

St. John's Epistle

May 2018

A Newsletter of
St. John's Lutheran Church—LCMS
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Promise Made-Promise Kept

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” (Acts 1: 11)

In 1941, Commander General Douglas MacArthur made a promise. There were a series of disasters that began with the destruction of his air force. Then, the Japanese invaded the Philippines. In 1942 the Japanese were winning many of the battles in the Pacific. In fact, it was so bad that the Americans were forced to leave. General MacArthur and his family ended up in Australia. Upon arriving in Australia, MacArthur gave a speech in which he made a promise to the Philippine people. He said, “I shall return.” It was two years later; on October 1944, MacArthur, on the radio, made an announcement to the Philippines. He said, “We have returned.” It would only be a matter of time before the Philippines would be liberated. Promise made. Promise kept.

Mark wrote, **“And He [Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days later rise again.”** (Mark 8:31)

Furthermore, as the disciples and Jesus passed through Galilee, Jesus told them, **“The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And when He is killed, after three days He will rise.”** (Mark 9:30, 31) Promise made. Promise kept.

Jesus was crucified! Then on the third day, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the Mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb to prepare Jesus’ dead body. When they arrived at the tomb they found the stone rolled away. Mark wrote, **“And entering the**

tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He is risen: He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go; tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.’ (Mark 16: 5-7) Promise made. Promise kept.

Forty days later, as the Apostles watched Jesus ascend into heaven, “two men stood by them in white robes, and said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the heavens? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’” (Acts 1: 10, 11) Jesus, truly risen in His body from the dead, now reigns as unseen King over all of us. When the time is right, as He has promised, He will return in full sight. Promise made. Promise will be kept.

You have Jesus’ promise; the promise that He is going to return again. Many times we allow Satan to deceive us into thinking that it all happened in the past. In other words, Jesus’ death and resurrection have nothing to do with us today. But the truth is, we live with the promise that Jesus, who won the victory over sin, death, and the devil, will return on Judgment Day to liberate us forever. Jesus will not fail us. He will keep His promise. One day, you, me, and the whole world will hear Jesus announce, “I have returned.” Promise made. Promise kept. Amen.

In Christ;

Pastor Craig S. Zandi



He ascended into heaven

ASSISTING FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

Acolytes: *Ushers*

Altar Guild: *Tammy Busse, Donna Howard, Mary Ann Riegel*

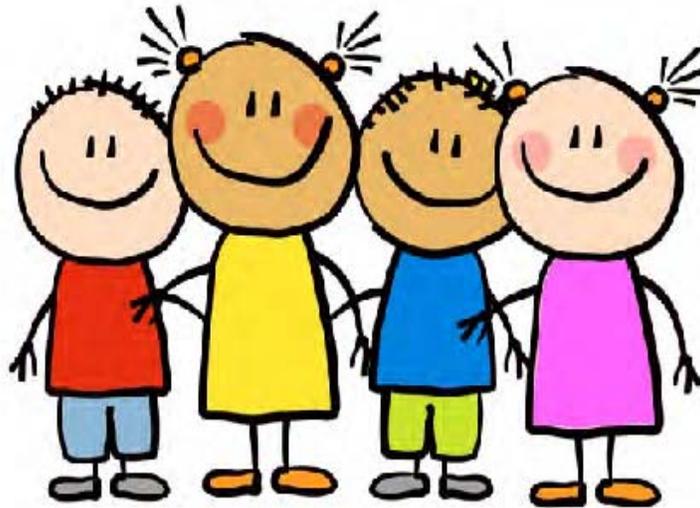
Finance: *Tom Rosolowski & Stu Pask*

Fellowship: *Board of Finance and Quilters*

Worship Assistants for May – Sunday Services at 9AM

Sunday, May 6	<p>Elder: Ray Tousey Greeters: Donna Howard & Mary Ann Riegel Ushers: <u>Team 4:</u> Sam Barg, Adam Barg, John Monnier, Chuck Perenchio, Gene Zillmer</p>
Sunday, May 13 <i>Caring & Sharing</i>	<p>Elder: Randy Scott Greeters: Lorraine Flohr Ushers: <u>Team 5:</u> Jim Kuchta, Captain, Gary Drohman, Don Josi, Dave Thompson, Russ Thompson</p>
Sunday, May 20 <i>LWML Mites Ingathering</i>	<p>Elder: Alden Hook Greeters: Janice Zandi Ushers: <u>Team 1:</u> Dave Scott, Captain, Dave Kuchta, Jordan Pask, Vic Plockelman</p>
Sunday, May 27 <i>Charity of the Month</i>	<p>Elder: Sam Barg Greeters: Vic & Bonnie Plockelman Ushers: <u>Team 2:</u> Gary Hahn, Glen Hoople, Dave Kmosena, Mike Kuchta, Stu Pask, Jim Rodd</p>

Attention all Bible Buddies



The BIBLE BUDDY program will be coming to an end on May 31st. Please continue to keep your Bible Buddy in your prayers and watch for a chance to participate in our 2018-19 Bible Buddy program.

