

MARCH 2022



The Mountain Top Messenger

MARCH 2022

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH - LCMS, ASHLAND, WI

This month I am going to forgo the typical newsletter cover to take the opportunity to let you know about our Lenten midweek series entitled: **Witnesses to Christ**

O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Gradual for Lent, based on Hebrews 12:2)

When the characters in the Passion narrative look at Jesus, what do they see? In most cases, people misunderstood who He is and what He was doing. In some cases, by faith, people recognized Him aright. Our Lenten series this year, *Eyes on Jesus* is based on Passion according to St. Mark. We will examine how the various people around Jesus viewed Him—and how we should view Him. We will “fix our eyes” on what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent sufferings and death, and celebrate what God sees on account of His work: our justification for His sake.

On Ash Wednesday, we will see how, in spite of Jesus’ repeated predictions about His upcoming Passion, the disciples with “Misjudging Eyes” fail to recognize that soon He will not be with them, and they cannot see the anonymous woman’s anointing of Jesus as preparation for His burial. But Jesus sees her actions as a beautiful deed that will be proclaimed throughout the world wherever the Gospel is heard.

At our midweek service after the First Sunday of Lent, we will look through Judas’s “Betraying Eyes” and learn why he did this awful deed. Yet the behind-the-scenes-reality is that Jesus was “handed over” (another way of translating the verb for “betray”) by God the Father Himself, so that Jesus could die for the sin of the world.

“Sleepy Eyes” is the theme for the second week of Lent. In Gethsemane, Jesus’ inner circle of Peter, James, and John cannot keep their eyes open to watch and pray with Jesus for even an hour, while Jesus comes to see that His Father’s will is that He drink the cup of God’s wrath when He comes to the “hour” of His suffering.

In the third week of Lent, we stare into the “Denying Eyes” of Peter and the other apostles. They could not see how they could ever fall away from Jesus, but after Jesus is betrayed by Judas, ten of them flee, and Peter—when he is spotted by a servant girl and sees that his own neck is on the line—sees fit to deny Jesus, which leads to his own eyes weeping in remorse. We sinners likewise deny our Lord in many ways, but Jesus denied Himself to take up the cross for our salvation.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders Mar. 2 Mar. 20 Scott April 10 Doug April 17 9am 1	Scott John Mar. 23 Doug Mar. 27 Scott April 14 2 Doug	Mar. 6 Doug Mar. 27 Darryl April 15 John April 20 Randy	Mar. 9 Darryl Mar. 30 John April 17 7am Andy April 24 John	Mar. 13 Andy April 3 Andy April 27 Doug	Mar. 16 John April 6 Darryl May 1 Darryl	
		1	2 Ash Wednesday 6:30pm Worship	3 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	4	5
6 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study and Sunday School 2:00pm LGP	7 10:00am Bible Study	8 1:00pm Sewing Circle	19 6:30pm Lent Worship	10	11	12
13 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study and Sunday School	14 10:00am Bible Study	15	16 6:30pm Lent Worship	17 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	18	19
20 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study and Sunday School 2:00pm LGP	21 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Church Council	22 1:00pm Sewing Circle	23 6:30pm Lent Worship	24	25	6
27 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study and Sunday School	28 10:00am Bible Study	29	30 6:30pm Lent Worship	31	1	2



March
Becky Sapper 715-682-8867
Paula Pruss 715-292-1898

“Murderous Eyes” is the theme of week 4 in Lent. The chief priests and scribes saw Jesus as an obstacle to be rid of by murdering Him through the Roman judicial system. Yet during the Passover festival, they would unwittingly bring about the Father’s sacrifice of the ultimate Passover Lamb.

In the fifth week of Lent, we look through the “Worldly Eyes” of Pilate, the Jewish leaders, and the Roman soldiers. Pilate can only view matters in a worldly, pragmatic way, wishing to placate the worldly Jewish leaders and crowd, so he consents to handing Jesus over for crucifixion. The soldiers see the opposite of a worldly king, but their ironic hailing of Him as “King of the Jews” proclaims who He really is. The world looks for power and glory; God’s way is suffering and the cross.

