

Lebanon Lutheran Church June 2022 Newsletter

Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 11:00 am

Phone (540) 465-5456

10120 Middle Road

Lebanon Church VA 22641

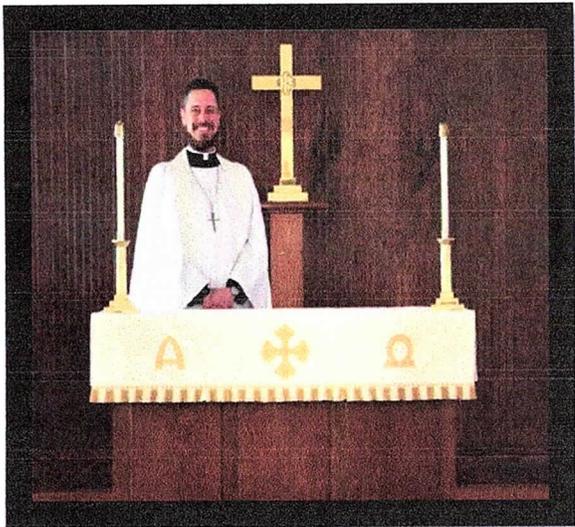
Email: pastor.lebanon@gmail.com



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

A Message From The Pastor



A few days ago, I was filling out some routine paperwork to be eligible for an election to a leadership position in the Church: "Describe how you experience God in your daily life." It caught me by surprise and pressed me to provide something more than a pat answer. It is easy to avoid the challenge of such a seemingly simple question and raid the rather anodyne cultural stockpile of sentiments that have accumulated in our collective mind; things at once so familiar sounding as to bypass our ability to reflect, or so obvious as to be tossed to one side in pursuit of the next task. "God is love", "God is all powerful", these are true statements, of course, but they obscure a difference, an

equivocation. Is God "love" in the same sense that Rachel "loves" her hamster, or in the way that I love eating the bread pudding at Vault and Cellar? And what about experience? Is God really one more item in the world of things available to our experience?

I started to think about it. And I discovered that the first thing I wanted to assert was that I didn't "experience God" in some normal way as a common occurrence – not in the way that I experience a hangnail, a hotdog, or even my own sense of self. God was above and beyond the realm of day-to-day regularity, He is not a "thing" in the world that is just there for our experience, like a familiar song on the radio is there to be heard.

But then I also thought about the ways in which we must have some way of experiencing God, or at least of His effects, His works... We experience Him as Creator, as all things that have being tell of the source of their being by their very act of existing. We know of His goodness as the One who brings about the actual good things that ARE given to our experience: a balmy spring day, the sensation of comfort from warm laundry, the scent or sight of an orchid. We see beauty and so we know that there is One who makes beautiful things and events to happen – to be. We see orderly revolutions of the stars and planets, the sun rising and setting, and so we know that this world is orderly, it has been made to be such.

But of course, there is more. We Christians believe that God has revealed Himself to human beings, unsurpassably, in the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ. This revelation has been recorded and committed to writing in the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. We have *language*, Spirit-filled, God given language, to provide genuine knowledge of God's purposes, His acts, His movements among us.

This is a surpassingly vast and difficult subject to pursue, the manner in which our language may actually serve as a vehicle for God's presence and work in and among us. Instead of investigating the

idea further, I will simply assert that we do better in speaking of God and our experiences concerning Him when we use *Scriptural language*. When we do this, we take up God's own chosen words for showing us the Word. When we use the phrases, concepts, and sound patterns of speech given to us in Holy Scripture, we come closer to the way God gives Himself to us.

This, of course, made me think about how impoverished my language regarding God can often be in comparison to Holy Scripture. Have I ever spoken about God as a lover, the way that the Song of Solomon does? Have I spoken about Him as an avenging warrior, as Prophets and Apostles do? Have I thought much about the way the Son gives Himself to the Church in the Sacraments, and does it inform the way I tell others about Him?

All of this matters if we are to encounter the God of the Holy Scriptures... It matters because God has made it matter. He has inspired the very words of the Scriptures, and not for no reason, but so that they may mediate between Himself and His people.

So, how did I answer the question?

