

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Opening Hymn "Before The Throne of God Above" by Vicki Cook and
Charitie Bancroft (c 1997 Sovereign Grace Music; CCLI
Song # 2306412)
Accompanied by John Montgomery, Cello
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is "Love,"
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands;
my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands,
no tongue can bid me thence depart;
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

2. When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me;
to look on Him and pardon me

3. Behold Him there, the risen Lamb!
My perfect, spotless Righteousness;
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!

One with Himself I cannot die;
my soul is purchased with His blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ my Savior and my God;
with Christ my Savior and my God!

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

God our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together ...

C: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence
and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is
broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



The LORD your
God will raise up
for you a prophet ...
you shall heed such
a prophet.

Deuteronomy 18:15, NRSV

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

A New Prophet Like Moses

¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.^[a] ¹⁶ This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ Then the LORD replied to me, ‘They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet,^[b] who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹ Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet^[c] shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰ But any prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.

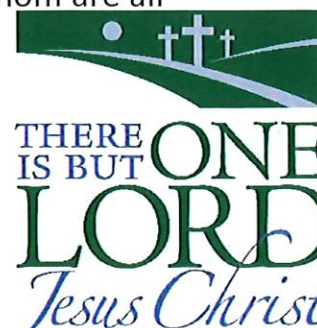
SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 8

Food Offered to Idols

8 Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge, ³ but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴ Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵ Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords— ⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.



⁷ It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ “Food will not bring us close to God.”^[a] We are no worse off if we do not eat and no better off if we do. ⁹ But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So by your knowledge the weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed. ¹² But when you thus sin against brothers and sisters and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never again eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

The Man with an Unclean Spirit

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet and come out of him!” ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He^[a] commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Sermon

“What Gets Into People?”

Sermon Hymn

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

The people in today's texts were astonished at Jesus teaching. He taught them as one who spoke with authority. From the beginning of time, God has communicated with His people. The Old Testament lesson from Deuteronomy promises that God would provide prophets who would speak God's word, *"I will raise up for them a prophet ... from among their brethren; and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him."* **Lord in your mercy...**

In 1 Corinthians, Saint Paul reminds the church that there is a difference between knowledge and inspiration. He says, *"We know that 'all of us possess knowledge.' 'Knowledge' puffs up, but love builds up."* Perhaps it is the difference between head knowledge and heart knowledge. Jesus spoke truth from the Holy Spirit within Him. **Lord in your mercy...**

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. Lord, our world lives in confusion these days. There are disturbing signs of the deception of the enemy all around us. When Jesus encountered the unclean spirit, He calmly told it to be silent. Jesus did not listen or respond to the deceptions, He simply said, *"Be silent, and come out of him!"* Lord, show us how to react to the deceptions today: to simply ignore them rather than argue with them. Teach us to discern and follow your leading. **Lord in your mercy...**

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and growth in God's word. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? **Lord in your mercy...**

With the people in Jesus' day, we can learn how to defeat the enemy. With them, we can declare, *"What is this?... With authority he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee."* Lord, open our eyes to see Satan's deception, so that with power we can understand the difference between truth and falsehood and live in truth. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. **Amen.** CAROLYN T. LINN

Special Music "Charity" by Kenneth Gulliksen (c 1971 CCCM Music; Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing, CCLI Lic. # 2032355)
Ken Berg, Solo

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish; Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal. —Thomas Moore

When traveling through the South, one might come across a confection known as Divinity. It's been around more than 100 years, and probably originated in the South because pecans were frequently used in the recipe. In the 1900s, corn syrup was a popular sugar substitute, and Divinity candy was one of the creative uses. The white candy treat, according to Wikipedia, "is a nougat-like confection made with whipped egg whites, corn syrup, and sugar. Optional ingredients such as flavors, chopped dried fruit and chopped nuts are frequently added."

One maker of "Old Fashioned Pecan Divinity" gushes that "these wonderful confections are like a taste of heaven." But no one knows for certain how the confection got its name. Probably, someone was meddling in the kitchen, stuck her finger in the goo and tasted it, and thereupon pronounced it "simply divine." The "simply" never took hold in the popular consciousness.

A candy that tastes like heaven!

