

Lebanon Lutheran Church

January Newsletter 2021

Sunday School 9:30am.

Worship Service 11:00am.

Phone (540) 465-5456

10120 Middle Road

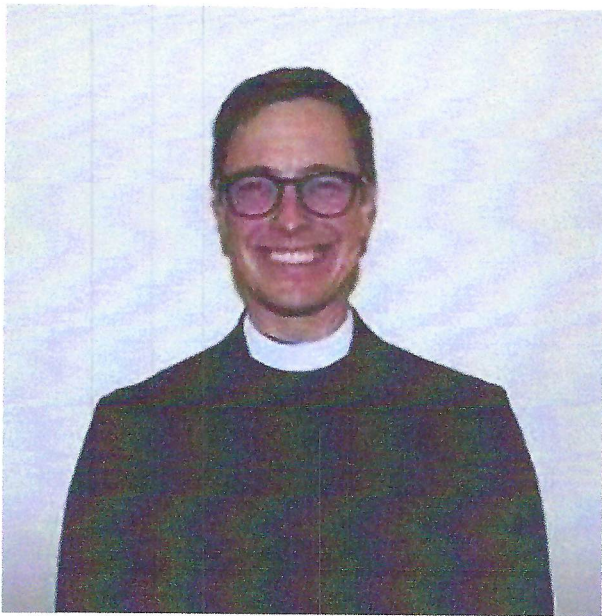
Lebanon Church Va. 22641

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NALC

North American Lutheran Church



*A Message From The Desk Of
The Pastor*

Pastor Christopher Porter

Christ's peace and blessings in this new Christian year and in Christmastide!

I have had a terrible case of "writers block" for a few months, no doubt enabled and furthered by the many challenging circumstances of our time – both personally and in terms of our shared social situation. The family and I are doing fine, but we have had some small preoccupations with the purchase of a home and the challenges of COVID 19. No one is presently ill, but the concerns over two parishes and their respective members' health have not abated.

The only way through this condition, at least insofar as one needs to remain productive to meet real or imagined obligations, is to press through it, so I have been told.

As Advent and the Christmastide beyond it are times of "newness" in the Church – the new Christian year and the new round of our Lord's life and ministry breathing new and abundant life into our old and tired lives – I have been thinking long about the ways in which our congregational culture and spiritual lives may likewise be renewed.

I have had some assistance in this through reading two books in tandem: Henry Blamires' *The Christian Mind*, and Antonin Sertillanges' *The Intellectual Life*. The authors come from varying Christian Confessions (Blamires was an Anglican and Sertillanges a Roman Catholic). They respond to different though related questions and the attendant challenges they imply. To the question, "Do modern Britons and Americans have a Christian mind, that is, a manner of thinking that is distinct from that of the secular world?" Blamires emphatically states that they do not, while Sertillanges (writing somewhat earlier and from the context of a life in a religious order) gives a practical

description of a Christian manner of thinking and prescriptions for obtaining it. It is necessary to understand that Blamires' assertion *is not* that there is no basis for a specifically Christian intellectual tradition, but that our dominant culture, and the churches that live and breathe within it, no longer have a "Christian mind". At best, those churches have a certain residue of a Christian mind, vestiges, but are in the main content to think in secularist categories about all of reality, even those specifically "Christian areas reality" (as the secularists may still sometimes allow)... this is the main thrust of his initial argument. It is also interesting to note that Sertillanges wrote in the early 20th century and Blamires in the mid to latter part of the same.

Who is correct? And what should the present 21st Century Church do about it? What should we do about it?

Recently, I found that I concurred with Blamires' description when I preached on St. Michael and All Angels. In that sermon, you may recall, I taught a specifically and classically Christian account of the angels as real and presently existing *supernatural beings*, but I was quick to remark that this understanding is nearly extinct among the supposedly educated classes that do much to make and extend our culture. Sure, one can find certain banal and anodyne New Age purveyors of a certain breed of angels even today – at least on the shelves of certain bookstores – but a robustly and classically Christian account? With all the attendant metaphysical convictions about *what must also be the case* if such beings exist, as the Scriptures tell us that they do? Much rarer, indeed.