Describe how you experience God in your daily life:

Constantly, insistently, but also dimly as in a glass darkly, that would be the truest thing to say; but at times, as a consuming fire that mercifully destroys my sins and not me, as a chastening Father who loves in the act of giving me consequences, as my tempted and tortured brother according to the flesh, as a massive negation of all my pride and self-interest; as the empowering One who renews my strength; as the founder and origin of my eyes, my mind, my whole soul that longs to know fully even as I am known; as a fierce love that fills and directs all things to their perfect end; as the Almighty who orders being and non-being to His will; as the One that I have maligned, denied, and insulted, and has saved me anyway; as the faithful One who keeps his promises.

Here is a passage from Romans (4:17-21), notice how Scripture is cited as the warrant for seemingly outrageous claims concerning God and his purposes – that is, they are outrageous according to human reason. This passage informed my consideration of the question about my own “experience of God”. How would this passage, or any other from Holy Scripture, inform, control, or complicate your own answer?

...as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations” —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ESV

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

5:30 PM Vespers

June Birthday's

6th Lauren Miller

13th Patsy Hockman

19th Jack Miller

19th Szymon Czerniak

22nd Ben Porter

22nd Ashleigh Kimmons

23rd David Leathers

Anniversaries

3rd David & Dorothy
Harriman

8th Michael & Melinda Reidy

12th Ashleigh & Jessica
Kimmons

18th George & Rose
Beauchesne

22nd JD & Joy Cutlip

22nd Jeff & Sheri Hamman

Women's Meeting
Wednesday, June 15th
@ 7:00 PM

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

Ice Cream Social

Saturday, June 11th

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

*See Flyer in Newsletter

We need volunteers to help make ice cream and help with the event. If you would like to donate food – please let Jeff Hamman know if you are able to help and we will have a sign up sheet available.

Choir Practice

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

*See Evelyn if interested in joining the Choir

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 led by Leslie Heird and Dorothy Harriman is at 9:30 Sunday

Neighborhood Watch Meeting

Tuesday, June 14th

@ 7:00 PM

at

Lebanon Lutheran
Church

Ice Cream Social to Benefit Family Promise

***Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Drinks
and Homemade Ice Cream***

FREE Will Offering - All donations go to Family Promise

Saturday, June 11, 2022 @ 4:00-8:00

***@ Lebanon Church Community Center
43 Post Office Road, Lebanon Church, VA***



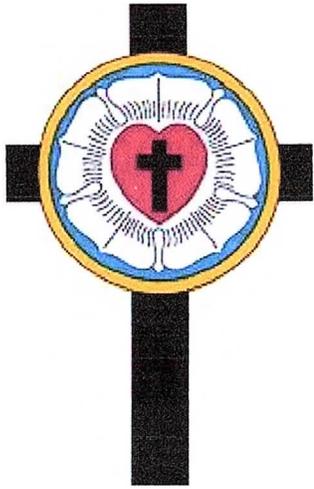
***Live Music
by
Five Of
A Kind***

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

***Bring your family, lawn chairs and enjoy a relaxing evening of
fellowship, food & music***

Sponsored by Lebanon Lutheran Church & Thrivent

Education Corner



As we enter the long season after Pentecost, we should probably reflect on what the Pentecost is, and what traditions are associated with it that may have fallen out of use. In the Book of Acts, the disciples were in Jerusalem celebrating the Festival of Shavuot, or the Feast of Weeks, the 50th day after Passover. This tradition is also called the day of first fruits in Numbers, and Firstfruits of the wheat harvest in Exodus.

Pope Leo I calls this time of Pentecost the Second Covenant, "established by the same spirit who has set up the first", describing it "As once to the Hebrew people, freed from Egypt, the law was given on Mt. Sinai on the fiftieth day after the sacrifice of the lamb, so after the Passion of the Christ when the true Lamb of God was killed, on the fiftieth day from his Resurrection, the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles and the community of believers."