On Maundy Thursday, there is “More Than Meets the Eye” to the Lord’s Supper. We will look into the Old Testament background of the Last Supper and rejoice in the mystery that Jesus, in and with, bread and wine, gives us His body and blood in order to deliver to us the benefits of His Passion.

On Good Friday, we look through “God’s Eyes” to see what is happening during the Passion: the once-for-all atonement for the sin of the whole world and the justification of all sinners on Easter.

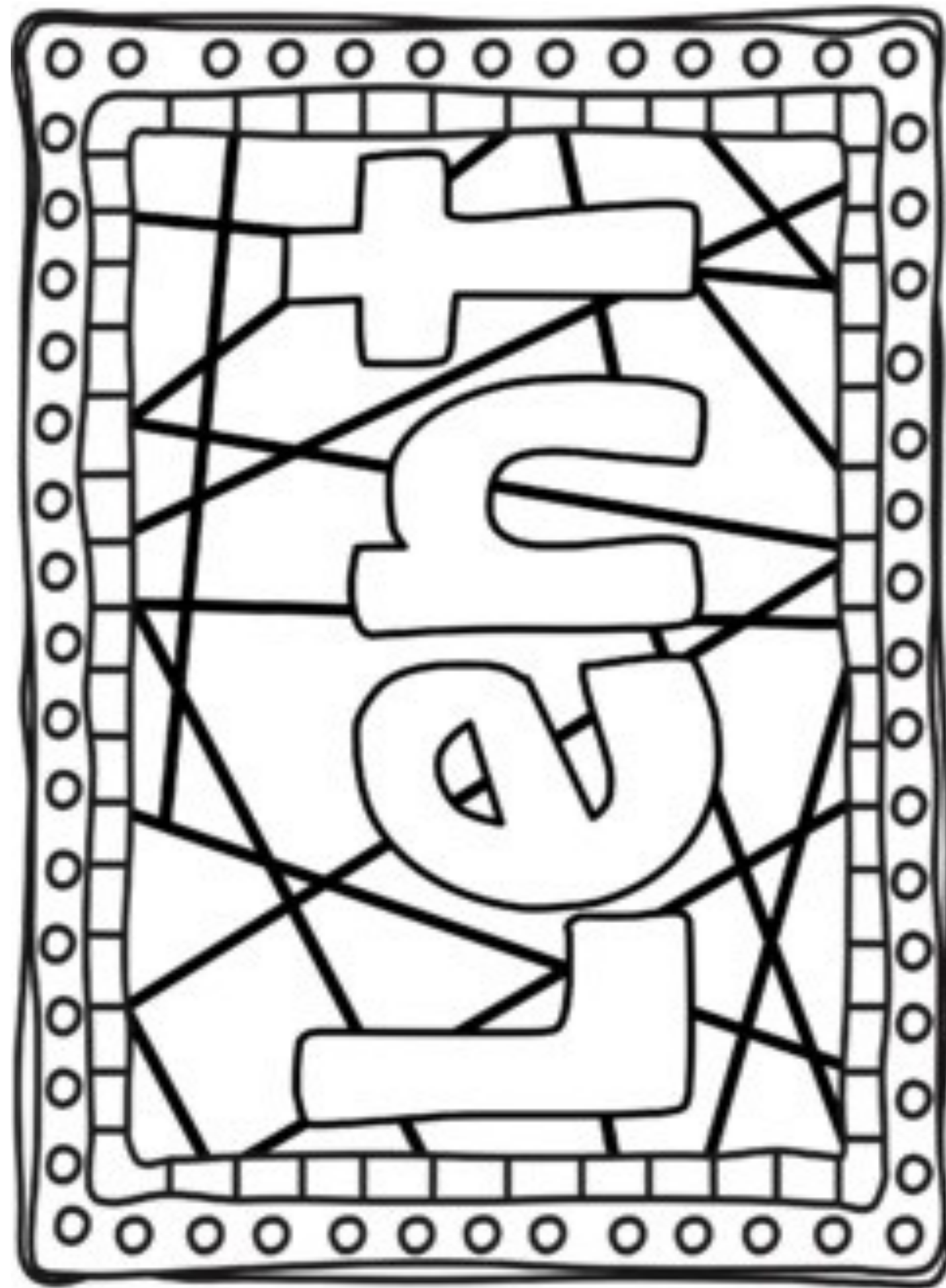
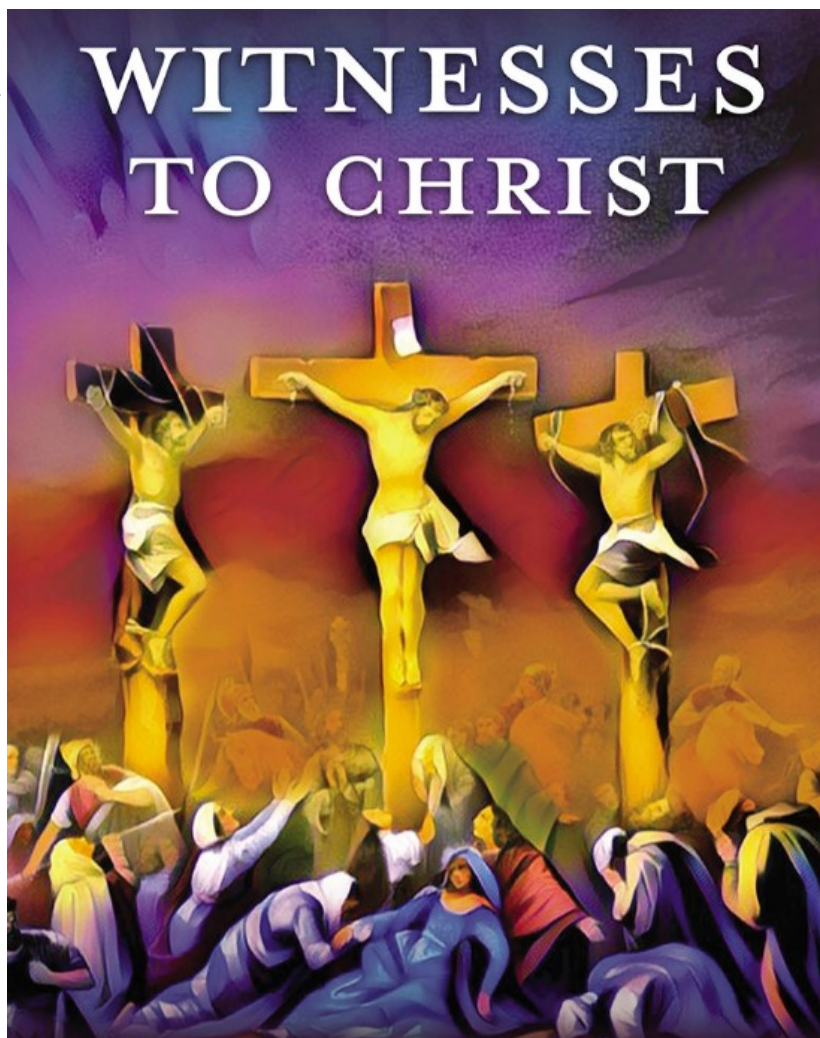
“Resting Eyes” is the theme for Holy Saturday. Various disciples rested their eyes upon the dead Jesus, cared for His body, and buried it. As Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus rest their eyes upon the sealed tomb and contemplate further anointing of His body the next day, they cannot see that Jesus’ own eyes are merely resting temporarily, and Easter morning will bring a dramatic reversal.

