

Lebanon Lutheran Church

January 2022 Newsletter

Sunday School 9:30am.

Worship Service 11:00am.

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Lebanon Church Va. 22641

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NALC

North American Lutheran Church

A Message From The Pastor



Greetings to Lebanon and all our friends in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, peace be with you.

IT HAS SURELY been a different sort of Christmas holiday this year for me, and for you, as I have been absent from presiding at our Services. I pray that all of you are well and that you are experiencing the deep peace that comes to those who know the Incarnate Lord, Jesus Christ.

By now all of you know that Colleen and I are recovering from COVID 19. Ben and Rachel are fine, we recently took them for a PCR test, and we are awaiting the results. Neither of them have any symptoms. Colleen and I are weak and still have some congestion.

The fact of bodily illness has forced itself upon me and so has also forced a fair amount of reflection. In addition to my family's own encounter with the virus, several of my friends have recently been ill with it. Some are in dire condition. The virus is a serious thing. We will do good as a church if we remain cautious and our practices display that caution. While I have no desire to curtail our Services or impede our worship life in the congregation, I think that it would be foolish to assume that the virus presents no threat to our common life. I encourage all of you to be circumspect in your dealings with one another – use good judgment and be wise. I will be discussing things of this nature with Council when we next meet.

The first thing I want to note before I continue is that we are in the Season of the Incarnation – we have just celebrated the Christ-mass – and in it we recalled that God has taken up our frail flesh and joined it to His deathless power, His mighty Life, the Life and Light that sustains the world and opens to us the possibility of eternal life. This is the source of our Christian hope. And we must always be quick to proclaim it to a world that is prone to illness and decay.

The 19th Century Anglican priest, Charles Bridges, writes in his presentation *The Christian Ministry*: “[in sickness] God Himself is the Preacher, speaking more loudly and directly to the conscience than the mere voice of a man. “[The pastor’s work] ...is to call attention to the speaking voice.”¹

As I was recently laid prone, with my forehead aching from internal pressure, the voice that came through the sickness was twofold, it said:

¹ From Philip Pfatteicher's 2008 presentation at the General Retreat for the Society of the Holy Trinity, *Confession and Communion in the Visitation of the Sick*. [Confession and Communion in the Visitation of the Sick \(societyholyltrinity.org\)](http://societyholyltrinity.org). I hope to use this paper as the basis for instruction in Diaconal visitation in the near future.

"Do not add unnecessary, useless, burdens to yourself or to others..." with perhaps a reference to St. Matthew 23:4 implied. And,

"[Jesus said] We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work." St. John 9:4

From this I gathered that I need to work to preserve the health that the Lord has given me, *and that time is short!* Therefore, I would like to rededicate myself to the work of the ministry as I have received it from the Lord, but to do so in a way that acknowledges the real and legitimately God given needs of the body He has given.

Of course, this set of realization has also prompted some review, what have *we* accomplished as His redeemed people?

I feel greatly blessed to be able to write with all sincerity that some very good things have been accomplished this year at Lebanon. We have:

- Expanded our worship opportunities, with a regular Wednesday morning Matins Service and a mid-week spoken Service of Holy Communion.
- Expanded our Outreach and Evangelism opportunities, in several ways, notably with a bigger and even more festive involvement in the local Christmas parade.
- Increased congregational involvement with leadership in Sunday worship (including youth).
- Additional beautification of the Services of God's House – the new banners and albs for altar servers.
- The introduction of a more involved Worship and Music Committee, including an altar guild.
- A committed CREDO group, whose members should complete their formation early this year.
- An intensive study on the doctrine and practice of the Holy Communion.
- A lay-led Bible Study for women.

There are, no doubt, others that I could list, but these immediately came to mind.

In the coming year, I envision new possibilities and bigger commitments:

- Land use Committee begins its future planning and visioning.
- 175th Anniversary Committee begins its work.
- The commissioning of congregational Deacons and Deaconesses.
- Formation of a new CREDO group.
- Intensive study on Individual Confession and Absolution entitled "The Forgotten Sacrament".
- Several Worship and Music Committee initiatives.
- Initiation of a Christian Book Club.
- Bible Study on Isaiah entitled "The Fifth Gospel".
- Initiation of a Membership "task force", centering on welcome and introduction, appraisal of rolls, and care for the lapsed.
- Council Retreat and Formation event.

