

Lebanon Lutheran Church July 2022 Newsletter

Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 11:00 am

Phone (540) 465-5456

10120 Middle Road

Lebanon Church VA 22641

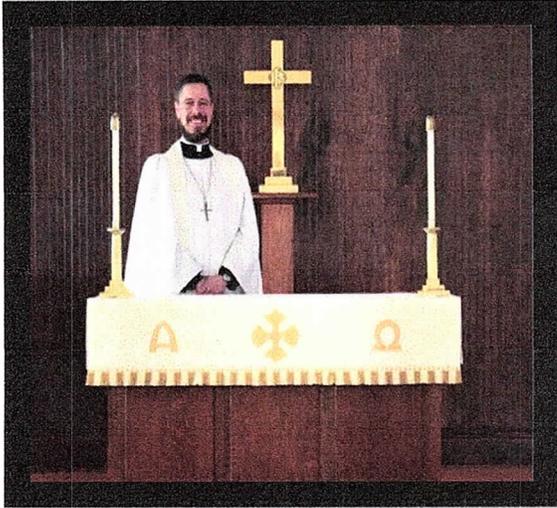
Email: pastor.lebanon@gmail.com



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

A Message From The Pastor



Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above¹ proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.

⁴Their ^kvoice² goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world. ¹

With the recent Supreme Court ruling, I have been brought again to the place where I think through the role of God's (non-human) creation in making His will known to his intelligent, rational, or spiritual creations. That is, does the world around us have an inherent "meaning" and directedness to some purpose or another, or is this non-verbal world of plants, animals, stars, and particles *truly mute and inert*? Can any of these tell us anything about God and His will for the world? And, if the non-human world is truly inert and, well, *dumb* before us, then are we free to do anything we like with it? Can we see these things as *just there* waiting around for us to supply them with a purpose, or does God supply them with their own meanings and directedness – which we should seek to discover and acknowledge?

This may seem to be a purely academic exercise that may provide pastors with subjects for newsletters, but I would submit that it makes a very big difference in terms of the way human beings orient themselves in God's world. Put another way, do things of the natural world have "natures" or inbuilt designs that they need to realize in order to exist as they should? Has God created birds to be the sort of creature that should fly, or do they just happen that way, fortuitously, and really could have been otherwise without being deficient or maladapted?

ⁱ Ps. 50:6; [Rom. 1:19, 20]

¹ Hebrew *the expanse*; compare Genesis 1:6–8

^j Cited Rom. 10:18

^k [Isa. 28:10]

² Or *Their measuring line*

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ps 19:1–4.

Is God's creation just a bunch of stuff, or raw material for our human whims and projects, or does it actually have a higher calling and vocation?

IF it is true that nothing in the world – no natural objects or creatures or non-human realities – have any particular end that they are intrinsically given to, that there is nothing for them to become that would be more fitting or good than any other type of outcome, THEN it would seem to be the case that human beings cannot learn anything from them and would need to provide them with a purpose. We would be their masters in every sense. One could simply decide that a horse was meant for hang gliding, and not for horseback riding – it has no meaning or given end in itself, so I could simply make it up. Is an apple really for eating, or can I decide that its only purpose is for throwing at my brothers when they irritate me (and nothing else besides)?

These examples may seem silly, but the principles are very important for godly Christian living. God's Word provides an answer to these questions, especially clearly in Psalm 19.

David and the Holy Spirit tell us that the heavens, and by extension, all of creation, "declare God's glory". The "sky" (or the "dome") above us "declares God's handiwork". So, whatever else this may mean, the Holy Spirit is telling us that the loftiest of the non-rational created things – the great horizon above us that is the arena for the mundane things below – "speaks" about God, about His glory and His work as creator. It is not without meaning or purpose, but functions to disclose some of the perfections of the God who made it.

Most human beings have some sense of this, however it may have been willfully repressed, when they behold the great explosions of color and vibrancy that attend a sunrise or sunset. If anything can be glorious and beautiful, a sunrise is a great candidate. The Psalmist tells us that this is a sign of and a participation in the glory of God the creator. The resplendent tones, hues, intensities of the sunrise testify that there is One from whom they come, one who granted them being. That One must be capable of these glories but in a superior way, since He is their source. Indeed, for Biblical Christians, the things of creation are not mute, dead, "things", but are given as signs and as "speech". Their "speech" is not human speech as in our natural or other languages, but yet they do disclose something beyond themselves, they testify, simply by being the sort of thing that God has made them to be. Their "good and very good" existence pleases God and gives us some little sense of the glory that is proper to His nature.

