

Lebanon Lutheran Church

December 2021 Newsletter

Sunday School 9:30am.
Worship Service 11:00am.
Phone (540) 465-5456

10120 Middle Road
Lebanon Church Va. 22641
Email: pastor.lebanon@gmail.com



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

A Message From The Pastor



"Pastor, what's with the bells in worship?"

Good question, let's take a look at the use of bells in worship...

It is not, admittedly, a common practice for most Lutheran congregations, it is true. But this does not mean that it is somehow off limits or "un-Lutheran" to make use of bells at certain points during worship. This kind of ceremonial practice is what we would call an *adiaphoron* – a "middle thing", not a matter of salvation. Because the Scriptures neither forbid, nor command the use of bells in Christian worship, we are free to either use or not use them. I think there are good reasons to make use of bells, as there is a long tradition of doing so in the Christian Church, and it serves to awaken our senses during the liturgy.

It's a very *adventual* kind of thing... Advent is the season of the Church where we are to "wake from sleep" and to "keep watch" over the movements of our minds. What better way to wake from the bodily slumbers of our flesh than with an alarm bell? While this is a real aspect of the function of bell ringing in relation to the Divine Service, it is always the case that the Word is the chief way in which Christians are recalled to their common life of discipleship. But how shall we hear the Word of God if we are not listening? We are preparing for the Coming of Christ our Lord, Who will come with the sound of a trumpet. We are bidden to "look for the signs" of His Coming. This (His Coming among His people, the Church) has occurred, occurs, and will occur. And so, we *announce* His

coming in the Liturgy of the Church with the use of bells. Especially in connection with the celebration of the Sacrament of the Altar, where our Lord makes present His body and blood, given to us for the forgiveness of sins and our final salvation.

There is also the additional benefit that our new acolytes will have, with another manner of serving at the altar in their bell-ringing, which will be increasing their own participation in the practice of their faith... and this is good!

Bells have been a common part of divine worship since Moses.

In describing the vestments worn by the priests of Israel like Aaron, God explains to Moses how bells should be sewn on them.

On its skirts you shall make pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet stuff, around its skirts, with bells of gold between them, a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, round about on the skirts of the robe. And it shall be upon Aaron when he ministers, and its sound shall be heard when he goes into the holy place before the Lord, and when he comes out, lest he die. (Exodus 28:33-35)

Bells were an integral part of divine worship, both to sound a joyful noise before the Lord and to ward off evil spirits. This particular feature of bells is still preserved in the *Roman Ritual* blessing of bells where the priest prays, "At its sound let all evil spirits be driven afar." While we Lutherans may not look to bells as the means for warding off evil spirits, we can admit that bell ringing can serve to accentuate and highlight to reality that Christ comes to His people through His Holy Word and Sacraments.

As Christianity grew, bells were slowly added to the liturgy in various ways. At first bells were mounted in towers outside of churches to call people to worship, but soon enough handheld bells were used for similar purposes. For example, it is believed [St. Patrick](#) used such a handbell and "whenever Saint Patrick had set up a new Christian community or parish somewhere in Ireland, he would choose one of his disciples to lead it after he left, and present them with a bell to call the parishioners to prayer, and to use during religious ceremonies."

At Lebanon, we are already familiar with the use of the tower bell to announce the beginning of our worship to the community. Historically, the tower bell could also be rung throughout the praying of the Lord's Prayer – as another indication to the community that the Church is *at prayer*, and that hearers may join in that prayer. In times past, the bell could be rung at noon to signal that the community should pray the *Angelus*, the daily commemoration of the Incarnation of our Lord at His holy birth. (The prefatory image, above, is a common type of folk art, depicting farmers entering more fully into the prayer life of the Church as they hear the noon bells call them to the *Angelus*.)

More in line with the Old Testament, small bells were adapted in Eastern Churches in various ways, such as bells that were attached to the thurible that carried incense used at divine worship.

In the Roman Rite handbells were eventually used by altar servers to mark important moments during the Mass. It currently remains an option, as it is noted in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, "A little before the Consecration, if appropriate, a minister rings a small bell as a signal to the faithful. The minister also rings the small bell at each elevation by the Priest, according to local custom" (No. 150). In early Lutheranism, similar customs continued to be observed, as they were part of the common life of the Church and did not contradict the Gospel.