Finally, Easter Sunday gazes upon “Angel Eyes.” The angel in the tomb knows the whole story of Jesus’ resurrection. When he sees the women, he proclaims the Gospel to them, shows them where Jesus’ body had formerly lain, and tells them that they can see Jesus themselves in Galilee. Likewise, the “angels” or messengers of the Church in the apostolic ministry tell God’s people where they can find Jesus and His salvation in the Means of Grace.

With *Eyes on Jesus* as our theme this Lent, we will continuously focus on Jesus Christ and Him crucified, buried, and risen for our justification. This is a vision that will never disappoint, for by trusting in Jesus, He promises that we will gaze upon His beautiful face now by faith and forever in heaven!

I hope to see you all there, we will be streaming all of these services as well, so if you are unable to make it to the live services you will be able to watch online. Thank you for support and my God richly bless you as we enter the impassioned season of Lent.

Pastor Rick





Parking lot snowbanks
The two years are almost exact.
The pictures have a couple differences. Can you find them.

2018



2022 ↓

Time for you to estimate when this snowbank is going to be entirely gone. There will be a sheet to sign with your name and guesstimate on the bulletin board. Or you can call or email the office and it will be put on it for you. This needs to be done by midnight on



Lent	remember	season	love	ashes
cross	prepare	follow	pray	Jesus



- Riddle Answers**
- 1. A Doughnut.
 - 2. Two. The inside and the outside.
 - 3. 11 o'clock plus 2 hours = 1 o'clock 9 o'clock plus 5 hours = 2 o'clock
 - 4. One. After that, it's no longer empty.
 - 5. In the dictionary!
 - 6. You don't want to press your luck!
 - 7. Footsteps.
 - 8. A: Every March they "turn over a new leaf".
 - 9. A promise
 - 10. An echo

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



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479
Office Hours: M/T/TH 9:00-5:00 W 12:00-8:00 F Off
Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.
Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M-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
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

PRAY LIST

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.



When my arms can't reach people who are close to my heart, I always hug them with my prayers.

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

Alice Balmer

Francis Balmer

Vi Basina

Andrea Gunderson

James Fletcher

Brett Everman

Sheryl Hildebrandt

Max Beiersdorf

Danny Pocernich

James Lavasseur

Russel Joyner

Taylor Sprague

Terry Haas

Yvonne Mertig

Tim Zwetow

Jerry Turney
- Madge Houle

Penny Larson

David Gustafson

John Schutte

Dave Pearson

Pastor Bob

Judith Wismeth

Harold Larson

Sherry Gurski

Larry Tody

Lisa Thomson

Carmella Kortekaas

Diane Beiersdorff

Linda Stenroos

Ann Williams

Heather Gust

and those in our hearts

Spot the Differences for Jesus Raised Lazarus From the Dead

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 11 things that are different.



Hidden Equation

NUMBER SEARCH



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

Instructions: Find the hidden equations! Circle each one and solve it using the operators addition +, subtraction -, multiplication x, division ÷, and equals = (see above: 5 + 1 = 6). Get started by searching left to right, one row at a time. You can make it more challenging by working vertically, diagonally, backwards, or using two-digit numbers, for example (2 x 4 + 6 = 10 - 3 x 2).

III Jenna the “wingcow”

Meanwhile, across the country, a woman named Mallory, while perusing Facebook, watched in awe at the relationship between Ryan and Jenna through the videos he posted on his animal sanctuary page, Life With Pigs, a nonprofit that aims to give the animals at his sanctuary the care that they deserve.

Ryan began posting about saving a cow who had been abused on a farm, so Mallory reached out to Ryan hoping that she would be able to help, whether by getting the police to take the issue seriously or by calling animal control. Working on this project together allowed Ryan and Mallory to talk constantly, ultimately bringing them closer together. Mallory flew out to Virginia for a protest surrounding the animal abuse and met Ryan in person for the very first time. The two fell in love, Mallory moved out to Virginia, and the couple is getting married this month. Jenna will serve as Ryan’s “Best Cow.”

Although Jenna earned herself the nickname of “wingcow” after bringing the couple together, she became noticeably jealous of Mallory as she took away some of Ryan’s attention. The two have now developed a beautiful relationship, but ultimately Jenna is still a Daddy’s girl.

The couple currently has 23 animals together at the Life With Pigs sanctuary: two cows, three pigs, three turkeys, eight chickens, a parrot, a rabbit, two sheep, and three dogs.

While many of the animals get their rest in the barn outside, the three pigs have their very own loft bed above the couch where Ryan and Mallory unwind for the evening. The dogs reside on the couch, the parrot perches in the living room, and the rabbit runs around playing with everyone, the most social of the bunch.



1. What kind of nut has no shell?
2. How many sides does a circle have? .
3. If eleven plus two equals one, what does nine plus five equal?
4. How many gold coins can a leprechaun throw in an empty pot?
5. Where are you guaranteed to find gold on St. Patrick's Day?
6. Why should you never iron a 4-leaf clover?
7. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
8. Why are oak trees so forgiving?
9. What can you break, even if you never pick it up or touch it?
10. What can't talk but will reply when spoken to?



WHAT SHOULD I GIVE UP FOR LENT?

