

# LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH

## APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

Sunday School @ 9:30 am.

Worship Service @ 11:00 am.

10120 Middle Road

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Lebanon Church, VA 22641

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*John 3:16*

*For God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in  
him should not perish but  
have eternal life.*



*John 11:25-26*

*Jesus said "I am the resurrection  
and the life; he who believes in  
me, though he die, yet shall he  
live, and whoever lives and  
believes in me shall never die."*



**NALC**  
North American Lutheran Church



*Pastor Chris Porter*

## *A Message From, The The Desk Of, The Pastor*

Grace and peace from our Resurrected Lord, Jesus Christ!

It is my sincere prayer that all of you are remaining in good health and are praying for one another. I am taking some time off this week to rest from this singularly strange Holy Week – but I am sending some lines to remind you of the Good News of the Gospel in the meantime.

First, I am still planning to have the chicken stock available for any who would like it. I hope to start making it tomorrow (Wednesday the fifteenth) and will make it available to each congregation. I'll send word when it is completed. Send a message if you would like some, I can have it on-hand or in the freezer at Lebanon.

Second, I am looking forward to reconvening Bible Study and Confessions study via ZOOM next week. I have been provided with an account that will enable us to meet without time restriction. I also hope to resume the CREDO study groups within the next two weeks. I will communicate definite plans regarding this on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Third, I am constantly following reports and developments regarding the pandemic and I am beginning to think about our future as congregations of Jesus Christ. I will be in communication with each Council regarding a timeline for small groups to gather for worship or other purposes. I cannot offer a definite start date for any of this, and each congregation may come to its own conclusions as to when this will be desirable. My chief concerns as pastor of both Advent and Lebanon remain the spiritual and temporal welfare of the parishioners, and obedience to the proper civil authorities. I ask for your prayers, especially that God would grant us wisdom, prudence, and courage to be the Church He has called us to be in this difficult time – seeking His will in all things.

Please know that I am still available for conversation and consultation through phone, email, and text.

In the meantime, I offer some selections from a pastoral letter composed by the Rev. Matthew Fenn for his congregation in Ontario, Canada. He has graciously given me permission to reproduce it. I found it to be very helpful for our present situation. All bracketed material is my own:

As I write this, it is Easter Tuesday. At this point we have gone without gathering for worship for over a month. As yet, we still do not know how long we will have to go on in these present circumstances. The reality is, we could have several more months of physical distancing, quarantine, and stay-at-home recommendations. Yet, far worse than not gathering together, is our [present inability to receive] the True Body and True Blood of our Lord and Savior [as we would normally receive it]. Since gathering together to receive Holy Communion is a defining feature of what it means to be the Church, [some may be experiencing distress at this privation]... Our life together as a church does not feel complete without gathering around the Altar. Our celebration of Holy Week did not feel complete without receiving Communion on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday.

[We can see why] Holy Communion is so important... when we [consider] ... what the Bible teaches about it. When we receive communion, we receive in our mouths not only bread and wine, but along with the bread and wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus. This, of course, is proven by the simple words of Christ himself, "Take, eat; this is my body," "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood," (Matt. 26:26-28).

But, receiving the Sacrament with our mouths and receiving it in such a way that we benefit from it are two different things. This is an important distinction. The prayer entitled, "Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament," on the inside of the front cover of our Lutheran Service Book helps explain this distinction: "Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal." Did you see the difference? We receive with our mouths the Holy Sacrament, but we will not benefit from the grace that God offers except by faith. That explains why the Apostle Paul warns that a person without faith can receive Holy Communion to his harm and judgment (1 Cor. 11:27-30).

Christ our Lord also makes the same point. In the Gospel of John chapter six, commonly called "The Bread of Life Discourse", Jesus shocks the people of Capernaum by claiming, "he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day," (John 6:54). It is not hard to see why these verses have been cited throughout the centuries as referring to the Lord's Supper. However, Martin Luther disagreed. Referring to this passage Luther remarked, "There the Lord refers to spiritual eating and drinking, to the eating not of the mouth but of the soul." What Luther is saying is that this passage is actually about obtaining the benefits of Jesus' flesh and blood. But wait, Jesus is talking about eating his flesh and blood! Surely this is a clear reference to Communion! Can you really eat Christ without the Lord's Supper? In fact, Christ himself makes himself very clear. "Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst,'" (John 6:35). Here, Jesus is saying that to come and believe in Christ is to eat and drink his flesh and blood! He is referring to another type of eating, one done by faith.