Divinity has everything to please the palate and senses. You love the texture as it meets the tongue. You're crazy about the taste itself — it transports you to otherworldly scenes of delight. You like the color: pure white. You like its density: it is rather soft — not hard and brittle.

We humans love food, and we long for the foods we especially crave.

And we long for heaven, too. We are always talking about it.

We argue from the smaller to the greater. If Divinity candy can taste this good, then the pleasure of being in heaven with Jesus must be even greater and more intense.

The great hymnwriter, Fanny Crosby, was blind from birth, but she could see heaven! *Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!* These are the first lines of her hymn, "Blessed Assurance." She went on to describe heaven: *Perfect communion, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight.*

But, as long as she was in her old, unsighted body, she wasn't quite in heaven yet, Divinity candy notwithstanding. Nevertheless, she could still say that *she was watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.*

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O Lord, I, too, am watching and waiting. Although I want to be of some earthly good, I pray I will never hesitate to express my cheerful anticipation of heaven. Amen.

Prayer Concerns

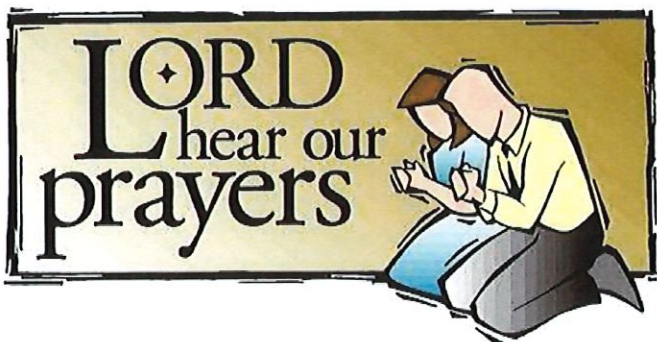


Members in Need of Prayer:

Diane Fake
Sheila Boehringer
JoAnn Huebner
Carolyn Linn
Dee Wright
Jim, Jimmy Sanborn & Stacy
Lairson on the loss of Stacy's
Father, Ken.
Yvonne Smith
Mona White
Neil and Verna Walden
Robert Harris
Jackie Miller
Mary Schmidt
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Arlene Robbins
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Susan Berg
Irene Pierini
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
David Torres (Hays)
Jeanne Grant (Anderson)
Kyle (Werfelmann)
Kristy (Werfelmann)
Mariah (Werfelmann)
Josue Zamora (His Cat Balboa)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Jennifer Sano (Sandy T.)
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Kevin & Collee (Pastor)
Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)
Art & Children (Anderson)
Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
Bill, Wife & Sons (Julie)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.
Matthew 6:9-13

Blessing

Closing Hymn "All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises" by Paul Baloche
(c 2003 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI Song # 409281)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. You lived, You died, You said in three days You would rise.
You did, You're alive.
You rule, You reign, You said You're coming back again.
I know that you will, And all the earth will sing Your praises.
All the earth will sing your praises.

You took, You take our sin away, O God.
You give, You gave, Your life away for us.
You came down, You saved us through the cross.
Our hearts are changed because of Your great love.

You lived, You died, You said in three days You would rise.
You did, You're alive.
You rule, You reign, You said You're coming back again.
I know that you will, And all the earth will sing Your praises.
All the earth will sing your praises.

