

Lebanon Lutheran Church November 2022 Newsletter

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

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Lebanon Church VA 22641
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NALC

North American Lutheran Church

A Message From The Pastor



Greetings Lebanon and friends! For this issue of the Newsletter I am including this excerpt from *Concordia: the Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord*. May God grant that those Christians that have been given the name "Lutheran" may continue in the faith once delivered to the saints as it is known in God's Holy Word, and where they have allowed that faith to grow weak or slack, that they would reclaim it and hold it high!

Prayerfully,

Pastor Porter

VDMA A.D. 2022

Bold Public Witness to the Gospel – The Hallmark of Lutheranism

When the Lutheran Confessions were published in the Book of Concord, in 1580, the group of Lutheran theologians asserted that what they were confessing was not merely their own private opinions, but were asserting publically the truth that they were willing to stake their very lives on, here in this world, and more importantly, before the judgement seat of Almighty God.

This declaration ... is our faith, doctrine, and confession.

By God's grace, with intrepid hearts, we are willing to appear before the judgment seat of Christ with this confession.

—Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, XII 40

Intrepid hearts indeed! What could possibly be so important that you would stake eternity on it? What gives a person such courage and conviction? Only one thing—the truth. This is what the Lutheran Reformation is all about, the truth of God's Word.

God's people have always spoken this way. For example, the psalmist wrote, "I will speak of Your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame" (Psalm 119:46). Peter confessed his faith when Jesus asked him what he believed, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Paul wrote, "Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, 'I believed, and so I spoke,' we also believe, and so we also speak" (2 Corinthians 4:13).

Lutherans have used the Confessions of faith contained in the Book of Concord for nearly five hundred years as their public witness and testimony of what the Bible teaches. These Confessions give clear, unambiguous, and certain witness to the Christian faith. They unite all those who bear

the name Lutheran and wish to be—and remain—genuinely Lutheran. That is why this book uses the word Concordia as a title.

The Meaning of Concordia

Concordia comes from two Latin words meaning “with” and “heart.” It describes a commitment to the truth so strong and so deep, it is as if those who share it have a single heart beat. To many twenty-first-century minds, the claim that there is objective truth is regarded with deep suspicion. To suggest that there is one, and only one, absolute truth about God is regarded by many today as absurd, foolish, ridiculous, or the sign of an intolerant and weak mind. Sadly, even many modern Christians now view claims of truth and certainty with a good deal of suspicion.

But truth and falsehood are real. It is possible to know truth and it is necessary to reject all errors that contradict the truth. God reveals absolute truth in His Word, which is precisely what the documents in the Book of Concord assert, with complete and total conviction.

The Bible is the rock-solid foundation for the documents in the Book of Concord. Christians who embrace the documents in this book as their teaching, their belief, and their confession also believe that it is possible for people to know and be certain about truth. They are convinced. They are certain. They are sure. Why? Because of the One who has called them to this conviction: the Lord Jesus Christ. He said, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31–32).

Genuine, Historic Lutheranism

To embrace the freedom of truth means rejecting the slavery of error. That is why the Book of Concord uses two phrases to capture the essence of biblical confession: “we believe, teach, and confess” and “we reject and condemn.” One cannot believe, teach, and confess the truth without also rejecting and condemning everything that endangers or contradicts the truth. This spirit of “confessional Lutheranism” is what continues to animate people today who hold to this collection of affirmations, professions, and confessions of faith.

Not all churches that go by the name “Lutheran” still regard the Book of Concord as highly as they once did. Some prominent Lutheran Church bodies in the United States and around the world regard these statements of faith as “historically conditioned.” They say that the older confessions are not necessarily correct in what they teach about God’s Word. These churches have embraced various ecumenical agreements with non-Lutheran churches that contradict what Lutheranism has taught historically.

Confessional Lutheran churches regard these compromises not only as a compromise of historic Lutheranism, but also as an actual denial of the truth of God’s Word. (A most serious matter indeed!) It is important to keep in mind this distinction among churches that use the name “Lutheran.” This is all the more reason to make sure that these Confessions are not merely historical documents in congregations that are genuinely Lutheran. They must be well known by laypeople and church workers alike.