Well, I started by invoking the recent Supreme Court ruling – it may surprise you, but I'm not a Constitutional scholar (that is a joke, of course). I can't intelligently hold forth on the issues involved in Constitutional jurisprudence for very long. What I CAN say, with the force of God's own Word, is that there is no such thing as an inert "clump of cells". In the relevant instance, these are ordered to human life, whether or not we find that individually and socially convenient. They do not need human beings to say that they are this or that or to desire that they be this or that, they are what they are and they are ordered to human life. How much more apparent is this in the pre-natal fetus?

These issues are not principally about who will have greater social freedom due to their decisions about human life – they are chiefly about how we view the world and whether we will be obedient to the way God describes and orders His world. Is creation just stuff for our will to dispose of as we wish? Or, is it the arena that discloses the glory of God and which we human beings are to tend and care for?

So far, I have only asked the questions as they pertain the non-human realm of creation. What about the human? We learn in Genesis 1 that human beings are the image bearers of God and they are to serve as those who tend the garden, the shrine and first temple of the Lord, where He dwells in perfect communion with the last and highest of His materially creative works. That surely must mean that human beings can never be “mere things”, but they are as male and female the very beings which may disclose and reflect upon God’s glory better than any other species. This bestows upon every human life a surpassing dignity and value – or better – because human beings are images of God, they participate in the very being of God in an especially intimate and significant way. We treat other images of God scornfully or as mere material for our own projects at our peril, because when we do this, we do it to those who are created in God’s image. It should be unthinkable that Christians could see in either the preconditions of human life or the human being properly as without inherent value and so as so much “stuff” to be disposed of as we like.

There are plenty of other aspects to this particular issue that could be discussed, but for this entry I simply wanted to remark on how it is that God’s Word describes His work of creation – and to consider the appropriate human disposition and attitude toward that work.

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

July Birthday's

12th Meg Lang

13th Jeff Hamman

16th Jessica Kimmons

19th Sharon Painter

McDonald

28th Wilda Clem

29th Judy Martin

Anniversaries

7th Jeff & Bridget
Diehl

8th John & Lauren
Miller

20th Jeff & Libby
Smoot

Women's Meeting
Wednesday, July 27th @
7:00 *PM*

Men's Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, July
8:00 *AM* @
Queen Street Diner

Rally Day "Cruise-In"

will be held on
Saturday,
September 17th @
4:00 @ Lebanon
Church Community
Center – We need
volunteers to help
with this event

Choir Practice

Choir will practice
Thursday, July 7th
and July 21st @ 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 – * No Sunday
School Until September, they
are on Summer Break

Neighborhood Watch Meeting

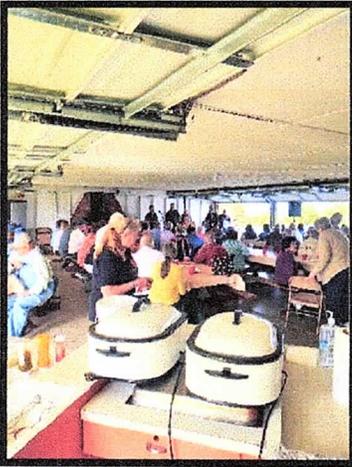
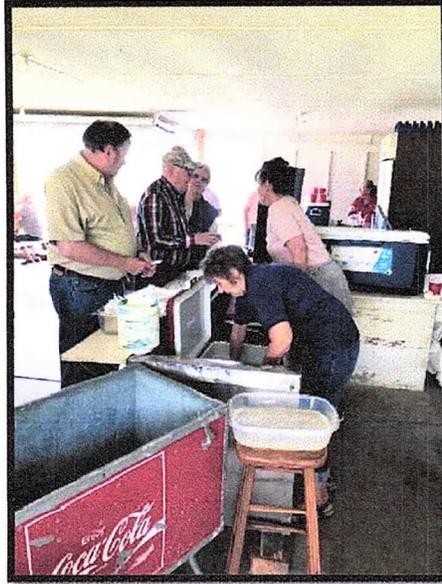
Tuesday, July 12th

