



2022



The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI November 2022

Grace, Peace, and Mercy to you from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Savior.

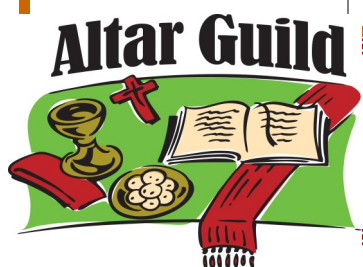
As I was again wondering what words of wisdom I should impart on you this month, Lynn asked me an intriguing question. How many of these have you done. Well thanks to the computer age and the wonders of digital storage I determined that this is my 121st newsletter cover. As that thought struck me, I could hardly believe it, but it is true. My very first Newsletter cover was for the September 2012 edition of the newsletter. As I looked at my first cover I saw how some things had changed and other things have remained much the same. The following was my opening paragraph from a little over 10 years ago:

“As much as I hate to say it, it appears our summer is starting to wind down. It is getting light later in the morning and the sun is setting earlier and earlier. The other morning I took my dogs out for their morning walk and it was quite crisp and had that smell and feel of fall in the air. As I thought about the approach of fall, I thought about how rapidly time seems to fly by. And I don't know if it's just me, but it seems the older you get the faster it goes by?”

As I reread that opening I realized how all of that is still so true, winter is creeping in, our daylight is fading, and time indeed seems to go by faster as we get older. I then went on to first and foremost thank you, the people of Zion for allowing me the opportunity to serve you. That too has not changed one bit, I thank God each and everyday for blessing me with this amazing opportunity, the opportunity to serve as your shepherd in this wayward world. I then spoke a little about the firsts that had taken place; the first time I presided over the Lord's Supper, my first shut-in visits, my first LFOJ chapel service, and my first funeral. I might have a little more difficulty determining how many times I have done each of those things since that first month, but as I think of it some of those numbers are mind boggling. When I think of all of the times that I have shared Holy Communion with all of you, both in the worship setting as well as individual, all of the baptisms, I do have pictures of each and every one (I must compile those someday), the confirmation classes, and of course the funerals. Many of our family and friends have gone to be with our Lord, I know I like you miss them, but I also rest assured that it is never goodbye, but until we meet again. Oh what a day that will be.

Now also I would be amiss if I didn't share with you that while it indeed has been the greatest experience of my life, it has also been a bit draining. I have slowed down a bit, but my resolve to serve you is steadfast, it may take me a bit longer to reach the phone, to get up out of the chair, or to even walk the aisle, however, my desire in life is to serve you, my beloved family at Zion for as long as the God Lord will allow and for as long as you feel I am meeting your needs.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: Oct. 30 Andy Nov. 16 Darryl Dec. 4 Randy Dec. 21 John Dec. 25 Doug	Nov. 2 Doug Nov. 20 Doug Dec. 7 Darryl Dec. 24 4:00 Scott Dec. 28 Scott	Nov. 6 Randy Nov. 23 John Dec. 11 Andy Scott Darryl Jan. 1 Andy	Nov. 9 John Nov. 27 Randy Dec. 14 Doug 7:00 Andy	Nov. 13 Andy Nov. 30 Scott Dec. 18 Randy		
		1	2	3	4	5
			6:30pm service	6:30pm Women's Bible Study		
6 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am service 9:45am Confirmation 10:15 Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	7 10:00am Bible Study	8 1:00pm Sewing Circle	9	10	11	12
			6:30pm service			
13 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am service 9:45am Confirmation 10:15 Bible Study	14 10:00am Bible Study	15	16	17 WINKEL 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	18	10
			6:30pm service			
28 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am service 9:45am Confirmation 10:15 Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	21 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Council Mtg.	22 1:00pm Sewing Circle	23 6:30pm Thanksgiving Service	24 	25	26
27 Advent 9:00am service 10:15 Bible Study	28 10:00am Bible Study	29	30 6:30pm Advent Service—live-streamed	1 Dec. 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	2	3



Altar Guild
June Williams
715-208-0984
JoAnn Honkala
715-682-0175

OFFICIAL ACTS
Baptism:
Cadence Jane Colby 10-5-22

In my cover from 10 years ago I mentioned how I felt guilty because there were times in my life where the Lord didn't come first, where I had neglected him. In that letter I also mentioned how I had to overcome that guilt, because guilt is sin, and the Lord has forgiven me my sins. There are still days even ten years later where I struggle with sin and guilt, I am after all, a sinful human being. But at the end of the day, I pray for forgiveness, I remember my baptism, and every morning I start the new day with a clean slate. Whether it be day one, month one, or even month 121, I am a baptized and redeemed child of God and I enter every-day a new man. I thank the Lord for that, and I thank Him for allowing me to share that message with you. Always remember, you are His! He has chosen you! And because of what He has done for you and for me, we will share eternity in Heaven!

God Bless you my friends and thank you so much for all of your prayers, your love, and your support.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look up you with favor and give you peace!