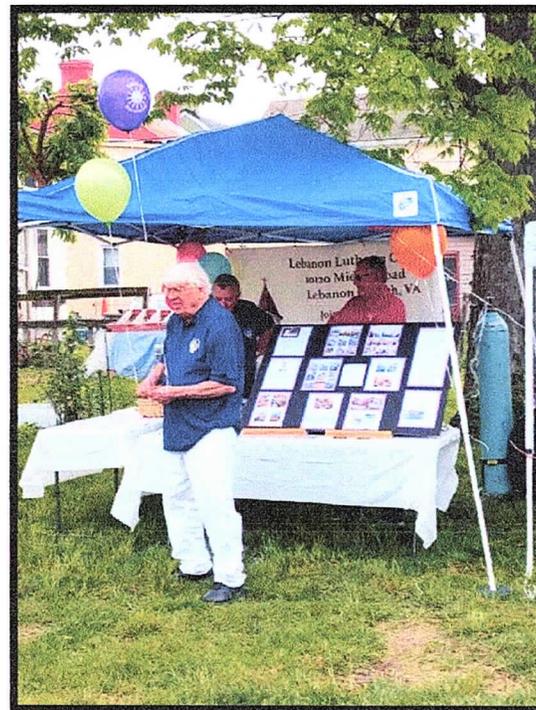
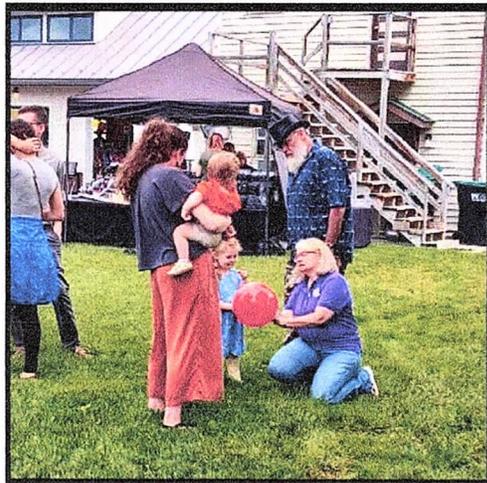
We all know that Red is the color of Pentecost, representing joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit. The pastor and the choir wear red vestments, the altar and wall hangings are red, and even the congregation wears some form of red, red handkerchiefs which can be waved during the service being one example. Many traditions in Europe also decorate the church in red roses or even red balloons. In Sicily and Italy, rose petals are thrown from the galleries over the congregation. In recent years, origami doves are strewn instead.

Doves used to play a central role in churches during the middle ages. A wooden dove figure would be lowered down from the ceiling through a Holy Ghost Hole, which was a circular opening in the ceiling through which the Holy Spirit would descend onto the congregation. Ghost Holes can still be found in many churches throughout Europe.



