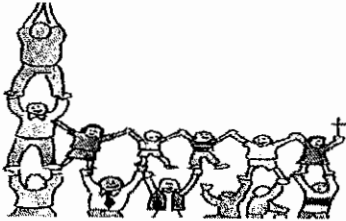


Redeemer Lutheran Church
1300 Nora Street East
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218-681-3390

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**God's Work.
Our hands.**


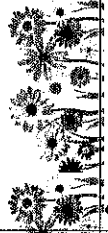










Redeemer Congregation
May Online Newsletter

When to Notify Church Office:

- *Change of address or phone number
- *Family member has moved out of the home
- *Wish to have a name added or removed from the prayer list
- *Someone is in the hospital
- *Change of Church home
- *Wish to be removed from mailing list

WAW

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>5</p> <p>9:30AM Worship with Holy Communion</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 PR Meeting 12:00 First Look</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 Quilters 11-1pm May Salad Luncheon 6:30 Worship and Music committee</p> 	<p>1</p> <p>6:30pm Youth Led Worship Service Last Day of Confirmation</p>	<p>2</p> <p>National Day of Prayer 11:30 - 1:00 Floyd B. Olson Park 4:00 Safety Committee</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Pastor Sabbath</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30 Caring & Candlelight</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:30AM Worship</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 PR Meeting 12:00 First Look 5:30 Property Committee Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Quilters 9:30 Martha Unit Senior Quilt Chosen? 6:30 Children, Youth, Family Ministry Mtg.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30pm Ascension Eve Worship with Holy Communion 7:30 Youth Group "The Chosen"</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:15 - 5:30 Life Line Screening OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Senior Info and Picture Due Pastor Sabbath</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 TRF Lioness</p> 
<p>19 PENTECOST</p> <p>9:30AM Worship with Holy Communion Senior Recognition Sunday Baptism of Willa Anne Baldes</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 PR Meeting 12:00 First Look 6:00 Council Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 Quilters</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>6:30pm Worship 7:30 Youth Group "The Chosen"</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:00 Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pastor Sabbath Synod Assy. At Concordia</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Synod Assy. At Concordia</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:30AM Worship Baptism of Kozmik Picyx and Arlo Oak Johns</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>Meals On Wheels OFFICE CLOSED Happy Memorial Day</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Meals on Wheels 9:00 Quilters 5:00 Altar Guild</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Meals on Wheels 6:30 Worship 7:30 Youth Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Meals on Wheels</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>Pastor Sabbath Graduation</p> 
<p>26</p> <p>9:30AM Worship Baptism of Kozmik Picyx and Arlo Oak Johns</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>Meals On Wheels OFFICE CLOSED Happy Memorial Day</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Meals on Wheels 9:00 Quilters 5:00 Altar Guild</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Meals on Wheels 6:30 Worship 7:30 Youth Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>Redeemer Lutheran Church 1300 E. Nora St. Thief River Falls, MN 56701 Phone: 218-681-3390 www.redeemertf.com Office Hours: 9am-2pm Mon-Fri</p>

The Redeemer Post

Visit a Church This Summer

By Rick Hamlin

Traveling this summer? Out on the road? Taking a vacation? No need to make it a vacation from church. Try dropping in on a congregation away from home.

I'll admit the first time I visited a church on a summer day far away from my own church, I wondered what had gotten into me. Was it a guilty conscience? Or just a healthy dose of curiosity?

The place was practically empty when I arrived—oh, the pews filled up as time went by—and I didn't know a soul. Nor did anyone know me.

That can be a blessing. Nobody came up to me with urgent church business in mind; nobody asked me why I wasn't at such-and-such a meeting last week, and I didn't for a minute wonder why so-and-so was or wasn't in church.

I was able to worship with a head and heart free of distractions in a congregation of strangers who didn't seem all that strange. After all, we were all brothers and sisters in Christ.

We sang, we prayed, we listened to a sermon, we heard Scripture. And at the end I shook hands with my new friends. They even recommended a great restaurant to try.