MEAT? SWEETS? CHOCOLATE? ICE CREAM? BEVERAGES ?

Many of us try to be more disciplined for Lent and give up something that we really like. That’s great! Fasting has always been an important tradition of Lent. This year however, let us also consider other things that we can give up.

Give up complaining
Focus on **gratitude**



Philippians 2:14-15 – Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure...

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Jesus Christ.

Give up bitterness
Turn to **forgiveness**

Bitterness

Ephesians 4:31 – Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Ephesians 4:32 – Be kind and compassionate to one another forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you

Give up worry
Trust in God



Matthew 6:25 – “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life... who by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”

Matthew 6:33 – But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Proverbs 21:23 – He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

Discouragement

Give up discouragement
Be full of **hope**

Deuteronomy 31:8 – The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you: he will never leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.
Isaiah 40:31 – But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Give up hatred
Return **good** for evil

HATRED

1 John 2:9 – Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.
Luke 6:27 – “But I tell you who hear me; Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.”

Give up anger
Be more **patient**

ANGER

Matthew 5:22 – But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.
Proverbs 15:18 – A hot tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.

Give up gossiping
Control your tongue



Psalms 34:13 – Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.

Proverbs 21:23 – He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.



“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary” is a Lenten hymn with a Koiné original melody composed by Tracy Fedke. The dreamy musical landscape is adorned with a string of events telling the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This is the oldest of the hymn in the Lent section of The Lutheran Hymnal, dating before the time of Luther. It captures the meaning of the crucifixion of Jesus and reflects on how we should react to the suffering and death of Christ for us. Join us for a look at this instructional and reflective “Reformation” hymn on Christ’s work for us.

Author: Girolamo Savonarola (21 September 1452 – 23 May 1498) or **Jerome Savonarola**¹ was an Italian Dominican friar from Ferrara and preacher active in Renaissance Florence. He was known for his prophecies of civic glory, the destruction of secular art and culture, and his calls for Christian renewal. He denounced clerical corruption, despotic rule, and the exploitation of the poor.

In September 1494, when Charles VIII of France invaded Italy and threatened Florence, such prophecies seemed on the verge of fulfilment. While Savonarola intervened with the French king, the Florentines expelled the ruling Medici and, at the friar’s urging, established a “popular” republic. Declaring that Florence would be the New Jerusalem, the world centre of Christianity and “richer, more powerful, more glorious than ever”, he instituted an extreme puritanical campaign, enlisting the active help of Florentine youth.

In 1495 when Florence refused to join Pope Alexander VI’s Holy League against the French, the Vatican summoned Savonarola to Rome. He disobeyed and further defied the pope by preaching under a ban, highlighting his campaign for reform with processions, bonfires of the vanities, and pious theatricals. In retaliation, the pope excommunicated him in May 1497, and threatened to place Florence under an interdict.

Continued on next page

Leaving Coins on a Grave: Meaning & History - continuation.....

What does each coin represent?

Each coin left at the grave of a veteran, whether a penny, nickel, dime or quarter, has a special significance.

Quarter – A quarter on a grave means that the person who left it there *was with the fallen soldier when they died*.

Dime – A dime on a grave means that the two *served together at some point* in their careers.

Nickel – A nickel on a grave means that the person who left it there *trained* with the deceased.

Penny – A penny on a grave means that a fellow serviceman or woman has recently stopped by to pay their respects, whether or not they knew them personally.

People sometimes leave **challenge coins** in particular at military headstones. Usually displaying the emblem of a particular military unit, comrades of the late soldier will leave these special coins as a sign that they will never forget their brother or sister-in-arms.

A challenge coin may be a small coin or medallion, bearing an organization’s insignia or emblem and carried by the organization’s members. Traditionally, they might be given to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale. In addition, they are also collected by service members and law enforcement personnel.

[Wikipedia](#)

What happens to coins left on graves?

It’s important to note that when visitors leave coins at National Cemeteries, they are eventually gathered and **go toward an important cause**, such as the burial of homeless veterans. Coins left on graves in public cemeteries typically go into a fund for cemetery upkeep or low-or-no-cost burials for the poor.



“Has your diet changed?” I asked an 87-year-old woman I was admitting into the hospital.