Pastor Rick



Written	1636
Text	by Martin Rinkart , translated by Catherine Winkworth
Language	German
Based on	Ecclesiasticus 50:22-24
Melody	attributed to Johann Crüger
Published	1647

“NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD”

Martin Rinkart was a Lutheran pastor who came to Eilenburg, Saxony, at the beginning of the Thirty Years' War. The walled city of Eilenburg became the refuge for political and military fugitives, but the result was overcrowding, deadly pestilence and famine. Armies overran it three times. The Rinkart



home was a refuge for the victims, even though he was often hard-pressed to provide for his own family. During the height of a severe plague in 1637, Rinkart was the only surviving pastor in Eilenburg, conducting as many as 50 funerals in a day. He performed more than 4000 funerals in that year, including that of his wife.



Leuthen Chorale[It is claimed that after the Battle of Leuthen in 1757, the hymn was taken up by the entire assembled Prussian army. This narrative is however questioned by historians and musicologists, who identify the story as a later invention of Prussian propaganda. Because of this story the melody is sometimes known as the Leuthen Chorale.

It is funny how a person's outlook on life changes as they get older....

I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the 'John' and renamed it the 'Jim'. I feel so much better saying "I went to the Jim this morning".

Old age is coming at a really bad time. When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is..."I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

I don't have grey hair; I have "wisdom highlights" I'm just very wise.

Don't ever ask me to bend down and touch my toes. If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators We haven't met yet.

Of course I talk to myself; sometimes when I need expert advice.

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later.

- I don't have to go to school or work.
- I have a driver's license and my own car.
- I get an allowance every mo— nth.
- I have my own ipad (although I can't recall where I kept it)
- I don't have a curfew.

Life is great.

I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names. Now, I'm wondering...did I send this to you, or did you send it to me?

Have a good chuckle.

Laughter is Good Medicine! - anonymous



Sunday, November 27th
9:00am Service
Live-streamed

Wednesdays, Nov. 30th,
Dec. 7th, 14th, 21st
6:30 pm
Live-streamed



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - Ashland WI
Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2022

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
Assets			
101.101	fM & I CK ACCOUNT Gen.	62,174.12	33,675.65
	General Checking	\$62,174.12	\$33,675.65
101.201	GEN FUND SAVINGS Northern Stat	33,656.63	34,197.36
119.999	TO BALANCE 01/01/2015 - 12/31/2015	0.00	0.00
	Total Assets	\$95,830.75	\$67,873.01
Liabilities			
202.102	M & I Line of Credit Loan	0.00	0.00
202.103	BULDG LOAN PAYABLE	95,714.71	95,714.71
202.104	Principle from Bldg Fund	(63,699.39)	(71,959.06)
	Note payables LCEF & M& I bank	\$32,015.32	\$23,755.65
200.000	Accounts Payable/Vendors	397.08	1,903.65
201.101	BORROWED WITHIN ORGANIZATION	0.00	0.00
201.201	EMPLOYER'S TAXES PAYABLE	4,452.67	(7,181.15)
201.203	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PAYABLE	21.67	321.67
	Total Liabilities	\$36,886.74	\$18,799.82
Fund balance			
	Total Fund balance	\$58,944.01	\$49,073.19
	Total Liabilities and Fund balance	\$95,830.75	\$67,873.01

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - Ashland WI
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for September 2022

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
BUILDING ACCOUNT TO BALANCE LOAN	(24,688.73)	0.00	(933.08)	0.00	(23,755.65)
BUILDING CAPITALIZED	(6,372.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(6,372.00)
General Fund	88,403.31	4,221.02	13,423.49	0.00	79,200.84
ORGAN FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	\$57,342.58	\$4,221.02	\$12,490.41	\$0.00	\$49,073.19

A Thanksgiving Feast Answer Key

clockwise, starting from the head of the table:

Ralph, pie; Mary, dressing; Johnny, potatoes; Susie,

rolls; Bill, corn; Ann, green beans; Jeffrey, turkey;

Angie, ham

Open door
Double vision
Stand in the corner
Forget it
Slow down
Last but not least
No one understands me
Elbow
A little bit more



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am in-church service and live streamed
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm
Pre-recorded Online Wednesday Prayer Study 6:30pm
Sunday School - 1st - 7th grade
Women's Group Thursdays 1st & 3rd monthly 6:30pm
Bible Studies—Sundays 10:15am Mondays 10:00am
Women's Bible Study 6:30AM

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479

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

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours Typically M-W 9:00-3:00

Days and times may change.

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

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

LFOJ Administrator: Autumn Heidrick 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 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