Our Lutheran Confessions also refer to two types of eating and understanding this will help us get through this difficult time where we cannot partake of the Holy Communion. The Formula of Concord says,

'There is a twofold eating of Christ's flesh. One is spiritual, which Christ describes especially in John 6:54. This "eating" happens in no other way than with the Spirit and faith, in preaching and meditation on the Gospel, as well as in the Lord's Supper. By itself this is useful and helpful, and necessary for all Christians, at all times, for salvation. Without this spiritual participation the sacramental or oral eating in the Supper is not only not helpful, but is even harmful and damning.

This spiritual eating is nothing other than faith. It means to hear God's Word (in which Christ, true God and man, is presented to us, together with all benefits that He has purchased for us by His flesh given into death for us, and by His blood shed for us, namely, God's grace, the forgiveness of sins, righteousness, and eternal life). It means to receive it with faith and keep it for ourselves. It means that in all troubles and temptations we firmly rely—with sure confidence and trust—and abide in this consolation: we have a gracious God and eternal salvation because of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, while during this difficult time we are unable to receive Holy Communion, we can still "eat" Christ. What does that mean? It means that despite our time of separation, the Word of God is still available to us. To eat Christ spiritually means to believe the promises of the Gospel. It ... appropriating for ourselves by faith all that Jesus did for us on the Cross. God is still offering us His "divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal." He does so through the Word, wherever it is read or heard. The exact same grace and forgiveness which God offers to us when we receive the Lord's Supper in faith is offered to us when we trust God's promises to us offered in the Word. Our greatest comfort and during this time is that God has not left us alone. No, we are given the sure and certain confidence that because Jesus Christ has died for our sins... and [is now Risen from the dead], we know that God is gracious to us. Jesus Christ is the bread of life, and this is the bread that, "is given, and given to be broken in death, so that those who eat of it may not die, but have eternal life in the present and the future and be raised up on the last day." God has not abandoned us in wrath, but because of Jesus, he continues to extend mercy and forgiveness to us. When we trust in this God, who extends forgiveness for Christ's sake, then we are truly eating of Christ!

...

Before I end this article, I want to thank all the people at Advent and Lebanon for their understanding and support at this time.

Special thanks to both Councils, and the presidents: Sally and Brenda. You have shared the difficult decisions with me, and I am grateful for your service to the people of God. To Pastor J.D.: for all your help with the Holy Week Services and your continuing educational ministry. To all those who helped with setting up for Holy Week: Carolyn and Missy and J.D. and Joy, especially. To Brenda and Mike for tirelessly working to make the purchase of the land next-door a reality. To Jeff and Lebanon's Outreach Committee for your recent work with the hospital and businesses... phenomenal work, really. To Sheryl, Lebanon's new secretary, you have been gracious and enterprising during this whole weird thing. To my wife Colleen for seemingly infinite patience and for your good work with the masks, and to Sue for your assistance in numerous things. Thanks also to George for the great work providing music for our services, for tech and moral support, and for all around general helpfulness.

To those who have been steadfast in your giving...to all who contributed to the service projects and who otherwise helped in big and small ways - you are a blessing to our churches and our communities!

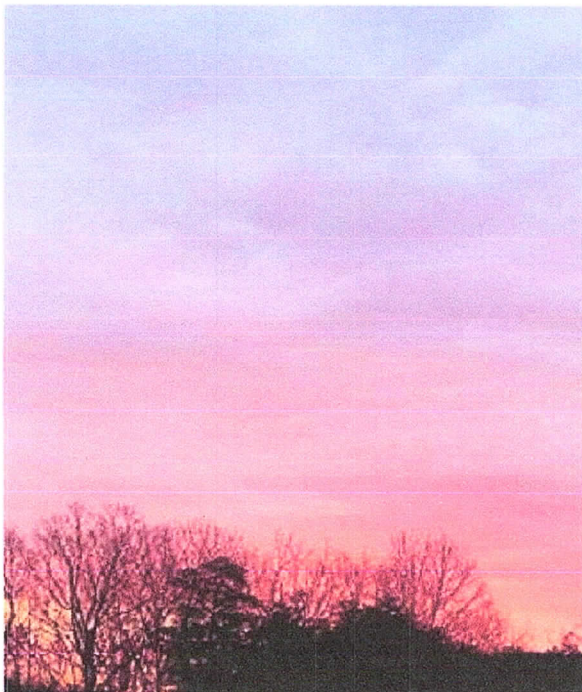
May our merciful Lord continually renew and sustain your faith by His eternal Word, this Easter Season and beyond!

