

Lebanon Lutheran Church

MARCH Newsletter 2020

Sunday School 9:30am

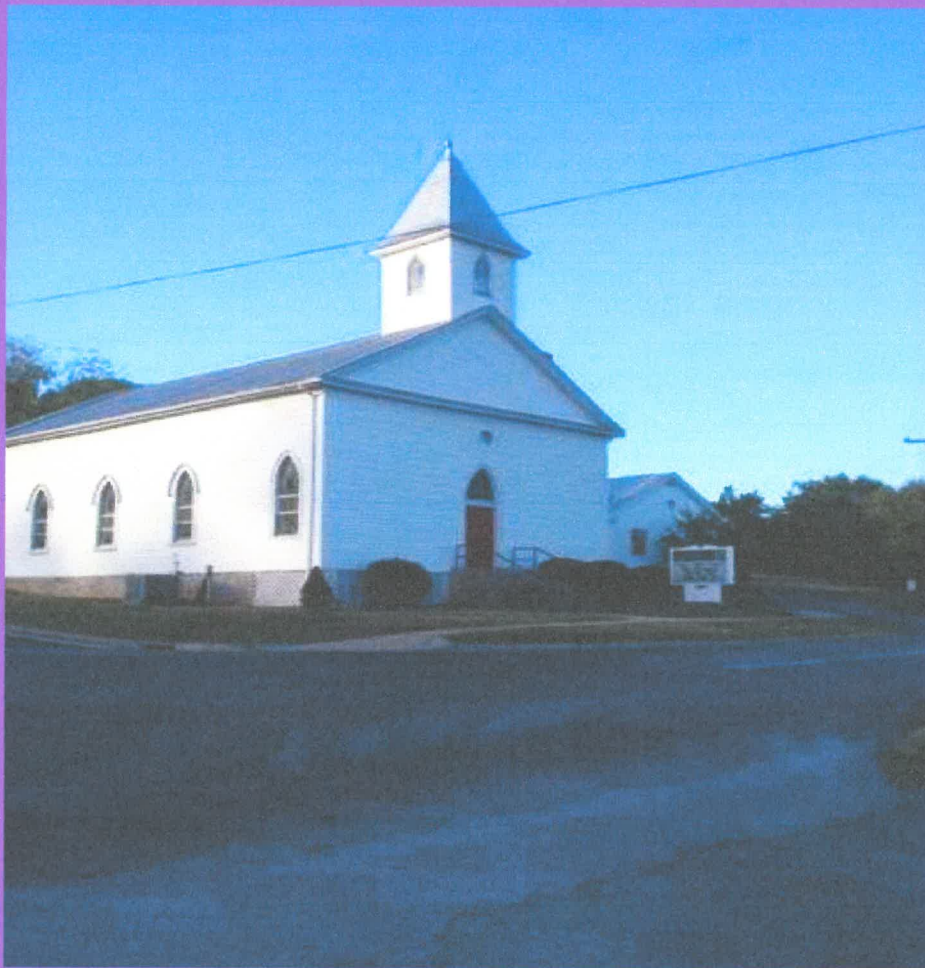
10120 Middle Road

Phone: (540)465-5456

Worship 11:00am

Lebanon Church Va. 22641

Email: pastor.lebanon@gmail.com



NALC

North American Lutheran Church



A Message From The Desk Of The Pastor

Pastor Christopher Porter

But the law of God is an eternal and immovable rule of the divine mind and a judgment against sin, a judgment impressed on human minds, often proclaimed by the voice of God, of which Christ says, "I have not come to destroy the Law, but to fulfill it" [Matt. 5:17].

Therefore, we must consider the difference. Human law only demands or forbids external works. Philosophy sometimes teaches that more is required, such as that the action be an honorable one and not merely external or simulated, but an upright judgment in the mind and in the will a free choice or decision for acting correctly. Therefore, the Law demands a certain prudence or moderation of the emotions and the actions, which is properly called "ethics." But this law does not accuse our natural uncleanness, nor does it pronounce judgment on all the sins which are in conflict with the First Table—the doubting of God, the heart which lacks fear and love for God, our weakness of faith, and evils like this which cling in our nature.