Since then I have made it a practice, whenever possible, to go to church on Sunday morning wherever vacation takes me.

I have stood on sandy beaches for worship with the waves lapping at our toes. I have sat in stunning historic buildings, gazing up at dazzling stained glass windows, admiring gracious Gothic arches.

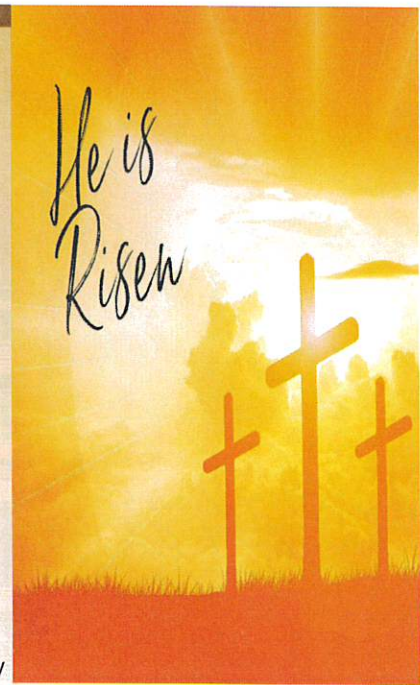
I have sung with guitars and drums and sung with pipe organs. I have been in thunderous congregations among thousands in bleacher seats. And I have been part of early morning congregations where there were only a handful of us.

Have I been welcomed? Always. Have I felt awkward? Sure. But there's always been someone there to guide me or hand me a bulletin or give me the right psalm book or hymnal.

What I have always known, what I have frequently discovered to be true, that where two or more are gathered in His name, God is there.

I have found that with Him present, I am never a stranger however far away from home I might be.

Traveling this summer? Drop in at a church on Sunday morning. If I'm lucky, perhaps one of you will drop in at my church and give me a chance to welcome you.



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Janet Anderson
218-681-2641
randson@mncable.net



*No one has greater love than this:
to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

~ John 15:13

He is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace to you and peace, from God our Creator and Jesus, our Redeemer and Friend!

During these 7 weeks of the Easter season of the church, we are contemplating the words of Jesus as recorded in John 13-17. There is so much to chew on – it is a gourmet feast of words and ideas, relationships and commitments, traditional understandings yet always uncovering new flavors we have not tasted or ingested before. We begin May right in the middle – as Jesus has just invited us to ***abide in Him*** – always connected as the branches are to the Vine – so that we can bear fruit and not lose heart when the growing gets tough! ***“Abide in my love...so you may have my joy...and have it amply, completely, abounding!”***



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

As we begin the month of May, the images Jesus uses to describe that relationship continues to expand. Jesus changes the relationship from *teacher/student, master/servant, redeemer/slave*, to that of ***friend***. Jesus says, *“I have called you friends.”* The mark of a true friend is knowing and trusting another with one's whole heart and life. Jesus brings us – as disciples and followers of Christ – into a relationship that goes beneficially, reciprocally both ways. We are now a community of like-minded friends, connected to Christ, and willing to sacrifice ourselves for each other as Jesus did for us. In John 10, Jesus tells us, ***“I lay down my life for the sheep... No one has taken it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down.”***

Jesus showed this kind of love toward his disciples so they could show it to each other.¹ Jesus commands us to love with this kind of ***self-giving love – for the well-being and fullness of one-another***. Many of us desire to love like that. We want to, and sometimes we do. Think of women giving birth. The stress and pains they often endure are at times severely intense – even deadly for some. Yet, the love they feel for the life that is being delivered enables them to face what they normally would not. The end of the pregnancy and the beginning of parenthood with the promises that new life holds brings joy and celebration!

