

# The Bethany Messenger

369 Broad Street, Montoursville, PA 17754 570-368-8933

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am–2:00pm

## Staff

Ministers: All God's People

Pastor: Rev. James Bartlett, STS

Organist: Mary Paulhamus

Sexton: Deborah Harman

Secretary: Hope Harrington

## Sunday Services

9:00 am Holy Communion

10:15 am Coffee / Fellowship

10:30 am Sunday School

Website: [www.bethanylutheran.faith](http://www.bethanylutheran.faith)

Email: [secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com](mailto:secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com)

## Emergency Pastoral Care:

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[rev.james.bartlett@gmail.com](mailto:rev.james.bartlett@gmail.com)

570-939-1471

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Deadline for submission of material for the Bethany Messenger is 9 a.m. on the 15th of each month.



Our Lenten theme this year has been discipleship. It is a word that each one of us is familiar with. We talk about it with each other, and it is discussed at some of our meetings. Each one of us is a disciple of Jesus Christ by virtue of our faith at him. It is our faith that compels us to be set apart, just as his disciples were set apart. It is, though Jesus has come to each of us and said, "follow me" and we said "yes."

Discipleship is not just us making disciples through evangelism or proselytization. It is us practicing our faith daily. It is us spending time reading and studying God's word, it is us praying to God daily (not just when we need something), It is us bearing our soul and confessing our sins to him, trusting in the promise that he forgives us.

*(continued on next page...)*

*(From the Pastor's Desk, continued...)*

The more we read and study, the more we pray, and confess, the more we grow in our relationship with Jesus as our faith matures.

As with our daily lives, we must take care of ourselves so that we can care for others, we must care for ourselves spiritually so that we are prepared to care for others. I have been very encouraged by the congregation this year as many of you have taken on new spiritual disciplines and are even praying the Lutheran rosary, meditating on the mysteries of our faith found in scripture.

As we continue through Lent It is my prayer for each of you that you are able to continue in your spiritual disciplines beyond these 40 days. We will soon proclaim that Christ is risen, and Ash Wednesday may seem to be a distant memory. But our commitment to growing in faith together does not end with that good news. I look forward to the seasons ahead as our Lord gives us a new perspective and breathes new life into our faith.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor James*

### PRAYING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Len & Kathy Hinton – Matthew Sharrow – Peter Beguhl – Lori Clauseen – Josh Kunig  
– Mary Way – Deb Starks – Chris & Dawn Inch – Barb Sherry – Eugene & Marian  
Harris – Kevin Taylor – Julie Griffiths – Marjorie Fantaskey – Joan Swartz – Margaret  
Ryan – Biddie & Michael – Louise & Jim – Fay Sausser – Colleen Davidson – Lou &  
Emily Bassler – Ann Long – Evelyn Seaman – Peggy Shultz – Eileen Lauchle – Bebe  
Bolich – Dave Shipton – Rev. Ray & Nancy Forsythe – Dorothy Lee – Kenny Beguht –  
Kuuiipo Tom – Marian Mott – Robert Bennett – David Callahan – Rikki Nevins –  
Denise Bergenstock – Mike Brouse – Molly Bienly – Paul Steiger – Scott Clewell –  
Family of Jean Duck – Bev Brown – Brenda Przekop

# Lent

## Season of Renewal

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE



WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK SERVICES  
LENTEN SOUP SUPPER @ 6:00PM  
EVENING PRAYER SERVICE @ 7:00PM



MAUNDY THURSDAY &  
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES  
7:15PM



EASTER WORSHIP  
APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>, 9:00AM

### **Bethany's Mission Statement: Matthew 28:19-20**

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you!*

[Please pray this prayer daily](#)

### **Prayer For Spiritual Renewal**

Oh, loving Lord. We know You and accept You as Lord and Savior. So, we come to You seeking a fresh, new perspective, not to throw away past lessons but for Your spirit to rebuild and breathe new life into our faith. Show us how to do this. Let us open ourselves completely to Your voice. The voice that tells us God is love and in Christ all things are new. Renew us and restore us in Christ name. Amen



