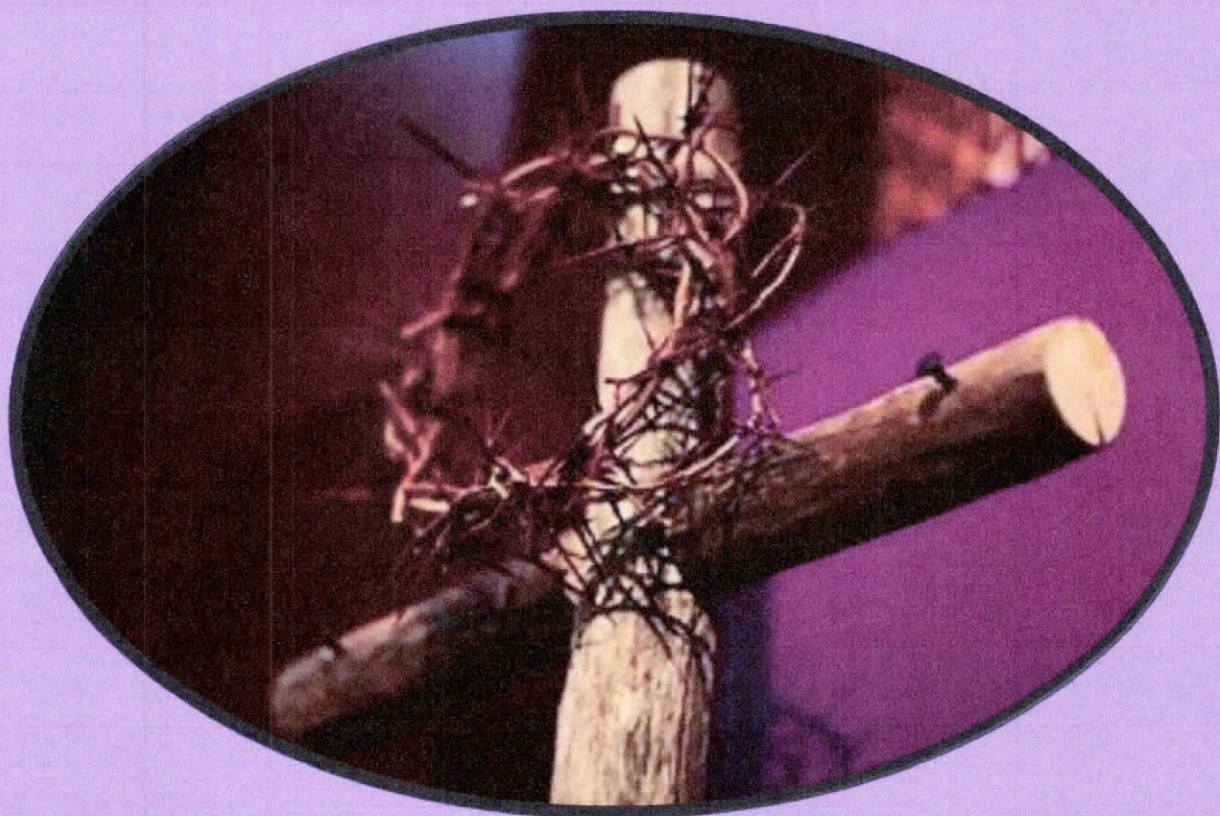


Lebanon Lutheran Church March 2023 Newsletter

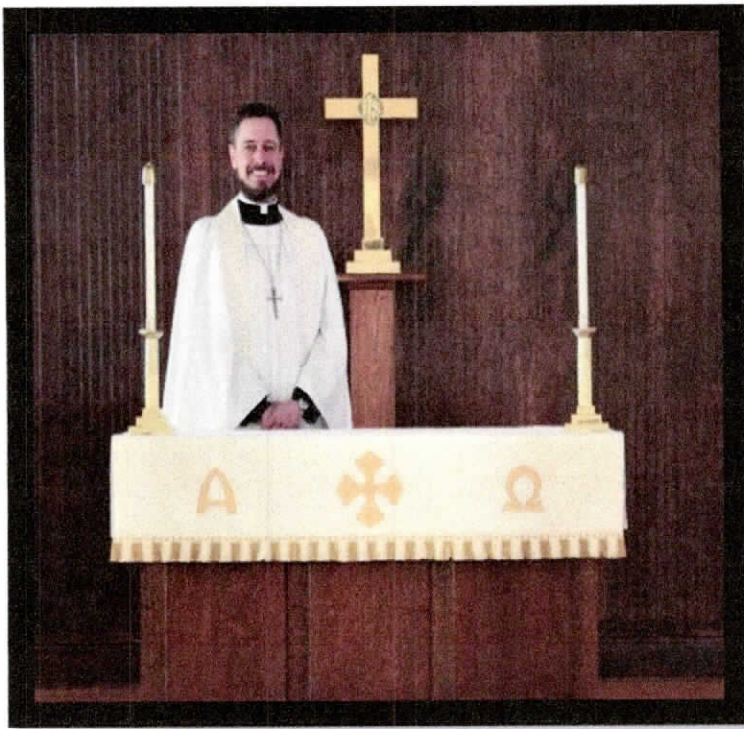
*Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 11:00 am
Phone (540) 465-5456*

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



NALC

North American Lutheran Church



A Message From The Pastor

A Lenten Pause

For this newsletter, I had originally intended to provide a short historical account from the life and ministry of Lebanon Lutheran Church. Upon reflection, and given the coincidence with the beginning of Lent, I will postpone the history and provide a Seasonal Reflection. God bless you all in this Lententide and always.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Porter

¹² "Yet even now," declares the Lord,
ⁱ "return to me with all your heart,
^j with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ and ^krend your hearts and not ^lyour garments."
 Return to the Lord your God,
^m for he is gracious and merciful,
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
ⁿ and he relents over disaster.
¹⁴ ^oWho knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and ^pleave a blessing behind him,
^q a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the Lord your God? ¹

Lent as pause and reversal

This passage makes me think of another great prophet, Jonah. This prophet once refused God's first address to him in a what appears to be a fit of self-righteous anger, only to later become the instrument God had chosen to bring repentance to the Ninevites. To the Ninevites – those *terrible enemies of Israel!* - (Jonah 1:1, 3:1).

ⁱ Deut. 4:30; 1 Sam. 7:3; Jer. 4:1; Hos. 12:6

^j [1 Sam. 7:6]

^k [Ps. 34:18]

^l See Gen. 37:29

^m Ex. 34:6; Ps. 86:5, 15; Jonah 4:2

ⁿ [Num. 23:19; Ezek. 24:14]

^o Jonah 3:9

^p Hag. 2:19; Mal. 3:10

^q ch. 1:9, 13

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Joe 2:12–14.