Sometimes, though, we get caught up in our own preferences and desires, we forget that love is not an emotional, warm, cuddly feeling. Love that gives life is actively directed outward toward others. Jesus reminds us that ***“everyone will know that you are my disciples,***

¹ Osvaldo Vena, Commentary on John 15:9-17, May 6, 2018 www.workingpreacher.org accessed 4.30.2024

if you have love for one another.” We love others by caring for the needs of others – sometimes in spite of ourselves. It means a “*conscious decision to put yourself on the line and risk everything for the other. This kind of love will make sure that justice is done in the world. You will venture yourself from the safety of your community into the broader society to see that it is transformed by this sacrificial love that Jesus modeled for us. Cornel West has said that **justice is the shape love takes in society.***”

While none of us will offer reconciliation to God through our acts of bravery, love or service as Jesus did, we are still called into service of God through the way we love those around us, and strive for justice and peace – in all the world.



Perhaps it is not surprising that many people find their vocational calling in jobs that risk their lives in the service of justice and peace-keeping in society. When my daughter joined the USMC 15 years ago, I asked her why she had made that choice for herself. She said, it was the way she felt called to live out caring about justice in the country and the world. It was not a love of war or killing, she said, but a desire to keep peace where there was peace, to protect and defend those who were defenseless, and to stop aggression from those who do not respect the lives God created...even if it meant the ultimate sacrifice on her part. Fortunately, she is still active as a Gunnery Sergeant.

This month we honor those who have entered into service and are actively serving in our country's military service on Armed Forces Day (*May 20, 2024*). We remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice on Memorial Day (*May 27, 2024*). We also remember and give thanks for the families of those who serve, as they often sacrifice the benefits of being together as a family for long periods of time – perhaps never being reunited in this lifetime. (*We honor those who have served as a nation on Veteran's Day in November.*)

Some of you have noticed the Christian and American Flags are no longer in the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary is a place set apart for the worship of the Triune God. After much consultation and conversation, and after recommendation from the Altar Guild, the Council voted to have both flags appropriately displayed in the Fellowship Hall, where all may see and reflect on their meaning. Several groups use our building, but the Sanctuary is set aside for worship.

On Wednesday, **May 15th at 5:30**, we will set the flags in their places of honor in the Fellowship Hall, highlighting the history and service of those who have served under it. Following this presentation, we will move to the Sanctuary for a time of worship of the God who loves us, comes to us, fills us and holds us for all time. Worship time is 6:30.

Thank you to all who serve and have served.

~Pastor Steph~

A note from the council president,

Redeemer in action!

My goodness, I thought March was busy and passed by in a blink—but where has April gone!! Once again Redeemer has been the place to be! The Safety Committee met at the beginning of the month to continue discussions about best practice safety protocols for Redeemer. Signs have been placed noting the location of the wheel chair and first aid kit. Signs have been placed on the outside doors stating Redeemer is a weapons free zone. Thank you Dianne for making and placing the signs. Please inform the office if you have ideas or concerns that should come before the safety committee. The next meeting is May 2nd at 4:00.



On April 13, Redeemer hosted the Synod Council meeting from 9:30 to 3:00. Morning rolls, lunch, coffee & treats were served. Thank you Pastor Steph for organizing and Jan, Jan, Jane, Ann & Linda for helping out.



April 14th was a special Sunday at Redeemer as 25 new members made public affirmation of their baptism and joined Redeemer's community of faith. Welcome: Lance Efteland; Madison Nelson; Mike, Aleah, Alivia and Cash Conely, Kellie Dagg & Dakota Savich, Reagan and Lucy; Brielle, Kozmik, and Arlo Johns; Cody Jablinske; Ryan and Sommar Kemnitz, Norah, Claire and Isla; Erika, Arthur, Signe, and Louis Olson; and Baryth and Davin Halvorson. Fellowship and treats were enjoyed in the fellowship hall following worship.



Baptism of Lucy Jane Dagg-Savich
April 21, 2024

Baptism of Alden Richard Haugen
April 28, 2024





Thank you Kellie & Dakota for the special cookies.



On Saturday, April 20th the Spring Gathering of NWMN Synod WELCA Conference 2 was hosted at Redeemer. The theme was *"Growing with God"* - key verse—Isaiah 58:11—The Lord will guide you always and he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. I so enjoyed the guest speaker, Jennifer Knott, an intern from Pennington County Master Gardeners. She had researched and talked about the many times flowers were mentioned in the Bible as well as giving some good practical tips for growing flowers in our gardens. Pastor Steph played piano and gave the morning devotion. Chris & Terry Cuppett provided special music. Thank you Phyliss Johnson for organizing.