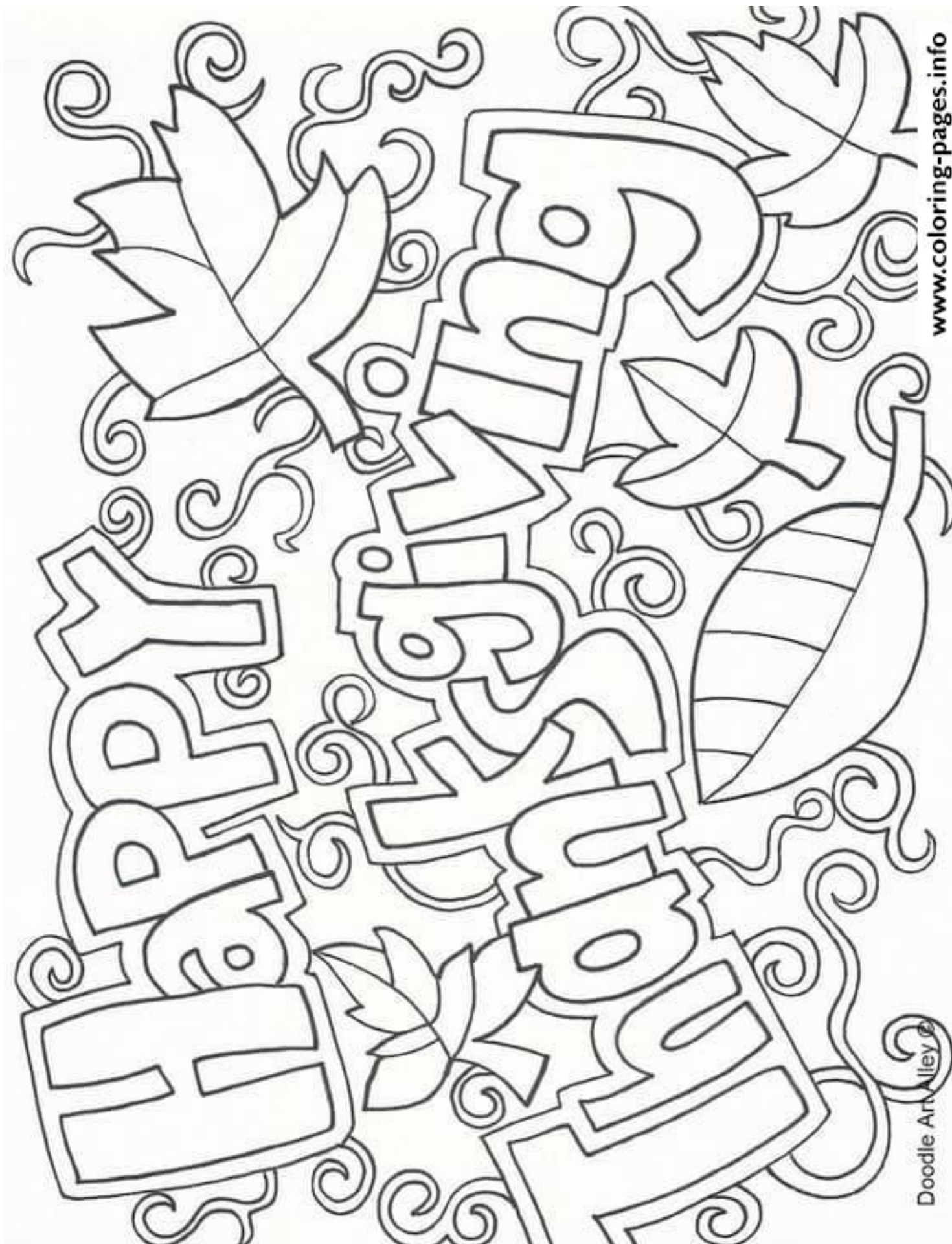
PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

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
Madge Houle
Alice Balmer
Penny Larson
Francis Balmer
Vi Basina
Dave Pearson
James Fletcher
Sheryl
Hildebrandt
Harold Larson
Diane Beiersdorff

Linda Stenroos
Ann Williams
Dave Anderson
Lowell Nutt
Riley Bretting
Cindy Lazorik
Doug Preuter
Mike Trimble
Jamie Klema
Mike Ariens
and those in our hearts