Philip Melanchthon, *Loci Communes*, or Common Theological Topics

At the recent Pastors' Conference, a young man asked a question, "How do we reach young people who don't seem to have any sense of a bad conscience about anything?" It was a good question in that it was timely, addressed an issue that many recognize as real, and was honest in its admission of frustration and lack of comprehension.

Some would opine that all people *really do* after all have a sense of sin and guilt, and that we should just assume this to be the case. But I'm not so sure. Whatever remains of the conscience in those who have no faith in Christ, it is weak. Sociologists of religion have put forth the idea that our modern Western cultures have changed from being those that operate within a moral universe where an internal sense of guilt is widely acknowledged and felt, to those that now only acknowledge wrong as it is externally enacted by means of *shaming*. Where once a moral person was thought to be battling feelings of moral failure internally, they now only experience a sense of their own moral wrongs when the group they value tells them so – symbolically or otherwise.

Our internet culture seems to operate with latter sort of moral vision. The recent spate of high-profile shaming's and professional erasures in Hollywood and elsewhere are similar, complete with public disavowals, accusations and aspersions. The "Metoo" movement, however justified its concerns about the treatment of women may be (and no doubt there has been mistreatment), seems to favor this as well.

This may be the case in the fallen world, but should it be so among Christians?

Consider this passage from St. Paul concerning the necessary disciplines surrounding the Lord's Supper, and the failure of some in his Corinthian congregation to keep them: *But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world* - 1 Corinthians 11:31-32

Here Paul tells us that if a Christian were to anticipate the Lord's judgment by owning their wrongs *before* the Lord... the Lord's own act of judging and bringing to light would be mitigated. Even so, the Lord's work of judgment upon the remaining sin in a believer is for their final benefit – so that they may come to the final public destruction of all sin on the last day, and not be lost! So that they may avoid that final *shaming*.

How are sinners enabled to "self-judge" in this sense? How are weakened consciences made strong enough to *self-examine*, so that they may not need external laws and divine judgments to restrain them? How are they to know the gravity of their offences?

Looking to the initial passage from the great preceptor of the Lutheran reformation, it reminds us of some needful things about God's Law. It's a hard reality that mankind does not want to face, but it is there before us, accusing us, nonetheless; the immutable and unchanging will of God that we *be* a certain way. God commands us to be holy in totality, not just in external acts, but in the desires that precede them. Our very heart must be just and holy.

Human reason comes along and whispers, "You're only human. Don't beat yourself up." But the Law says, "Do this", and "Don't do this". God *commands us* to be or not be in a way that accords with his will. Is the holy Law of God the problem here? Or is our sin the problem?

God is holy, and perfectly righteous, and we are to become more of what He says we should be. Not in half measures, and not by cleverly convincing ourselves that what He commands is impossible or... blaspheming, *that what He commands is really not good, righteous, and as things should be!*

Christians cannot believe such things and remain Christians. The Lord IS holy. His will IS just. And His Word IS good for us. Scripture never tires of telling us so. The Lord will strengthen our consciences by a clear proclamation of His will, and of His will as Law.

During Lent we can pursue this through certain spiritual disciplines:

1. Meditate on the Holiness of God: *You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.* Leviticus 20:26
2. Meditate on the Holy Ten Commandments, honestly admitting failures: Exodus 20

3. Confess your sins to God and, if it be possible, to those you have wronged. James 5:16, Matthew 6:12
4. Meditate on the Crucifixion of our Lord. This is the payment for your sins. Romans 3:25
5. Most importantly, believe that Christ has atoned for those sins and accept the forgiveness that is given by God for His sake.