@ 7:00 *PM*

at

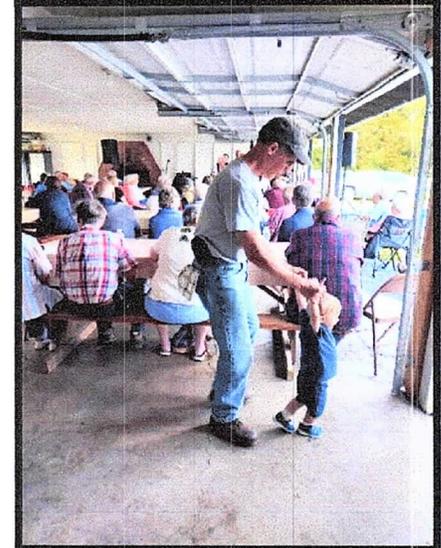
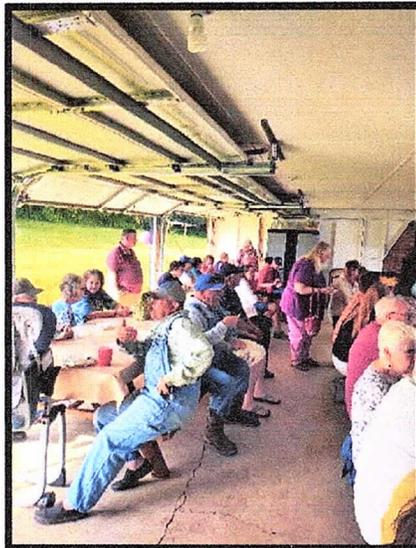
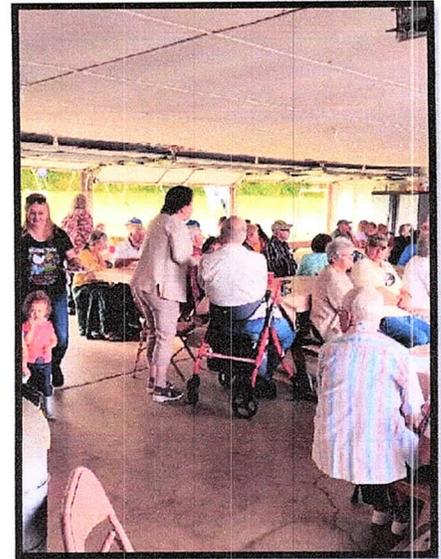
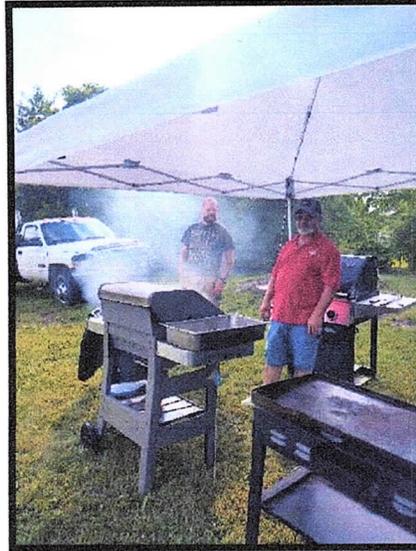
Lebanon Lutheran
Church