# REMEMBERING THOSE WHO ARE AT HOME

Names and addresses of our homebound members have been redacted  
for the online version of the newsletter





## *Slang of the Week: “Huzz”*

The word “huzz” is a play on the word “h\*es.” (You might be asking, dear reader, “Didn’t we just talk about ‘bop,’ another pejorative term about women?” You would be correct. Apparently, one such term is not enough for the modern slangscape.) Like the term “h\*es,” huzz can be used for derision, but it also is often used in a familiar way between friends (see also: “bruzz,” a mash-up of bros and huzz). Does that mean the word is entirely wholesome and edifying? Not necessarily, but context matters a lot for the intention and impact of the word.

## *the case for lowercase*

**what it is:** many young people prefer lowercase text to sentences with capital letters.

**why it matters:** for many teens, lowercase letters feel more informal, relaxed, and conversational. even though most smartphones start with auto-capitalization turned on, teens often disable this feature in order to avoid seeming too formal in their texts to friends and family. as gen-zer maele kouman puts it, “lowercase feels like an ongoing conversational tone without a start or end. it removes the serious tone certain texts can exude, without even trying.” gen z artists like olivia rodrigo reinforce this trend with lowercase song titles like “drivers license” (although others, like billie eilish, have resorted to all-caps titles like “BIRDS OF A FEATHER”). in professional relationships and environments, many teens still opt for standard capitalization, and this is sometimes equated on tiktok with growing up.

**continue the conversation:** what do you think about sentences that use capital letters as opposed to being all-lowercase?

## *Angling Toward the Light*

**What it is:** A doomed anglerfish swimming from the dark depths to the sunlit surface of the ocean has captured the internet’s heart this week.

**Why it’s connecting with people:** The tale almost writes itself: an anglerfish, knowing her end is near, chooses to reject the darkness of her home and, as her final act, swims to the surface to see the sun for the first and final time. The light hitting her face—a face some might consider horrifying—is maybe the only “true” light she has ever seen. The internet’s telling of the tale has been poignant, beautiful, and with a hint of tragedy. Of course, a variety of things could’ve motivated the fish’s final exodus, but that doesn’t change the empathy of the doomed anglerfish is inspiring in others.



### Let's translate this one further...



Human beings use stories to make sense of the world—and some of the most enduring stories are tragedies. Orpheus goes to hell and back to rescue Eurydice, only to lose her at the last moment. Romeo and Juliet love each other but can never truly be together. An anglerfish quietly swims to see the sun as its final act. Tragedies remind us that our time on earth will, eventually, come to an end—but despite being a stark reminder that our lives are a “mist” as James describes, tragedies also remind us that what we do with that limited time has deep significance. In the Fellowship of the Ring, Frodo begins to realize that his story may end in tragedy, and in a moment of honesty, he laments to Gandalf:

“‘I wish it need not have happened in my time,’ said Frodo. ‘So do I,’ said Gandalf, ‘and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.’”

You may be thinking that this is an overly dramatic way to talk about a tiny, dying anglerfish—an anglerfish who, whether because of a malfunctioning swim bladder, misfiring instinct, or some other reason, left her perpetual darkness to spend her final moments in the light. But even a tiny, seemingly insignificant anglerfish can remind us of our hope. That even when the “nations rage” and tragedy strikes—even when life seems dark, we can still choose to follow after “the light of the world.” And the difference is that instead of tragedy, the Christian’s story ends with everything sad coming untrue.

