (Bartolo was his given name, but everyone called him "Buddy"), came to America and he worked in bakeries too, only his specialty was pastries. When he was 25 he bought Carlo's after the owner retired. A year later he married my mom, Mary.

Together they ran the bakery and went on to have four daughters. Just when they thought they were done, guess who came along? Me.

It wasn't until I was six I got my first taste of what my father did for a living. One day I stared up at him putting on his crisp white baker's uniform and announced, "Daddy, I want to come to work with you." That day he brought me to Carlo's.

I loved the sweet intoxicating aroma, the whirr of the machines, machines like I'd never seen before! Dad folded up an apron to fit around my waist and propped me up on a bucket so I could watch.

In his hands pastry dough came alive. It hopped up on the rolling pin, unspooled, then lay flat like it was sleeping. It was like magic. I was in awe.

The older I got, the more I went to the bakery with Dad. Not because I thought I was going to become a baker though. In fact, I thought I would not be taking it up. With a few strokes of a pencil, Dad could sketch out the most intricate, beautiful decorations for a wedding cake.