Ice Cream Social

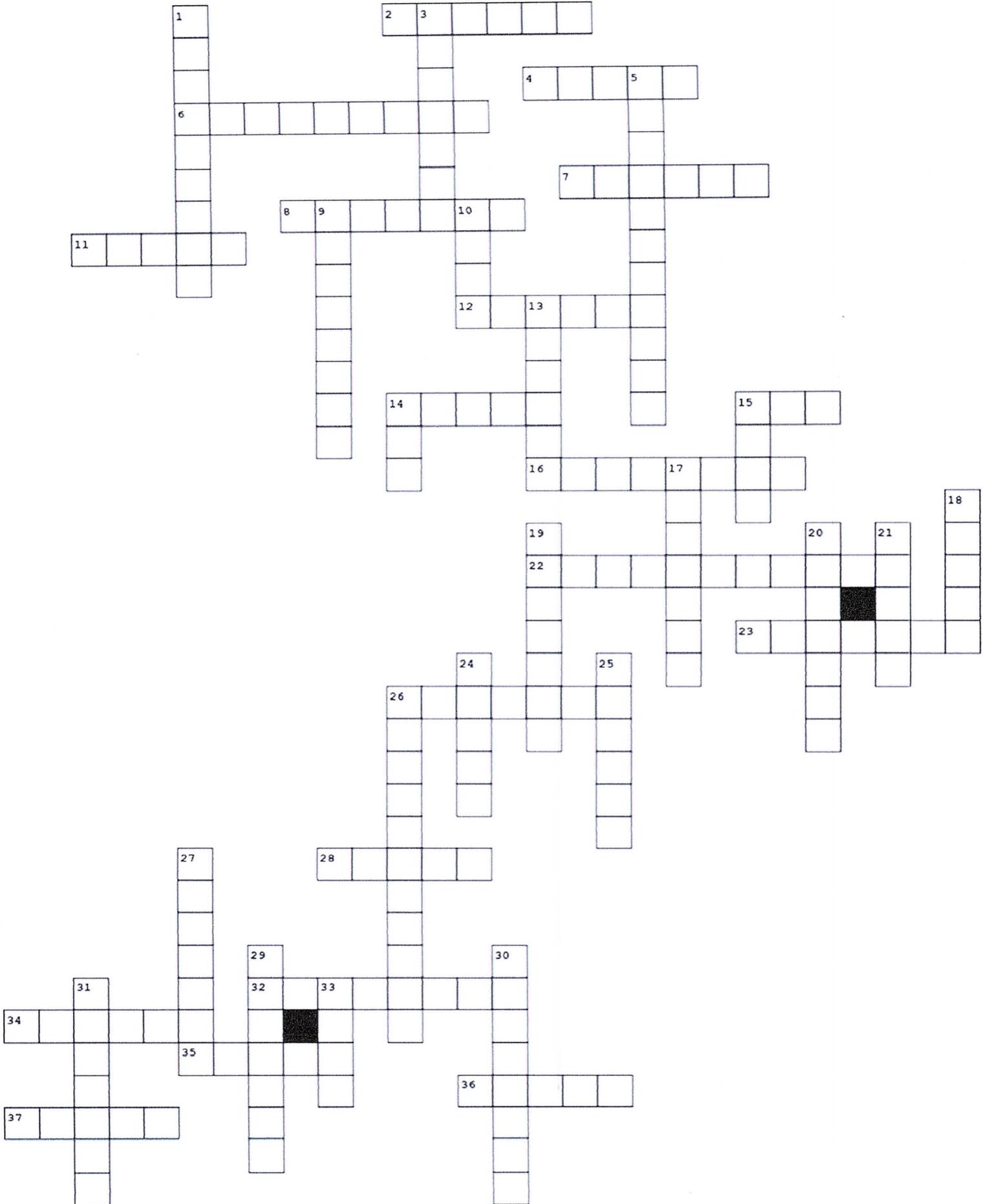


Ice Cream Social on Saturday, June 11th at the Lebanon Church Community Center. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful food and the music by Five of a Kind. We served hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks and ice cream. We made the ice cream on Tuesday, June 7th – grape nut, pineapple, strawberry, banana, mint chip, chocolate and vanilla. We gave out bags with 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. We 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 purchase the ice cream mix. Thank you for all of the generous donations from Members at Lebanon Lutheran Church and for all of their help in making this event possible. We would also like to thank Mike & Brenda Rose for donating the hamburgers and Crabill’s Meats for donating the hot dogs. We collected a “Free Will Offering” with all of the money donated going to Family Promise – we raised \$3,562.00 for Family Promise. “Thanks Be to God” for giving us the ability to hold this event and for all who donated/supported this event to be able to raise such a generous amount to be given to help those in need in our community.

Ice Cream Social



Acts Chapters 6-9



Acts Chapters 6-9

Across

2. Paul was from here? (9)
4. Moses was exiled from this land? (7)
6. God promised to give Abraham land as a possession and to his what after him? (7)
7. He was sold into Egypt but God was with him? (7)
8. A great many of these became obedient to the faith? (6)
11. You cannot obtain the gift of God with this? (8)
12. Saul is lowered down through a hole in the wall by this? (9)
14. The number of men who were appointed to take care of the widows? (6)
15. Saying "Lord do not hold this _____ against them." (7)
16. Saul was on his way to this city when a light from heaven shone around him? (9)
22. They said this of Stephen: "We have heard him speak _____ words against Moses and God." (6)
23. The voice of the Lord came to Moses and told him to take these off for he was on holy ground? (7)
26. The King of Egypt? (7)
28. Isaac became the father of him? (7)
32. The Eunuch was from this country? (8)
34. The Eunuch was reading from this scripture? (8)
35. He made a calf for the people to worship? (7)
36. He was a magician that heard the good news Philip was preaching and became baptized? (8)
37. Moses was this age when it came into his heart to visit the children of Israel? (7)

All questions are formed from the ESV Bible.