Enjoying fellowship, morning coffee & treats from the ladies at Trinity.



On Friday April 26, VIP (Violence Intervention Project) hosted a 5k run & walk in honor of Sexual Abuse Awareness Month. Because of the rain, the run/walk took place at the Ralph followed by a candlelight vigil at Redeemer to honor survivors of sexual abuse. VIP serves Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington & Red Lake counties. Sexual abuse is under reported and most of the time committed by a family member or family friend—not strangers. One startling statistic given—even though under reported was that one in 10 people—children & adults, girls & boys, teens, men & women are survivors of sexual abuse in these five counties. One survivor told me we could fill the Ralph as there are an estimated 3,259 survivors in these counties.





Thank you, Confirmation Students that led the worship on Sunday & Wednesday.

Kiptyn Anderson, Ryker Beito, Storm D Camp, Emmy & Eva Eickman, Charleigh Hamre, Aliya Hejlik, Kaitlyn & Hailey Jahn, Beckem Johnson, Liam Mapes, Arthur Olson, Aubrey Reuter, Olivia Schuster, Allen Smith, Harper Vigen, Levi Wilde, Aubree Erickson, Sasha Laduke, Claire Schuster.



New at Redeemer! QR Code giving. Forgot your offering?
 No worries – just scan the QR code with your smart phone and give your offering electronically.

Redeemer Lutheran Church
 First Quarter Finance Committee Report
 (January through March-2024)

2024	January	February	March	Quarter 1
Budget Income	\$27,254.50	\$27,254.50	\$27,254.50	\$81,763.50
Actual Income	\$18,174.24	\$21,230.93	\$25,880.77	\$65,285.94
Budget Expense	\$27,254.50	\$27,254.50	\$27,254.50	\$81,763.50
Actual Expense	\$20,693.57	\$23,146.31	\$20,760.51	\$64,600.39
Income less expense	-\$2,519.33	-\$1,915.38	\$5,120.26	\$685.55

The Finance committee meets the second Thursday of each month at 5:00. Bills and statements are reviewed. Most bills are "normal" payments required to keep the church functioning. Any bills of note are listed in committee minutes for the council members.

Such notations have included things like -- Stamps - \$986; Energy bills - \$847.06, \$951.44; One License-\$425; Organ tuning - \$488.00; Copy paper-\$914.44; Bulk mailing account - \$500.00; Baby changing table for bathroom-\$198.00.

Ashton's Mowing generously forgave a late mowing bill from last summer (\$1,114) as a donation from him.

First quarter payment has been made to the NWMN Synod (\$5,550) and Pathways (\$500)

Expenses and offering reported in weekly bulletins are an average number for each month. Each month approximately \$27,254.50 in offering is needed, or approximately \$6,813.63 each week. Member donations were down in January and February; March ended with a nice positive balance but compared to net income from one year ago overall donations are down.

Thank you, Dianne, for making the "Ways to Give" cards found in the pews. New is the QR code. Hopefully this will add a convenient method of giving for some. Please ask if you have questions.

Finance Committee Members: Jan Anderson, Gary Hintz, Marit Martell, Tony McLean, Pastor Steph

(This committee would appreciate more voices. Please talk to one of us if you have an interest.)

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Ways to Give:

In Person
 Whether it's cash or check, we appreciate your kindness. Please place your donations in an offering envelope and drop them in the offering box.

Online
 Visit www.redeemertrf.org and scroll to **Electronic Giving** to set up a one-time or recurring donation, or to make a payment.

QR CODE
 Scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.

Mobile App
 Download the Vanco Mobile app from your app store to set up a one-time or recurring donation. Search **Thief River Falls** and then choose **Redeemer Lutheran Church**. Available on [Apple](#) and [Android](#) devices.