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Doodle Art Alley ©

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget
WATER - CHURCH	257.96	125.00	1,270.78*	145.78	1,500.00
Church Utilities	\$746.98	\$1,443.00	\$11,992.12	(\$994.88)	\$17,300.00
BUILDING CAPITALIZED PROJ	0.00		0.00		
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	374.25	167.00	13,606.70*	12,103.70	2,000.00
ORGAN PURCHASE EXPENSE	0.00		0.00		
PRESCHOOL BLDG. MAINTENANCE	0.00	167.00	0.00	(1,503.00)	2,000.00
PROPERTY/WORK COMP INSURANCE	0.00	679.00	3,034.50	(3,076.50)	8,145.00
Snow Removal	0.00	167.00	227.50	(1,275.50)	2,000.00
TRUSTEE SPECIAL PROJECTS	0.00		0.00		
Church Maint. & improvements	\$374.25	\$1,180.00	\$16,868.70*	\$6,248.70	\$14,145.00
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	39.00	8.00	39.00	(33.00)	100.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	0.00	42.00	92.27	(285.73)	500.00
KITCHEN SUPPLIES	0.00		0.00		
Member services in and out	0.00		0.00		
MUSIC	0.00	8.00	250.00*	178.00	100.00
Office Supplies	0.00	125.00	465.21	(659.79)	1,500.00
POSTAGE	0.00	33.00	60.44	(236.56)	400.00
Software Fees	49.00	250.00	1,247.23	(1,002.77)	3,000.00
Technology - Marketing	528.59	167.00	3,332.08*	1,829.08	2,000.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	45.53	250.00	1,471.15	(778.85)	3,000.00
Church Supplies	\$662.12	\$883.00	\$6,957.38	(\$989.62)	\$10,600.00
\$ FOR CONFER/ CONVENTIONS	700.02	83.00	1,547.83*	800.83	1,000.00
\$ TO EDUCATION	513.69	292.00	1,910.69	(717.31)	3,500.00
\$ TO EVANGELISM	0.00	83.00	637.86	(109.14)	1,000.00
\$ TO LFOJ CHILD CARE SUPPORT	0.00		0.00		
\$ TO STEWARDSHIP	0.00	8.00	0.00	(72.00)	100.00
\$ TO YOUTH PROGRAMS	0.00	84.00	0.00	(750.00)	1,000.00
BRICK MISSION	135.00	135.00	1,215.00	0.00	1,620.00
MISSION varoius	0.00		0.00		
MISSIONS TO SYNOD	1,000.00	1,000.00	8,400.00	(600.00)	12,000.00
OVERALL OFFERINGS PD TO SYNOD	0.00		0.00		
PUBLICATIONS LUTH WIT. ETC	0.00	42.00	684.39*	306.39	500.00
Ministry Disbursements	\$2,348.71	\$1,727.00	\$14,395.77	(\$1,141.23)	\$20,720.00
interest on line of credit	0.00		0.00		
LOAN FEES	0.00		0.00		
Mort. & credit card interest	123.07	250.00	1,078.80	(1,171.20)	3,000.00
PRINCIPAL payment	933.08	1,035.00	8,259.67	(1,055.33)	12,425.00
Total PRIN. AND INT. payments	\$1,056.15	\$1,285.00	\$9,338.47	(\$2,226.53)	\$15,425.00
Ordination Expenses	0.00		0.00		
principal to principal from bl	(933.08)		(8,259.67)		
TRUSTEE CONTROLLED DISBURSEMNT	0.00		0.00		
Total Expense	\$12,490.41	\$14,919.00	\$121,219.56	(\$4,785.77)	\$178,999.00
Difference	(\$8,269.39)	(\$951.00)	(\$9,870.82)		(\$11,379.00)

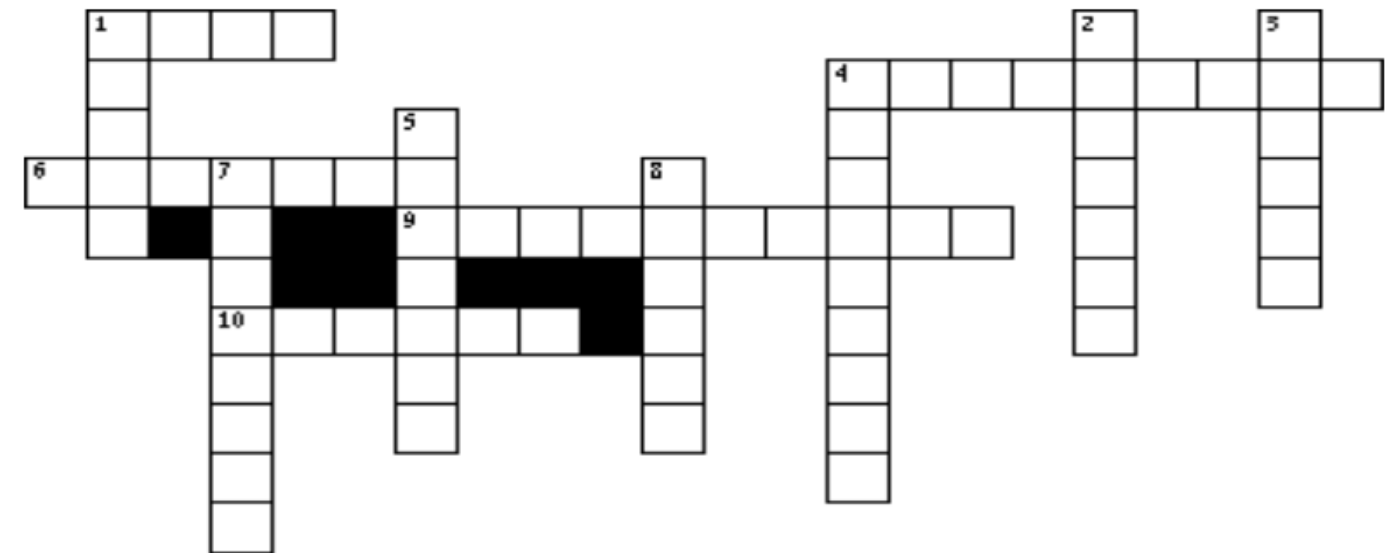
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - Ashland WI
Treasurer's Report as of September 2022