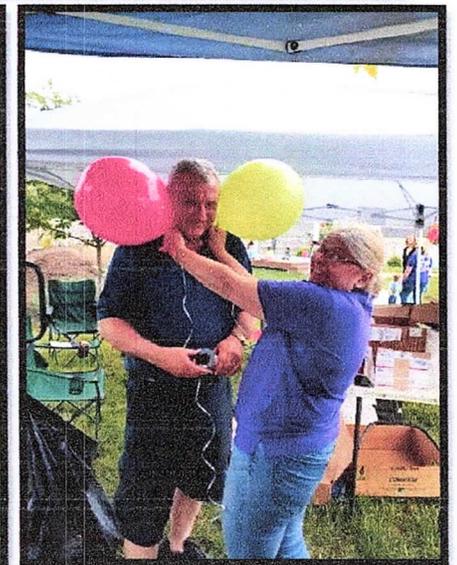
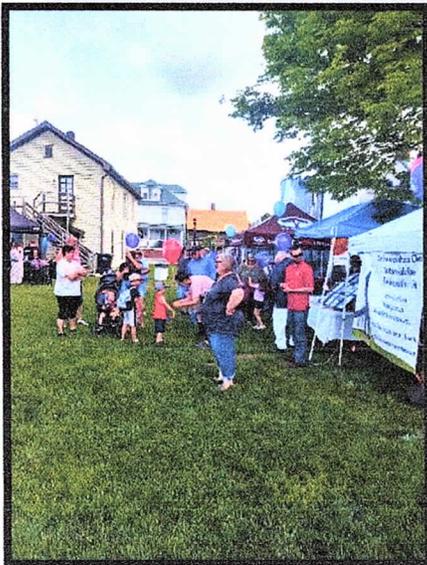
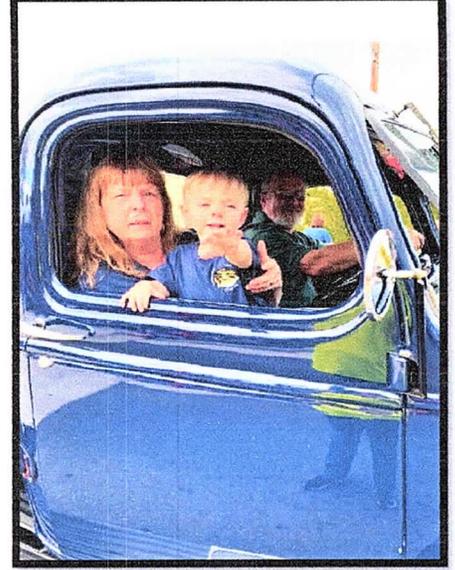
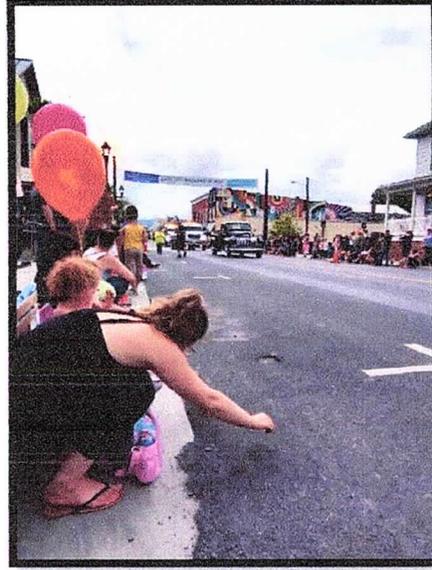
Other traditions include fasting and prayers during this time. While not as strict as the Great Lent, or the Dormition Fast, we are still called to refrain from poultry, eggs, dairy products red meat, oil and wine. There is an extraordinary service or regular Vespers with an additions three sets of poetical prayers and the composition of Basil the Great in which everyone makes a full prostration, touching their foreheads to the floor.