Melanchthon concludes his deliberation on the Law of God in this way:

*Therefore, they imagine that men are righteous and pleasing to God because of the works which they think satisfy the law of God; they have not taught that men are righteous **in the sense of having been reconciled to God and pleasing to Him by faith for the sake of our Mediator, Christ.** But Paul refutes these pharisaic errors and affirms that this weak nature of man cannot satisfy the law of God nor placate the wrath of God nor take away sin through the works of the Law. **But he affirms that the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, has been sent to take away our sins and give us righteousness and eternal life, as we shall discuss more fully under the proper locus.***

Through faith in Christ, our mediator, we can face ourselves and examine ourselves. We can listen to His hard Word that judges our sin and we can own it and even be grateful for it. The good news is always that God has given His Son to atone for our sins, *while we were yet sinners!* With Him there is mercy and plenteous redemption! (Ps. 130:7)

God gave Jesus into death to set us right, to make us righteous and holy. Let us always remember that this sacrificial death is desperately needed – because God’s Law has shown us that we are yet sinners.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Porter



Ben & Rachel at
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Life to Life Discipleship

*You can find this on the
North American Lutheran Church website.
Thru Baptism we are called to be disciples for
Christ This may help us fill the pews as we reach
out to others to share the good news.*

Coming Events at Lebanon

Lenten Soup Suppers

Every Wednesday starting @ 6pm bring your own sandwich. Soup will be provided, if you would

Like to provide soup please see Joy.

Lenten Services to begin at 7 pm

March Birthday's

1st Annie Clem

1st Madison Wright

3rd Missy Hockman

9th Gene Atwell

9th John Miller

10th Mark Smoot

10th Ryan Smoot

13th Karla Funkhouser

16th Jay Snow

20th Dorothy Harriman

25th Mike Rose

29th Luke Heird

Luther's

Large Catechism Class

Meets on Monday's

@ 7 pm.

Led by Pastor Chris

All are invited to attend!

Do you or someone you know need a ride to Church?

Please contact:

Ann Deming

@

(540)869-5795

And leave a message

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, March 21st

8:00 A.M.

@ Queen Street Dinner

We will be discussing

Proverbs Chapter 3

All Men are invited to attend!

For any comments or suggestions on the newsletter please contact Jeff Hamman

Cell: (540) 220-7346

Email:

jhamman@shentel.net

We would like to thank

Nancy's Coffee bar

For providing the coffee

Every Sunday!

You can visit the coffee

Bar @ 175 East King Street Strasburg Va.

M-F 7am-6pm

Sat. 8am-6pm

Get your coffee fix thru the week!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

From setup, preparing and cooking the meal, to cleanup.

Thanks to Joy, Sheri and Pastor Chris for sharing the photos.

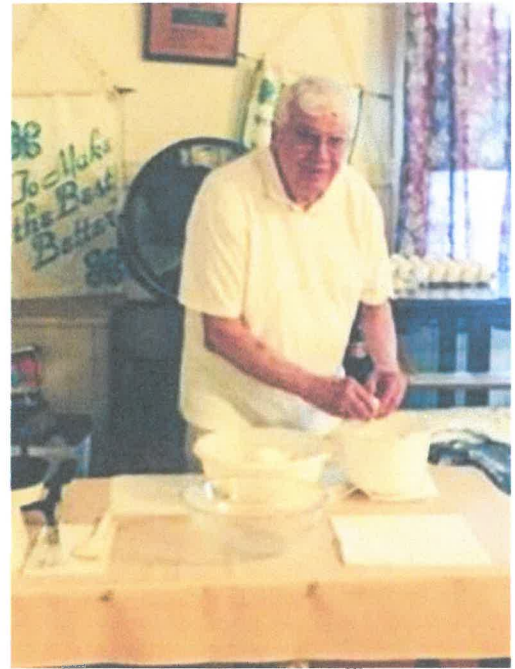
Thanks to all who helped make this another successful dinner.