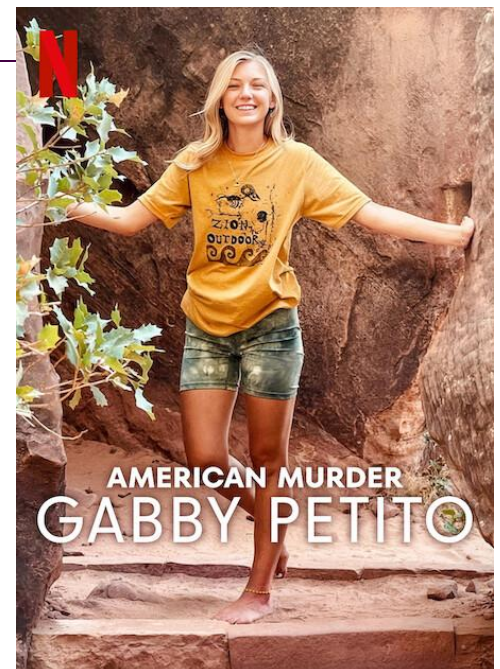
### Continue the conversation:

- Why do you think a dying anglerfish is inspiring such strong emotions?
- Since the anglerfish got to see the sun, is her story really a tragedy?
- If you knew you were about to die, and could only do one thing, what would you do?

### Hidden in Plain Sight

**What it is:** Netflix’s new docuseries *American Murder: Gabby Petito* sparked controversy this week for its use of AI to recreate Petito’s voice.

**Why it’s important:** The Petito family initially signed off on the use of AI in the docuseries, but later admitted it felt “weird” and “off,” echoing the discomfort many viewers expressed. Some viewers felt an immediate “ick” from the AI-generated voice, not only because it sounded strange, but because it blurred ethical boundaries. This controversy hasn’t kept the series from climbing the charts—currently it ranks #2 on Netflix. Still, the unsettling choice highlights how technology can shift from innovative to invasive, especially



when dealing with real-life tragedy. It also raises bigger questions about consent, respect for the deceased, and whether there are some lines technology simply shouldn't cross.

### Let's translate this one further...

The use of AI to recreate Gabby Petito's voice is ironic, given the way her entire story is about the difference between perception and reality.

While Gabby's social media portrayed a sunny, carefree, #vanlife journey, the reality behind her posts was marked by manipulation, control, and domestic violence. The Netflix series reveals how sometimes, underneath a carefully orchestrated public persona, there is a person who needs help. In some cases, an innocent life may even depend on our ability to see beneath the surface. As

Jesus himself said in John 7:24: "Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly."

Social media often offers only a curated glimpse into someone's life, but Jesus urges us to see deeper—to discern truth with wisdom and compassion. Petito's story challenges us not to settle for shallow perceptions but to approach the lives of others with a heart that seeks understanding.

- How often do you wonder what might be happening behind the scenes of picture-perfect social media posts?
- How do you feel about AI being used to recreate a dead person's voice?
- What might be some warning signs that a person your age needs help?



## Submit your Recipes

*One of the ways we can share in fellowship with one another is to share our favorite, or most requested, recipes. We are asking everyone to share their recipes by submitting them to the church office and each month we will share a recipe in our newsletter. Please take a moment to copy your favorite recipe or one that is most requested by others and email it to [secybethanyNALC@gmail.com](mailto:secybethanyNALC@gmail.com) or drop it off at the church office. We look forward to seeing all the yummy recipes as they come in!*