If this is one genuine indicator that our Christian manner of thinking about and describing the real and actual world has not only been in decline, but is in danger of being entirely supplanted and extinguished, what should we do?

I will offer a few suggestions, some of which are especially suited to our upcoming and recent holidays:

1. Redouble your effort to *study* Holy Scripture: This Christian truism sounds so common as to seem a platitude, but no, really, *do it*. It is the absolute basis of and foundation for a Christian mind. And the keyword here is *study*. Don't just read it devotionally, though that is a beginning, but learn to read more deeply than you have before. Do it in small chunks. Attend one of the ZOOM Bible Studies, or better yet, sign up for the next round of CREDO. Ask your pastor and other Christian educators to teach you skills to read it well. The more we breath the

Scriptures naturally, know their idioms, their figures, their doctrines, the more we will naturally see the world in their light, and the more the Spirit of God will enlighten our minds.

2. Know, sustain, and create specifically Christian culture:
 - a. Concentrate first on the *knowing*. Do you have a working understanding of the history of the Christian Church? Do you know anything of its great saints and heroes? Do you know the development of its chief doctrines and teachings? Do not rely on cable television shows from channels that specialize in sensational claims about aliens to get your information here. Ask your pastor. Ask about a good book. Read the lives of the saints and Lutheran Fathers and Confessors. Read and look for what most mattered to them, how they thought about things, how they knew the world as transfigured by Christian faith. I hope to offer a class of Christian anthropology some time in the new year, seeking to know how our faith enables us to know what it means to be human. I'd also like to pursue a sort of "book club", maybe beginning with Blamires' book, *The Christian Mind*.
 - b. Sustain – If you presently practice customs and ceremonies that well carry the Christian faith, *make sure they live on!* Share them with family. Write about them and how they matter to you. Most of all, *practice them!*
 - i. This year, Ben and Rachel will be bringing something of the old Swedish *Santa Lucia* festival to Lebanon, and Ben will be playing *Good King Wenceslaus* on the piano at Advent on Christmas Eve. Both are cultural practices that confess Christ at many levels.
 - ii. Check the things you do on the major holidays. Are they primarily secular? Is Christ's Name spoken in your homes? If an alien came to observe your celebrations, would he learn that Jesus is the underlying motive and reason?
 - c. Create – What can you do with the time and place and resources that God has given you to shape them into something that testifies to His merciful goodness? Culture isn't simply a matter of passing on what is old, although it is that, it is also a way of newly embodying the same truths of the faith in a manner accommodated to this time and place. This takes care and reflection; one needs to be sure that the claims of the faith are not

being lost in translation. Passing on the faith is not so much a question of translation, but of speaking the same language with new figures and in new settings... Maybe a soup kitchen visit, or a visit to the neighbors with a plum pudding with a prayer attached... there are many possibilities.

3. Acknowledge the *supernatural* dimension to life – The Bible teaches that there is more to reality than the secular world will allow. There is more than the natural world, there is an invisible world above and beyond it. As mentioned earlier, there are angels, souls, heavenly beings, unclean spirits, powers and principalities, and demons. We are people who do not battle with worldly things only, but otherworldly things, and they may aid or resist us (Eph. 6:12).
4. Value the Sacraments and especially the Sacrament of the Altar – Classical Christians confess a *sacramental world*, that is, a world where God uses ordinary worldly things by taking them up into his purposes, investing them with His power and a higher reality. We see this especially in the Bible's teaching of the real substantial presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper. Christ takes up bread and wine and calls them His very body and blood, and so they are, and as they are, they are powerful means of His grace and assurance for faithful Christians.

At Christmas, the Church properly celebrates and commemorates the great joining of divinity to humanity that occurred in the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, God identifies Himself and dwells for us in an infinite and eternal way. The new thing that we celebrate is that God takes space in our world in flesh, and in historical flesh, in time. Because this is true, God is taking on the timely conditions of human culture as well, he inhabits them and informs them so that they may become channels of saving truth. This still occurs in His Church. The Church is the place where culture can bear the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ to the world. We are this Church and we, therefore, have a responsibility to our Lord to form our ways and words in this world into those where He may be known, where something of His goodness and mercy and truth may shine. As He has already committed to us and seeks to form us in His image, let us also be quick to receive Him.