This list is suggestive of the sort of works that we could pursue as a church this year, it is not meant to be definitive or exhaustive. As I pause to consider what I have written, I am reminded of two important facts: that we are still in the midst of Christmastide and should be *celebrating*, and that as much as I would like to party, I am still recovering, which means that I should rest. As I do, I will say a prayer for the future God has in store for us at Lebanon Lutheran Church. Please, whether you are resting or celebrating, join me in that prayer, even as you pray for all who are convalescing.

Christ the Lord is born and now dwells with His people!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayerfully,

Pastor Porter

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

January Birthday's

3rd Helen Bricker
Baker

9th Fran Hughes

18th Tina Lowe

26th Colleen Porter

Women's Bible Study
Wednesday, January 26th
@ 7:00 PM

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

Mental Health Awareness Class

Tuesday, January
11th @ 7:00 PM
at Lebanon Church
Community Center

Shannon Urum with
Northwestern
Community Services
will be the speaker

January Anniversaries

1st Tom Schwictz &
Missy Hockman

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

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

Children's/Elementary
Sunday School Class is at
9:30 Sunday

Choir Practice

Choir will practice
Thursday, January 6th
and January 20th
@ 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

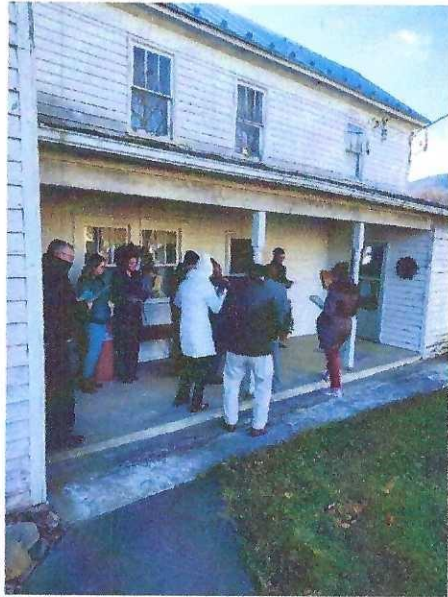


Christmas Decorations In The Sanctuary



Santa Lucia Ceremony – Sunday, December 12, 2021
Rachel dressed up for the ceremony & gave cookies to everyone.

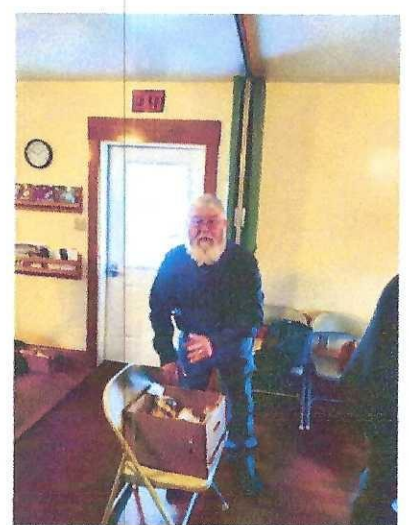
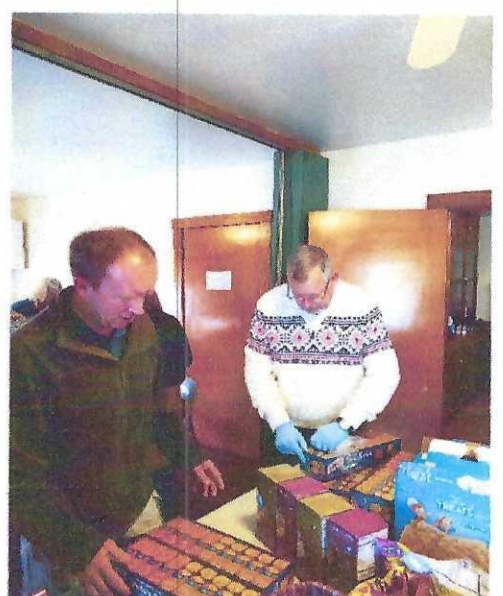
Reaching **OUT** Thru Outreach



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



Thanks be to God for all of the generous donations of gifts and gift cards that went to two families in need in our community. Dorothy Harriman delivered the gifts to the families and they were so thankful for everything that was received. We also had a \$250 Thrivent Card that was donated. Thank you to everyone at Lebanon for your generous donations.