Mayfest

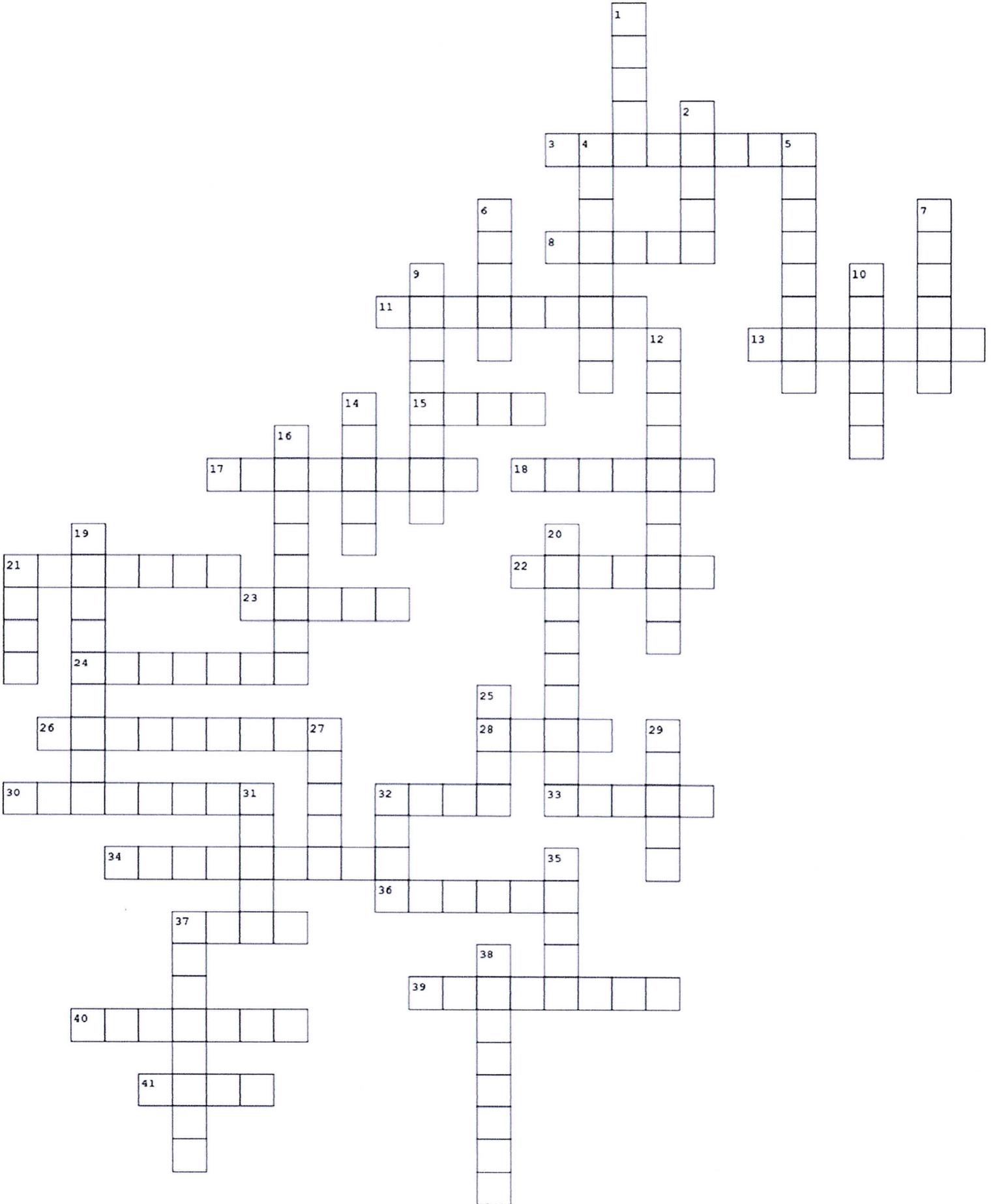


We set up a booth at Mayfest in Strasburg on Saturday, May 14th. "Thanks Be to God" for holding off the rain that day. We gave out bags that had a wooden picture frame or an ornament in them that said "Jesus Loves Me" on them and a pack of crayons with the same message along with several tracks and a card with church information on them. We also gave out balloons that said "Jesus Loves You" on them and it was moving to see all of these kids with balloons that said "Jesus Loves You" along the parade route and walking around town. We also had mints with a Bible Message on them as well as other information about Lebanon Lutheran Church. There was a \$250 Thrivent Card that was also donated to help with the purchase of the items. Thank you to all that donated and helped with the event. We planted a lot of seeds that day and watered other seeds, we pray they will grow in faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Mayfest