May God bless you and fill you with His Holy Spirit this Season,

Pastor Porter

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.**

Pastor Porter will be available on Wednesdays from 10:30-3:00 PM For Communion. Please call for an appointment

January Birthday's

1st Densil Rickard

3rd Helen Bricker Baker

9th Fran Hughes

26th Colleen Porter

January Anniversaries

1st Tom Schwictz &

Missy Hockman

Come and join the Outreach Committee.

We will meet Thursday, January 14th @ 6:00 PM

(Shirts with Church Logo have been ordered)

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 Sheri Hamman

Cell: (540) 333-0249

Email:

jhamman@shentel.net

Reaching **OUT** Thru Outreach

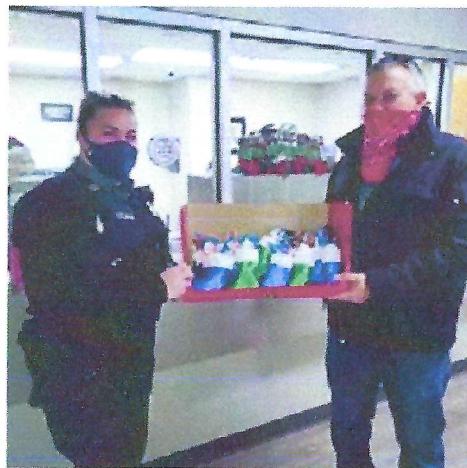
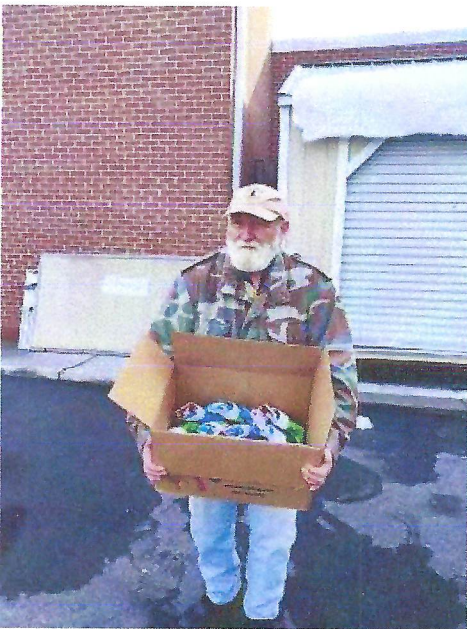


We gathered together to go Christmas Caroling to some of the shut-in members of congregation.



We were contacted by Response this year and were able to help a resident in need. We shopped for gifts & were blessed to be able to provide these, over \$250 in gifts were donated.

Reaching **OUT** Thru Outreach



Prepared & delivered 180 stockings filled with candy for First Responders for Christmas.

Star Tannery Fire & Rescue

Strasburg Police Department

Strasburg Fire & Rescue

Shenandoah County Sheriff's Department



Christmas Decorations In The Sanctuary



Santa Lucia Ceremony – Sunday, December 13, 2020

Ben and Rachel dressed up for the ceremony & gave bags of cookies to attendees.