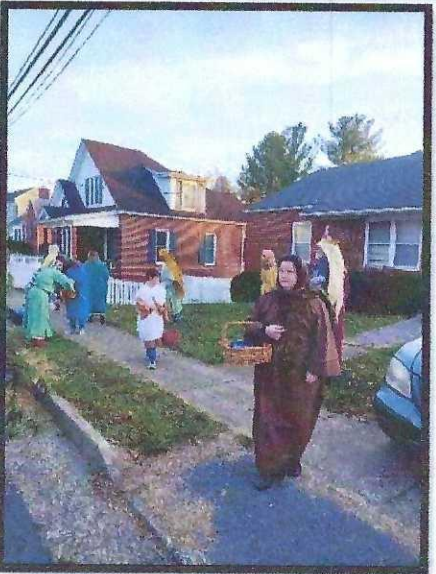
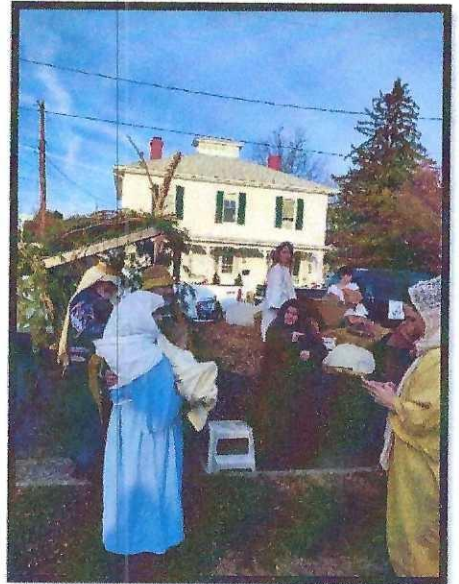
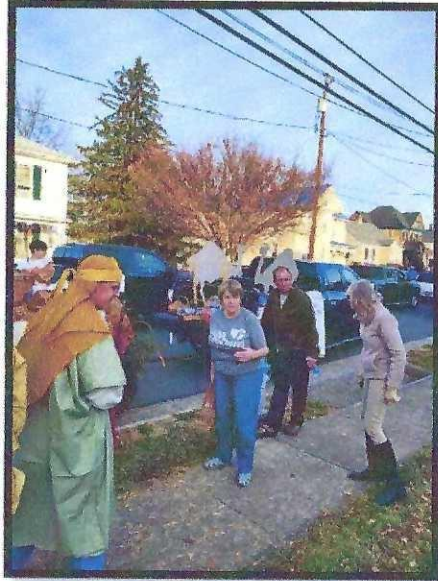
Prepared & delivered 225 bags filled with candy to Valley Health Woodstock, Greenfield Woodstock, Greenfield Strasburg and Greenfield Reflections Strasburg for Christmas. Also made bags to give out at the Christmas Eve services.

Ladies Christmas Brunch

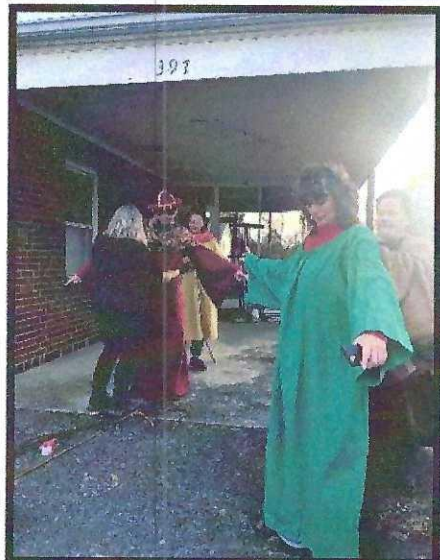
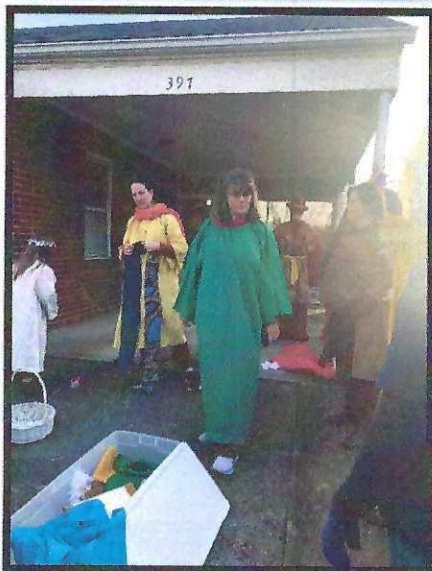
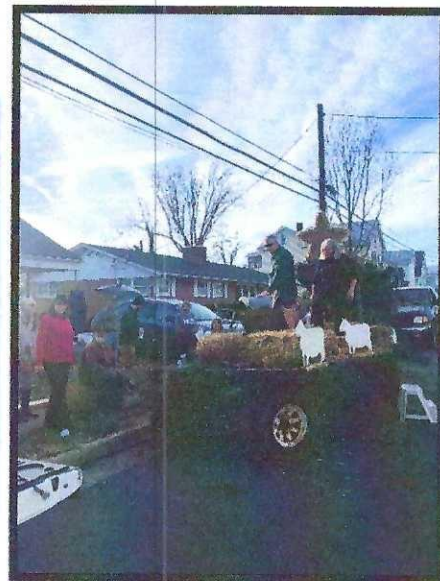


