

Lebanon Lutheran Church October Newsletter 2020

Sunday School 9:30am

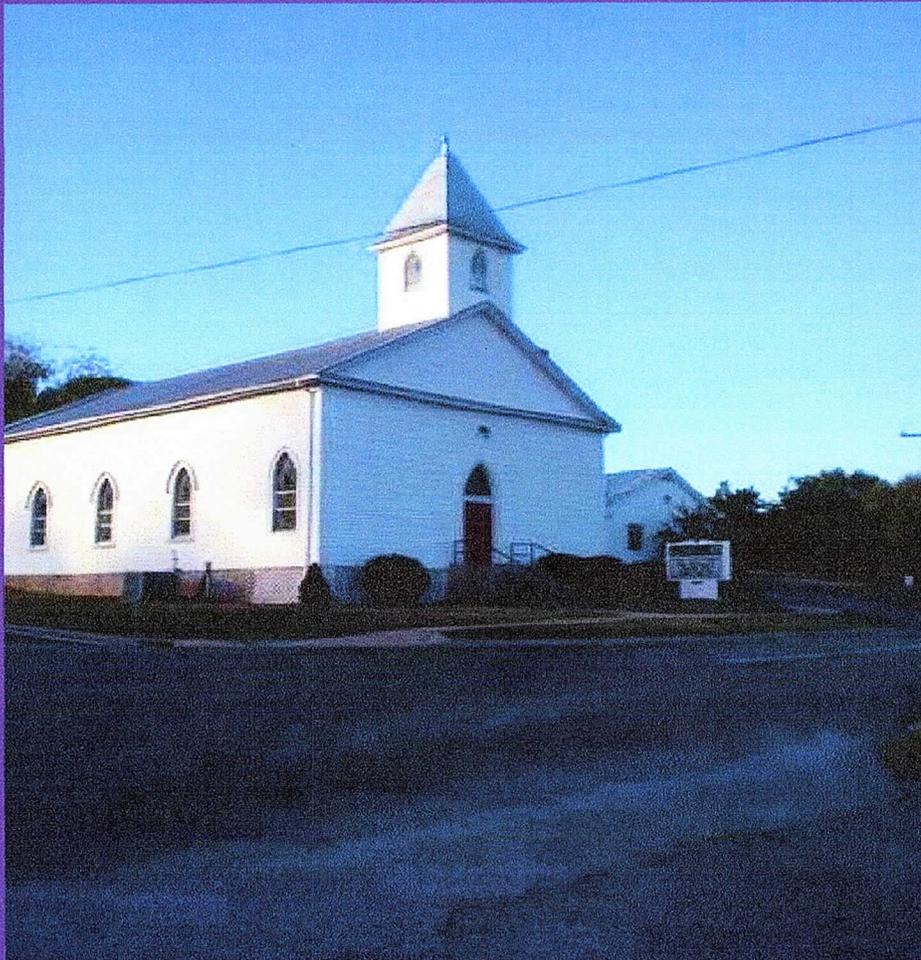
10120 Middle Road

Phone: (540)465-5456

Worship 11:00am

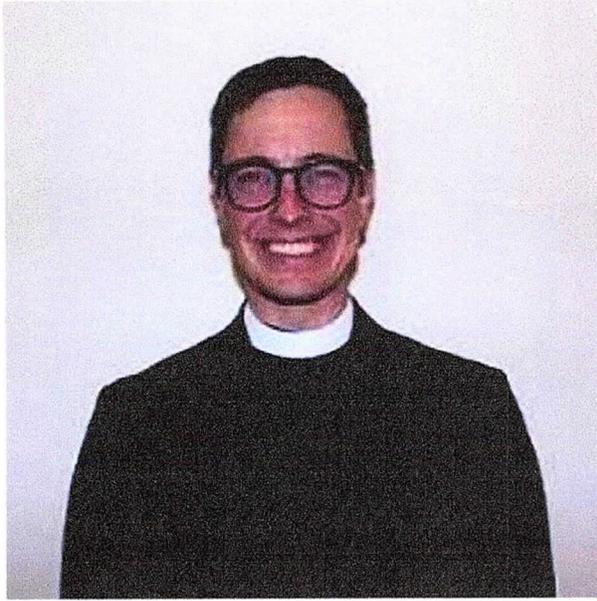
Lebanon Church Va. 22641

Email: pastor.lebanon@gmail.com



NALC

North American Lutheran Church



Pastor Christopher Porter

A Message From The Desk Of The Pastor

Matthew 10:34–39 (ESV): 34 “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

This portion of Jesus’ discipleship teaching is not one that the church often likes to contemplate. It sounds divisive, and it is! Does Jesus really mean this? Can it be that we are really to actively dissolve the bonds that exist between members of our own family? What about the Fourth Commandment? What about the goodness of fatherhood and motherhood as a godly vocation? It all sounds too harsh to be true. Maybe Jesus simply means that we should give Him preference over worldly things... but that doesn’t seem to match the strength of His language.