# BIBLE CROSSWORD XVII

## Across

1 Patriarch of the family in biblical tradition (6)

4 Grace and refinement, like Solomon's court (8)

10 Hometown of Joseph who buried Jesus (9)

11 Rival king to Omri in ancient Israel (5)

12 Third son of Adam and Eve (4)

13 Longest-living person in the Bible (10)

15 Tiny seed Jesus used in a parable (7)

16 Evil spirits cast out by Jesus (6)

19 Strongly encourage in faith and good deeds (6)

21 Court officials mentioned in the book of Daniel (7)

23 God's active power in the world (4,6)

25 Slothful state warned against in Proverbs (4)

27 Bird used as a symbol of strength in Isaiah (5)

28 Feeling no guilt, like Adam before the Fall (9)

29 Praised highly, as in many Psalms (8)

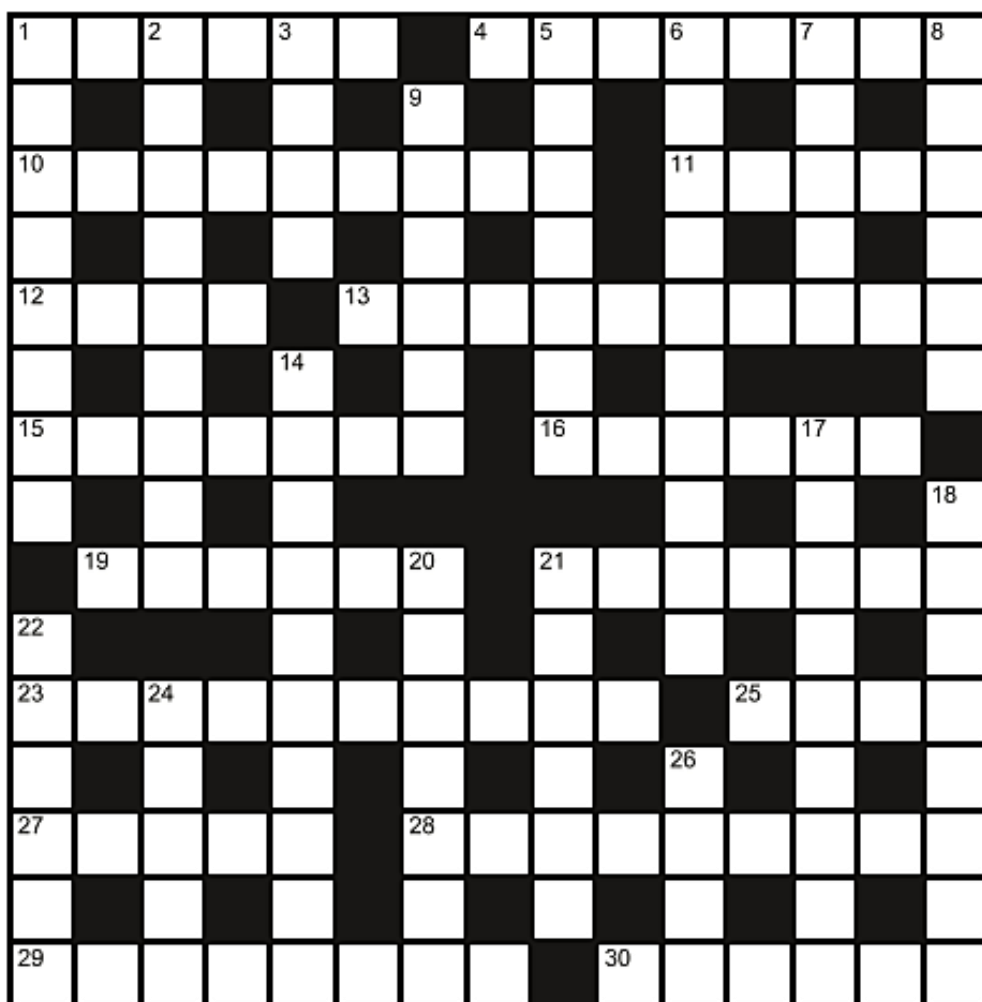
30 Stopped, as the manna did in Joshua (6)

## Down

1 Terrifying, like Goliath to the Israelites (8)

2 Number of years Joash reigned in Jerusalem (6-3)

3 Elder twin brother of Jacob (4)



by Philologus

©BiblePuzzles.com

5 Intensely disliked, as Israel did the manna (7)

6 Garden where Jesus prayed before his arrest (10)

7 Foolish husband of Abigail (5)

8 Prophet who succeeded Elijah (6)

9 Protective equipment in Paul's armour of God (6)

14 Site of Jesus' conversation with a Samaritan woman (6,4)

17 Pharisee who visited Jesus at night (9)

18 Rose to heaven, as Jesus did after resurrection (8)

20 Roman military officer mentioned in Acts (7)

21 Prophet taken to heaven in a whirlwind (6)

22 Woman commended by Paul in Romans (6)

24 Created on the first day in Genesis (5)

26 Item Moses was told to remove at the burning bush (4)

Solution on  
pg. 15



March 7, 2025

*Greetings to you in the "springtime" of our church year seasons!*

We can call it “springtime” because that is what the word “Lent” means in Old English. The early church used the Greek and Latin languages. Their names for Lent (Tessarakosti—Greek & Quadragesima—Latin) simply mean “fortieth.” These names recognize the forty days of Lent between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. Sundays during this time are not counted within the days of Lent. The forty days end at the beginning of the Maundy Thursday worship service. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday constitute a liturgical season, the Holy Triduum, the shortest of the church year. The forty days hearkens back to Jesus’ time in the wilderness being tempted by Satan.