Prayerfully,

Pastor Porter



The Cross was decorated for Palm Sunday with palms and then set outside on the walk for Holy Week for all who passed by to see. Then the Cross was decorated with Lilies for Easter. Thanks to Lisa Hart and Missy Hockman for decorating the Cross.



**Above:** Sunrise Easter Morning.

Bottom pictures by Brenda Rose. Thanks



Tulips at the Breezeway entrance to the Sunday School addition to the Church.



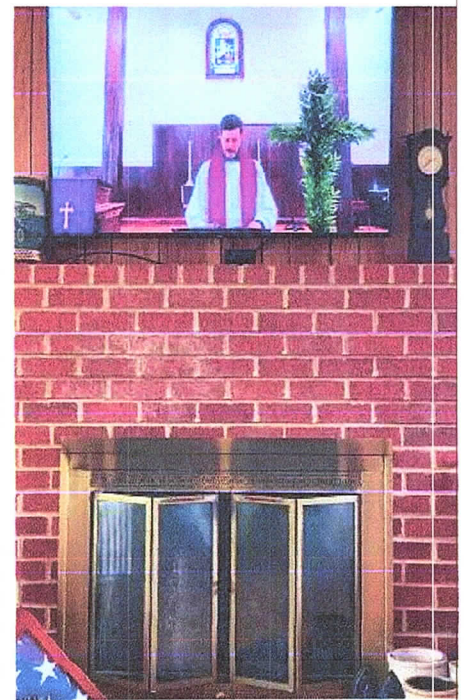
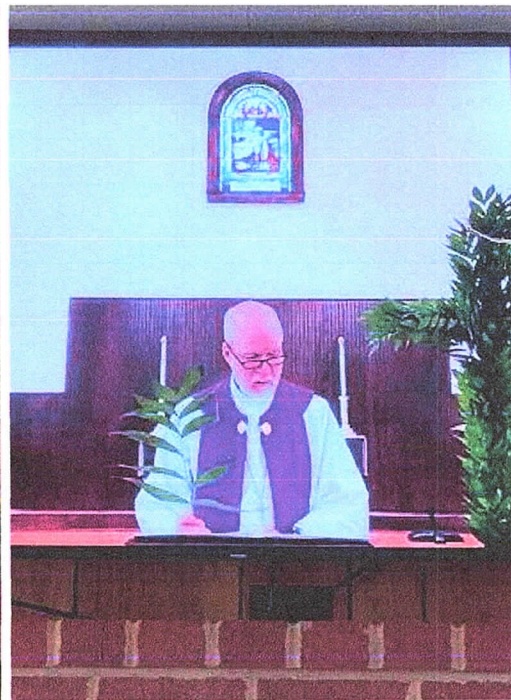
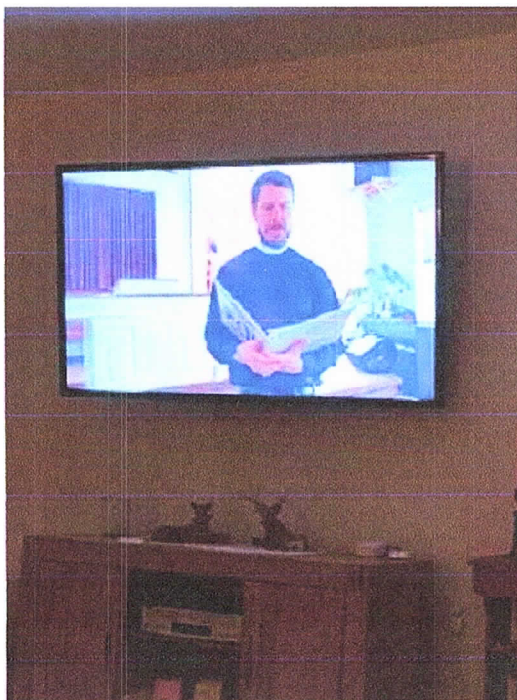
Who would have thought on Shrove Tuesday, that in order to Worship our Lord on Easter we would be sitting at home, streaming services led by Pastor's Chris and JD, with George accompanying on the piano? Thank you all for bringing the worship service into our homes via Facebook. Although we are apart physically, we are still one in Christ.



Above: Joy and Martha at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

### Look who's hit the big time!

Who said our Pastor's aren't ready for the big screen? Well here they are direct to your living room, family room or on your computer screen! We thank you for what you have done, during this pandemic, for those who thirst or hunger for the word of God and his Son our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May our Lord be with you.