Sending

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Job 1-4

Monday: Job 5-7

Tuesday: Job 8-10

Wednesday: Job 11-13

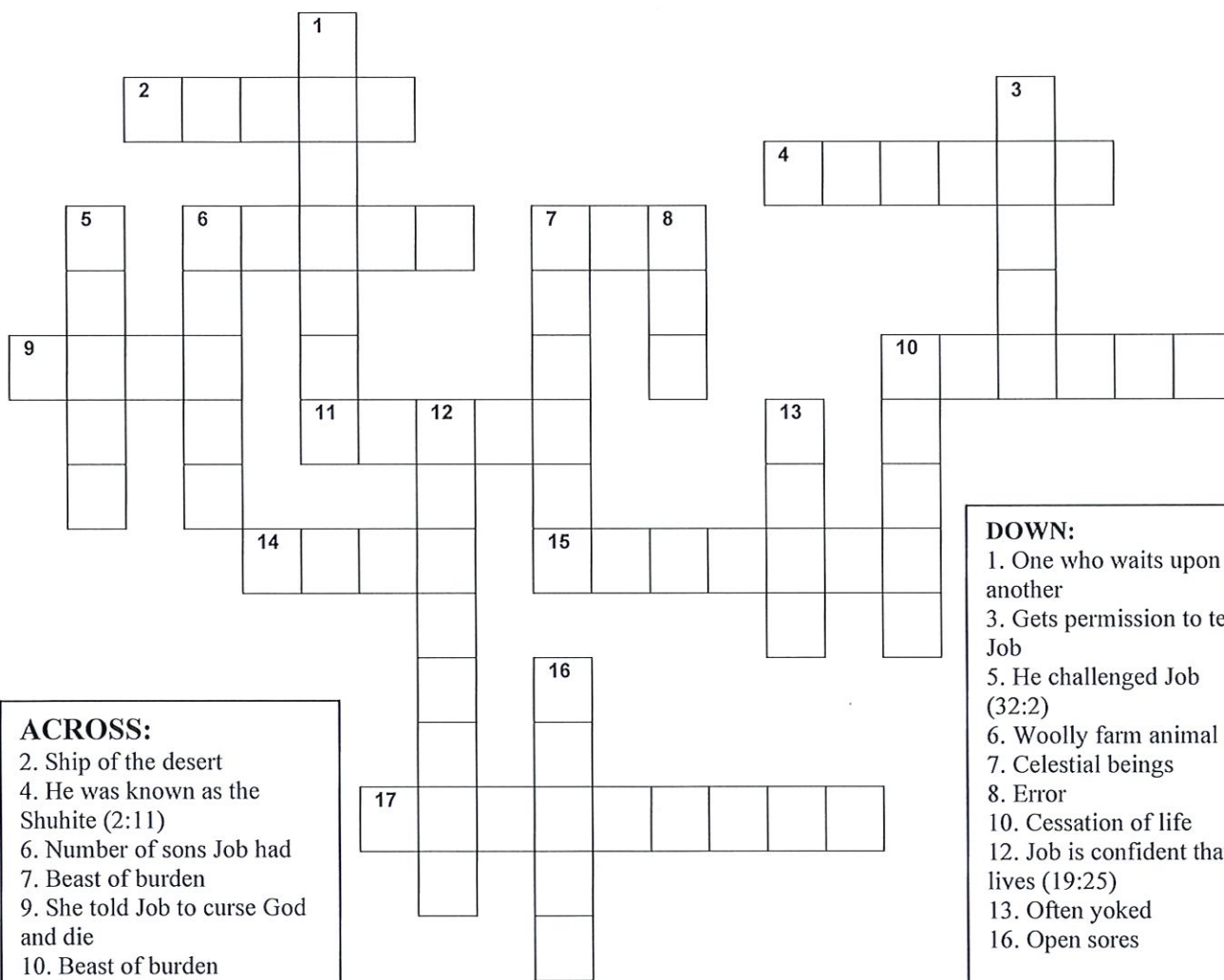
Thursday: Job 14-17

Friday: Job 18-20

Saturday: Psalms 7-9

THE PATIENCE OF JOB

In our readings this week, we begin the story of Job. He was a man who had everything, and then lost everything. Although tempted to abandon his faith in God, he didn't. All the clues in this crossword puzzle come from the book of Job. Some references are provided.



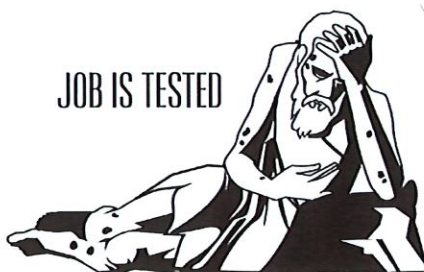
ACROSS:

2. Ship of the desert
4. He was known as the Shuhite (2:11)
6. Number of sons Job had
7. Beast of burden
9. She told Job to curse God and die
10. Beast of burden
11. Number of Job's daughters
14. What destroyed house of Job's son
15. Snake
17. Large sea creature (41:1)

DOWN:

1. One who waits upon another
3. Gets permission to test Job
5. He challenged Job (32:2)
6. Woolly farm animal
7. Celestial beings
8. Error
10. Cessation of life
12. Job is confident that he lives (19:25)
13. Often yoked
16. Open sores