Redeemer Lutheran Church
 1300 Nora Street E
 Thief River Falls, MN 56701
 218-681-3390



In memory of Julie Bakke:

Terri Cuppett Bible Fund

In Memory of CeJae Forsberg:

Julie Kiesow Stained Glass
Darlene Kelley Stained Glass
Nate & Dianne Stroh Music

In Memory of Harvey Lund:

Darlene Kelley Stained Glass
Nate & Dianne Stroh Youth

In Memory of Mike Parker:

Kenny & Marlyn Kain Youth
Paul & Carol Ihle Undesignated
Enid Sande Undesignated
Dale & Denice Nelson Undesignated
John & Dee Wollenzien Undesignated

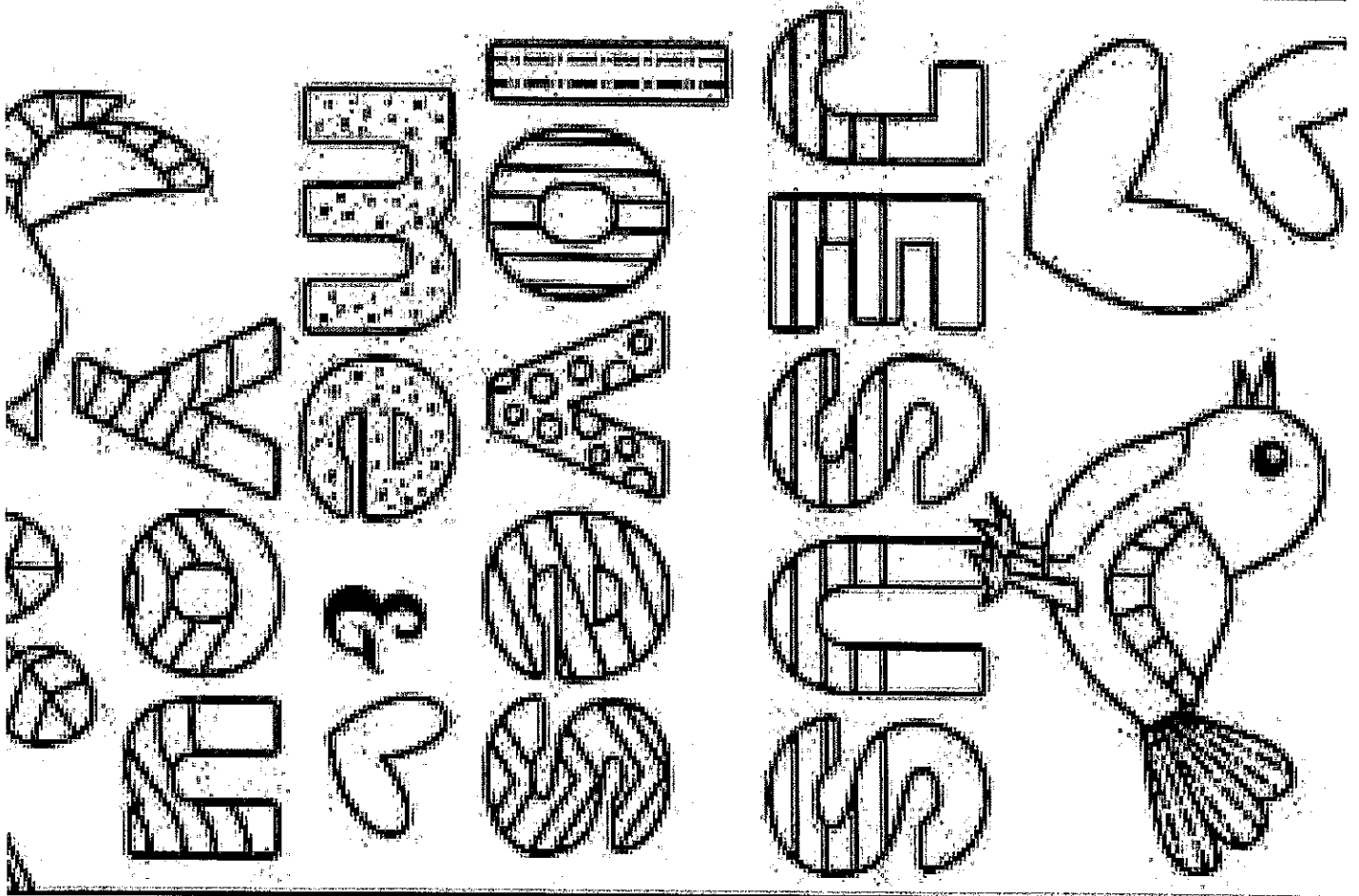
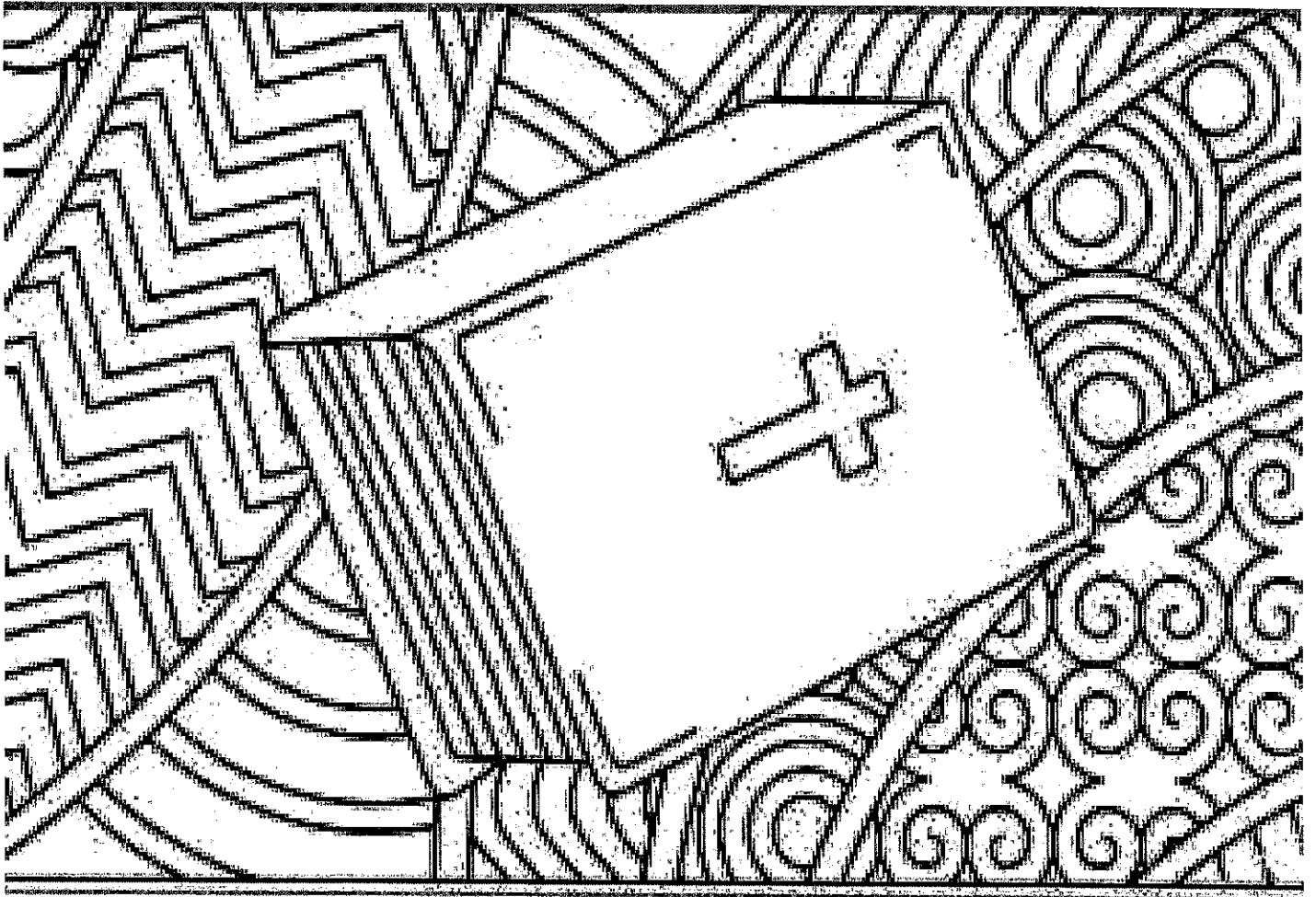
"For this is the message you Heard from the beginning: We should love one another." 1 John 3:11