## Outreach



**Above left:** As a part of outreach Easter Lilies were displayed at Nancy's Coffee Bar and at Rockingham Coop.

**Above right:** The sign which was displayed for the Lilies with a take a Lily home. Thanks to Martha, Karla, Dave, Dorothy and Missy for making signs, labeling and putting into containers.

**Below:** Members of Shenandoah Memorial Hospital Valley Health displaying the Easter Lily buds which were donated by the outreach committee. Given for those on the frontlines or first responders to this virus they were very grateful that we did this. Pictures were put out on social media by the staff Thanking Lebanon Lutheran Church. Thanks to Sheri and Kristin for labeling Lilies and delivering to the hospital.



## The New Land Purchase



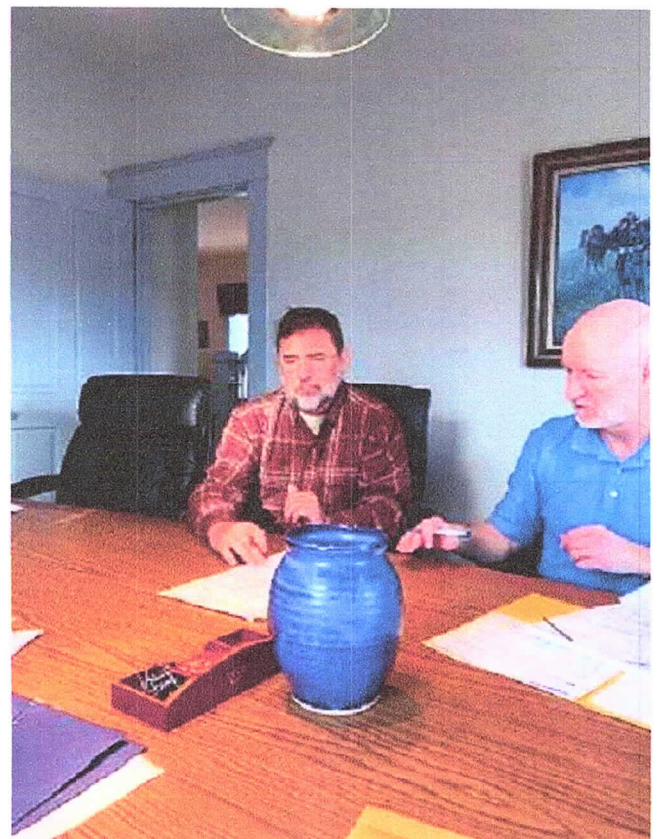
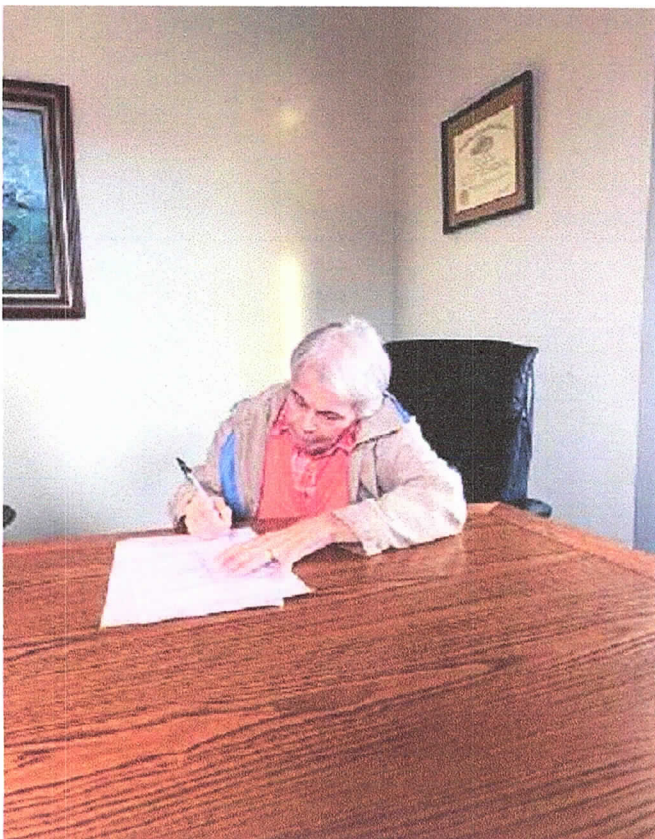
The land consisting of 3.58 acres adjacent to the church on Middle Road which was approved for purchase by the voting membership in February. Went to closing on March 20, 2020 at Jay Neal's office in Woodstock. Pictured standing Jay Neal of Neal Law, Melissa Crider of Sager Real Estate, sitting left to right are the Trustees of the Church: David Leathers, JD Cutlip and Lucy King.