In fact, the bells may serve to herald the good news of the Gospel, and to alert our senses to what is unfolding before us. They not only provoke our attention but are also a "joyous noise" at the pivotal moments in the Service when God the Son comes down from Heaven and joins Himself to the of bread and wine.

It is not meant to be a distraction, but another way to praise God and focus our wandering attention. Or as the Psalmist sings, "Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 150:5-6)

As we press on into Advent and hear the heralds of the good news, whether preacher, people, musical accompaniment or bell, let us continue in the struggle with our flesh and call our attention to the great Coming of the Son of God for us and for our salvation.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Porter

Adapted from an article by Philip Kosloski, from [Why are bells used during Mass? - Catholic Teachings \(ecatholicteachings.com\)](http://www.ecatholicteachings.com)

Events at Lebanon

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

Please contact Ann Deming
(540)869-5795 Leave Mssg.

Wednesday's

8:15 AM – Matins

10:00 AM Individual
Confession & Absolution

1:30 PM Communion
Service

December Birthday's

1st Ben Hamman

7th Kathryn Flynn

14th Michael Reidy

18th Brenda Rose

20th Ellie Miller

28th Jesse Lowe

28th Arlene Hamman

Women's Bible Study
Wednesday, December
15th @ 7:00 PM

Men's Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, December 11th
8:00 AM @
Queen Street Diner

Come join us as we will be
Christmas Caroling on
Sunday, December 19th in the
afternoon. We will order
pizza after church and then
will go caroling.

Saturday, December 4th
Annual Ladies Potluck
Brunch @ 10:00 in the
Fellowship Hall. Bring
items on the wish list to
fill the diaper bags for the
Pregnancy Center.

December Anniversaries

27th Christopher &
Colleen Porter

Sunday School Class led by
Rev. J.D. is at 9:30 Sunday
mornings at Church

Sunday School Class led by
Lucy King is at 9:30 Sunday
mornings at Church

Children's & Elementary
Sunday School Classes are at
9:30 Sunday mornings
at Church

Choir Practice

Choir will practice
Thursday, December
2nd and December 16th
@ 7:00

*See Evelyn if interested in
joining the Choir

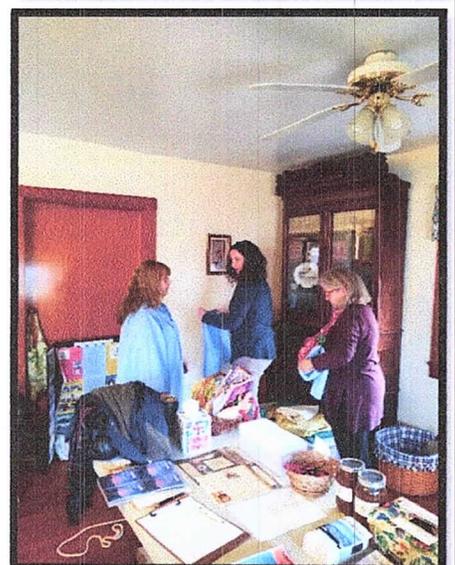
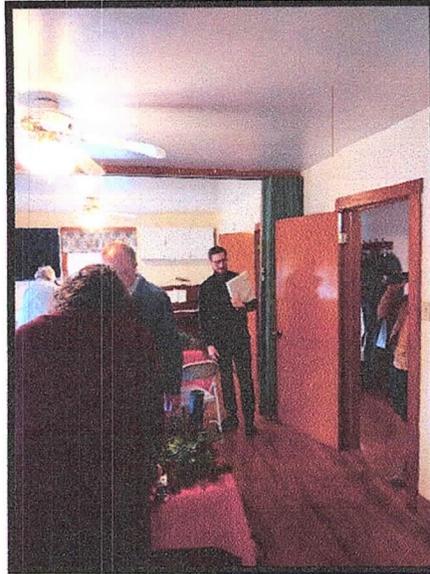
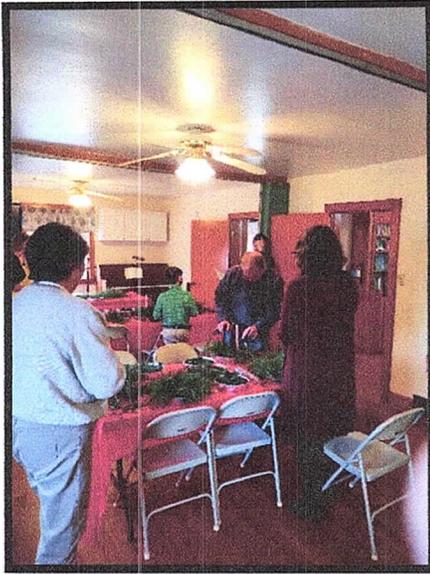
CREDO Class