The Ladies Christmas Brunch was held on Saturday, December 4th. Above are items that were donated by the ladies and members at Lebanon. Pastor Porter and Mike, Brenda & Robby delivered the items to the Pregnancy Center and they were so overwhelmed and appreciative of the generosity of everyone at Lebanon for the donation. There was a \$250 Thrivent Card that was also donated for the purchase of the diaper bags. Thank you to all for your generous donations.

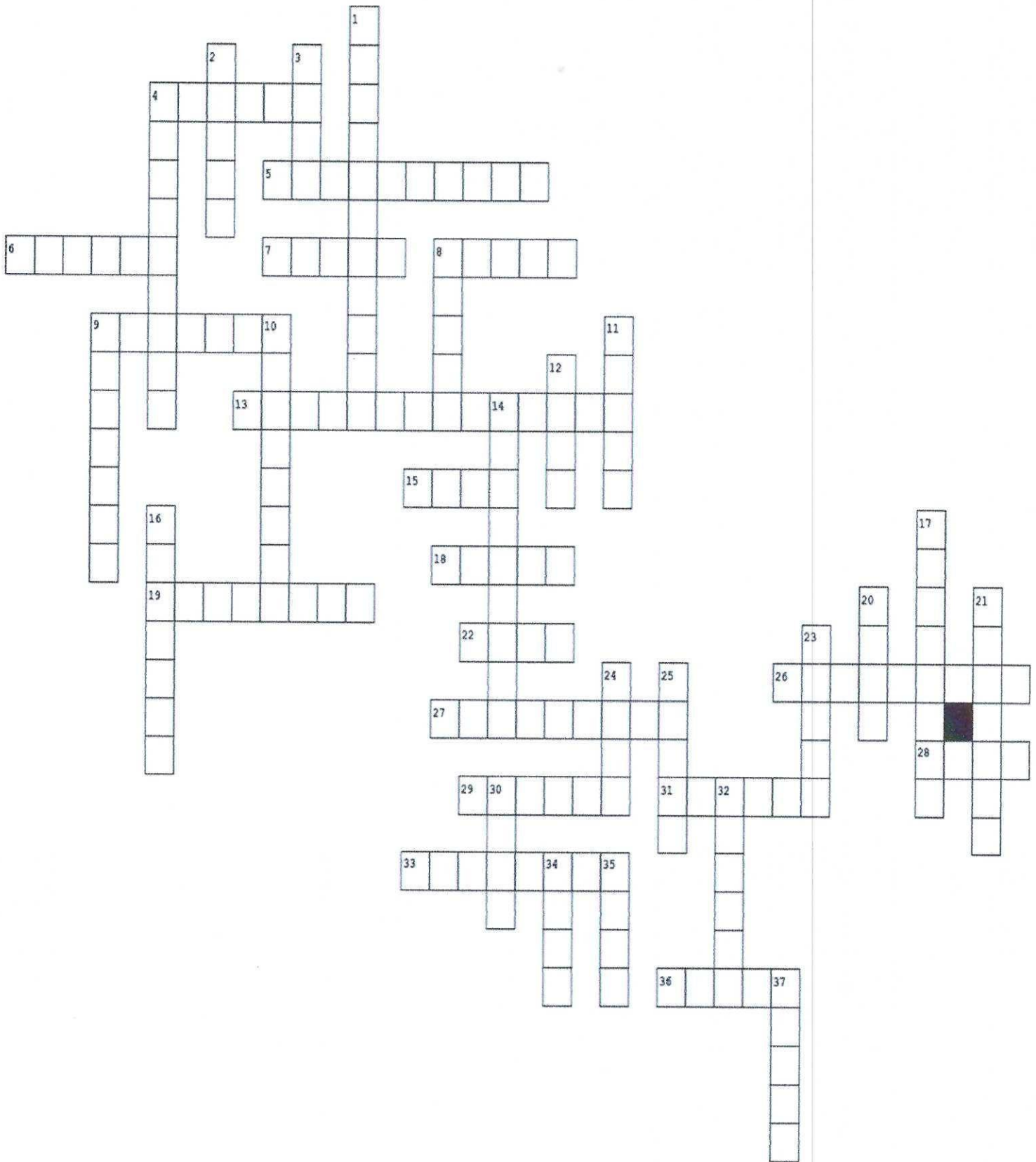
Christmas Parade



Christmas Parade



Psalms Part 1 of 4 Chapters 1-36



Across

4. The words of the Lord are pure like this refined in a furnace? (12)

Down

1. "Many are the _____ of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all." (34)