JOB IS TESTED

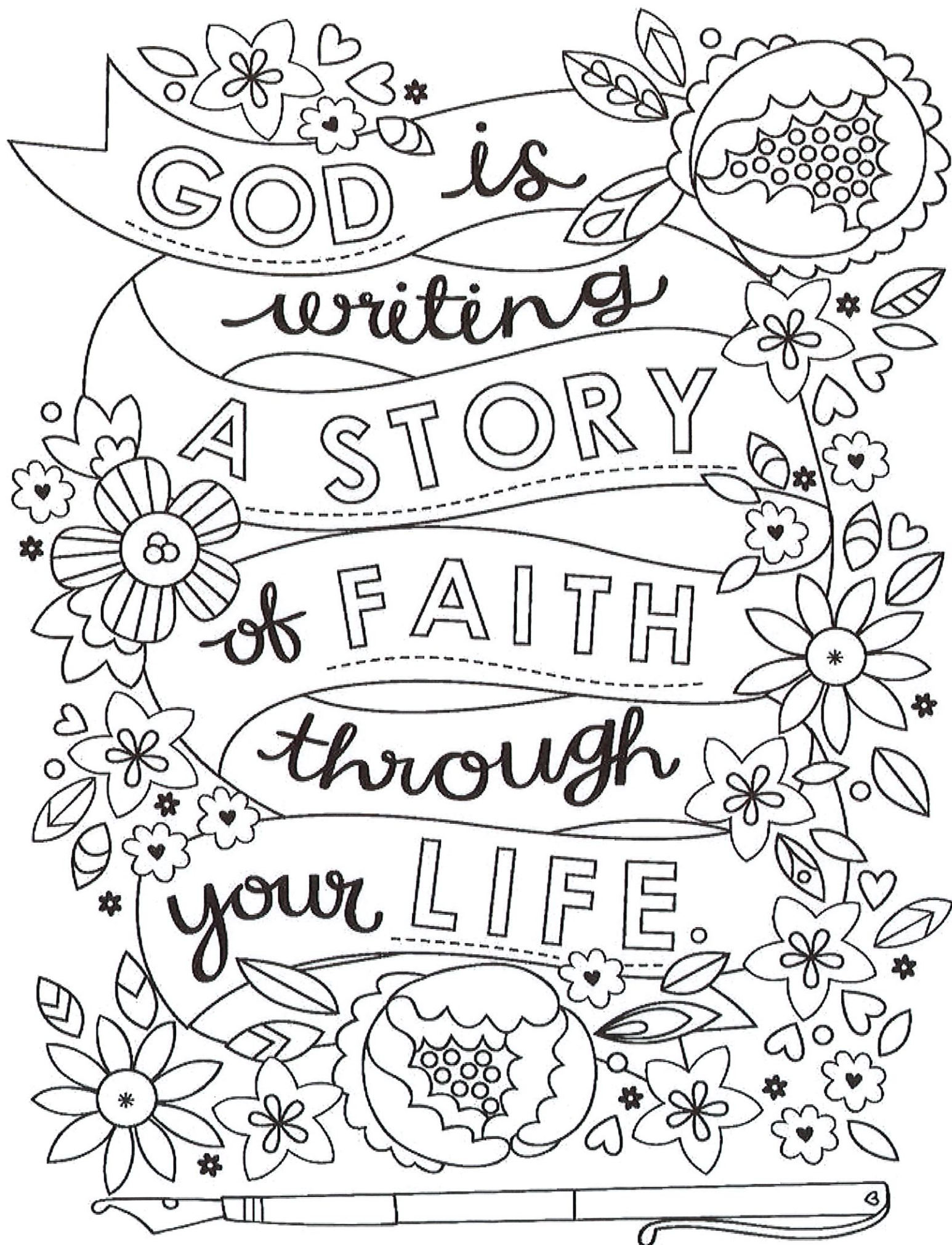


ANSWERS — Across:

2. camel; 4. Bildad; 6. seven;
7. ass; 9. wife; 10. donkey;
11. three; 14. wind;
15. serpent; 17. Leviathan.

Down:

1. servant; 3. Satan;
5. Eliphaz; 6. sheep; 7. angels;
8. sin; 10. death;
12. Redeemer; 13. oxen;
16. boils.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Annual Congregational Meeting TODAY 1/28

We'll be presenting the Annual Report at that time.