Class meets every other
Thursday @ 7 PM at
the Church

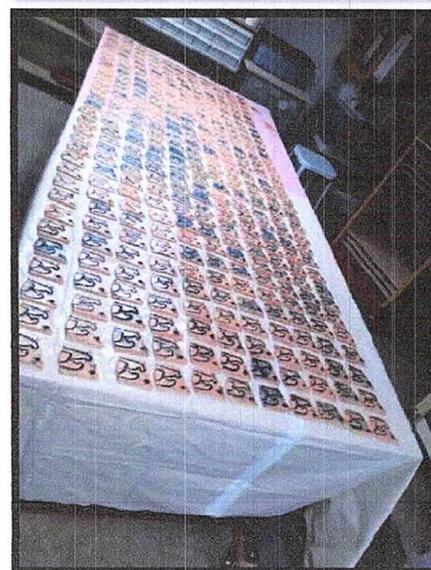
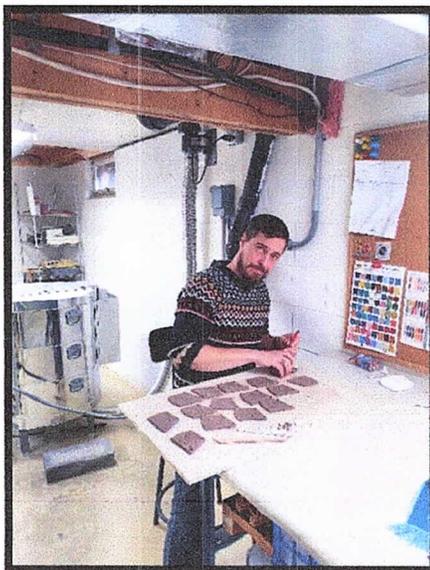
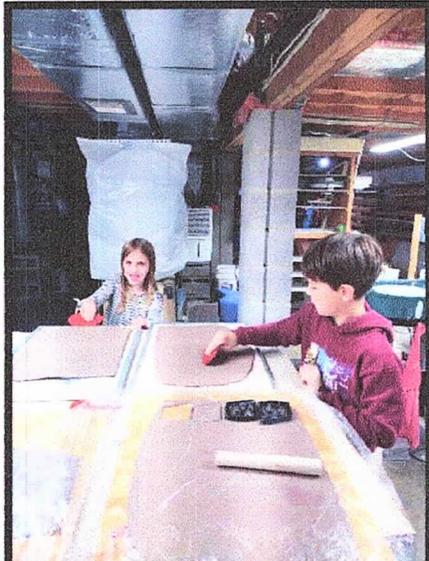
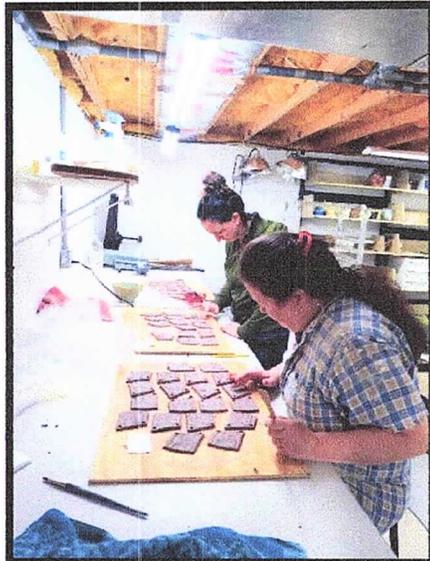
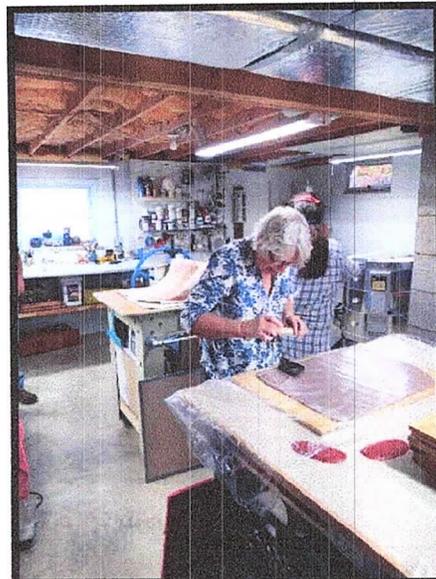
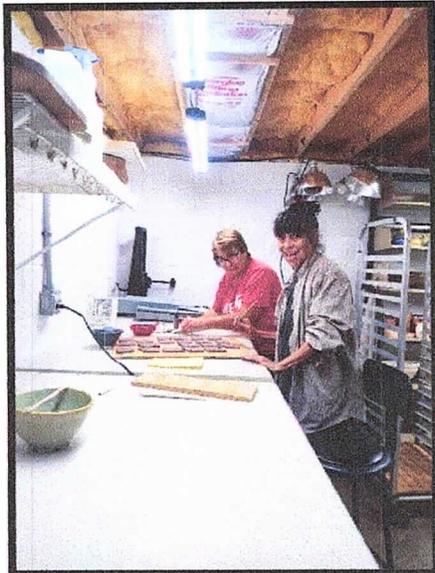
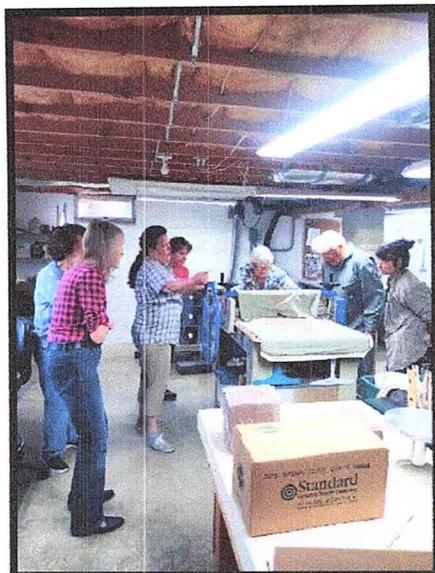
Led by Pastor Chris. All
are invited to attend.