Whoever loves his... more than me is not worthy of me.

To properly appreciate the passage, one must see it as instruction for the time of the mission of the Spirit-led Church in the world of powers that are *opposed to Jesus*. Jesus is preparing his newly floundering disciples for the full implications of a life of opposition to faith in Him. He wants His disciples to understand that there will be a worldly cost to holding firm in the faith. He is not calling for an active disavowal of family life, but He is certainly saying that where the Spirit works faith in a person, the world will not like it – indeed, it will hate it. The fallen world does not want a human being to have Jesus Christ in the highest place, it believes it has a primary claim on the Church’s loyalty. The faith of the Church is that this highest place, the throne in our hearts, should belong to Jesus and Jesus alone. If one gives up faith in Jesus, one is no longer a Christian, there is no in-between. Whether we like it or not, and we usually don’t, faith in

Jesus will be the occasion to demote some other lesser love. Some in our communities, some in our own families, will think we have lost our minds, or that faith in Jesus means that we hate other things that they value. Here in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus does not envision a world where one may follow Him and still have all the worldly niceties that were in place prior to having faith in Him.

Count the cost (Lk. 14:28). There is a cost to loving Jesus as our savior, but it is the only love that finally leads to spiritual life and true freedom in this world. Apart from the presence of the Spirit of God that Jesus gives, our hearts constantly look for natural and worldly things as the most important. But if we reject the Spirit's leading and follow our natural inclinations, we will become enslaved by world anew.

I think this is good to recall as we come to the cusp of a new election cycle. There are many in our world who see political realities as the highest and most important things, and so treat those who disagree with their convictions as utterly without value – nearly subhuman. Many social commentators have suggested that where religious faith (understood as commitment to transcendent things of ultimate value) diminishes, political vitriol increases. Why? Because people mistakenly believe that if candidate x does not win election y, or policy x is not adopted, then the entire cosmos is corrupted – nearly beyond redemption. Or at least many seem to behave in this manner. All putative gods are jealous. They demand our entire devotion. Therefore, those who effectively raise their political convictions to the level of religious devotion tend to become not just intolerant, but fanatical. It should not be so among Christians. Jesus reveals the heart of God, our convictions about the ordering of the world do not. And it's a good thing they don't. Jesus is far more gracious than anything that comes from our hearts – even the best and most sensible things we think we are right about.

I will hasten to add that worldly politics are not unimportant. It matters if we have the freedom to worship unimpeded by the constraints of worldly authority. It matters if governments effect wicked policies and their outcomes. Christians confess that the world really should be a certain way. Luther thought of civil authority as the *left hand, ruling of God*. This means that God is active in the work of just and moral governance, that is, He is actively using it to bring about His purposes. The chief thing we are to expect, as Christians, from our governments is that they restrain the wicked and encourage the good. This is known as the *first use of the Law*. In our nation we are given the ability to exercise a degree of self-rule. All citizens can make use of that ability to enfranchise a more just form of governance. What we are not to expect is final or ultimate justice, or that any government can bring about the Kingdom of God on earth. Only God through Christ's saving grace and final coming can do that. Lutherans call this special work of God the *right hand, ruling*, and it takes place in the Church through the means of grace, until Jesus returns. We should not confuse these two ways in which God rules His world.