Lent is generally considered a time of preparation for Easter Sunday, the Day of the Resurrection of Our Lord. Christians are to focus on their fallen, sinful state and repent of that sinfulness. This focus usually involves increasing their pious practices such as prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. Often, this is referred to as joining Jesus on his way to the cross.

While typical pious practices during Lent focus Christians’ attention on themselves and their sinfulness, celebrating the Transfiguration just before Ash Wednesday gives Christians a clue about where their focus should be. In all three Synoptic Gospels’ accounts of the Transfiguration (Luke 9:36, Mark 9:8, & Matthew 17:8), the texts inform us that, after the cloud... after the voice... after the dazzling appearance of Jesus... and after the manifestation of Moses and Elijah... after all of that, the three disciples saw Jesus only.

When Christians focus on themselves and their sinfulness, they engage in self-centered introspection. In other words, they are curved in upon themselves; they “*in curvatus in se*,” one of the phrases used to describe sinfulness.

The clue provided by the conclusion of the Transfiguration accounts' singular focus, "they saw Jesus only" turns Christians' Lenten focus away from themselves and their pious practices and toward Jesus Christ. Or, as indicated by the Apostle Paul, "I decided to know nothing among you except Christ and him crucified." (1 Cor. 2:2). Only in knowing Jesus Christ crucified for them do Christians come to know the depths of their sin.

May the preaching of Jesus Christ who has come to be your life, fix your focus on him, draw you through this Lenten season, and into your celebration of the Day of Resurrection for our Lord!

*Rev. Timothy J. Swenson*

Dean of Chapel

## *Upcoming Activities & Events...*

**Mark your calendar, these events are open for all to participate**

**Bible Study:** Will take place every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of each month on **Wednesday at 12:00pm** and on **Thursday at 6:00pm** in the fellowship hall.



Join us to color Easter Eggs on **April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am** for an Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**. All ages are welcome to participate!



**Ice Cream Social & Hymn Sing:** Our next Hymn sing and ice cream social is scheduled for **May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**. All are welcome to attend!

# Messages & Gratitude

**Office Hours:** Church office hours have been returned to Monday through Thursday from 9:00am-2:00pm beginning March 17th.



**Spring Banquet:** Tureen dinner will be held on April 26, 6:00 PM. People are invited to bring a dish of their choice while the church will provide the meat for the meal. A pictorial presentation on A Journey through Poland will be provided by Tim Logan following the meal. Reservations are needed by April 21, 2025.

**Yard Sale:** We are currently accepting donations for the Montoursville community yard sale on May 31st. Donations can be dropped off on the stage in the fellowship hall during office hours.



**Disaster Relief:** Donations for disaster relief will be accepted in the church office at any time. Donations and funds received will be sent to NALC Disaster Response. Please make checks out to Bethany Lutheran Church with “Disaster Fund” on the memo.