Free will offering to be divided between Strasburg and Woodstock Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squads.









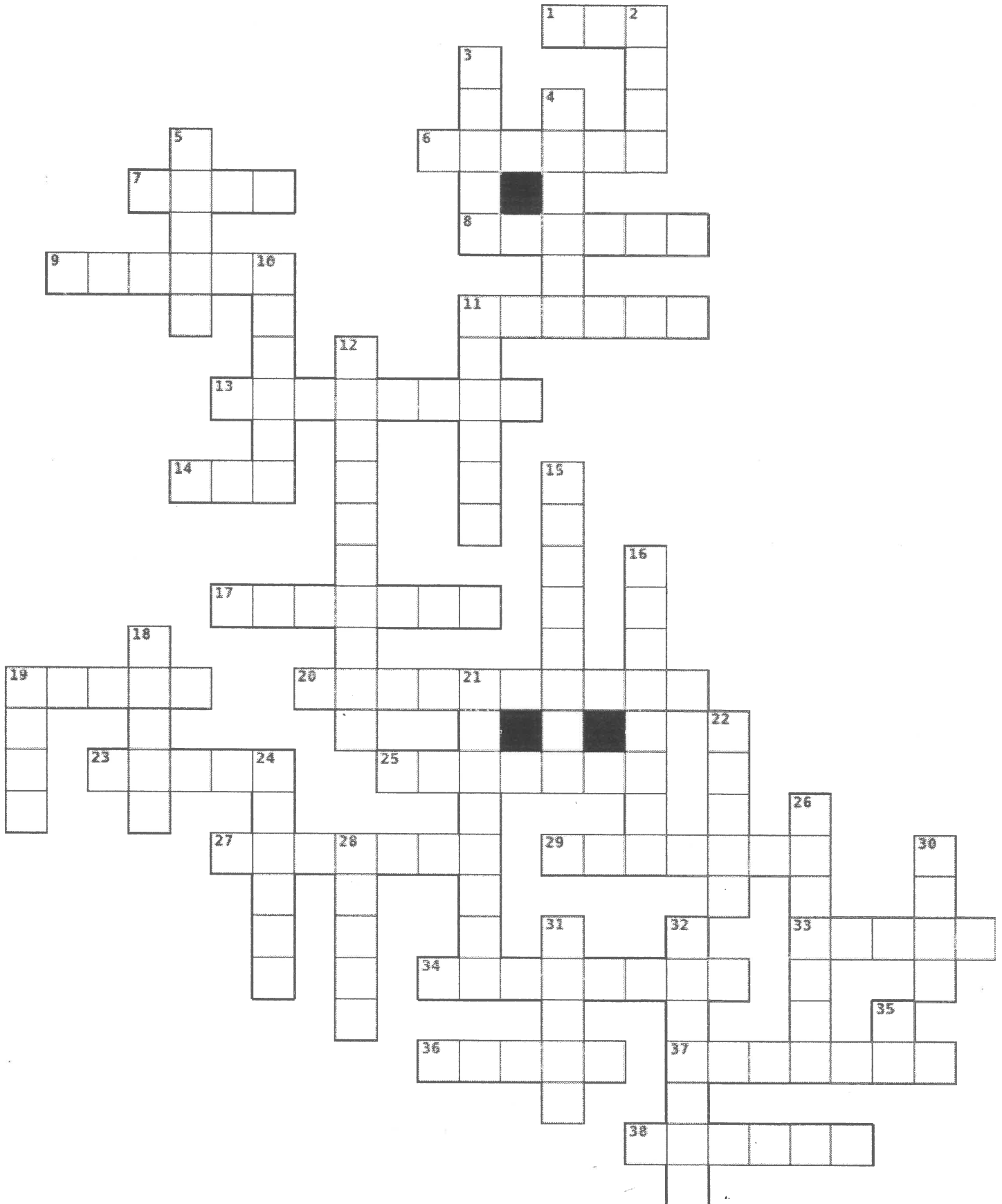
Now That everyone has had their fill, it is time to focus on lent.