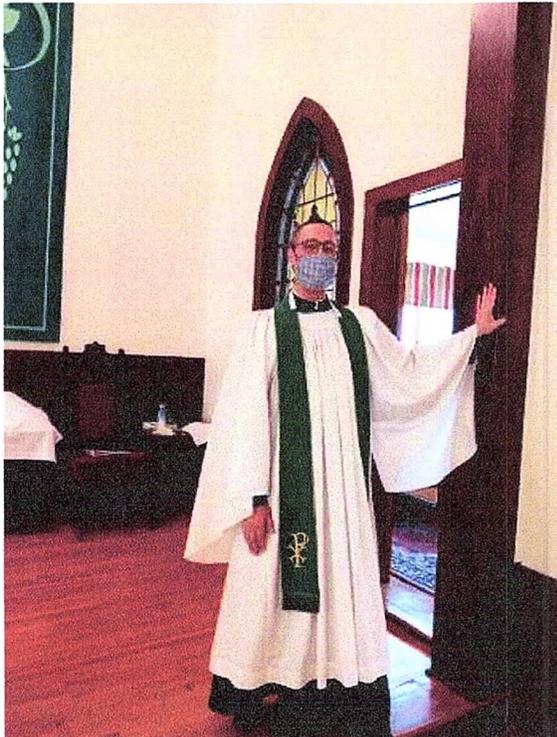
There is a lot more I could write, but I will conclude with this: hold Jesus higher than any of your other convictions. As an aid to doing this, I will offer some practical counsel for the time when we approach the voting booth:

- Know and confess that Jesus is Lord or lords and King of kings. No other figure, no other ideology or philosophy, should ever rival this conviction.
- Consider Ecclesiastes – one of the overall messages of this book is that humans are weak and prone to error. Life is complicated and mysterious. We really don't know as much as we often think we do. If you think that any political philosophy can finally answer every question, reconsider. Consider the grass, how it withers in a moment.

- Recite and meditate on the Ten holy Commandments of our God – not only will they show you your own sin and your own lack of self-knowledge, but they will also show what God really does demand. They will serve to humble anyone willing to seriously entertain them.
- Consider the Beatitudes (Mat. 5:3-12, Lk. 6:20-22), they will orient you to the things that Jesus considers to be the state of those who are truly favored, happy, and blessed.
- Pray the Lord’s Prayer – when faithful Christians do this, they call upon their faithful God to bring about His perfect ruling in His time. This prayer serves all people. It reminds us that God is in control. It exercises the privilege of the faithful to effect ultimate change by the power of God’s will. It reminds Christians to be humble beggars for God’s grace.
- Do not demonize those who oppose you. Human beings have an awful history of succumbing to the temptation to strip the humanity from those whom they believe to be their enemies. Your enemy is a fallible human being, created by the God, Who, sent His Son to save them from their sins – just as He did for you and me.
- Pray for civil peace and orderly elections.
- Pray for your enemies. (Mat. 5:44)

Prayerfully,

Pastor Porter



Pastor Porter and Reverend Cutlip are masked up and are always ready to serve the Word and Sacraments of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Coming Events at Lebanon

Sunday School Class led by Rev. J.D. is meeting at 9:30 on Sunday mornings at church. If you are unable to join us at church it is also available via Zoom.

*Please see Rev. J.D. for Zoom access info.

There will be an Outreach Meeting on October 8th @ 6:00. Everyone is invited to attend.

October Birthday's

3rd Jeff Smoot

6th Jennifer Neal

7th Shirley Foster

8th George Beauchesne

8th Tammy Leathers

15th Steve Lowe

26th Jessica Smith

24th Melvin Harris

30th Martha Artz-Cain

October Anniversaries

3rd Chris & Leslie Heird

We are searching for a pianist for the church. If you know of someone, please see Pastor Chris or a member of Council.

The Reading Revelation as a Responsible Christian Class meets on Monday's @ 7 pm Via Zoom Led by Pastor Chris. All are invited to attend.

**See Pastor Chris for Zoom access info.*

CREDO Class

Class meets every other Thursday @ 7 pm Via Zoom

Led by Pastor Chris. All are invited to attend.

**See Pastor Chris for CREDO access info*

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

Please contact:

Ann Deming

@ (540)869-5795

And leave a message.

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

Cell: (540) 220-7346

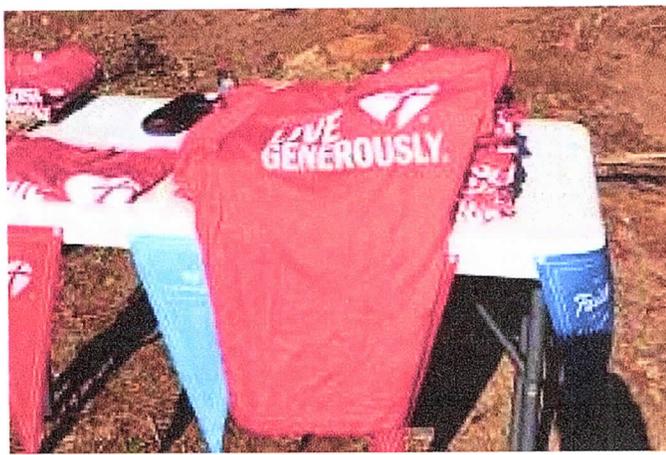
Email:

jhamman@shentel.net

Land Dedication Service



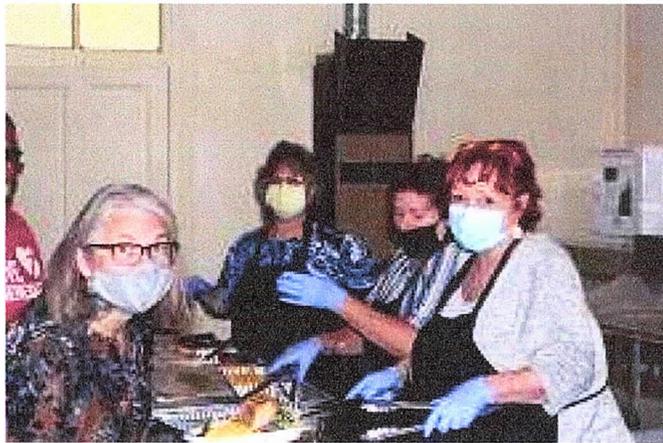
The service of the dedication of the land was led by Pastor Chris. After the dedication Pastor Chris, Announced thank you's for members who have helped in the life of the congregation in a variety of roles.

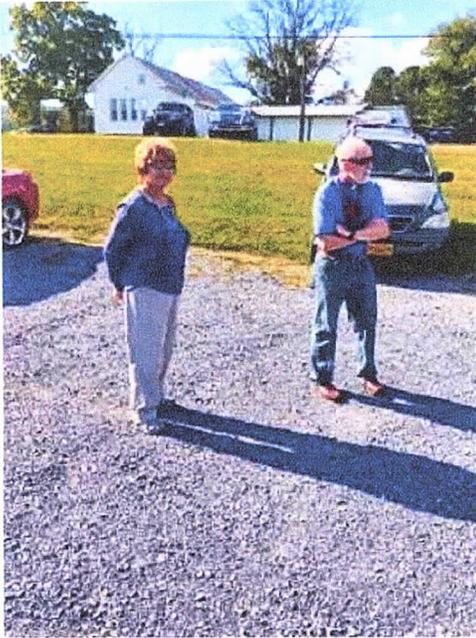


Thanks to Thrivent for sponsoring the dedication.

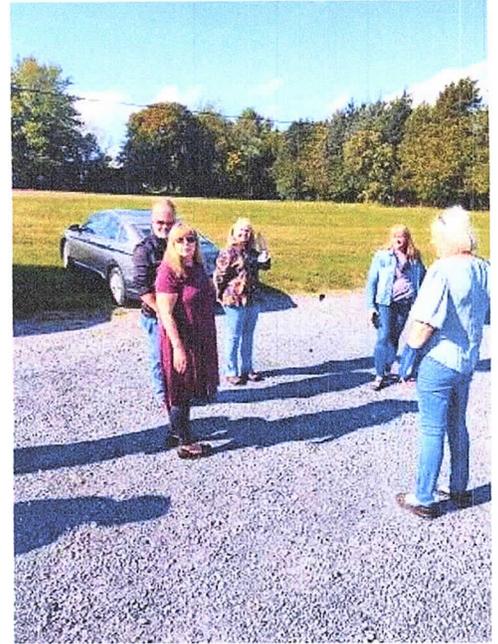


Thanks to Brenda (president of council) the council, Pastor Chris and all who helped with the event.





I've heard of after
The service parking
Lot meetings but
Never beforehand?