# Recipes

## "Pittsburgh Pretzel"



Cook Time: 25-30 min,



Makes 2 Large Pretzels

PROVIDED BY: GAIL STOVER



## Ingredients

2 cups milk

2 large eggs

½ cup butter

1 cup confectioner's sugar

2 (¼ oz.) packages active dry yeast

2 tsp. salt

1 tsp. vanilla

½ cup sugar

5 cups bleached flour

(optional) ¼ cup chopped almonds/sprinkles

## Directions

1. Heat milk and butter till very warm 120-130 degrees.
2. Mix yeast, salt, sugar and 1 cup of flour 3 slowly beat into warm milk
3. Beat for 2 minutes.
4. Add eggs and 1 cup flour.
5. Beat another 2 minutes.
6. Add enough flour to form a soft dough - you may not need all the 5 additional cups flour.
7. Knead until smooth and elastic
8. Place dough in a greased bowl. Let rise until doubled in bulk.
9. Punch down and let rise again till doubled - about an hour
10. Divide dough in half.
11. Shape pretzel: Roll dough into a rope about 30 inches long and 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Cross the ends leaving a large loop in the center. Flip loop onto crossed ends to form a Pretzel.
12. Repeat with remaining dough.
13. Place dough onto teased baking sheets and let rise 15 minutes more.
14. Bake at 375 for 25 -30 until golden brown. Cool on wire racks.
15. Mix confectioner's sugar, water and vanilla to for a thin icing. Drizzle icing on pretzels and Sprinkle with chopped almonds/sprinkles.

# Ministry Volunteers for April & May 2025

## Lock-Up

<b>Apr. 6</b>	Thomas Gower
<b>Apr. 13</b>	David Grube
<b>Apr. 20</b>	Philip Oechler
<b>Apr. 27</b>	Denice Palmeter
<b>Apr. 6</b>	Thomas Gower
<b>May 4</b>	William Bagwell
<b>May 11</b>	Thomas Gower
<b>May 18</b>	David Grube
<b>May 25</b>	Philip Oechler

## Altar Ministry

<b>April</b>	Kathie Snauffer	Gail Stover
<b>May</b>	June Grube	Barb Pentz

## Communion Ministry

<b>April</b>	Jean Wentz	Deb Harman
<b>May</b>	Jamie Brouse	Deb Harman

## Greeting Card Ministry

<b>April</b>	Jean Beard
<b>May</b>	Kathie Snauffer

## Worship Participants

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
<b>Apr. 6</b>	Gregory Dwulet	Tracy Rhian, Barb Pentz	Richard Hillegas, Mark Whitmoyer
<b>Apr. 13</b>	David Neidig	David Neidig, Barb Winchester	Michael & Gail Stover
<b>Apr. 16</b>			Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown
<b>Apr. 17</b>	Michael Stover	Michael & Gail Stover	Philip Oechler, Gary Oechler
<b>Apr. 18</b>			Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown
<b>Apr. 20</b>	Michael Stover	Michael & Gail Stover	Tracy Rhian, Earla Gower
<b>Apr. 27</b>	Phil Riggs	Phil Riggs, Yvonne Sechler	Richard Hillegas, Mark Whitmoyer
<b>May 4</b>	Arlene Klepper	Arlene Klepper, Tracy Rhian	Michael & Gail Stover
<b>May 11</b>	David Neidig	David Neidig, Karen Paulhamus	Deb Harman, Fred Paulhamus, Beverly Brown
<b>May 18</b>	Phil Riggs	Phil Riggs, Barb Winchester	Tracy Rhian, Earla Gower
<b>May 25</b>	Beverly Brown	Barb Pentz, Yvonne Sechler	Philip Oechler, Gary Oechler

# Easter Flowers



DUE APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>

\$15.00 EACH

Please return completed order forms to church office

QUANTITY

TOTAL AMOUNT \$

LILLIES (*white*)

TULIPS (*assorted*)

MUMS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK NUMBER (*/if applicable*): \_\_\_\_\_