Across

5. "Let the words of my mouth and the _____ of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." (19)
6. They shall perish? (1)
7. "The Lord _____ the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence." (11)
8. "The wicked shall return to _____, all the nations that forget God." (9)
9. Sing this to the Lord? (30)
13. "But _____ shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off." (36)
15. "Deliver my _____ from the wicked by your sword." (17)
18. The rod and this of the Lord's comforts me? (23)
19. "I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have _____ you." (2)
22. The Lord sits enthroned as this forever? (29)
26. "In _____ the wicked hotly pursue the poor" (10)
27. "_____ me, O Lord, my God, according to your righteousness" (35)
28. "For your steadfast love is before my _____, and I walk in your faithfulness." (26)
29. "Into your hand I commit my _____; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God." (31)
31. If a man does not do this, God will prepare for him his deadly weapons. (7)
33. "The Lord preserves the _____ but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride." (31)
36. "For he has heard the voice of my pleas for _____." (28)

Down

2. "Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with _____ and honor." (8)
3. "Their God- his way is perfect, the word of the Lord proves _____" (18)
4. This love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord? (32)
8. In a moment my enemies shall be put to this? (6)
9. "The law of the Lord is _____, reviving the soul" (19)
10. "Lead me O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way _____ before me." (5)
11. The King of glory is the Lord of what? (24)
12. "For who is God but the _____?" (18)
14. This belongs to the Lord? (3)
16. "He makes _____ to skip like a calf, and a Sirion like a young wild ox." (29)
17. "My God, my God, why have you _____ me?" (22)
20. "The _____ says in his heart "There is no God." (14)
21. "Though they plan evil against you, though they devise mischief, they will not _____." (21)
23. "Some _____ in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." (20)
24. "_____ for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (27)
25. To sojourn in the tent of the Lord, one must speak truth in his _____. (15)
30. "You make known to me the _____ of life" (16)
32. "Be gracious to me and hear my _____!" (4)
34. "Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who _____ him, on those who hope in his steadfast Love" (33)
35. "But I have trusted in your steadfast _____; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation." (13)
37. "Remember not the sins of my _____ or my transgressions" (25)

All Questions are formed from the ESV Bible
Chapters are in parenthesis

Zechariah

1 z
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a
b

2 r e b 3 u k e

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5 f o u n t a i n

6 w a l l i s

7 s a l v a 8 t i o n

9 c

10 c r o l l

11 n o r n s

12 j u d g e 13 e n t s

14 k i

15 w

16 j o s 17 h u a 18 v i l

19 w e e s t e r n

20 a n g e l

21 p r o p 22 e t s

23 e

24 l

25 s h e 26 h e r d

27 d

28 l

29 b

30 l e s h

31 j e r u s a l e m

32 s c 33 a t t e r e d

34 j

35 g r a c e

36 p u n i s h

37 t h i r t y

38 i

39 n

40 t

41 e

42 d

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. "There for 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)

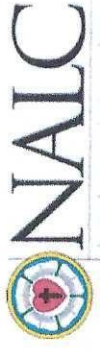
Down

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.



Lebanon Lutheran Church



January 2022

January 2022							Feb 2022 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>◀ Dec 2021</p> <p>2 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service</p>	<p>3 10:00 Colossians Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 Holy Communion Class</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 8:15 AM – Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service</p>	<p>6 7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 CREDO Class</p>		<p>1 Happy New Year</p>	
<p>9 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service</p>	<p>10 10:00 Colossians Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 Holy Communion Class</p>	<p>11 7:00 Mental Health Awareness Class @ Lebanon Church Community Center</p>	<p>12 8:15 AM – Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service</p>	<p>13 6:00 Outreach Meeting 7:00 Church Council Meeting</p>		<p>15</p>	
<p>16 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service</p>	<p>17 10:00 Colossians Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 Holy Communion Class</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 8:15 AM – Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service</p>	<p>20 7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 CREDO Class</p>		<p>22</p>	
<p>23 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service</p>	<p>24 10:00 Colossians Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 Holy Communion Class</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 8:15 AM – Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service</p>	<p>27</p>		<p>29</p>	
<p>30 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *Noisy Offering</p>	<p>31 10:00 Colossians Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 Holy Communion Class</p>		<p>7:00 Women's Bible Study</p>				