*See Pastor Chris for
CREDO info

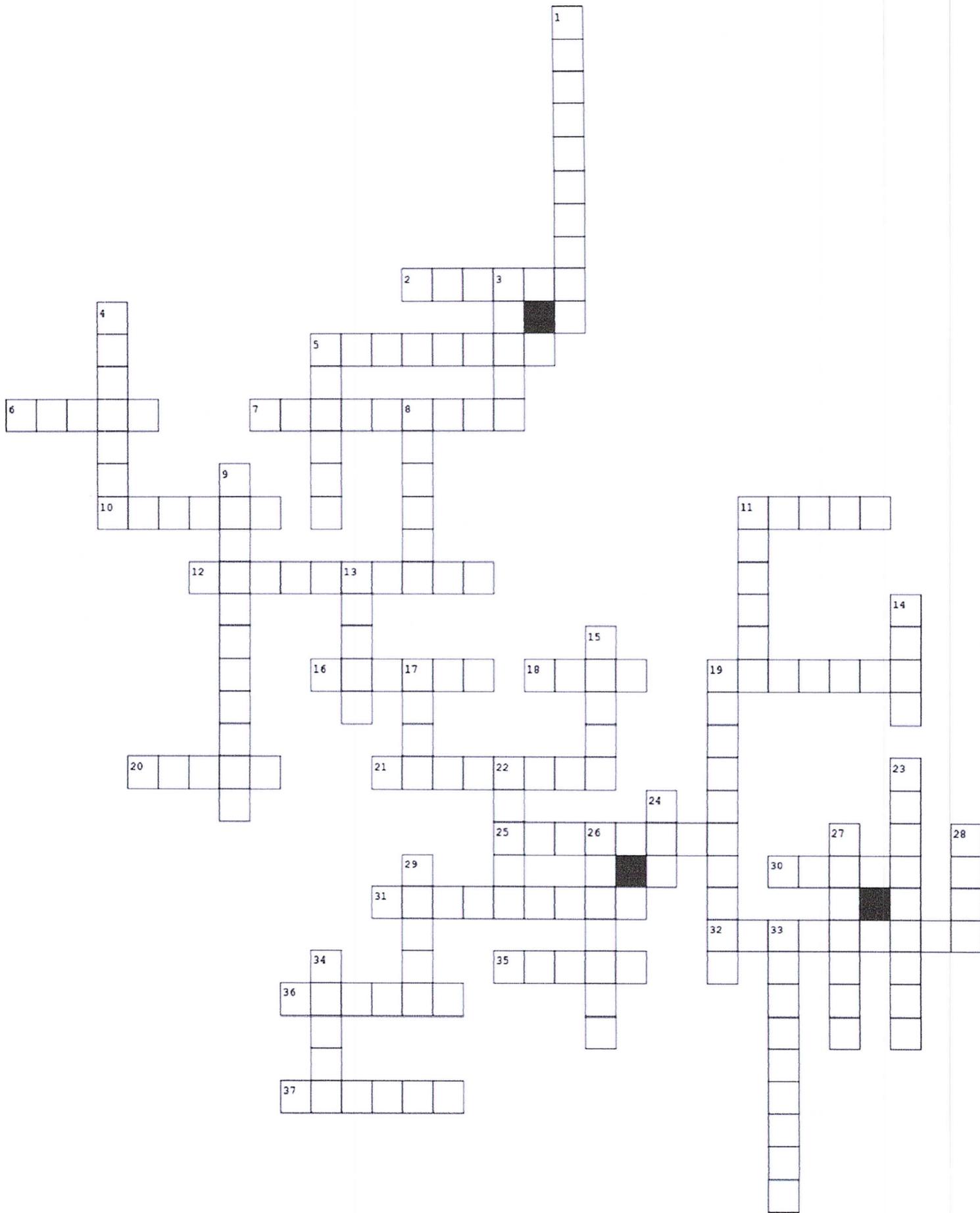
Making Advent Wreaths



Making Ornaments For Christmas Parade



Zechariah



Across

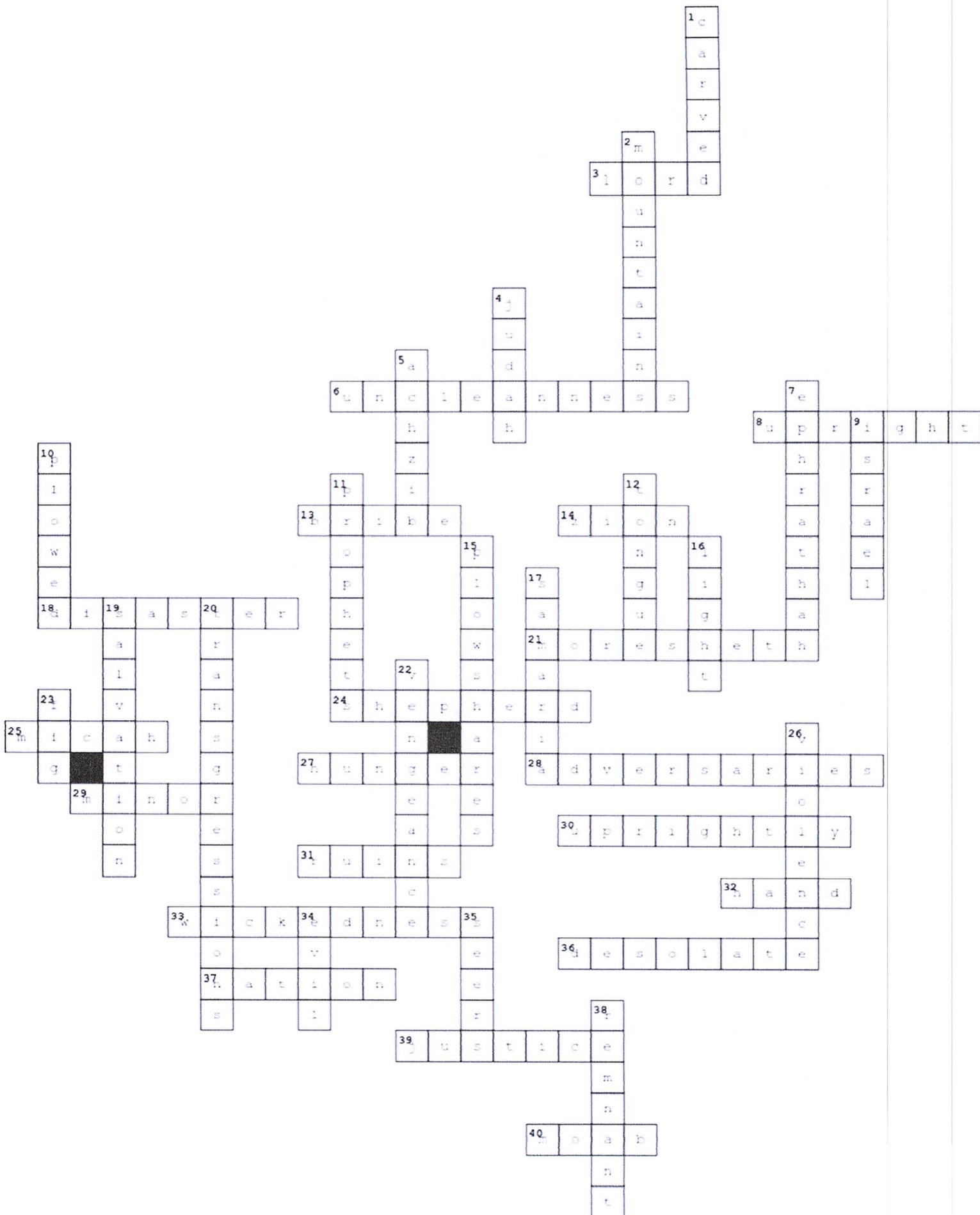
2. The Lord does this to Satan? (3)
5. This will be opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness? (13)
6. Jerusalem shall be inhabited as a village without this. (2)
7. "Behold your king is coming to you, Righteousness and having _____ is he," (9)
10. Zechariah sees this flying? (5)
11. These scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem? (1)
12. "Render true _____, show kindness and mercy to one another," (7)
16. This son of Jehozadak, a crown of silver and gold was placed? (6)
18. Do not devise this in your hearts against one another? (8)
19. Living waters flow from Jerusalem to the eastern sea and this sea? (14)
20. A _____ talks with Zechariah. (1)
21. The people did not hear the law and the words that the Lord of host sent by his spirit through former _____. (7)