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

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Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget
Income					
BUILDING CAP PROJ FUNDRAISER	0.00		0.00		
EDUCATION FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
EVANGELISM FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
GEN. FUND ENVELOPE RECEIPTS	8,214.65	13,968.00	115,469.48	(10,242.52)	167,620.00
GEN. FUND INTEREST EARNED	0.00		10.69		
GENERAL FUND LOAN PROCEEDS	0.00		0.00		
LFOJ FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
Member services\$ etc	0.00		0.00		
Mission MISC IN/OUT	0.00		(9,775.00)		
ORGAN FUNDRAISER	0.00		0.00		
Special Gifts	0.00		0.00		
STEWARDSHIP FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
Transfers in/out general fund	(3,993.63)		5,109.57		
Trivent Choice Dollars	0.00		534.00		
TRUSTEE FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
YOUTH FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
Total Income	\$4,221.02	\$13,968.00	\$111,348.74	(\$10,242.52)	\$167,620.00
Expense					
CHOIR DIRECTOR SALARY	0.00		0.00		
Guest/vacancy pastors	0.00	25.00	723.58*	498.58	300.00
MILEAGE OR TRAVEL EXPENSES	0.00	42.00	0.00	(378.00)	500.00
ORGANISTS SALARY	1,040.00	337.00	3,200.00*	167.00	4,040.00
PASTOR'S SALARY	3,818.18	4,136.00	36,272.71	(951.29)	49,636.00
SECRETARY SALARY	922.50	926.00	7,908.77	(425.23)	11,115.00
SEXTON SALARY	210.00	275.00	1,509.39	(965.61)	3,300.00
SMP PROGRAM VICAR ED	0.00		0.00		
Treasurer Salary	165.00	275.00	869.00	(1,606.00)	3,300.00
Church Salaries	\$6,155.68	\$6,016.00	\$50,483.45	(\$3,660.55)	\$72,191.00
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS	0.00	42.00	0.00	(378.00)	500.00
EMPLOYER'S FICA TAX EXP	470.93	473.00	3,806.66	(450.34)	5,677.00
HEALTH & DISABILITY INS.	94.97	125.00	975.77	(149.23)	1,500.00
PASTOR'S HOUSING ALLOW.	1,153.84	1,250.00	10,961.48	(288.52)	15,000.00
PASTOR'S PENSION PLAN	359.86	453.00	3,699.43	(377.57)	5,441.00
PASTOR'S PROFESSIONAL EXP	0.00	42.00	0.00	(378.00)	500.00
Pastor's retirement Savings	0.00		0.00		
SEC. PENSION PLAN	0.00		0.00		
Employee Benefits	\$2,079.60	\$2,385.00	\$19,443.34	(\$2,021.66)	\$28,618.00
ELECTRICITY - CHURCH	0.00	417.00	2,594.25	(1,158.75)	5,000.00
FUEL - CHURCH	0.00	542.00	4,020.79	(857.21)	6,500.00
INTERNET SERVICE & SOFTWARE	159.98	92.00	799.90	(28.10)	1,100.00
TELEPHONE - CHURCH	329.04	121.00	1,503.80*	414.80	1,450.00
WASTE DISPOSAL	0.00	146.00	1,802.60*	488.60	1,750.00

237. JESUS IS CRUCIFIED (LUKE 23:26-49)



"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are ____." **ISAIAH 53:5**

"Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, ____ a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus." **LUKE 23:26**

"There were also two others, ____, led with Him to be put to death." **LUKE 23:32**

"And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they ____ Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left." **LUKE 23:33**

"Then Jesus said, 'Father, ____ them, for they do not know what they do' ..." **LUKE 23:34**

"...And they divided His ____ and cast lots." **LUKE 23:34**

"And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, 'He saved others; let Him ____ Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God.' " **LUKE 23:35**

"And the soldiers also ____ Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, 'If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.' " **LUKE 23:36-37**

"Then one of the criminals who were hanged ____ Him, saying, 'If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us..' " **LUKE 23:39**

"But the other, answering, ____ him, saying, 'Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?. " **LUKE 23:40**

"Then he said to Jesus, 'Lord, remember me when You come into Your ____.' And Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.' " **LUKE 23:42-43**

"And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, 'Father, "into Your hands I commit My ____." ' And having said this, He breathed His last." **LUKE 23:46**

How Our Faith Is Rooted Within Us

Just as we grow up speaking in a certain way, God gives us a spiritual accent as well. by **Edward Grinnan**

I spent the first half of my boyhood in the Philadelphia area, specifically Havertown, sometimes called the thirty-third county of Ireland because of the names on most of the mailboxes. Philadelphians have a very distinct accent, as thick as the provolone cheese that properly goes on a Philly cheesesteak. “Hey, yo, give me a glass of wooter with that hoagie dere!” So, when my family moved to Michigan—I was around nine—I took my accent with me.