**Below left:** Lucy King signing the contracts.

**Below right:** David and JD signing.

This is a great addition to our church property!

**Blessed be the Lord for giving us this ability!**





Keep Judy Martin and her family in your prayers as her mother passed away recently. If you would like to send Judy a card her address is 146 North Eberly Street, Strasburg, VA 22657.

## Sunday Worship

Join us

Live on our Facebook page

@ 10 am.

Hear the Word of our Lord!

## *April Birthday's*

*1<sup>st</sup> Carrie Snow*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Kara Hockman*

*9<sup>th</sup> Brandi Rosenberger*

*11<sup>th</sup> Lucy King*

*19<sup>th</sup> Lisa Parks*

*30<sup>th</sup> Leslie Heird*

## *Anniversaries*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Jackson & Karla Funkouser*

*5<sup>th</sup> Steve & Shirley Foster*

*7<sup>th</sup> Willard & Wilda Clem*

*Thank you for all you do!*  
*Compliments of*  
*Lebanon Lutheran Church*  
*lebanonlutheranchurch.org*  
*Visit us on Facebook*

Through the Outreach Committee we will be sending the staff at Shenandoah Co. Memorial Hospital 75 box lunches Sat. April 18, and 75 box Lunches Saturday April 25, via the Queen St. Diner.

As they rotate day and evening shifts each weekend we hope to cover all.

The above will be the label on all the boxes.