Historic, genuine Lutheranism holds that the Bible is actually the Word of the Living God. We believe that it is both incapable of error and free from error. We hold strongly to the Lutheran Confessions because we are absolutely convinced that these confessions of faith are a pure

exposition and explanation of God's Word. Lutherans agree with the apostle Peter, who said, "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

When God the Holy Spirit gives the gift of trust in Jesus Christ as the Savior, this gift of faith creates a desire to confess, to bear witness, to testify, to proclaim, and to speak this faith. That is what the documents in this book are all about. They are not musty, old relics from history. They are the living confession of God's people, who have clung to the truths in these documents for nearly five hundred years. Today, we who hold to these Confessions make the Book of Concord our confession, our witness, our public testimony of what the Bible teaches. With Martin Luther, we say, "Here we stand. We cannot do otherwise. God help us. Amen."

A Story of Personal Sacrifice for the Truth

During the years when these Confessions were written and defended, faithful men and women of God, both laypeople and clergy, sacrificed all they had—in some cases their very lives—to defend and extend the truths of God's holy Word as confessed by the Lutheran Church. Men died in battle fighting to defend the right to teach Lutheran precepts in classrooms and preach the Lutheran faith in pulpits. They died defending their cities and towns—and most important, their convictions—from armies of political and church leaders trying to stamp out Lutheranism forever.

For example, during the Thirty Years' War (1618–48) Roman Catholic rulers attacked the Protestant regions of Germany with the hope of stamping out the Reformation. The battles that followed forced tens of thousands of people out of their homes. Disease and famine deepened the misery, causing a level of suffering similar to what we see today in parts of Africa. Finally, the Swedish king, Gustavus Adolfus II (1594–1632), led his armies to defend the Protestants. His army's victory at the battle of Lützen ensured the survival of the Reformation. But Gustavus himself died in the fighting. Every Lutheran who values his or her Confession of faith should remember this "Lion of the North" and thank God for his sacrifice.

The courage of the first Lutherans is awe-inspiring for us today. It is difficult for us to imagine sacrificing everything for the sake of what we believe. It is hard for us today to even imagine a situation similar to what happened to Lutherans in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Today, the attitude toward truth is very much one of compromise at all costs, rather than confession at all costs. There is within many churches today a "go along to get along" attitude. This attitude was around at the time of the writing of the Lutheran Confessions as well, but was eventually resoundingly rejected.

A Book for All People

Rev. Dr. C. F. W. Walther, the great American Lutheran theologian, and the first president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, explained how important the Book of Concord is for all Lutherans.

The Book of Concord should be in every Lutheran home. For that reason [our Church] should provide a good, inexpensive copy, and pastors should see to it that every home has one.... If a person isn't familiar with this book, he'll think, "That old book is just for pastors. I don't have to preach. After [working] all day, I can't sit down and study in the evening. If I read my morning and evening devotions, that's enough." No, that is not enough! The Lord doesn't want us to remain children, who are blown to and fro by every wind of doctrine; instead of that, He wants us to grow in knowledge so

that we can teach others. (Essays for the Church, vol. 2 [St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1992], 51)

The Book of Concord is not merely a book for pastors and church “professionals” or “academics.” In fact, it is important to realize that the people most directly responsible for the Lutheran Confessions were laymen, not pastors and theologians. At tremendous personal risk to their own lives, their property, and their profession, laymen boldly stepped before the emperor and the pope’s representatives. They asserted that these Confessions were their own. They did not back down or compromise. For this reason, it is unfortunate that down through the years the Book of Concord has come to be regarded more as a book for pastors and professional theologians.

Tucked into the middle of the Book of Concord is the most widely used of all the Lutheran Confessions: Martin Luther’s Small Catechism. Luther wrote this document not simply as a resource for the church and school, but, first and foremost, for the head of the household. Luther intended this little book to be used by laypeople, daily, to help them remain anchored to the solid teachings of God’s holy Word, the Bible. So keep this important fact in mind: The Book of Concord exists because of the faith and conviction of laypeople, who risked their very lives in order to have these Confessions produced, published, and distributed. The Book of Concord is a book for all Christians, church workers and laypeople alike.

Christians who want to be true and faithful to the teachings of the Bible return, again and again, to this book. In these confessions of faith they find agreement, unity, and harmony in the truths of God’s Word. These documents never take the place of the Bible. They distinguish between what the Bible teaches and the false teachings of others, which undermine the use of God’s Word. They give Christians a common voice to confess their faith to the world.

Reaching out boldly with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the goal of the Lutheran Confessions. They are not to be treated like museum pieces, kept under glass as interesting curiosities. Neither are they holiday decorations taken out once a year and admired, soon to be put away and forgotten. Nor are the Lutheran Confessions clubs used to bash people or shields to prevent contact with others or trophies set on a shelf. The Lutheran Confessions are resources for extending and defending vigorously the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are powerful tools for everyone to use, in all circumstances, for preaching, teaching, and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and all the truths of God’s Word in the church, school, home, workplace, community, and throughout the world.