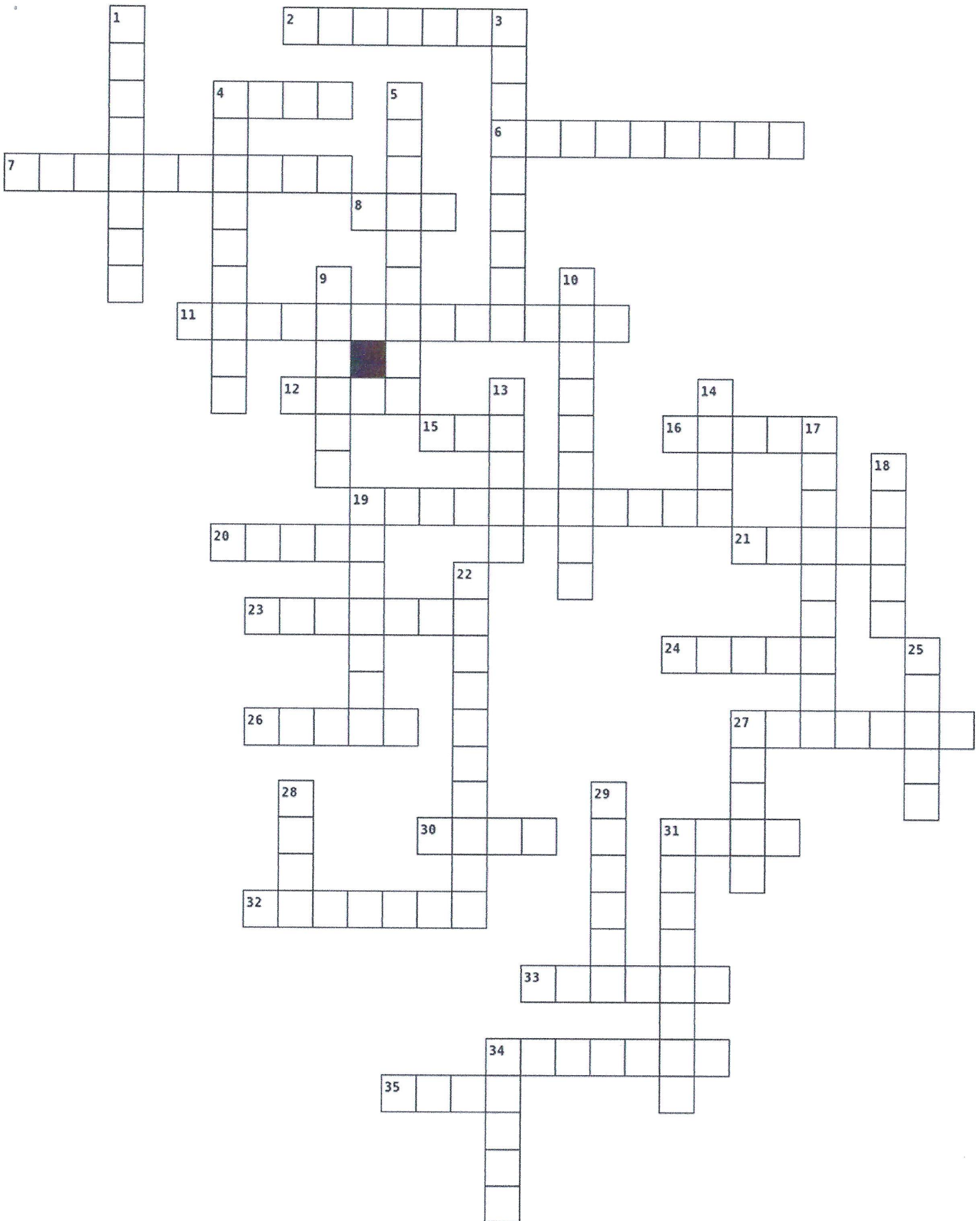


This year, due to Covid restrictions and concerns, we were unable to hold our annual Ladies Christmas Brunch. However, that did not stop the ladies from Advent and Lebanon! We still collected so many items on AbbaCare's wish list that I couldn't fit them all in one photo! The folks at AbbaCare were thrilled with our donation, and many women and their new babies will be blessed this Christmas and into 2021 with the generosity of the ladies from Advent and Lebanon!



Work is under way to install a holding tank for the septic system at the church. We would like to thank Mike & Brenda Rose (Rose's Plumbing) for helping install the new system. We would also like to thank Billy Hockman for helping & providing equipment to remove the large stones, as they ran into a lot of rock.