“Yes,” she said. “For Lent, I gave up whipped cream on my Jell-O, hard candy, and my two beers a night. [Pause] And look where it’s gotten me.”



March/April Mission Samaritan's Purse - Baby Chicks

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus compares His love for His people to the care of a hen for the baby chicks



under its wing.

"How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood" (Luke 13:34, ESV). For families that struggle to put food



on the table, a gift of fluffy chicks from Samaritan's Purse is a tangible



display of the Savior's love. They also teach each family how to care for the ani-

mals and harvest the eggs, which are a valuable source of nutrients and income. Just \$14 will supply a dozen chicks, a coop, and basic veterinary care. Once the chicks are grown, each of them can lay up to 200 eggs

a year!

Any size donation will be welcomed.



Continued from previous page

A trial by fire proposed by a rival Florentine preacher in April 1498 to test Savonarola's divine mandate turned into a fiasco, and popular opinion turned against him. Savonarola and two of his supporting friars were imprisoned. On 23 May 1498, Church and civil authorities condemned, hanged, and burned the three friars in the main square of Florence.

Savonarola's devotees, the Piagnoni, kept his cause of republican freedom and religious reform alive well into the following century, although the Medici—restored to power in 1512 with the help of the papacy—eventually broke the movement. Some Protestants, including Martin Luther himself, consider Savonarola to be a vital precursor to the Reformation.

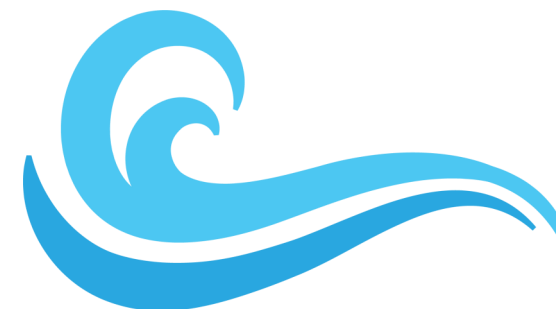
Translator", Jane Francesca, née Elgee. Lady Wilde was daughter of Archdeacon Elgee, born at Wexford in 1826; married Dr., afterwards Sir William Wilde, the Dublin oculist, 1851; and died at Chelsea, Feb. 3, 1896.

Tune Composer: Johannes Thommen Originally a folk song ("Sollen nun die grünen Jahre") dating from around 1700, O DU LIEBE MEINER LIEBE was used as a hymn tune in the Catholic hymnal *Bambergisches Gesangbuch* (1732). The tune name is the incipit of the text to which it was set in Johann Thommen's *Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz oder 500 Geistliche Lieder* (1745).

Johannes Thommen, Switzerland. A pietist, he traveled through Scandinavia singing hymns and accompanying himself on his 10-string guitar. Contributed to the Zion's Harp, a collection of hymns and songs.

March Wind

There is a saying that goes "March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers." This is an English proverb, that often is shortened to "April showers bring May flowers." The Cherokee name for the full moon in March is "Windy Moon," which refers to the winds of March. When I was a child in the late 1960's the March winds were notorious for being so strong you could hardly stand. This became the perfect time for flying kites but in recent years March has not been very windy until 2020. This year the wind is blowing and whistling in a way I have not heard since elementary school. It's been cold but I am rather enjoying it.



According to the website Weatherdudes.com there is a scientific reason why the March winds are so strong. In March there is an increased atmospheric instability caused by the increasingly strong Sunshine heating the earth's surface. and Since warm air is lighter than cold air, it rises and causes strong gusty winds.

This content is accurate and true to the best of the author's knowledge and is not meant to substitute for formal and individualized advice from a qualified professional. © 2020 Cheryl E Preston

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Israel!
Hi Friends!

Jordan will be traveling to Israel TOMORROW (Wednesday) through 2/18 and will be posting updates/prayer requests here. He was invited to travel to Israel with Eagle's Wings--which is one of the orgs collaborating on the new base we will be pioneering in Asia. We believe the Lord is wanting to grow our love for and understanding of the Jewish people in a way that will impact our future work in the nations!s

Please be praying for Jordan's travels and for Julia and the littles at home. Julia's sister will be coming to help out for several days while Jordan is away. (Aunt Jessica to the rescue!)