Acts Chapters 1-5



Acts Chapters 1-5

Across

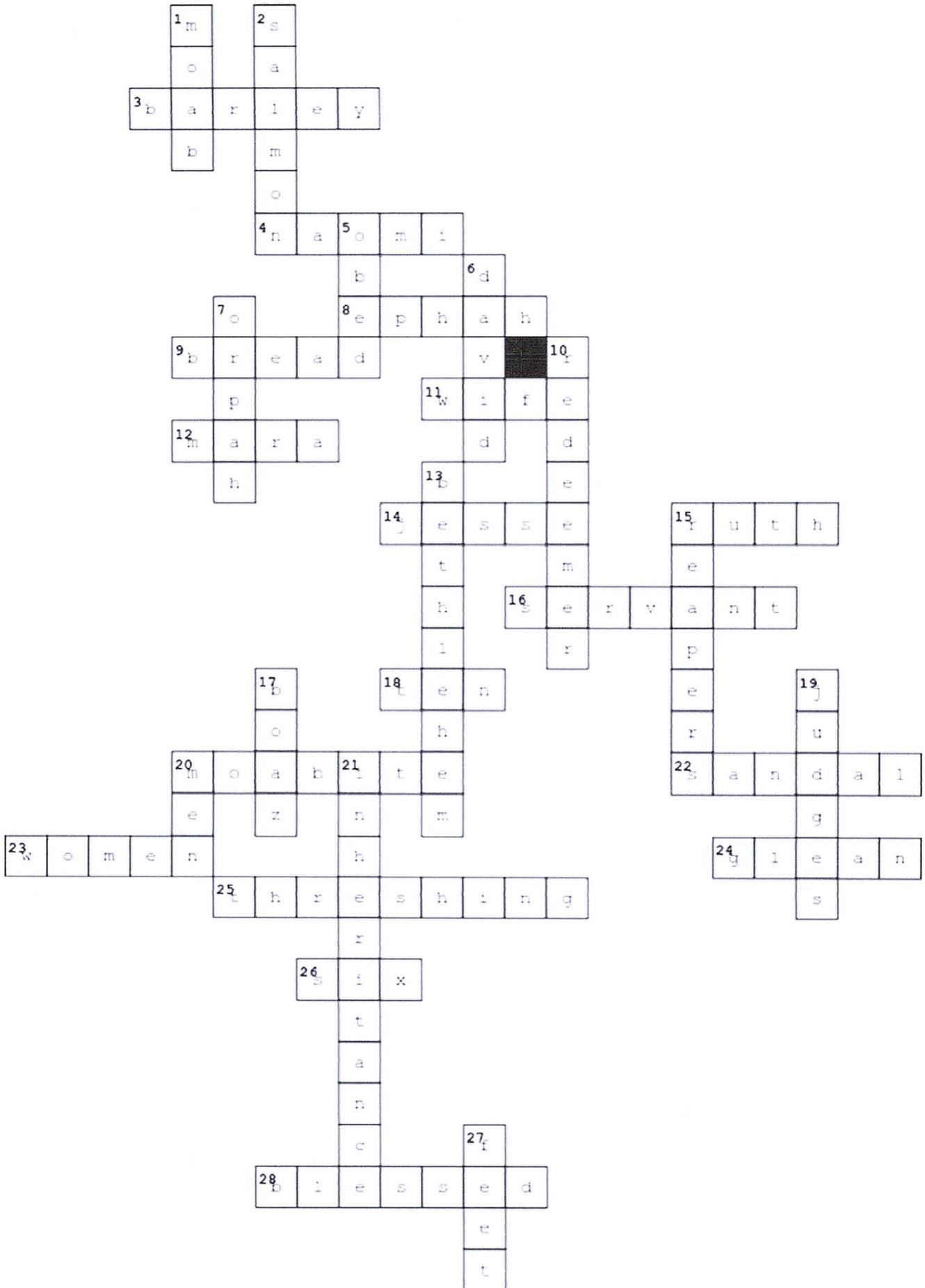
3. This name means son of encouragement? (4)
8. This takes Jesus out of sight from the disciples? (1)
11. The lot fell on him to be the disciple that replace Judas Iscariot. (1)
13. "And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that _____ shall be destroyed from the people." (3)
15. "But during the night an angel of the _____ opened the prison doors and brought them out," (5)
17. They were arrested and put into public prison? (5)
18. By his authority the times and seasons are fixed? (1)
21. "For the man on whom this sign of _____ was performed was more than forty years old." (4)
22. A sound like a mighty rushing wind came from here. (2)
23. He stood up among the brothers? (1)
24. He brings only part of the proceeds and lays them at the apostles feet? (5)
26. "But you denied the Holy and _____ one," (3)
28. "But Peter and the apostles answered, we must _____ God rather than men." (5)
30. "they received their food with glad and _____ hearts." (2)
32. "Repent and therefore, and _____ back, that your sins may be blotted out," (3)
33. "This Jesus is the _____ that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone." (4)
34. Jesus tells the disciples they will be this for him to the end of the earth? (1)
36. The apostles are told to go and stand in this place and speak to the people? (5)
37. He is credited with writing the book of Acts? (1)
39. "And all the people saw him walking and _____ God." (3)
40. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other _____ as the Spirit gave them utterance." (2)
41. "for there is no other _____ under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (4)