Some object to observing Lent because they say it's made up, an invention of men, not something found in the Bible. Let us grant that there is no definite command for the exact practice of Lent, in the exact manner we now may, or even for a definite period called "Lent"- the word itself seems only to mean "Spring" in some Germanic language I don't speak. Granted. But what about the disciplines and major themes of the period we now call Lent? They certainly do have Biblical sanction, and some are most definitely given as commands for Christian believers: self-denial, charity, fasting, taking up one's cross, following after Jesus, being conformed to His divine image. These are the very participation or form of Christian life, lived in the Christian faith. There can be no serious objection to these.

Sometimes we need external forms to cause us to pause, maybe even then to stop, and maybe, by God's Spirit, to turn, and return. The most obvious forms of such external forms are those our Lord has given us to observe and celebrate: Baptism and the Holy Supper. But as there has always been a way in which God's Word is given as wisdom, and wisdom generates pattern, and patterns of life follow, so too can there be wise patterns of life under God's providence and guidance – life under His Word. There are times and seasons, some written into creation itself, some given for God's people to observe, at least for a time, and some that we ourselves generate as we live under God's Word. Not all seasons and times are equal in the blessing and their demand, some we experience as easy, some may be toil and tribulation. The Church, in the freedom of Christian faith, has generated patterns of observance for the varied seasons of our Lord's life, and for the life of His Church: Lent is one of these. We hear texts about repentance, return, spiritual struggle, discipline, strife, just as we hear of the strife of our savior, in His betrayal, suffering, and death. The Scriptural Word attunes the Church to the event of Christ's Passion. We remember, and in some tentative and initial way, come to greater sense of the great mystery of our faith – Christ given into death for our sins. At least this is what the Church, the members of Christ's body, have been traditionally provided at this time, for this season.