Lutherans particularly enjoy “Concordia” through these confessions. United in common conviction about God’s Word, they live together with a common heartbeat, declaring to the world and to one another, “This is what we believe, teach, and confess.”

Excerpt from:

[*Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*](#) (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2005), xiii–xvi.

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*

November Birthday's

1st J.D. Cutlip

2nd Rose Beauchesne

8th Teresa Gochenour

16th Willard Clem

18th Reese Estep

20th Grace Lowe

22nd Sheri Hamman

30th Joe Jackson

*Women's Meeting
Wednesday, November
30th @ 7:00 PM*

*Men's Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, November 12th
8:00 AM @
Queen Street Diner*

Pot Luck Lunch

*Sunday, November
27th after the Divine
Service we will have
the Hanging of the
Greens and put up
the Chrismon Tree
and Advent Wreath.
Come for wonderful
fellowship and to
learn the meanings of
the Chrismons.*

November Anniversaries

10th Greg & Carolyn
Frye

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

Choir Practice

*Choir will practice
Thursday, November 3rd
and November 17th
@ 7:00 PM*

**See Evelyn if interested in
joining the Choir*

Church Anniversary Planning Meeting

*Sunday, November 6th
immediately following
the Divine Service
(Lunch Provided)*

Congregational Meeting

*Sunday, November 20th
after the Divine Service*

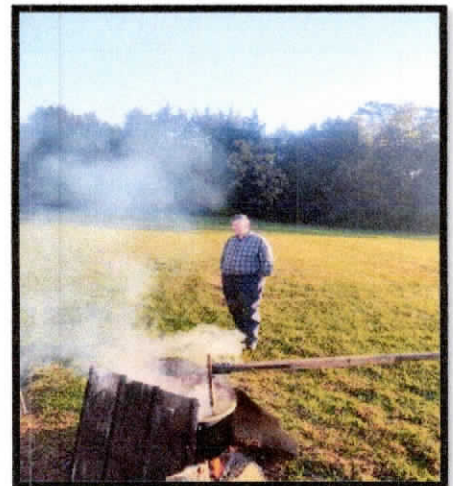
Apple Butter



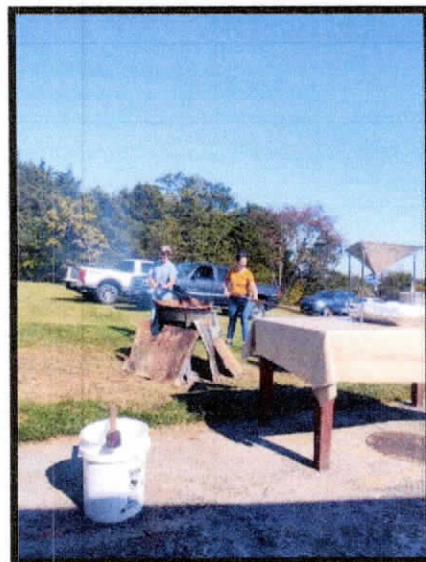
Thank you to everyone who provided food, helped with snitting the apples, boiling and packaging the apple butter. It was a great time of fellowship.

We had a lot of pre-orders and we still have some apple butter left to sell.

Pints/\$5.00 * Quarts/\$9.00**



Apple Butter



Reaching **OUT** Thru Outreach



FOOD DRIVE

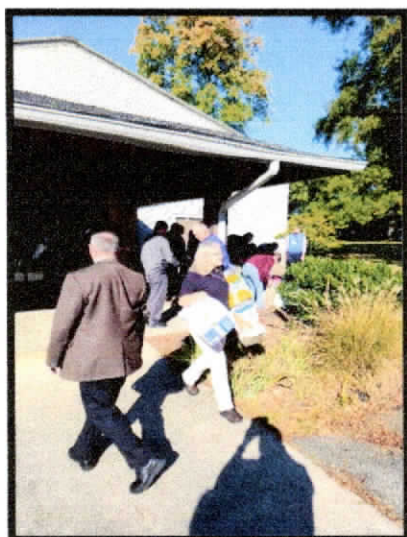
The Food Drive continues through November 13th. All items collected will be donated to the Compassion Cupboard and the Food Pantry (no glass please). Thank you for your support to help families in need in our community.