Thursday, February 10, 2022

Family. House. Character. Prayer. Relationships. Missions base team.

One night after putting the kiddos to bed, we sat down to reflect on 2021. The word **“building”** kept coming to mind as we went month by month, remembering what happened and testimonies the Lord had done.

*2021 was a year of **building** for us. Building our family with the addition of sweet baby Chase. Physical building projects around the house to improve this property and make it a blessing for others. Building a prayer movement on the Elim Campus. Building relationships with coworkers at EF, neighbors, local artists and friends. And team building with others involved in the missions base we are helping to launch.*

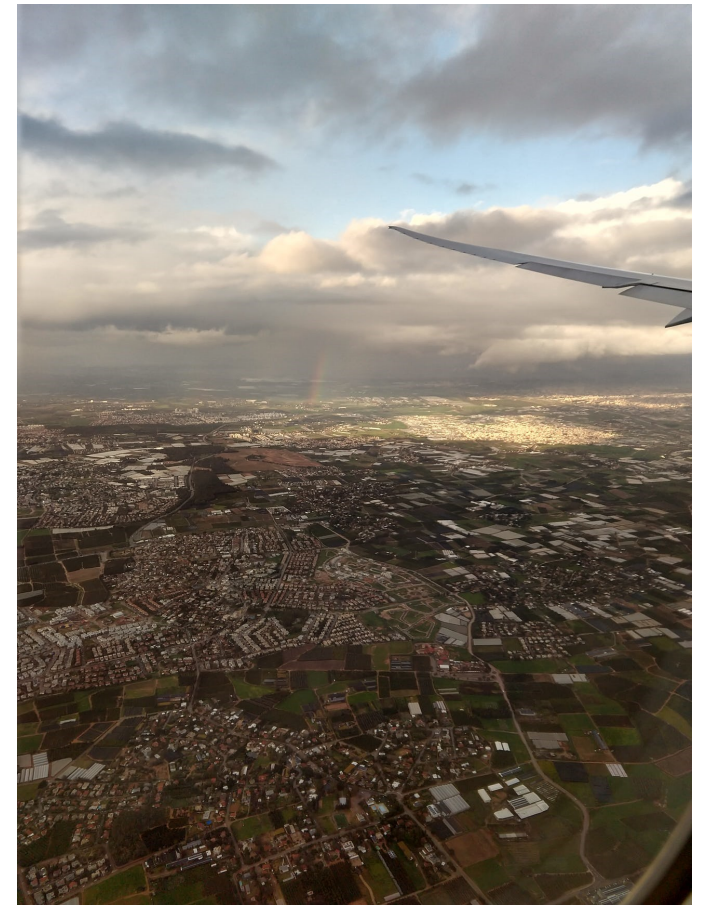
“Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.” Psalm 127:1

Friday, February 11, 2022

“WELCOME HOME!”

That's what everyone says when you get to Israel. It's amazing to be here, and things are being stirred up in our hearts already....but it almost didn't happen! My rapid covid test was done more than the allotted 24 hrs before the international flight, which I was told would be ok. But at the airport, the worker noticed and she said, "Uh oh, I need to go ask my supervisor." Everyone else (about 20 pastors and leaders) are already through to security and there was one Eagle's Wings guy with me making calls. Tense, but the Lord is always in control! She comes back and says, "Israel gave us a little wiggle room." I call it a little divine favor!

Praise God for good flights.... ironically even got to sit next to a young Orthodox couple with a 4-month old girl, lol. We ate schwarma (think delicious lamb pita wraps) on the Mediterranean after checking in to our hotel in Tel Aviv, then heard from a few local hosts. So much to process with Jewish history, and much to try to reconcile in terms of our faith. Yet God is making one man out of the two in Christ! We have a packed itinerary for today, including Joppa, Ayalon institute, Caesarea, and Mt Carmel!



Saturday, February 12, 2022



“Wrestling”

Greetings from the Sea of Galilee! The Lord spoke to me this morning through the sunrise in the same way He confirmed my call to missions almost 14 years ago, "You're in the right place at the right time." Honestly, I don't know what that means at this time other than Jesus is encountering me here, and that's always a blessed thing. After all, we were brought here, like Jacob, to wrestle with God.

“The rest of the story” next month.