REVIEW

**SHOUT
OUT**

Just a HUGE THANK YOU to the Confirmation students who led worship services on Sunday, April 28th and Wednesday, May 1st. You are the leaders of tomorrow! Keep up the good work! Looking forward to more Youth-led worship services!





Pentecost Trivia

1. Pentecost shows...
The bible doesn't mention such a thing A mighty wind that will fill the outside
A day of fasting The coming of the Holy Spirit
2. After Jesus' death, the Apostle Paul still kept Pentecost. Fill in the following scripture (Acts 20:16): "For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at _____, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost."
Ephesus Isreal
Jerusalem Corinth
3. The term Pentecost is a Greek term meaning...
1st 10th
40th 50th
4. The Feast of the Firstfruits is also another name for Pentecost. In Revelation 14:4, "These are the ones who _____ the Lamb wherever He goes."
Follow Slaughter
Object Deny
5. Continuing in Revelation 14:5, "These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to _____ and to the Lamb."
Fruit The Sheep
God None of these answers
6. The Feast of Pentecost comes after which Holy Day?
The Days of Unleavened Bread The Feast of Trumpets
The Feast of Tabernacles
The Day of Atonement
7. Peter had said, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin; and you shall receive the gift of the _____ (Acts 2:38)."
Holy Spirit Food
Easter Promise
8. In Romans 5:5, "Now hope does _____, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."
Not disappoint disappoint
Not give zeal give zeal
9. Pentecost has been given all of the below names except... (Exodus 23:16;34:22, Numbers 28:26)
Feast of Weeks Feast of Harvest
Feast of Chosen day of firstfruits
10. After the death of Christ, the apostles gathered together on that date. And at a precise time on that date, the Holy Spirit was poured out to provide Christians access to God as a kind of firstfruits.

True False

My name is...

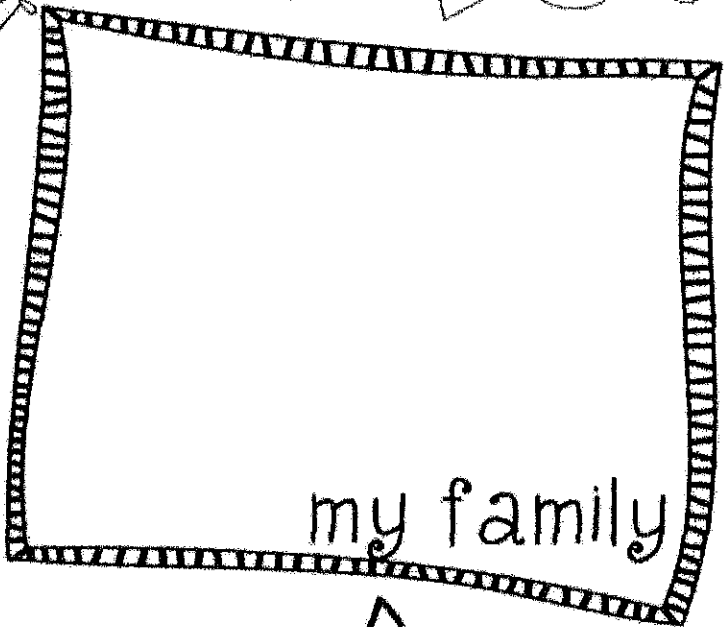
_____.

All About

Me!

My favorite food is...

_____.



My favorite thing is...

_____.