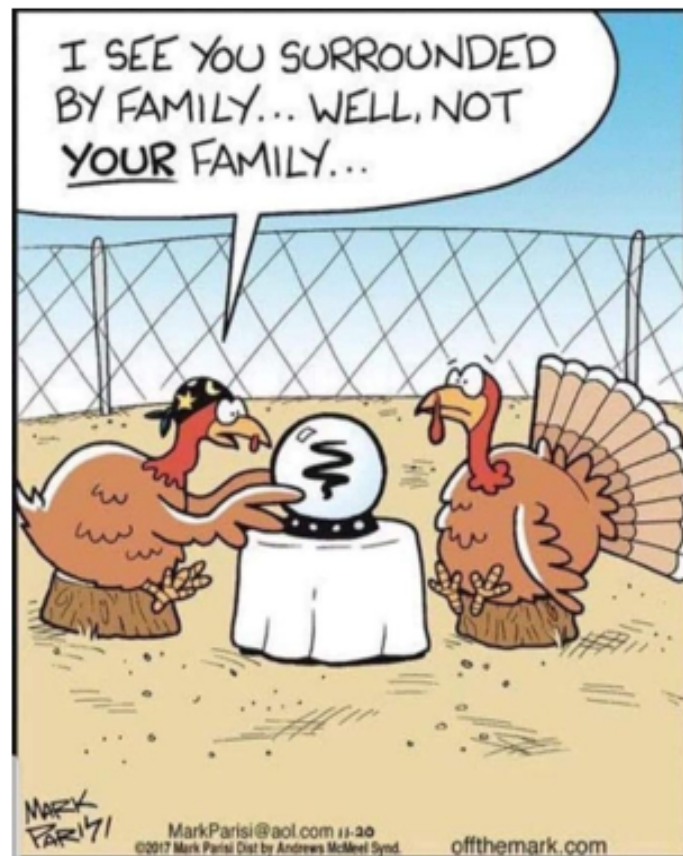
Of course, I was utterly clueless to the fact I had an accent. I thought everyone drank wooter, which was why it was so disconcerting when Michiganders, whose accents are as flat as the Midwest itself, treated me like I was speaking a foreign language. It was embarrassing and a source of no small amount of teasing, and at that age teasing is torture. I vowed to abolish my accent as fast as I could, which is why today I speak with a kind of neutral accent, a linguistic compromise. I can’t voluntarily resurrect my Philly accent even if I try.

Except when I am upset or excited and raise my voice. Then, suddenly, I’m shouting “wooter” all over again. The accent fades as soon as I calm down, and I go back to speaking like a no-accent talk show host.

So, is that nine-year-old-boy from Havertown still living somewhere inside me, my inner Philadelphian? Does this mean a person’s immutable roots never run too far beneath the surface and that

much of who we are is formative? It would seem so. And maybe that’s true about faith as well. I went to St. Denis school and parish as a kid in Philly, though I have not remained a strict Catholic truth to tell. In fact, you could say I am a denominationally agnostic Christian. But in times of stress or excitement, the basic tenets of faith I learned in my formative years always charge to the fore. [Faith is always there, rooted within](#) me, like a spiritual accent.

We are [raised by our families and our communities](#) and carry that experience | with us our whole lives, for better or for worse. But we are also raised by a God who gives us a faith accent we carry with us too. One that is strong and can’t be suppressed no matter how we try. Something that lets me know that yo, God is always dere no matter where I am.



Are You Tired?

Dear Friend:

One day Julia Ward Howe slumped into her chair, the weight of the world on her shoulders, and said, “I’m tired, tired way down into the future!” You’ve had moments like that, haven’t you? Tired, tired way down into the future. Now, pay close attention.



The road to the Promised Land was much longer than the people coming out of Egypt realized it would be. Have you ever thought about that? Psalms 77 and 78 re-cap the story of the wilderness wanderings. Forty years! Forty tiring years! And how they murmured and complained. There was always an undertone of irritability and grumbling. Sometimes I think we are a lot like those fleeing people. We have much in common with those ancient wilderness marchers. We, too, are part of a moving, marching, irritable generation. Often people complain and say, “I’m sick and tired...” and then go on to enumerate what they are sick and tired about.

But I want you to notice something in Exodus 15:27 where we read, “They came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.”

It doesn’t take a very vivid imagination to picture that. Water! Trees! Cool shade, green grass, something refreshing to drink! Somehow that renews your faith in the goodness and mercy of God, doesn’t it? God’s Word is our “Elim” – water, shade, refreshment. Please know that it is God’s will for you to find renewal in Him.