Have you decided what you are going to give up for lent? Remember our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in His human form, fasted for forty days and nights in the wilderness, without food or water. Matthew 4.



Lenten Services
Wednesday's @ 7pm
Palm Sunday April 5th
Easter Sunday April 12th

The Book of Joshua



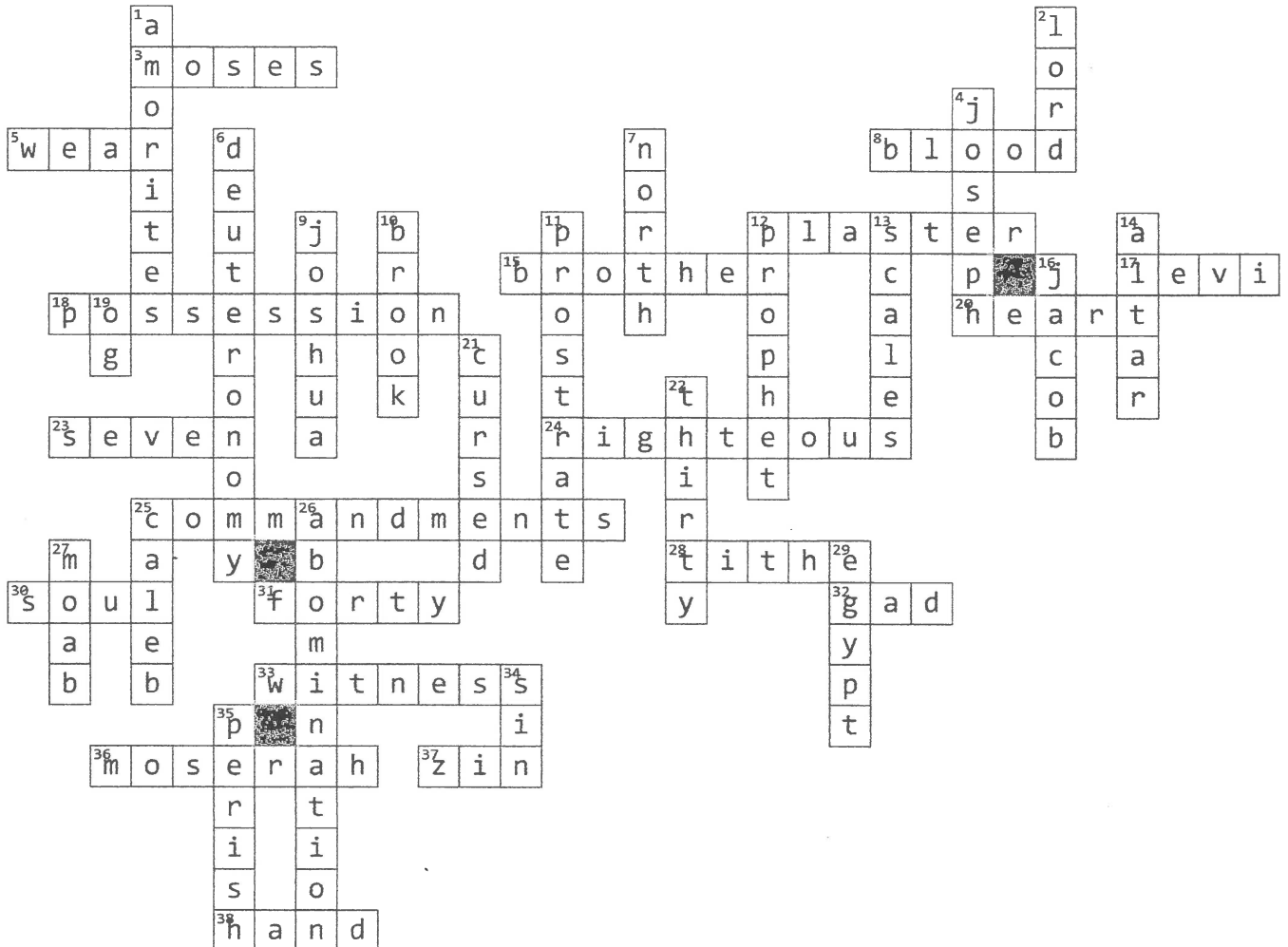
Across

1. After Joshua gave the land over for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments the land had rest from this? (11)
6. A manslayer who kills without intent or unwittingly may flee to a city of _____. (20)
7. Place where the five kings hid? (10)
8. The whole congregation of Israel assembled there and set up a tent of meeting. (18)
9. His bones were buried at Shechem. (24)
11. He was exalted by the Lord before the people of Israel. (4)
13. Silver and gold and the vessels of bronze and of iron were put into the _____ of the house of the Lord. (6)
14. The seventh lot came out for this tribe of Israel. (19)
17. The walls of this city fell in? (6)
19. This tribe of Israel received the fifth lot. (19)
20. He was the son of Hopher, he had no sons only daughters. (17)
23. Thirty-one of these were killed by the Israelites. (12)
25. The ark of the covenant was carried by Levitical _____. (3)
27. The Lord said to Joshua be strong and of good _____. (1)
29. Caleb gave his daughter Achsah to _____ for his wife. (15)
33. He took the devoted things and hid them? (7)
34. The fourth lot came out for this tribe of Israel? (19)
36. Joshua said to the people of Israel "therefore be very steadfast to keep and do all that is written in the book of _____. (23)
37. Joshua was given the city of Timnathserah in the hill country of _____. (19)
38. The Hivites acted with cunning and from this city came to Joshua and Israel to make a covenant with them to be their servants. (9)

Down

2. This was used to lower the spies out of the window of the harlot? (2)