Isaiah part 2 Chapters 34-66



All answers are in the book of Isaiah Chapters 34-66
Chapters are in Parentheses

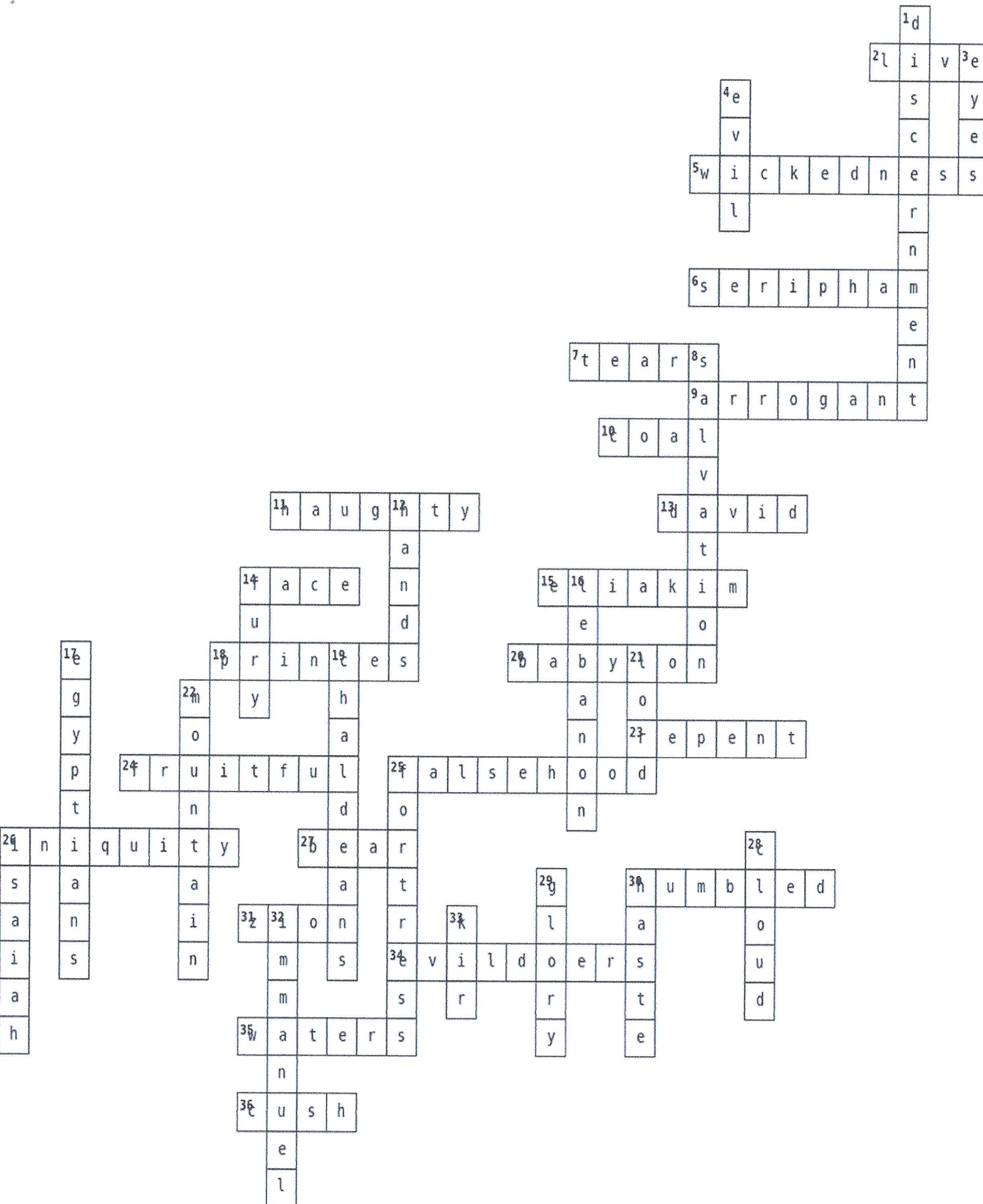
Across

2. "Kings shall be your foster _____, and their queens your nursing mothers." (49)
4. The Lord is the potter so, we are this? (64)
6. "For the Lord has a day of _____." (34)
7. The fast that the Lord chooses is to loose the bonds of this? (58)
8. "This will be upon the hearts of those the Lord has ransomed." (35)
11. People Know this whose heart is in the law of the Lord. (51)
12. "The _____ is the everlasting God." (40)
15. "The Lord God has opened my _____, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward." (50)
16. "The grass withers and the flower _____." (40)
19. One who chooses an idol is a _____. (41)
20. God grasp his right hand. (45)
21. "Seek the Lord while he may be _____." (55)
23. From this nation, King Hezekiah shows his treasure house and all that he has. (39)
24. The Lord will be your everlasting _____. (60)
26. The lion shall eat this like the ox. (65)
27. Instead of shame there shall be a double _____. (61)
30. A cake of this was applied to Hezekiah's boil that he may recover. (38)
31. God made water flow from this? (48)
32. The Lord said "For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all _____." (56)
33. When the heart is this we do not fear the Lord. (63)
34. The number of years God added to Hezekiah's life. (38)
35. A god made of silver and gold, can't do this, from its place. (46)