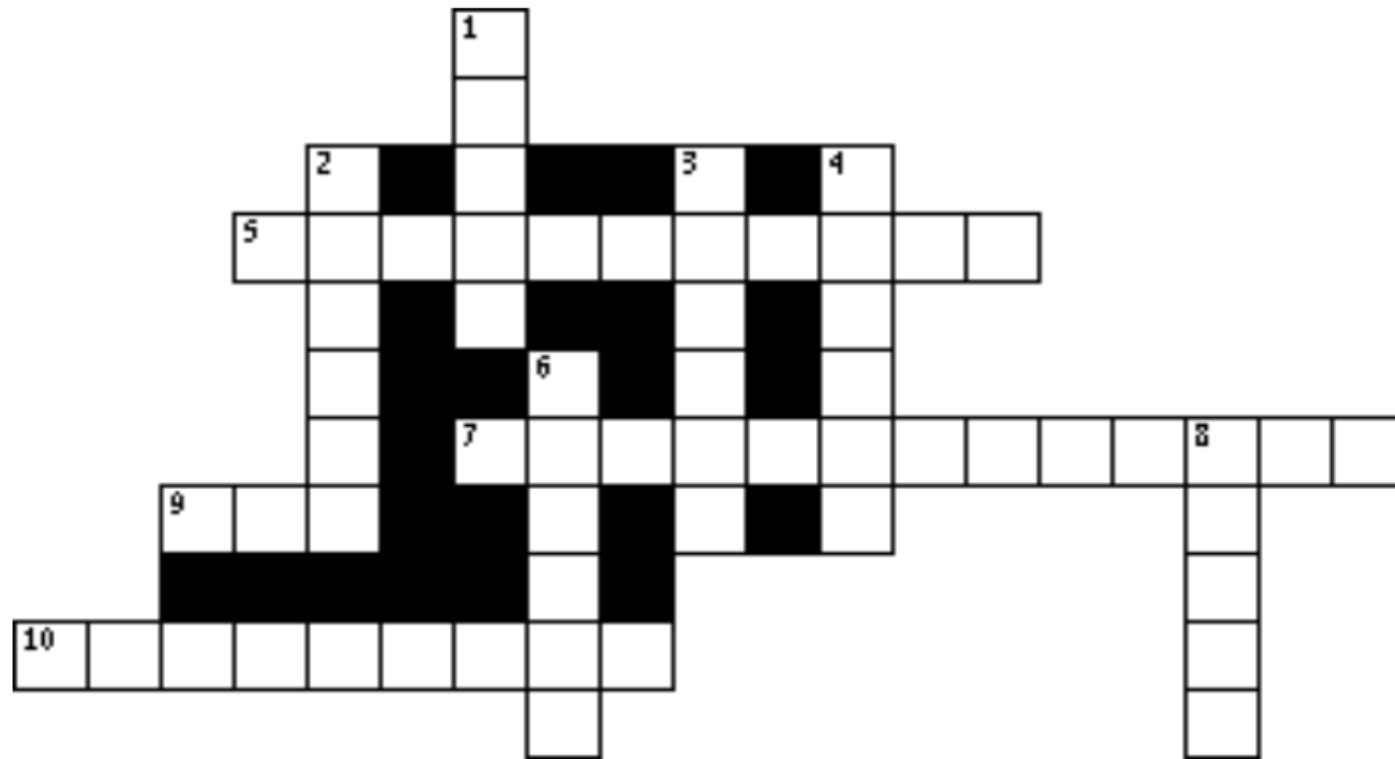
Isaiah declares: “Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 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 (Isaiah 40:28-31).” It is your God in heaven who makes these promises to you today. Remember I said that Julia Ward Howe said she was tired, tired way down into the future? The same Savior carried her. She didn’t stay tired. She was a believer and wrote the song, “Battle Hymn of the Republic.”

As she did, so may you just now as you drink at His “wells of refreshment.” Have some good Bible study today all by yourself. Have family devotions. And may I see you in worship and Bible Class next Sunday morning. Bring another thirsty person along with you.

Your brother, Pastor Don Ginkel

182. THE BEATITUDES

(MATTHEW 5:1-12)



"And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a high mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and _____ them, saying..." **MATTHEW 5:1-2**

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of _____." **MATTHEW 5:3**

"Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be _____." **MATTHEW 5:4**

"Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the _____." **MATTHEW 5:5**

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be _____." **MATTHEW 5:6**

"Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain _____." **MATTHEW 5:7**

"Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see _____." **MATTHEW 5:8**

"Blessed are the _____, For they shall be called sons of God." **MATTHEW 5:9**

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for _____ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven." **MATTHEW 5:10**

"Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your _____ in heaven..." **MATTHEW 5:12**

As you celebrate [Thanksgiving](#) and reflect on your blessings, remember to include the greatest gift of all—Jesus. Thank Him for nurturing your spirit, providing for your needs and fulfilling your desires. Thank Him for His mercy and [His grace](#).

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

BLESSED
COMFORTED
EARTH
FILLED
GLAD
GOD

HUNGER
INHERIT
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
MEEK
MERCIFUL
MERCY

MOURN
PEACEMAKERS
PERSECUTED
POOR IN SPIRIT
PURE IN HEART

REJOICE
REWARD
RIGHTEOUSNESS
SONS OF GOD
THIRST

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."—John 6:35 (NIV)



Doug Smithberger is on his deathbed at Allegheny General Hospital and knows the end is near. His nurse, his wife, his daughter and 2 sons are with him. He asks for 2 witnesses to be present and a camcorder be in place to record his last wishes, and when all is ready he begins to speak:
My son, "Bernie, I want you to take all the West End houses."
My daughter "Sybil, you take the apartments over in the Bottoms and up toward Neville Island."
My son, "Jamie, I want you to take the offices and apartments over in Neville Island and Coraopolis."
"Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the banks of the river between McKees Rocks and Coraopolis and up the valley toward the airport."
The nurse and witnesses are blown away as they did not realize his extensive holdings, and as Doug slips away, the nurse says,
"Mrs. Smith, your husband must have been such a hard-working man to have accumulated all this property".
Sarah replies, "Property ? the skin-flint had a paper route!"

I hope this brought a smile to your face!! Have a fantastic, uplifting day!

For one last time he wanted to visit the giraffes in Diergaarde Blijdorp: to say good-bye to the animals whose habitat he cleaned for years. The 54-year old Mario doesn't have long to live, he has terminal cancer. For almost his entire life he was able to work at the zoo, despite his mental handicap.

On the moment when his hospital bed is wheeled into the habitat something beautiful happens. Not only does Mario want to say goodbye, but the animals sense that this is a final encounter. For one last time the terminally ill man gets a kiss from a giraffe.