3. Five kings were killed and hung on these? (10)
4. The space the Israelites were to stay behind the ark of the covenant two thousand _____. (3)
5. He was eighty-five years old when he received his inheritance. (14)
10. This was given to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance? (14)
11. This river was dried up, so the Israelites could crossover on dry land. (3)
12. They dwelt in Gezer and became slaves to do forced labor. (16)
15. Seven priest blew these before the city? (6)
16. He was the first born of Joseph? (17)
18. _____ formerly was Kiriathsepher. (15)
19. sheshai, Ahiman and Talmai are sons of _____. (15)
21. He was son of Eleazar the priest. (22)
22. After the day of Passover the people of Israel ate this no more? (5)
24. Twelve of these were taken from the river where the priest stood with the ark of the covenant. (4)
26. _____ the son of Aaron died; and they buried him at Gibeah, the town of Phinehas. (24)
28. She was the harlot who hid the spies of Israel? (1)
30. Joshua built an altar to the Lord on this mount. (8)
31. Joshua said to the Hivites some of them would always be slaves hewers of wood and drawer of what? (9)
32. The Lord told Joshua to stretch out this toward the city of Ai and he would give it into the hand of Joshua. (8)
35. Because the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, the men from this land chased 3000 men of Israel and killed about 36 of them. (7)

The Book of Deuteronomy



Across

3. He was 120 years old when he died? (34)
5. "A woman shall not _____ anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God." (22)
8. For the _____ is the life and you shall not eat the life with the flesh. (12)
12. What did God say to put on the large stones? (27)
15. "You shall not lend upon interest to your _____, interest on money, interest on victuals, interest on anything that is lent for interest." (23)
17. This tribe of Israel has no portion of inheritance with his brothers; the Lord is his inheritance (10)