We, like Jonah, need storms to disrupt our journeys, we need big fish to swallow us up and deliver us to the life the Lord of Life intends. These events are like those things that we suffer in life, that we did not choose! Like Jonah, sometimes our progress is simply stopped by an objective event that seems to fall on us like a ton of bricks. A diagnosis, or sudden burden, a "totally unexpected event". These remind us that life is not entirely within our control, that there are things we experience as "happening to us". Our wills do not determine reality. The Lord provides this sort of event or trial to the extent that we need it, and we don't know entirely what it is that we need! These terrible sorts of events flatten us, we don't understand. But we can, perhaps, be trained to bear them in Christian faith. This is the Faith that turns to Christ and His holy Passion. To His death on our behalf. To His holy sacrifice: life freely given, pain freely born, for us and our salvation. We might, by God's grace, become more likely to see our life as lived under the form of Christ's cross. We, the Church, benefit from many evidences of this form as they are lived out, as we see our suffering assumed by our Lord Jesus. We may give our suffering and need to Him, as He would have us do. We can keep practicing, keep turning to the cross and seeing there the place where God makes peace, where sin is destroyed. We can even begin to forgive our brothers and sisters in Christ, we can pray, even for those who hate us, for our enemies, as our Lord Christ would have us.

We can be turned and God may indeed relent, because God has given us the hope and assurance of the sacrifice of His Son. Jesus has accomplished this for us on the altar of the Cross – the forgiveness of our sins, life, and salvation.

Events at Lebanon

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

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

Women's Meeting
No Meeting in March
Next Meeting Thursday,
April 27th @ 7:00 PM

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

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

**Christian
Education**

Children's/Elementary
Sunday School Class led by
Leslie Heird and Dorothy
Harriman is at 9:30 Sunday

Wednesday's

8:15 ^{AM} *Matins*
10:00 ^{AM} *Individual*
Confession & Absolution
1:30 ^{PM} *Communion*
6:00 ^{PM} *Soup Supper*
7:00 ^{PM} *Lenten Vespers*

The Church is currently
looking into purchasing the
following items : Chalice and
Altar Linens

The Baptismal Font is also in
need of repair and we are
looking into restoration of the
Baptismal Font

If you would like to make a
donation toward any of the
above items or have any
questions, please see Missy
Hockman or Pastor Porter

Choir Practice

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

**See Evelyn if interested in*
joining the Choir

March Birthday's

1st Madison Wright
3rd Missy Hockman
6th Robby Rose
9th Gene Atwell
9th John Miller
10th Mark Smoot
10th Ryan Smoot
13th Karla Funkhouser
16th Jay Snow
20th Dorothy Harriman
21st Carolyn Frye
25th Mike Rose

March Anniversaries

14th Bryan & Meg Lang

Church Anniversary *Planning Meeting*

Sunday, March 19th
following Divine Service

Flowers For Sunday *Morning Worship*

If you would like to provide
flowers, please see Dorothy
Harriman (540)409-6470

Reaching **OUT** Thru Outreach

FAMILY PROMISE OF SHENANDOAH COUNTY



7th ANNUAL STEAK DINNER
Saturday, March 18, 2023
4.00 - 7.00 PM

BRINGING FAMILIES HOME...
KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FILET MIGNON - \$1000
PORTERHOUSE - \$500
RIBEYE - \$250
NEW YORK STRIP - \$100
SIRLOIN - \$50

MISSION

To Help Families Experiencing Homelessness and Low-Income Families Achieve Sustainable Independence Through A Community Based Response.

Ticket Purchase in Person Only.
\$25.00
Call: 540-459-4599

Dinner Location
WOODSTOCK MOOSE LODGE
152 Moose Road,
Woodstock, VA 22664

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAST SUPPORT!
We look forward to new partnerships in our effort to end homelessness, one family at a time.