"During a childhood Thanksgiving, my mom's candles caught the kitchen curtains and some decorative greenery on fire. My sister, my cousins and I were at the 'kid's table' — in the kitchen — while the adults were in the dining room...so no one of significance noticed anything except me. Before we started eating, my mom threatened us with pain of death if we 'annoyed' the adults during dinner. So, when the fire got out of hand, I quietly walked to the dining room and stood silently for a minute or two, until someone noticed me. Only then did I POLITELY say, 'sorry, but the kitchen's on fire.'"



"My mom still gives me grief about my prioritizing politeness over sense."



A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said: "I am blind, please help."

There were only a few coins in the hat.

A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so

that everyone who walked by would see the new words.

Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy. That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were.

The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?"

The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way." I wrote: "Today is a beautiful day but I cannot see it."

Both signs told people that the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind. The second sign told people that they were so lucky that they were not blind. Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective?

Moral of the Story: Be thankful for what you have. Be creative. Be innovative. Think differently and positively. When life gives you a 100 reasons to cry, show life that you have 1000 reasons to smile. Face your past without regret. Handle your present with confidence. Prepare for the future without fear. Keep the faith and drop the fear. The most beautiful thing is to see a person smiling. And even more beautiful, is knowing that you are the reason behind it!

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Author: Unknown

DO OR

get
get
get IT

LOW

SLOW

wiisiiom

LEAST

stand

bitmore

STANDS ME
0 ? 2 3 4 5

PLEASE CONSIDER joining the Quilters' Group – they meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm, now through April. You don't need to know how to sew or even thread a needle, there are people to guide you through the process.



Guess What it Cane?

An elderly couple was celebrating their sixtieth anniversary. The couple had married as childhood sweethearts and had moved back to their old neighborhood after they retired. Holding hands, they walked back to their old school. It was not locked, so they entered, and found the old desk they'd shared, where Jerry had carved I love you, Sally.

On their way back home, a bag of money fell out of an armored car, practically landing at their feet. Sally quickly picked it up and, not sure what to do with it, they took it home. There, she counted the money – fifty thousand dollars!

Jerry said, "We've got to give it back."

Sally said, "Finders keepers." She put the money back in the bag and hid it in their attic.

The next day, two police officers were canvassing the neighborhood looking for the money, and knocked on their door. "Pardon me, did either of you find a bag that fell out of an armored car yesterday?"

Sally said, "No."

Jerry said, "She's lying. She hid it up in the attic."

Sally said, "Don't believe him, he's getting senile."

The agents turned to Jerry and began to question him.

One said: "Tell us the story from the beginning."

Jerry said, "Well, when Sally and I were walking home from school yesterday"

The first police officer turned to his partner and said, "We're outta here!"



On the day of Thanksgiving, thank You Lord, for You are the Source of all



A Thanksgiving Feast

Eight people are gathered around the dining room table at Ralph and Mary Johnson’s house for a Thanksgiving feast. Read the clues below and determine the name of the person sitting at each place and his/her favorite food.

Guest List	
Angie	Johnny
Ann	Mary
Bill	Ralph
Jeffrey	Susie

Food List	
corn	pie
dressing	potatoes
green beans	rolls
ham	turkey

- 1. Ralph is at the head of the table, and he doesn’t like corn.
- 2. No male sits beside another male.
- 3. Angie and Jeffrey are brother and sister; Johnny and Susie are also brother and sister. Each brother and sister pair sits side-by-side on the same side of the table.
- 4. The person who likes ham sits to Ralph’s right at the table.
- 5. Bill’s wife, Ann, sits to his left at the table. Ralph’s wife loves dressing.
- 6. Susie sits to Bill’s right and across from the person who loves green beans. Susie loves bread.
- 7. Jeffrey is a meat lover, and he can’t wait for the turkey to be carved.
- 8. Two males love pie and corn, and they sit across the table from each other.

Name: _____
Food: _____

Name: _____
Food: _____

Name: _____
Food: _____

Head of the Table
Name: _____
Food: _____

Name: _____
Food: _____

Name: _____
Food: _____

Name: _____
Food: _____

Name: _____
Food: _____

Answers on pg. 19

A TRUE LOVE STORY

This 89 year old woman was arrested for shop lifting.

When she went before the judge in Cincinnati he asked her, "What did you steal?" She replied, "A can of peaches."

The judge asked her why she had stolen the can of peaches and she replied that she was hungry. Then the judge asked her how many peaches were in the can. She replied 6.

The judge said, "Then I will give you 6 days in jail."

Before the judge could actually pronounce the punishment, the woman's husband spoke up and asked, the judge if he could say something on his wife's behalf. The judge said, "What is it?"

The husband said, "She also stole a can of peas."

Count

Count your blessings instead of your crosses
Count your gains instead of your losses
Count your joys instead of your woes
Count your friends instead of your foes
Count your smiles instead of your tears
Count your courage instead of your fears
Count your full years instead of your lean
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean
Count your health instead of your wealth
Count on God instead of yourself

Your Blessings

Father God,

Thank You for Your loving kindness & faithfulness.
Thank You for blessing us with a new day & never leaving or forsaking us.
Let Your will be done in our lives, & may we be an instrument of compassion & grace to everyone we meet. In the sweet name of Jesus we thank You, Amen.