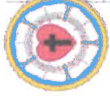
Down

1. They chased the Israelites like bees and beat them down in Seir. (1)
2. You shall walk after the _____ your God and fear him. (13)
4. He was prince among his brothers of the twelve tribes of Israel. (33)
6. Jesus quoted scripture from this book of the Bible in Matthews Gospel, to rebuke satan. (6&8)
7. The direction the Lord said to Moses for the people to travel after going around Mt. Seir for several days. (2)
9. He shall enter the promise land and cause Israel to inherit it. (1)

- 18.** "The people of Israel are a people for Gods own _____." (26)
- 20.** We are to love God and serve him with all our _____. (11)
- 23.** The number of nations God gave into the hand of Israel, so Israel could take possession of their land as God promised. (7)
- 24.** You shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the _____. (16)
- 25.** God gave to Israel the ten _____.
- 28.** You shall _____ all the yield of your seed, which comes forth from the field year by year. (14)
- 30.** "You are to do what the Lord your God commands you to do with all your heart and _____." (26)
- 31.** The number of days Moses was on the mountain before the Lord gave him two tables of stone. (9)
- 32.** "_____ couches like a lion, he tears the arm, and the crown of the head." (33)
- 33.** "A single _____ shall not prevail against a man for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. (19)
- 36.** Aaron died and was buried there? (10)
- 37.** Because Moses broke faith with the Lord in the midst of the people of Israel at the waters of Meribathkadesh in the wilderness of _____ he was not allowed to enter the promised land. (32)
- 38.** You shall open wide your _____ to your brother, to the needy, and to the poor in the land. (15)
- 10.** After Moses destroyed the calf Aaron had made he threw the dust into what? (9)
- 11.** This was the position Moses laid on the mountain before the Lord. (9)
- 12.** "The Lord your God will raise up for you a _____ like me from among you, from your brethren- him you shall heed." (18)
- 13.** Of all that are in the waters you may eat these: whatever has fins and _____ you may eat. (14)
- 14.** The blood of sacrifices to the Lord is poured out on the _____. (12)
- 16.** And the Lord said to Moses "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to _____. (34)
- 19.** The King of Bashan.
- 21.** " _____ be the man who makes a graven or molten image, an abomination to the Lord, a thing made by the hands of a craftsman, and sets it up in secret." (27)
- 22.** The number of days the people wept for Moses. (34)
- 25.** The Lord said "Not one of these men of this evil generation shall see the good land which I swore to give to your Fathers except _____ the son of Jephunneh. (1)
- 26.** You shall not sacrifice to the Lord your God an ox or sheep in which a blemish, any defect whatever; for that is an _____ to the Lord your God. (17)
- 27.** Moses died there. (34)
- 29.** The Passover is a remembrance of the Israelites coming out of this land. (16)
- 34.** "Every man shall be put to death for his own _____." (24)
- 35.** This will happen to you if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods. (8)



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March 2020

◀ Feb 2020

Apr 2020 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	2 10:00 Spring Arbor Bible Study 7:00 Luther's Large Catechism	3	4 12:00-1:30 Individual Confession & Absolution 6:00 Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 Vesper Service	5 7:00 Choir Practice	6	7
8 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	9 10:00 Spring Arbor Bible Study 7:00 Luther's Large Catechism	10	11 12:00-1:30 Individual Confession & Absolution 6:00 Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 Vesper Service	12 7:00 Council Meeting	13	14
15 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	16 10:00 Spring Arbor Bible Study 7:00 Luther's Large Catechism	17	18 12:00-1:30 Individual Confession & Absolution 6:00 Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 Vesper Service	19 6:00 Outreach Meeting 7:00 Choir Practice	20	21 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Queen Street Diner, Strasburg 9:00 Church Cleaning Day
22 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	23 10:00 Spring Arbor Bible Study 7:00 Luther's Large Catechism	24	25 12:00-1:30 Individual Confession & Absolution 6:00 Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 Vesper Service	26	27	28
29 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	30 10:00 Spring Arbor Bible Study 7:00 Luther's Large Catechism	31				