WWW.SHENANDOAHFAMILYPROMISE.ORG

If you would like to purchase tickets to the Annual Steak Dinner Fundraiser for Family Promise, please see Dorothy Harriman or call her (540)409-6470.

*Information on the steak dinner was taken from the Family Promise website.

Shenandoah County Pregnancy Center Spring Support Raising Celebration

Friday, April 21st @ 5:30 PM
@ The Yellow Barn, Mt Jackson

Guest Speaker is Star Parker

If you are interested in attending the Celebration or have any questions, please speak with Jeff or Sheri Hamman. Dinner will be served. This is the Pregnancy Center's annual fundraiser with proceeds going to help those in need in our community.

Prayer Chain Information

For those who would like to participate in the prayer chain, there will be a signup sheet on the table near the Sunday School entrance. The prayer chain will work in this fashion:

You do not have to be a member of the Prayer Chain to request Prayer

A church member desires prayer: for self or other, for health concerns, for other concerns. This member, or perhaps a family member in their stead, will contact the pastor with the concern. This person may communicate general concerns with no great amount of detail. The prayer chain does not need all of the details to be able to pray for a fellow brother or sister, God knows what is needed.

A member may be added to the chain at any time, should they desire to participate in this ministry.

The following is one **example** of the chain, and the way it functions:

1. Pastor Chris receives a call from Mr. Jones, who asks for prayer for a medical procedure.
2. Pastor Chris then calls the next person on the chain, that person also prays for the concern, and calls the next in order, the next link in the chain. That person then prays and calls the next, in succession.
3. And so on to the end of the chain.

In the event someone in the chain can't be reached, the chain member should leave a message, and call the next member in line, which enables the chain to continue.

Example:

- 1) Pastor Chris receives a call from Mr. Jones, and he requests that prayer be offered for a particular concern.
- 2) Pastor Chris then prays for that person and contacts the next in the chain, and that member prays and contacts the next member, etc.
- 3) IF a particular member (link) in the prayer chain cannot be reached, the caller leaves a message and contacts the next member in the succession.
- 4) And so on to the end of the chain.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

From setup, preparing and cooking the meal, to clean-up "Thank You" to all who helped make this another successful time of fellowship. A Free Will offering was collected to benefit Lebanon Lutheran Church's 175th Anniversary Celebration in September 2023.



Great time of fellowship!

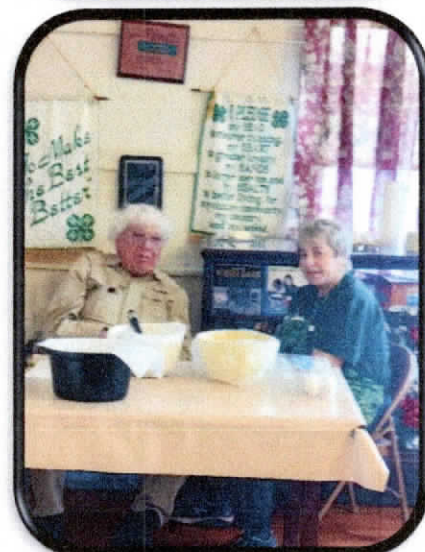
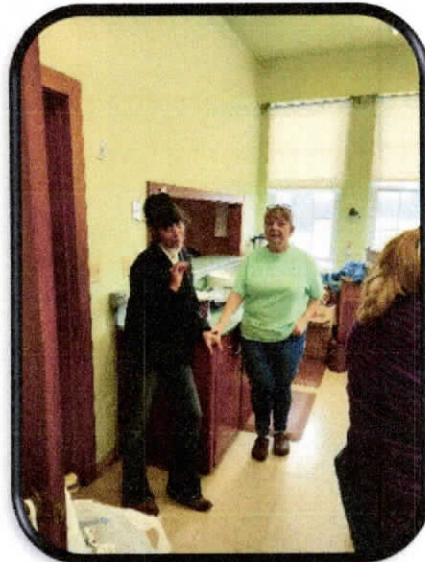
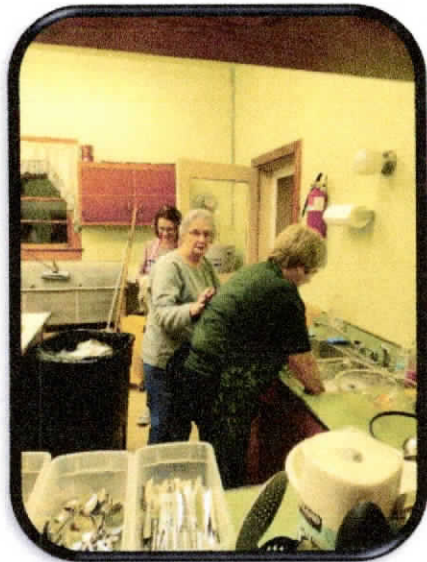