25. "Therefore the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a _____." (10)
30. "Be silent, all _____, before the Lord, for he has raised himself from his holy dwelling." (2)
31. This shall be called the faithful city? (8)
32. "Strike the shepherd and the sheep will be _____;" (13)
35. "And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of _____, grace to it." (4)
36. The Lords anger is hot against the shepherds, and he will do this to the leaders? (10)
37. The number of pieces of silver that were weighed out for the wages? (11)

Down

1. For the plumbline is in this hand? (4)
3. The one staff was named favor, the other was named what? (11)
4. The Lord of hosts; is this for Zion? (8)
5. Joshua's garments were this? (3)
8. On Joshua's head they put a clean _____? (3)
9. "So I became the Shepherd of the flock doomed to be _____ by the sheep traders." (11)
11. "_____ and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (9)
13. Is Zechariah a major or minor prophet? (1)
14. The Lord will be this over all the earth? (14)
15. The chariots are going out to the four _____ of heaven. (6)
17. "As I called and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not _____;" says the Lord of hosts, (7)
19. The woman in the basket represents this. (5)
22. "The Lord of _____ will protect them," (9)
23. He is the son of Berechiah. (1)
24. The first chariot, the horses were this color? (6)
26. "pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they _____," (12)
27. "And on that day I will seek to _____ all the nations that come against Jerusalem." (12)
28. "The _____ is my God." (13)
29. "Holy to the Lord." This is inscribed on this of the horses. (14)
33. "These are the two _____ ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth." (4)
34. "And the Lord will give salvation to the tents of _____ first." (12)

All questions are formed from the ESV Bible. Chapters are in parenthesis.