Down

1. Jesus said "But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit has come upon you," (1)
2. "And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be _____." (2)
4. In Hebrew this means field of blood? (1)
5. Ananias' wife's name? (5)
6. Jesus appears to the disciples for how many days speaking about the kingdom of God? (1)
7. They did this to the Author of Life? (3)
9. He was a Pharisee, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people? (5)
10. Peter tells them to do this and be baptized? (2)
12. "to bless you by turning everyone of you from your _____." (3)
14. John baptized with this? (1)
16. "Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servant's to continue to speak your word with all _____," (4)
19. "And there is _____ in no one else," (4)
20. "And more than ever _____ were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women," (5)
21. Jesus tells the disciples they will be baptized with this spirit.(1)
25. Peter and _____ were arrested and thrown in jail overnight? (4)
27. So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about 3000 of these? (2)
29. He was the high priest? (4)
31. Peter and John were warned not to teach or do this in the name of Jesus? (4)
32. Peter asks Sapphira how her and her husband agreed to do this to the Spirit of the Lord? (5)
35. God made him both Lord and Christ? (2)
37. Speaking in tongues is when you speak a different one of these which you don't know so that some one who does speak it can hear the mighty works of God? (2)
38. Peter said " In the name of Jesus Christ of _____ rise up and walk." (3)

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

The Book of Ruth



The Book of Ruth

Across

3. Naomi and Ruth came to Bethlehem during this harvest? (1)
4. She was the wife of Elimelech? (1)
8. About how much barley did Ruth have after gleaning? (2)
9. Ruth dips this in the wine? (2)
11. "So Boaz took Ruth and she became his _____." (4)
12. Naomi tells the women of Bethlehem to call her this? (1)
14. Obed was the father of him? (4)
15. She clung to Naomi? (1)
16. Ruth tells Boaz she is his what? (3)
18. The number of men of the elders Boaz asked to sit and be witness to the redeeming? (4)
20. Ruth was a _____.(1)
22. This was given to the other when redeeming and exchanging; to confirm a transaction. (4)
23. Boaz tells Ruth to stay close to these young people? (2)
24. Ruth goes to the field to do this? (2)
25. "See he is winnowing barley tonight at the _____ floor." (3)
26. The number of measures of barley Boaz put on Ruth? (3)
28. Boaz said "May you be by the Lord, my daughter." (3)

Down

1. Ruth was from this country? (2)
2. He fathered Boaz? (4)
5. The name of the son of Boaz and Ruth? (4)
6. Jesse was the father of him? (4)
7. she kissed her mother-in-law and went back to her people? (1)
10. Boaz said "And now it is true that I am a _____." (3)
13. Elimelech was from this city? (1)
15. What they called the men who gathered the barley in the fields? (2)
17. This man was from the clan of Elimelech? (2)
19. There was a famine in the land when they ruled? (1)
20. Boaz charges these young people not to touch Ruth? (2)
21. "I cannot redeem it for myself lest I impair my own _____." (4)
27. Naomi tells Ruth to uncover this of Boaz? (3)

All questions are formed from the book of Ruth, in the ESV Bible.
Chapters are in parenthesis.



Lebanon Lutheran Church



◀ May		June 2022					July ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service 6:30 Pastor Presides @ Lutheran Church of Valley Harrisonburg 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	2 7:00 Choir Practice	3 *Pastor Day Off	4 *Pentecost Eve	
5 Pentecost 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service	6 7:00 Bible Study	7 10:00 Bible Study on Acts: Zoom Make Ice Cream For Ice Cream Social (time to be determined)	8 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service 5:30 Vesper Service	9 7:00 Church Council Meeting	10 *Pastor Day Off	11 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Queen Street Diner 9:00 Set Up For Ice Cream Social 4:00 Ice Cream Social	
12 Trinity Sunday 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service	13 7:00 Bible Study	14 10:00 Bible Study on Acts: Zoom 7:00 Neighborhood Watch Meeting	15 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service 5:30 Vesper Service 7:00 Women's Meeting	16 7:00 Choir Practice	17 *Pastor Day Off	18	
19 Father's Day 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *First Sunday after Trinity	20 *Pastor Vacation	21 *Pastor Vacation	22 *Pastor Vacation	23 *Pastor Vacation	24 *Pastor Vacation	25 *Pastor Vacation	
26 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *Pastor Vacation *Second Sunday after Trinity	27 7:00 Bible Study	28 10:00 Bible Study on Acts: Zoom	29 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service 5:30 Vesper Service	30			