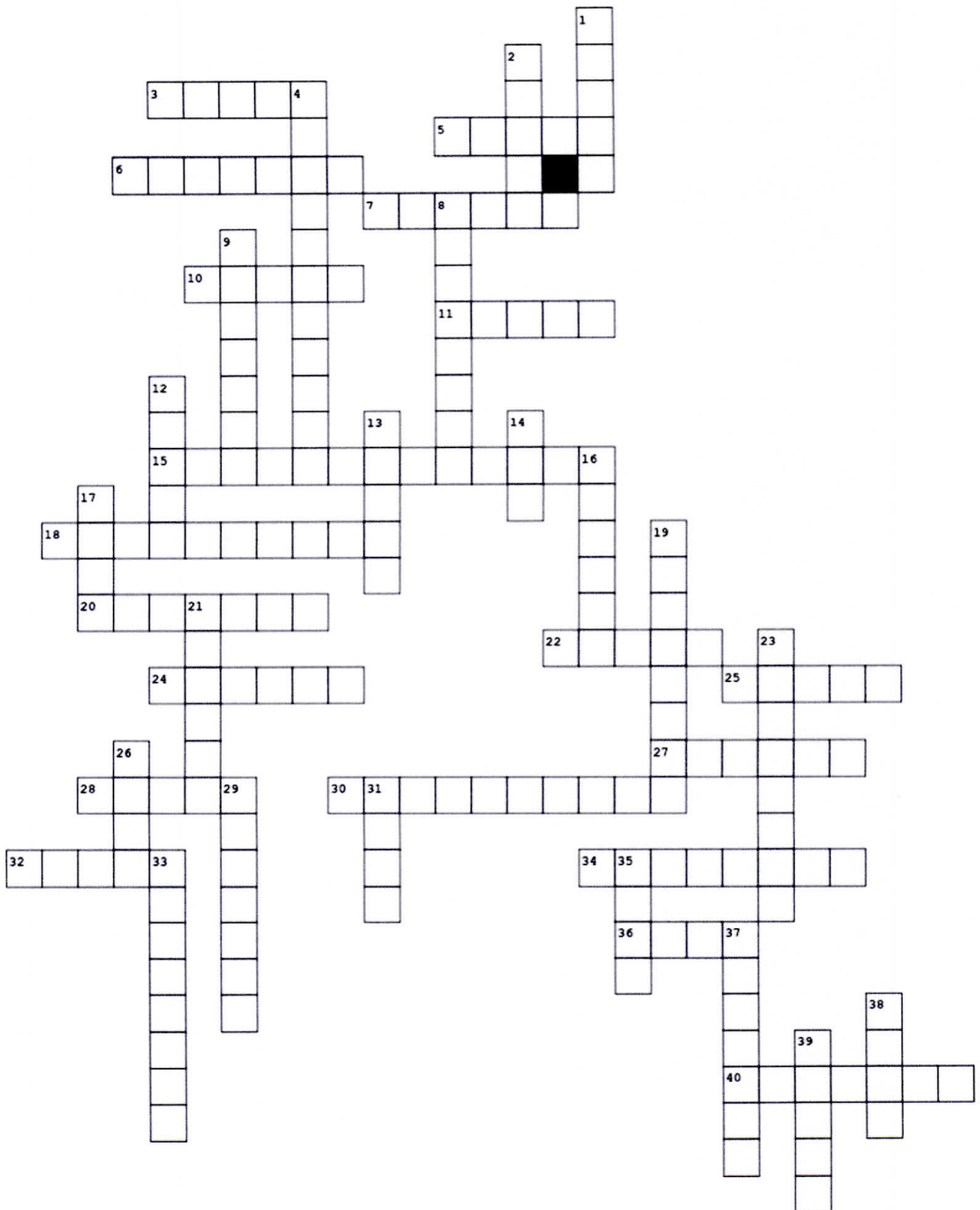
Thank you for all of your help!