Micah



Micah

Across

3. "but we will walk in the name of the _____ our God." (4)
6. "Arise and go, for this is no place to rest because of _____ that destroys with a grievous destruction." (2)
8. "The godly has perished from the earth, and there is no one _____ among mankind;" (7)
13. The prince and the judge ask for this? (7)
14. The law shall go forth from this place? (4)
18. What is the Lord devising against the oppressors family? (2)
21. Where is Micah from? (1)
24. "And he shall stand and _____ his flock in the strength of the Lord," (5)
25. He is filled with the power, with the spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might. (3)
27. "You shall eat but not be satisfied, and there shall be _____ within you;" (6)
28. "Your hand shall be lifted up over your _____, and all your enemies shall be cut off." (5)
29. Is Micah a major or a minor prophet?
30. For the one who walks like this the Lord's words do good to him? (2)
31. "Jerusalem shall become a heap of _____," (3)
32. "When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their _____." (2)
33. "Woe to those who devise _____ and work evil on their beds." (2)
36. "But the earth will be _____ because of its inhabitants, for the fruit of their deeds." (7)
37. The Lord will make these who were cast off, a strong _____. (4)
39. "what does the Lord require of you but to do _____, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (6)
40. Balik is the king of _____. (6)

Down

1. "All her _____ images shall be beaten to pieces." (1)
2. The house of the Lord shall be on the highest of these? (4)
4. Jerusalem is the high place of what? (1)
5. "the house of _____ shall be a deceitful thing to the kings of Israel." (1)
7. They are to little to be among the clans of Judah? (5)
9. For the Lord has an indictment against the people of this nation? (6)
10. "Therefore because of you Zion shall be _____ as a field." (3)
11. "The sun shall go down on the _____," (3)
12. "your inhabitants speak lies, and their _____ is deceitful in their mouth." (6)
15. "they shall beat their swords into this? (4)
16. "He will bring me out to the _____;" (7)
17. "What is the transgression of Jacob?" (1)
19. "I will wait for the God of my _____;" (7)
20. "Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over _____ for the remnant of his inheritance?"
22. "The Lord in anger and wrath will execute _____ on the nations, that did not obey." (5)
23. "but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his _____ tree." (4)
26. "your rich men are full of _____;" (6)
34. The Lord will hide his face from them because their deeds are this? (3)
35. They shall be disgraced? (3)
38. "And the _____ of Jacob shall be among the nations." (5)

All questions are formed from the book of
Micah (ESV Bible). Chapters are in parenthesis.

December 2021

Nov 2021

Jan 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1 8:15 AM – Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service</p>	<p>2 7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 CREDO Class</p>	3	<p>4 10:00 Ladies Potluck Brunch 2:00 Decorate Float & Dress for Strasburg Christmas Parade @ 4:30</p>
<p>5 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service</p>	<p>6 10:00 Colossians Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 Holy Communion Class</p>	7	<p>8 8:15 AM – Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service</p>	<p>9 6:00 Outreach Meeting 7:00 Church Council Meeting</p>	10	<p>11 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Queen Street Diner</p>
<p>12 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service</p>	<p>13 10:00 Colossians Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 Holy Communion Class</p>	14	<p>15 8:15 AM – Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service 7:00 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>16 7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 CREDO Class</p>	17	18
<p>19 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service 12:30 Pizza & Christmas Caroling</p>	<p>20 10:00 Colossians Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 Holy Communion Class</p>	21	<p>22 8:15 AM – Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service</p>	23	24	25 Christmas
<p>26 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service</p>	27	28	29	30	31	