## Sunday School

Join the Lebanon  
Bunch

@

8:30 am on Sunday's

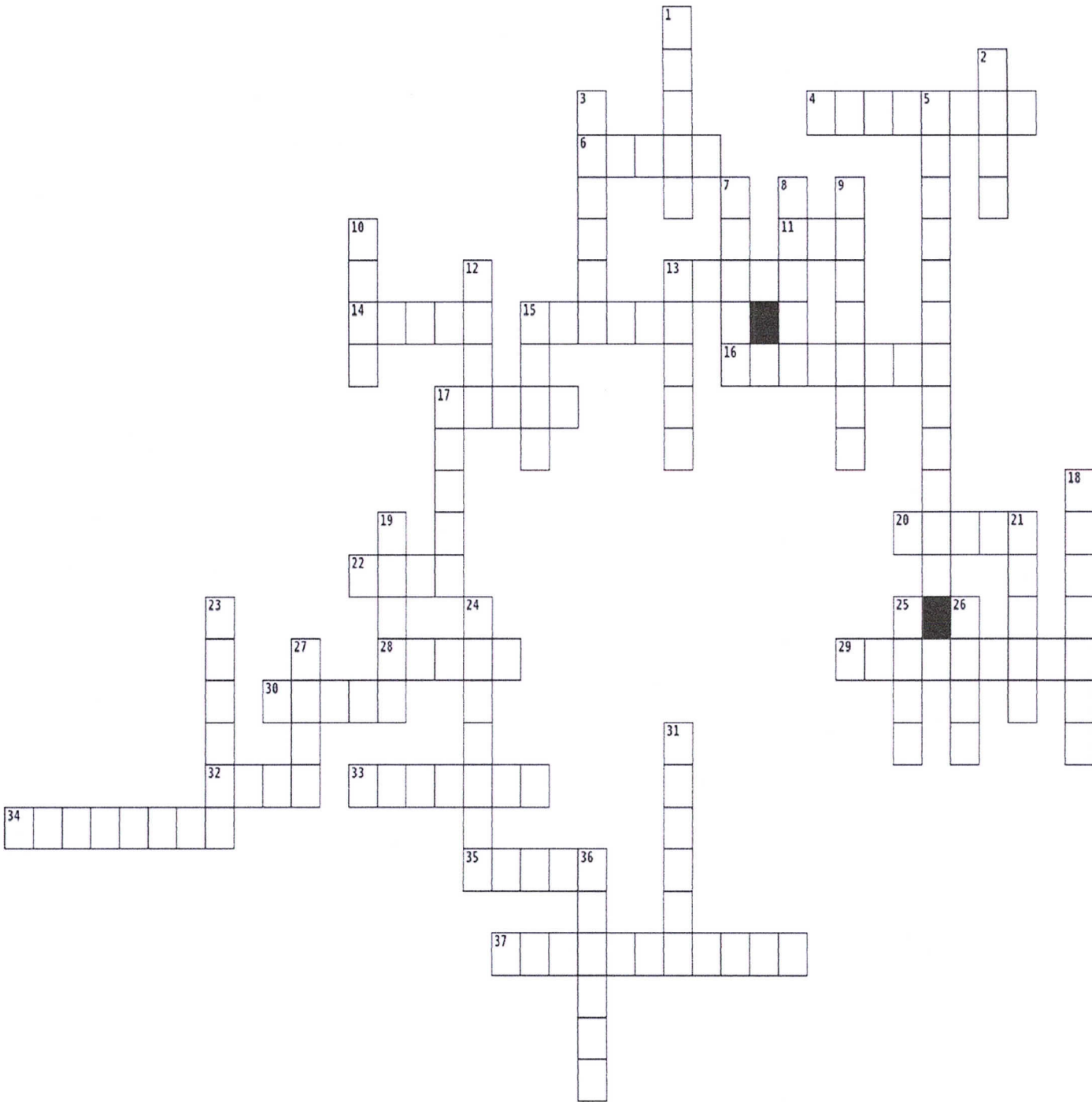
VIA Zoom

Contact JD via

Cell (540) 481-3361

To Join.

# The Gospel of John



## Across

1. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have \_\_\_\_\_ life." (3)

## Down

2. By this sea Jesus revealed himself a third time to the disciples. (21)
3. Grace and \_\_\_\_\_ came through Jesus Christ. (1)

6. Because the Jews sought to kill Jesus he did not go about there. (7)
7. On the cross after Jesus had received the vinegar, he gave this up. (19)
8. The well that the Samaritan woman talked with Jesus. (4)
10. Number of days Lazarus was in the tomb? (11)
13. Jesus did this to the Father on earth. (17)
15. Jesus himself did not baptize, but they did baptize. (4)
17. When Jesus said he would rebuild the temple in three days he was speaking of his \_\_\_\_\_. (2)
20. This means teacher. (1)
21. He put it into the heart, of Judas, to betray Jesus. (13)
22. Jesus said "I am the way, and the truth and the \_\_\_\_\_, no one comes to the Father, but by me." (14)
24. Jesus blood is this indeed. (6)
26. This means Christ. (1)
27. Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with this ointment. (12)
29. The law was given through \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
31. Jesus did this on the sabbath, to the ill man. (5)
33. Jesus said "This is my \_\_\_\_\_ that you love one another as I have loved you." (15)
34. When Jesus said he picked his twelve disciples and one was a devil, who was he referring to? (6)
35. "For the \_\_\_\_\_ loves the son, and shows him all that he himself is doing." (5)
36. For fear of the \_\_\_\_\_ no one spoke openly of Jesus. (7)
4. Jesus said "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the life." (11)
5. In the beginning was the \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
9. Jesus made this and anointed the man's eyes with it. (9)
11. Jesus said "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of life; he that comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst." (6)
12. In this you have tribulation, but Jesus has overcome this? (16)
14. Men loved darkness rather than light because their \_\_\_\_\_ were evil. (3)
15. Jesus said "If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste \_\_\_\_\_." (8)
16. He cut off the right ear of the high priest's slave? (18)
18. This has not overcome the light. (1)
19. It took forty-six years to build this. (2)
23. Jesus said "unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the \_\_\_\_\_ of God." (3)
25. In him was life, and the life was the \_\_\_\_\_ of men. (1)
28. Outside the tomb, Mary Magdalene thought Jesus was whom? (19)
30. He is the good shepherd. (10)
32. This is where the marriage feast took place in Galilee. (2)
35. The bread which Jesus gave for the life of the world is his \_\_\_\_\_. (6)

# The Book of Joshua

1 w a r  
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 7 c a v e  
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 11 j o s h u a  
 12 c  
 13 t r e a s u r y  
 14 d a n  
 15 t  
 16 m  
 17 j e r i c h o  
 18 d  
 19 a s h e r  
 20 z e l o p h e h a d  
 21 p  
 22 m  
 23 k i n g  
 24 s  
 25 p r i e s t s  
 26 e  
 27 c o u r  
 28 a g e  
 29 o t h i n e l  
 30 e  
 31 w  
 32 j  
 33 a c h a n  
 34 i s s a c h a r  
 35 a  
 36 m o s e s  
 37 e p h r a i m  
 38 g i b b e o n

### 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)