Lenten Soup Suppers Begin 2/14/24 @ 6:15



Please consider making soup for your church family on one of the 6 Wednesdays of Lent. You can partner with another and bring 2 kinds of soup or use the kitchen on a Sunday morning to make it for the following Wednesday. Typically we need enough soup for 20-30 people (may be adjusted as we see attendance trends), along with a bread of your choice. Your expenses will be reimbursed from the supper offering. There is a sign up sheet in the entry area. Questions? See Deb Wilk, Carol Sullivan, or Julie W.

Pantry Needs Restocking

We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables (Corn, Green Beans), canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup (Can be used with egg noodles to make a meal), Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9AM - 1PM.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!



Calling all volunteers! Please mark your calendars now and plan to come help feed people at the Lutheran Hunger Network's FREE Neighborhood Market next month. We are hosting the distribution on Feb. 3rd, and need at least 25-30 people to help sort and bag produce, to sign in vehicles and load cars, and to direct traffic. All volunteers are invited and encouraged to go through the line, too. Hours of distribution will be 9-11, but we need volunteers from 7:30-12:30.

Any portion of time you're available to support this ministry will be appreciated! Feel free to invite friends and relatives to help out, too.

Come share the love of Jesus in this special way. You'll have a fun time, too, I promise! Feel free to call, text, or email me with any questions.

13jdixon13@gmail.com ; 559-287-3457

Shalom. Peace. Paz. Julie Werfelmann

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Has Begun

"GRATEFUL: Giving Thanks to God in All Things"

We will begin this 4 week Bible Study on **January 17**, ending February 7, before Ash Wednesday.

All 4 of the meetings will be via Zoom.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party on 2/13 @ 6:15 in Jacobson



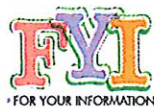
YOU are invited to come celebrate Shrove Tuesday, aka Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday, with our annual Pancake Party! Janet Mc is bringing the ham and her hash brown casserole, and some of the rest of us will be flipping pancakes to be topped by fruit and whipped cream, syrup, and other yummy things. We will have some fun using up all the "fat" before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. There will be hidden ALLELUIA letters to search out, pancake races, beads, and a King Cake with baby Jesus hidden inside. Wear your purple, gold, and green, and come have some food and fun! Sign up for items on the signup sheet as you enter

OWLS February 19th @ 1PM

OWLS will gather at ONE PM at Honey baked Ham for a No Host Luncheon for their February 19th meeting. 1056 W. Shaw Ave., Fresno. SandyT will need your RSVP by February 16th, Friday.




FYI—Looking for a Car



We have a close friend that is looking for an affordable 4 door sedan. If anyone knows of anyone selling a vehicle or has any suggestions. Mary N.

Follow Us Now on Instagram

GSLC is now on Instagram and has been on Facebook  so don't forget to follow us to see what is happening. Please get on Instagram and hit LIKE or the heart on our GSLC postings. This is how our postings come at the start of the feed for those following us as individuals. We need to be proactive to spread the word so we can grow .



Thanks to All that Pitched In

Thank you to the cooks of the chili and cornbread cookers: Dee, Wilk's, Julie, Steve, Janet, Lisa and anyone else @ GSLC that I might have missed! Oh yes, to the EAT-ERS OF THE CHILI. Special thanks to everyone that stayed to help clean up. Sue H.



Business Cards to Invite People to Church



There are business cards paper clipped in stacks of 5 to use to invite people to worship service. Hand them out in your neighborhood or at your local stores. You can ask an usher for the cards if you can't find them.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY MUSIC

TODAY, January 28 @ 3:00 p.m.



The American Guild
of Organists, San
Joaquin Valley
Chapter with the



Community Concerts

Philip Lorenz International Keyboard Con-
certs present organist Dr. Alcee Chriss in con-
cert at the Fresno State Concert Hall. Touted
as one of the finest young American organ-
ists on the scene today, Dr. Chriss presents a
program of noted works by Robert Schu-

mann, Jean-Philippe Rameau, and Johann Sebastian Bach, to name a
few. Tickets are available at keyboardconcerts.org. See additional
program notes on a poster in the hallway.

For the above concert you may contact Susan Berg,
bergkenneth@comcast.net, for additional information.