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Romans Chapters 9-12



Romans Chapters 9-12

Across

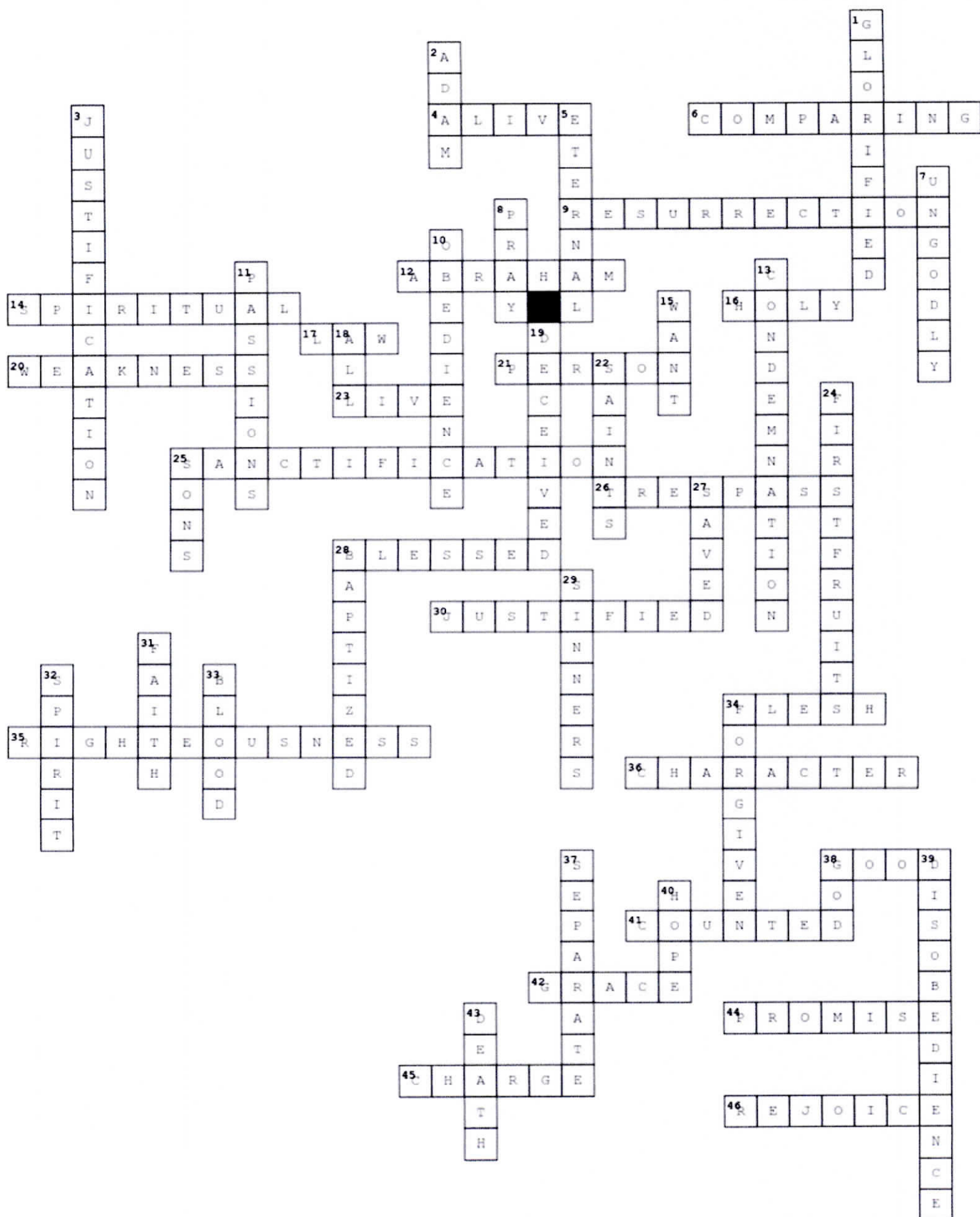
3. "So do not become _____ but fear." (11)
5. Abrahams offspring is named through who? (9)
6. "For I bear them _____ that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge." (10)
7. "has the _____ no right over the clay," (9)
10. "For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is _____." (10)
11. "I have _____ myself to those who did not ask for me." (10)
15. "For being ignorant of the righteousness of God; and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's _____." (10)
18. This bears Paul witness in the Holy Spirit. (9)
20. "but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may _____ what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (12)
22. Paul says he is speaking this in Christ. (9)
24. "How beautiful are the feet of those who _____ the good news!" (10)
25. "For he says to Moses 'I will have _____ on whom I have mercy,'" (9)
27. He appeals to God against Israel? (11)
28. Righteousness is obtained by this? (9)
30. "They are _____, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises." (9)
32. "Do not be conformed to this _____," (12)
34. "And even they, if they do not continue in their _____, will be grafted in," (11)
36. "For who has known the _____ of the Lord," (11)
40. "For if God did not spare the _____ branches, neither will he spare you." (11)