Down

1. He was king of Judah. (36)
3. "All the ends of the earth shall see the _____ of our God." (52)
4. " The makers of idols go in _____." (45)
5. Two things shall come to Babylon in one day the loss of children and what? (47)
9. "Be _____, fear not." (35)
10. 185,000 are struck down by an angel of the Lord. (37)
13. This of Zion will not be given to its enemies. (62)
14. This nourishes a cedar. (44)
17. Like a lamb that is led to _____. (53)
18. Rabshakeh spoke this language of this land? (36)
19. The young men of this nation reviled God. (37)
22. This causes a separation between you and God. (59)
25. "They are turned back and put to shame, who trust in carved _____." (42)
27. For the wicked, God says they will not have this. (57)
28. By this the Lord will enter into judgement. (66)
29. "I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no _____." (43)
31. The Holy One of Israel is your _____. (54)
34. "Who among you _____ the Lord an obeys the voice of his servant." (50)

Isaiah part 1 chapters 1-33



Isaiah part 1 chapters 1-33

Questions taken from the ESV

Across

2. "Your dead shall _____ their bodies shall rise."(26)
5. For this, burns like a fire. (9)
6. This has six wings. (6)
7. The Lord God will wipe this from all faces. (25)
9. The heart of the king of Assyria is _____.(10)
10. "When the burning _____ touched Isaiah's lips his guilt was taken away and his sin atoned for." (6)
11. The Lord said the daughters of Zion are this. (3)
13. The Prince of Peace sits on the throne of whom. (9)
14. The Lord is hiding his _____ from the house of Jacob. (8)
15. The key of the house of David will be placed on his shoulder. (22)
18. God will make boys these for the judgement of Judah and Jerusalem. (3)
20. All the carved images of her gods He has shattered to the ground. (21)
23. Zion shall be redeemed by justice and those in her who _____, by righteousness. (1)
24. Joy and gladness are taken away from this field. (16)
25. "Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of _____." (5)
26. "For the fool speaks folly and his heart is busy with _____."
27. The cow and this animal shall graze? (11)
30. The Lord shall make the haughtiness of man this. (2)
31. This mount is the place of the Lord of Hosts. (18)
34. May the offspring of these never be named. (14)
35. The Lord speaks to Isaiah because the people refused this from Shiloah? (8)
36. Isiah walks around naked for three years as a sign to Egypt and _____. (20)

Down

1. A people without this, God will not have compassion for or show them favor. (27)
3. "Woe to those who are wise in their own _____."(5)
4. "God will punish the world for its _____." (13)
8. For God is our _____. (12)
12. Idols of gold and silver are made by this of humans. (31)
14. The Lords lips are full of this. (30)
16. This will be turned into a fruitful field. (29)
17. As the Lord strikes and heals them, they will return to the Lord. (19)
19. The land of this people and the palaces were stripped bare and made her a ruin. (23)
21. For he is our judge. (33)
22. This of the Lords shall be the highest of them all. (2)
25. This will disappear from Ephriam. (17)
26. Amoz is his father. (1)
28. The Lord will create this over the whole site of Mount Zion by day. (4)
29. We are to give this to the name of the Lord. (24)
30. "Whoever believes will not be in _____" (28)
32. This was one name given to Jesus. (7)
33. This of Moab is laid waste in a night. (15)



Lebanon Lutheran Church



January 2021							Feb 2021 ▶
◀ Dec 2020	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Happy New Year	2
3	9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	4 7:00 Reading Revelations as a Responsible Christian	5	6	7 7:00 CREDO Class	8	9
10	9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	11 7:00 Reading Revelations as a Responsible Christian	12	13	14 6:00 Outreach Meeting 7:00 Church Council Meeting	15	16
17	9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	18 7:00 Reading Revelations as a Responsible Christian	19	20	21 7:00 CREDO Class	22	23
24	9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	25 7:00 Reading Revelations as a Responsible Christian	26	27	28	29	30
31	9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service						