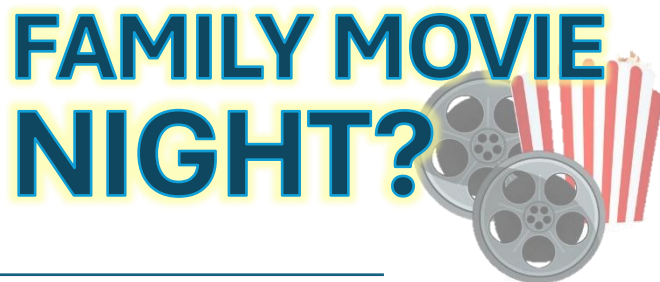
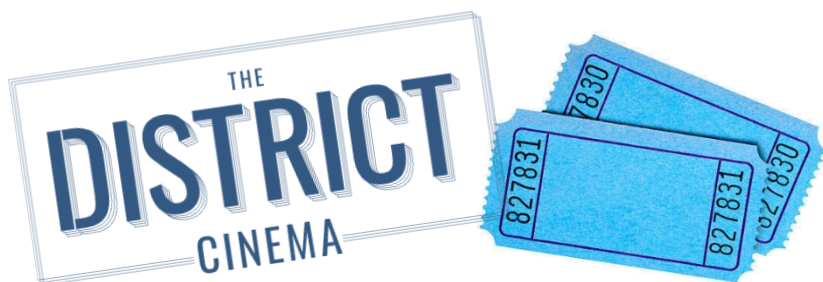
# BIBLE CROSSWORD XVII - SOLUTION



Across: 1 Father, 4 Elegance, 10 Arimathea, 11 Tibni, 12 Seth, 13 Methuselah, 15 Mustard, 16 Demons, 19 Exhort, 21 Eunuchs, 23 Holy Spirit, 25 Idle, 27 Eagle, 28 Unashamed, 29 Extolled, 30 Ceased.

Down: 1 Fearsome, 2 Thirty-six, 3 Esau, 5 Loathed, 6 Gethsemane, 7 Nabal, 8 Elisha, 9 Shield, 14 Jacobs Well, 17 Nicodemus, 18 Ascended, 20 Tribune, 21 Elijah, 22 Phoebe, 24 Light, 26 Shoe.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.com



ANGEL STUDIOS

*"THE KING OF KINGS"*

OPENS AT THE  
DISTRICT CINEMA  
APRIL 11!

Office: [570-260-3000](tel:570-260-3000) | Cell: [570-506-2415](tel:570-506-2415)

965 Lycoming Mall Circle, Pennsdale, Pa.

[THEDISTRICT.DIPSONTHEATRES.COM](http://THEDISTRICT.DIPSONTHEATRES.COM)



## **Sunday April 6     Lent 5**

*9:00am - Holy Communion 10:15am - Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School*

Tue. Apr. 8	9:00am – Quilters	6:00pm – Dinner at Pudgie’s
	7:00pm – Bell Choir	8:00pm – Chancel Choir
Wed. Apr. 9	12:00pm – Bible Study	6:00pm – Lenten Soup Dinner
	7:15pm – Evening Prayer	
Thur. Apr. 10	6:00pm – Bible Study	

## **Sunday April 13     Palm Sunday**

*9:00am - Holy Communion 10:15am - Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School*

Mon. Apr. 14	7:15pm – Church Council	
Tue. Apr. 15	9:00am – Quilters	6:00pm – Dinner at Pudgie’s
	7:00pm – Bell Choir	8:00pm – Chancel Choir
Wed. Apr. 16	6:00pm – Lenten Soup Dinner	7:15pm – Evening Prayer
Thur. Apr. 17	7:15pm – Maundy Thursday Service	
Fri. Apr. 18	10:00am – Egg Coloring	7:15pm – Good Friday Service
Sat. Apr. 19	10:00am – Easter Egg Hunt	

## **Sunday April 20     Resurrection of Our Lord**

*9:00am - Holy Communion 10:15am - Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School*

Tue. Apr. 21	9:00am – Quilters	9:00am – Stuff Newsletters
Wed. Apr. 22	12:00pm – Bible Study	6:00pm – Dinner at Pudgie’s
	7:00pm – Bell Choir	8:00pm – Chancel Choir
Thur. Apr. 23	6:00pm – Bible Study	
Sat. Apr. 26	6:00pm – Spring Banquet	

## **Sunday April 27     Easter 2**

*9:00am - Holy Communion 10:15am - Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School*

	12:00pm – Tureen Dinner	
Mon. Apr. 28	7:00pm – Christian Ed	
Tue. Apr. 29	9:00am – Quilters	
Wed. Apr. 30	6:00pm – Dinner at Pudgie’s	7:00pm – Bell Choir
	8:00pm – Chancel Choir	

*He is risen*