Jan.	Dish Detergent - Canned Broth	July	Ketchup/Mustard - BBQ Sauce
Feb.	Soap - White Potatoes (canned)	Aug.	Salt & Pepper - Canned Tomatoes
Mar.	Flour/Sugar - Mayo (small squeeze)	Sept.	Soup - Crackers
Apr.	Kidney/Pinto Beans - Pork & Beans	Oct.	Stove Top Stuffing - Canned Broth
May	Evaporated Milk - Sm Laundry Detergent	Nov.	Spaghetti Sauce - Spaghetti Noodles
June	Ravioli - SpaghettiOs	Dec.	Mixed Vegetables - Evaporated Milk

Compassion Cupboard Monthly Needs For 2022

Above is a list of items which are needed each month and distributed to those in need in our community. You can bring them to church and place them in the blue tub. (No glass please - jars, etc.)

NALC Disaster Response Donations



The NALC Atlantic Mission Regional Convocation was held on Friday, October 21 & Saturday, October 22 at Annapolis Evangelical Lutheran Church in Maryland. Pastor Porter and David & Dorothy Harriman attended the Convocation. They took all of the items that we collected for the "NALC Disaster - Stuff The Truck". Dorothy attended the Women's Meeting on Friday and they assembled the kits to pack the truck, everyone at the Convocation helped to pack the truck. Thank you to everyone at Lebanon Lutheran Church for all of your donations, they were greatly appreciated.