Chapters are in parenthesis.

Down

1. "And they killed those who _____ beforehand the coming of the Righteous One." (7)
3. As Jesus had told him this disciple went and laid hands on Saul that he could see and baptized him? (9)
5. Jesus said " Saul, Saul, why are you _____ me?" (9)
9. God made Moses both ruler and _____. (7)
10. Abraham bought this for a sum of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem? (7)
13. They cast Stephen out of the city and did this to him? (7)
14. Saul's eyes were open, yet he could not do this? (9)
15. He was ravaging the church? (8)
17. He was full of grace and power and was doing great signs and wonders among the people? (6)
18. He was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter? (7)
19. God appeared to him in Mesopotamia? (7)
20. They brought Stephen before this? (6)
21. After his birth he was circumcised on the eighth day? (7)
24. This King of Israel found favor in the sight of God? (7)
25. This apostle went to the Samaria? (8)
26. "And there arose that day a great _____ against the church in Jerusalem." (8)
27. She becomes ill and dies and Peter through prayer, raises her to life? (9)
29. A complaint rose against them because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution? (6)
30. Philip does this to the Eunuch with the water by the road? (8)
31. There was much joy in this city as unclean spirits were cast out and the paralyzed or lame were healed? (8)
33. "So they led him by the _____ and brought him into Damascus." (9)

Acts Chapters 1-5

The crossword puzzle contains the following words:

- 1 P**: P O W E R
- 2 S**: S A B A
- 3 B**: B A
- 4 A**: A R N A
- 5 S**: S A
- 6 F**: F O R G I V E N E S S
- 7 K**: K I N D
- 8 C**: C L O U D
- 9 G**: G O S P E L
- 10 R**: R O P H E T
- 11 M**: M A T T H I A S
- 12 W**: W I T N E S S
- 13 P**: P O P H E T
- 14 W**: W O R D
- 15 L**: L O R D
- 16 B**: B A
- 17 A**: A P O S T L E S
- 18 P**: P A T H E R
- 19 D**: D E N Y
- 20 L**: L A V E N
- 21 H**: H E A L I N G
- 22 H**: H E A V E N
- 23 P**: P E T E R
- 24 A**: A N A N I A S
- 25 U**: U N D E R
- 26 R**: R I G H T E O U S
- 27 S**: S O
- 28 O**: O B E Y
- 29 A**: A N
- 30 S**: S E N E R O U S
- 31 S**: S O
- 32 T**: T U R N
- 33 U**: U T O N E
- 34 W**: W I T N E S S E S
- 35 O**: O U S
- 36 U**: U E M P L E
- 37 L**: L U K E
- 38 N**: N A M E
- 39 P**: P R A I S I N G
- 40 T**: T O N G U E S
- 41 N**: N A M E

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 book of Acts in the ESV Bible. Chapters are in parenthesis.



Lebanon Lutheran Church



◀ Jun 2022		July 2022					Aug 2022 ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
3 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service <i>*Third Sunday after Trinity</i>	4 Independence Day	5	6 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service 5:30 Vesper Service 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	7 7:00 Choir Practice	8	9 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Queen Street Diner 9:00 Church Clean-Up Day		
10 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service <i>*Fourth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11	12 7:00 Neighborhood Watch Meeting	13 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service 6:30 Pastor Presides @ Lutheran Church of the Valley in Harrisonburg	14 6:00 Outreach Meeting 7:00 Church Council Meeting	15	16		
17 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service <i>*Fifth Sunday after Trinity</i>	18	19	20 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service 5:30 Vesper Service	21 7:00 Choir Practice	22	23		
24 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service <i>*Sixth Sunday after Trinity</i>	25	26	27 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individual Confession & Absolution 1:30 Communion Service 5:30 Vesper Service	28	29	30		
31 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service <i>*Noisy Offering</i> <i>*Seventh Sunday after Trinity</i>								