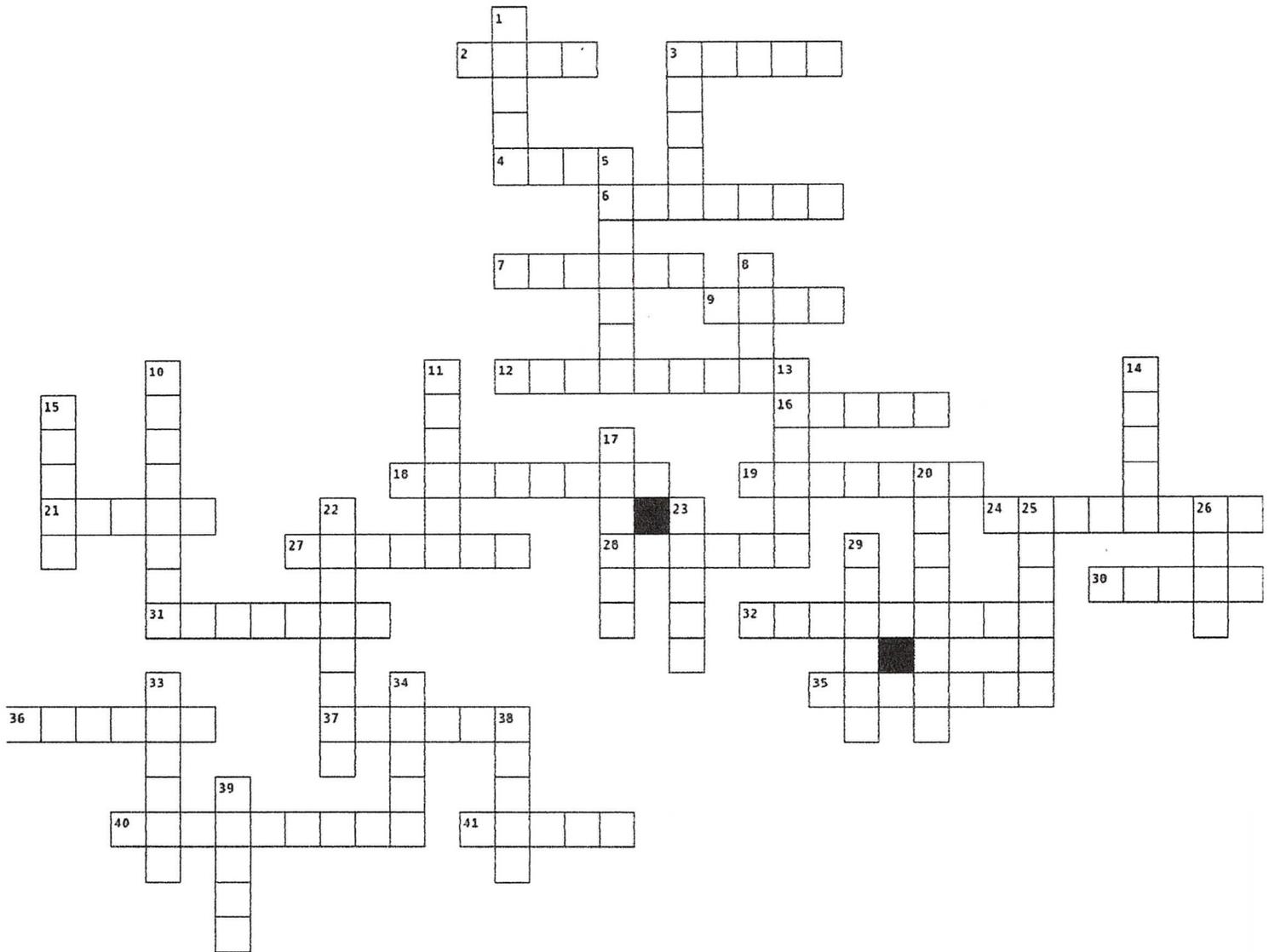
The food was catered by Shaffer's if you didn't attend you missed a great meal and fellowship.



As we keep our Pastor well fed with food for the human life,
he keeps us fed with the Word of God and the Sacrament
of the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you, Pastor for all you do.

First Kings



Across

2. This killed the disobedient prophet. (13)
3. King Solomon built a fleet of these at Ezion-geber. (9)
4. Ahinadab was his son. (4)
6. He is put in place of Joab over the army. (2)
7. The whole of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his _____. (10)
9. All of Solomon's drinking vessels were made of this. (10)
12. Solomon's mother (1)
16. Nathan the prophet and _____ the priest anoint Solomon king over Israel. (1)
18. The ark of the covenant was sat under the wings

Down

1. According to the word of the Lord he destroyed all the house of Baasha. (16)
3. The number of years it took to build the temple. (6)
5. He hides 100 prophets in caves divided by 50. (18)
8. He is struck down in the tent of the Lord by the altar. (2)
10. Solomon speaks 3000 of these. (4)
11. The prophets of Baal were brought to this brook and slaughtered. (18)
13. Jehoshaphat's mother. (22)
14. He reigned in the place of Jeroboam after his death. (14)