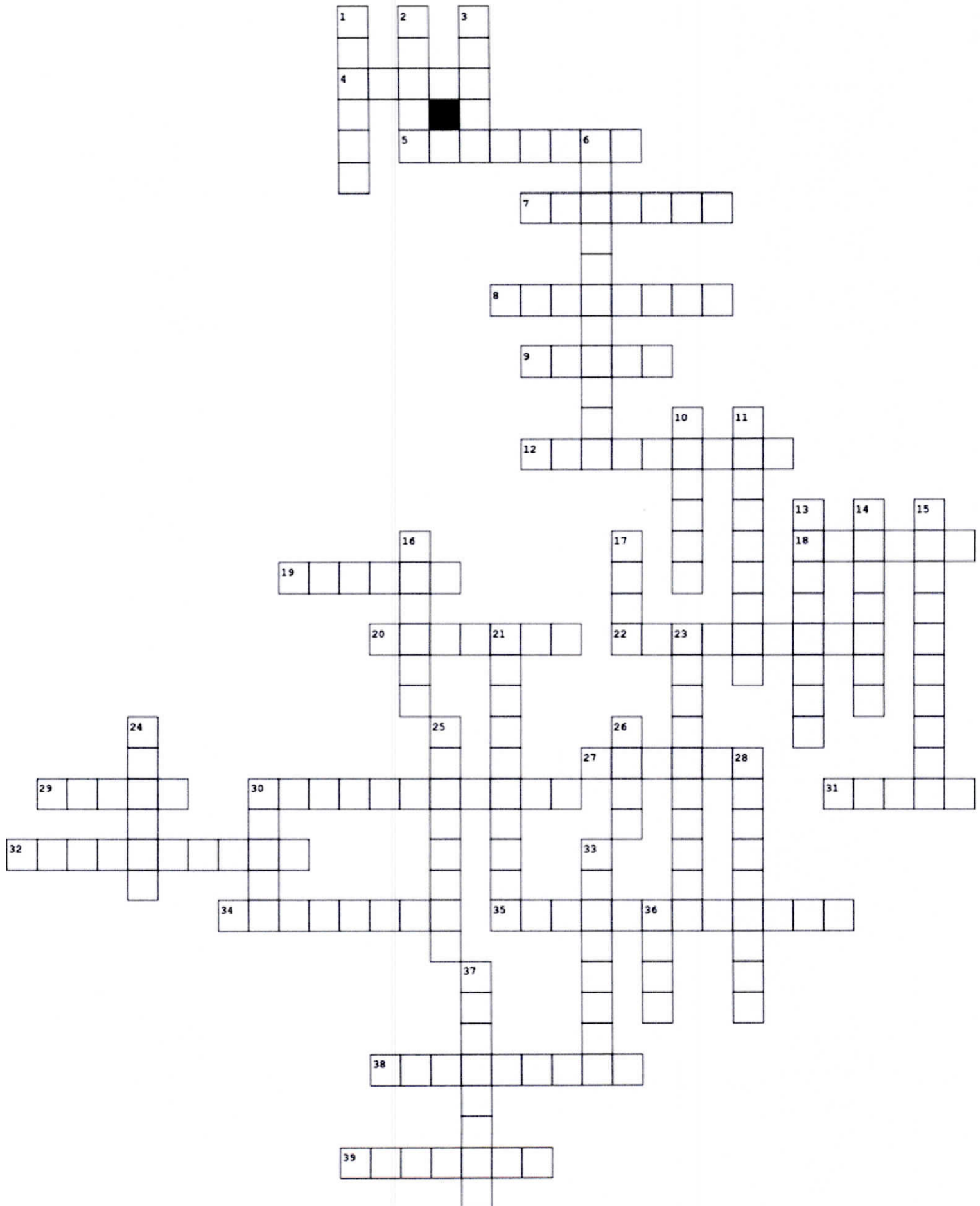
Christmas Parades

We will have a float in the Woodstock & Strasburg Christmas Parades this year. We need volunteers to help with the float and to participate in the parades.

***Woodstock Christmas Parade – Friday, December 2nd
Line Up will be @ 5:30 pm in the parking lot of the
County Government Building on Mill Road
(Parade starts @ 6:30 pm)***

***Strasburg Christmas Parade – Saturday, December 3rd
Line Up will be @ 3:30 pm on Ash Street
(Parade starts @ 4:30 pm)***

Acts Chapters 24-28



Acts Chapters 24-28

Across

4. Paul said this of God's stood before him and told him he must stand before Caesar? (27)
5. Paul welcomed those who came to him, "proclaiming the kingdom of God and _____ about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance." (28)
7. He is the king? (25)
8. They laid their case against Paul, before him? (24)
9. Paul asserted He was alive! (25)
12. The governor had asked Paul if he wanted to go here, to be tried? (25)
18. Felix left Paul here when he was succeeded? (24)
19. He succeeded Felix as governor? (25)
20. Paul is kept in custody but the governor gives him some of this? (24)
22. Paul considers himself this, to be before king Agrippa. (26)
27. With the authority of the chief priests Paul put many of these in prison? (26)
29. This bit Paul but had no ill effect on him? (28)
30. Jesus said, "that they may receive _____ of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." (26)
31. Felix hoped he would receive this from Paul? (24)
32. They transferred to this ship sailing to Italy? (27)
34. The strictest party of the Jewish religion? (26)
35. There will be this among the just and unjust? (24)
38. "And Agrippa said to Paul "In a short time would you persuade me to be a _____?" (26)
39. He was the chief man of Malta? (28)