Down

1. "the one who does acts of _____, with cheerfulness." (12)
2. There is, a remnant of Israel chosen by this? (11)
4. "All day long I have held out my hands to a _____ and contrary people." (10)
8. Through this of the Israelites salvation has come to the Gentiles? (11)
9. "For the gifts and the _____ of God are irrevocable." (11)
12. "Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on _____." (9)
13. The book of the Bible this comes from: "Those who were not my people I will call my people;" (9)
14. "For there is no distinction between _____ and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord," (10)
16. God gave them a spirit of this? (11)
17. Overcome evil with this? (12)
19. "even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the _____?" (9)
21. "To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the _____, who is God over all, blessed forever." (9)
23. Paul is a member of this tribe of Israel? (11)
26. Seven thousand Israelites did not bow their knee to him? (11)
29. "Do not be _____, but associate with the lowly." (12)
31. "I have been found by those who did not _____ me;" (10)
33. David said, "let their eyes be _____ so that they cannot see," (11)
35. For everyone who calls on this of the Lord shall be saved? (10)
37. "So then it _____ not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy." (9)
38. "So faith comes from hearing and hearing, through the _____ of Christ." (10)
39. In Zion they have stumbled over this that was laid down? (9)

All Questions are Formed from the ESV Bible.
Chapters are in Parenthesis.

Romans Chapters 4-8





Lebanon Lutheran Church



March 2023						
◀ Feb 2023						Apr 2023 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Ember Day 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 6:00 Lent Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Vespers	2 7:00 Choir Practice	3	4
5 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *Lent 2	6 10:00 Acts Bible Study 7:00 Adult Catechism Class	7	8 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 6:00 Lent Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Vespers	9 6:00 Outreach Meeting 7:00 Church Council Meeting	10	11 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Queen Street Diner 9:00 Church Cleaning Day
12 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *Lent 3	13 10:00 Acts Bible Study 7:00 Adult Catechism Class	14 7:00 Neighborhood Watch	15 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 6:00 Lent Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Vespers	16 7:00 Choir Practice	17	18 4:00 – 7:00 Family Promise Annual Steak Dinner Fundraiser @ Woodstock Moose Lodge
19 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *Anniversary Meeting *Lent 4	20 10:00 Acts Bible Study 7:00 Adult Catechism Class	21	22 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 6:00 Lent Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Vespers	23 6:30 Worship & Music Meeting	24	25
26 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *Lent 5	27 10:00 Acts Bible Study 7:00 Adult Catechism Class	28	29 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 6:00 Lent Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Vespers	30	31	