- of this, in the most Holly Place of the temple. (8)
19. Adonijah wants her for a wife. (2)
 21. The number of times a year Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. (9)
 24. The Lord gave him ten tribes to be king over because Solomon turned away from the Lord. (11)
 27. Of this forest Solomon built his house. (7)
 28. He stays with the widow of Zarcphath. (17)
 30. The ceiling of the temple was made of beams and planks from what type of wood. (6)
 31. He is given great wisdom by the Lord. (3)
 32. They knew how to cut timber. (5)
 35. Ahab was buried there. (22)
 36. He was in charge of the palace. (4)
 37. He was Baashas father (15)
 40. 400 prophet's of Asherah ate at her table. (18)
 41. The Lord raised up this Edomite against Solomon. (11)
15. The number of years David reigned over Israel. (2)
 17. This was the great high place. (3)
 20. He prepared himself to be king after David (1)
 22. Solomon's son who served as king of Judah.(12)
 23. Solomon had 700 of these. (11)
 25. Elijah anoints this person to be prophet in his place. (19)
 26. He is the king of Israel married to Jezebel. (21)
 29. This taskmaster was stoned to death by all Israel (12)
 33. Elijah anoints this man to be king over Syria. (19)
 34. The servants of the king of Syria said the God of Israel was the God of this and not the plains. (20)
 38. This king of Tyre supplied Solomon with all the cedar and cypress he desired. (5)
 39. This of Solomon turned away from the Lord. (11)

Across

2. Cornelius was not a Jew but this. (10)
3. Paul says after he leaves the Ephesians this would come in among them. (20)
7. Philip baptizes a eunuch from this place. (8)
8. He went with Barnabas and sailed away to Cyprus. (15)
11. God also granted this to the Gentiles that leads to life. (11)
12. Paul testifies to the local leaders of the Jews in Rome trying to convince them about Jesus from the law of Moses and _____. (28)
14. Paul was this by trade. (18)
19. He was the first disciple killed. (7)
20. He spoke boldly on the things concerning Jesus and refuted the Jews in public. (18)
23. Desiring to do the Jews a favor he leaves Paul in prison. (24)
25. Handkerchiefs and _____ as they had touched Paul's skin were carried away to the sick. (19)
27. He was sent to Antioch and then he went to Tarsus to look for Saul. (11)
29. "To the unknown God" was written on what in Athens? (17)
31. Paul is brought before this king that he might be examined. (25)
33. The number of days Paul and the men on the ship went without eating. (27)
34. He spoke to Saul on the road to Damascus. (9)
35. The number of men appointed to take care of the Hebrew widows. (6)
36. The people of Lystra thought Paul and Barnabas were what? (14)
39. The disciples were baptized with this? (1)
40. This apostle addresses the crowd. (2)

Down

1. Paul said "the times of ignorance, God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to do this." (17)
4. He replaces Judas as a disciple. (1)
5. He was a magician in Samaria. (8)
6. Herod killed this disciple with the sword. (12)
9. Who freed the apostles during the night from jail? (5)
10. The lame beggar entered the temple walking and _____ and praising God. (3)
13. On this day the Apostles were all filled with the Holy Spirit. (2)
15. Agrippa says to this man about Paul "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar." (26)
16. The gentiles were told to abstain from making sacrifices to these. (15)?
17. He laid his hands on Saul that he may see and be filled with the Holy Spirit. (9)
18. Paul was stoned there. (14)
21. The full number of those who believed were of one _____. (4)
22. He was a Pharisee a teacher of the law held in honor of the people. (5)
24. He was arrested with Peter for proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. (4)
26. They say there is no resurrection. (23)
28. This prophet tells Paul how he is to be bound in Jerusalem. (21)
30. Paul was a citizen of _____. (22)
32. Saul was called _____. (13)
37. Paul and Barnabas shook this of their feet at Antioch when they left. (13)
38. He fell down before Paul and Silas and asked what must he do to be saved? (16)



Lebanon Lutheran Church



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October 2020

◀ Sep 2020

Nov 2020 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 Credo Class	2	3 4:00 Land Dedication
4 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	5 7:00 Reading Revelations as a Responsible Christian	6	7	8 6:00 Outreach Meeting 7:00 Church Council Meeting	9	10
11 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	12 7:00 Reading Revelations as a Responsible Christian	13	14	15 7:00 Credo Class	16	17
18 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	19 7:00 Reading Revelations as a Responsible Christian	20	21	22	23	24
25 Reformation Day 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	26 7:00 Reading Revelations as a Responsible Christian	27	28	29 7:00 Credo Class	30	31

More Calendars: [Nov 2020](#), [Dec 2020](#), [2020](#)