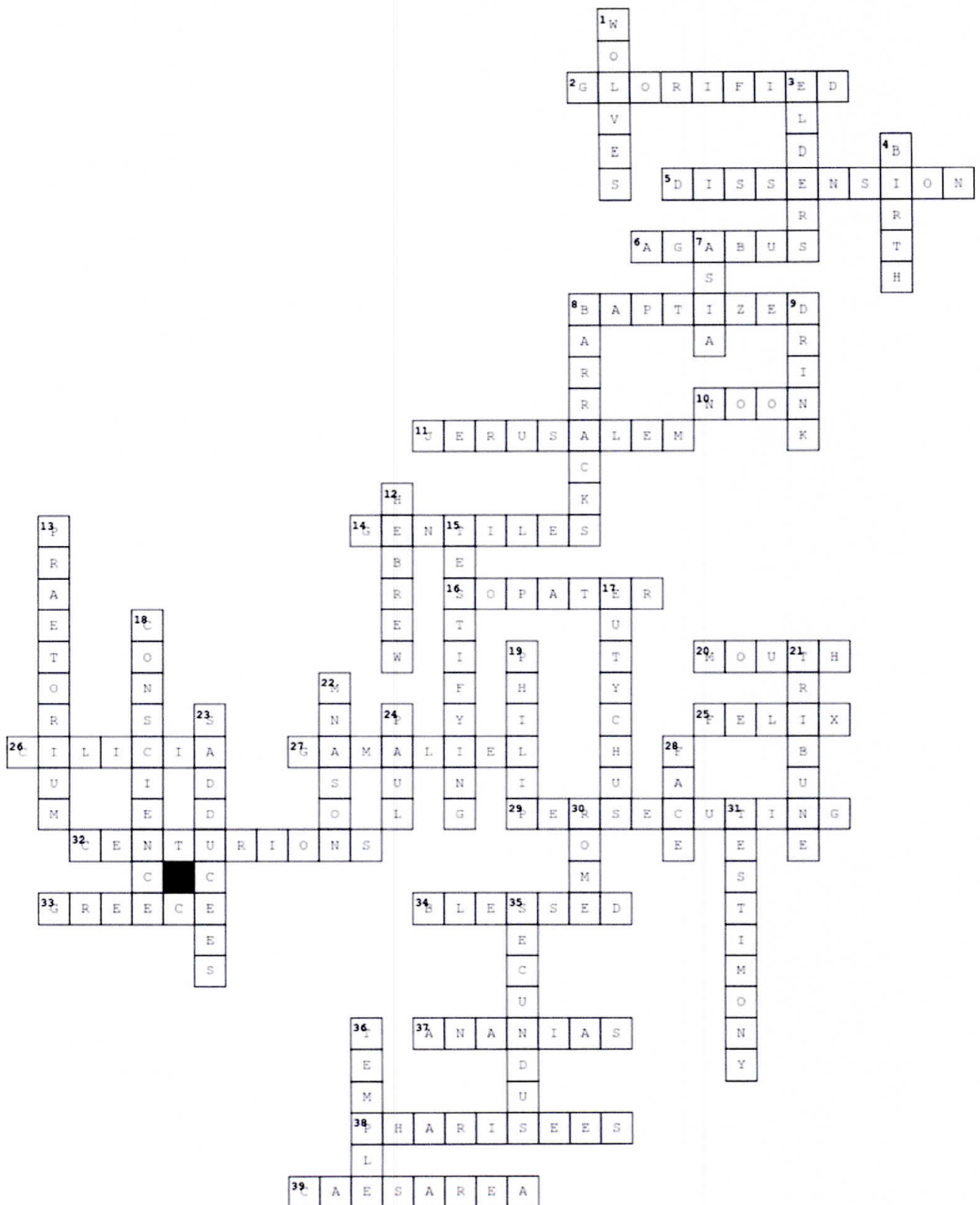
Down

1. Paul quotes this prophet? (28)
2. When you turn away from darkness you turn to this? (26)
3. The name of the island where Paul was shipwrecked? (28)
6. A tempestuous wind struck down from the land was called this? (27)
10. "Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God _____ the dead?" (26)
11. He was a spokesman for the high priest and the elders? (24)
13. "This man could have been set free if he had not _____ to Caesar." (26)
14. Jesus said, "to appoint you as servant and _____ to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you," (26)
15. This of Paul's is clear toward God and man? (24)
16. He was the centurion of the Augustan Cohort? (27)
17. The ship strikes this? (27)
21. They say Paul is this of the sect of Nazarenes? (24)
23. "that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their _____." (26)
24. Paul says he is standing before who's tribunal? (25)
25. Paul was in prison here? (25)
26. Not one of these is to perish from anyone's head? (27)
28. "Therefore let it be known to you this _____ of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen." (28)
30. Paul tells the ones on the ship he has this, in God? (27)
33. The wife of Felix? (24)
36. With the soldier who guarded him, Paul was able to stay by himself in this city? (28)
37. The sea they were crossing? (27)

All questions are formed from the ESV Bible.

Chapters are in parenthesis.

Acts Chapters 20-23





Lebanon Lutheran Church



November 2022						
◀ Oct 2022						Dec 2022 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 6:30 Pastor @ H-burg Lutheran Church of Valley	3 7:00 Choir Practice	4	5
6 All Saints' 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *Anniversary Meeting *21st Sunday after Trinity	7 10:00 Acts Bible Study 7:00 Adult Catechism Class	8	9 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 5:30 Vesper Service	10 6:00 Outreach Meeting 7:00 Church Council Meeting	11	12 8:00 Men's Prayer Brkfst @ Queen Street Diner
13 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *22nd Sunday after Trinity	14 10:00 Acts Bible Study 7:00 Adult Catechism Class	15	16 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 5:30 Vesper Service 6:30 Worship/Music Meet	17 7:00 Choir Practice	18	19
20 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *Congregation Meeting *Last Sunday	21 10:00 Acts Bible Study 7:00 Adult Catechism Class	22	23 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 5:30 Vesper Service	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 9:30 Make Advent Wreaths 11:00 Divine Service *Pot Luck Lunch and Hanging Greens, Advent Wreath & Chrismon Tree *Advent 1	28 10:00 Acts Bible Study 7:00 Adult Catechism Class	29	30 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 5:30 Vesper Service 7:00 Women's Meeting	Christmas Parades 1) Woodstock Christmas Parade – Friday, December 2 nd - Line up @ 5:30 2) Strasburg Christmas Parade – Saturday, December 3 rd - Line up @ 3:30		