Baptism: Christ Marks Us as His Own
By Rev. Dr. David P. Scaer

A Three year delay in the publication of the Baptism volume in the Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics series allowed me to come across any number of pertinent items in Luther about this Sacrament. For him Baptism was more than an initiation rite, but was virtually synonymous with the entire Christian life. Being a Christian and being baptized was the same thing. Baptism allows us to see ourselves as Christians and sets the church's boundaries. The baptized community is the church- or is it the other way around? It is the foundation Sacrament for the other church rites. Confirmation is the affirmation of Baptism and Confession and Absolution is the practice of Baptism. Except for the outward form of the Sacraments, Lutherans often do not distinguish the benefits of one Sacrament from another especially in regards to the benefits. All the means of grace, including the preached Word, give the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Homogenizing the Word and the Sacraments blurs the distinct value and operation of each, an approach common to Reformed theology as was evident with the renowned Karl Barth, the father of Neo-Orthodoxy, the theology popular at mid-century. A resurgence of sacramental interest in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod from the same period focused on the Lord's Supper. Now Confession and Absolution is receiving some attention. Of all the mysteries the church celebrates, the Eucharist is most profound through which we Christians, as God's Priests, enter with our High Priest to be included in His self-offering to the Father and to receive the benefits of His atonement in eating and drinking His sacrificial body and blood. Undergirding the solemnities of that Sacrament is the prior and fundamental mystery of Baptism by which we are included in Christ's death and resurrection and so are made members of His own Body, the Church. Baptism and Holy Communion are complementary Sacraments with one requiring the other, but without one being allowed to be substituted for the other. In Baptism, we become part of Christ and in Holy Communion He becomes part of us. The Holy Spirit, by Baptism, unites us with the God- Man, Jesus

Christ, who unites us with His Father. Now we are marked with the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and are found acceptable to share in Christ's sacrifice through Holy Communion. Baptism may be seen only as a rite for children. Holy Communion happens every Sunday or at least once a month. Baptism is usually practiced less often. Our focus is more often directed to the altar from which we receive Christ's body and blood than it is to the baptismal font. It attracts our attention on those Sundays when it is used.

A recent remodeling of the seminary's Kramer Chapel allowed for an expanded choir loft. Beneath the enlarged loft is a chapel within the Chapel with pews facing a baptismal font carved from Indiana limestone in the middle of the aisle. Here, the font serves first as the focus of a small chapel area used for daily matins and vespers with their smaller attendance of twenty or so persons. Placed squarely behind the center doors of the narthex opening into the nave, it blocks the central aisle. Each person entering the main chapel through the center doors has to decide on which side of the font to walk. In leaving chapel, he has to make that decision again. It is impossible to walk straight down the aisle. A procession into the chapel for special services no longer proceeds in perfect formation. The baptismal font is an impediment to orderly traffic and forces all those who pass it to ask why an obstacle was placed right in the middle of the aisle. It is as if John the Baptist were standing at the chapel doors telling us to repent of our sins. He points us to the baptismal font where we can find Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Every font is a reminder to every Christian that he or she was once baptized into Christ and that the Holy Trinity came to live in him or her. Something like this happened in the Old Testament story of Baalam whose way was blocked when the animal which carried him saw an angel of the Lord. That font blocks our path so that we by faith see the Holy Trinity in the water who joined Himself to us in Baptism.

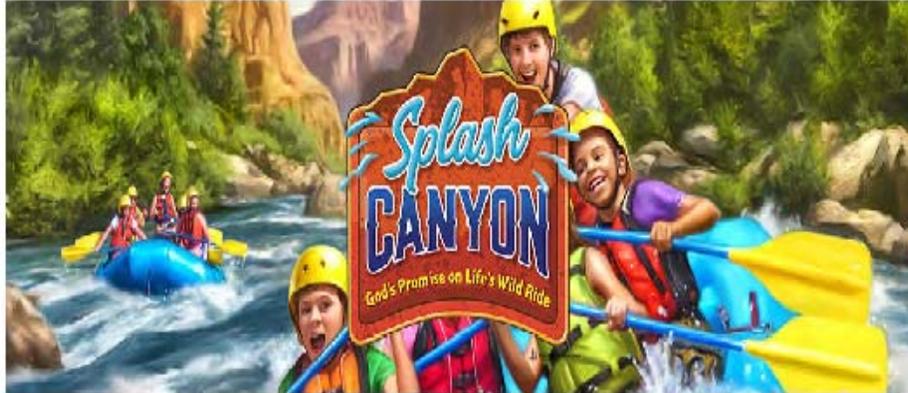
Some years ago a portable, non-pretentious baptismal font stood in the front of the chapel. It was largely ignored except for times when one or two students had their children baptized there. A layperson wrote a letter arguing that since the seminary community was not an incorporated congregation, the font had

no place in a student chapel. The easy and yes, coward's way out of that complaint, was its removal. It was not particularly attractive and seemed to be no more than a meaningless piece of furniture, a nuisance, which had to be moved when the chapel was full.

Luther had a different focus on Baptism. God finds His home in the water of Baptism and on that account it can do such great things as forgive sins, grant life and salvation, and actually confer the power of Christ's resurrection. God's presence in Baptism is more than His working in every place in the universe, but in Baptism He takes us and our children to Himself and He comes to live within us. Through Jesus, we share in the divine nature. We become the temple of God and the Holy Spirit dwells within us. In the Old Testament, the presence of God was dreadful. Israel stayed far from Sinai because God was on that mountain. Isaiah saw God in the temple and trembled. Can a man see God and live? And the answer is no. But in Baptism we come face to face with God. Instead of wrath and death, we are given the life of God Himself and our sins become permanently past tense.. The unapproachable God approaches us in water. During the past few years, students from the former Soviet Union have been on the Fort Wayne campus. These Russian-speaking seminary students have a real commitment to our Lutheran Confessions. They also bring with them their own piety, which is influenced by Eastern Orthodox Christianity, which is unfamiliar to most Americans. In passing by the baptismal font, some of these students instinctively put their hands into the water and make the sign of the cross across their breast in the traditional Russian way. For some this is novel. Perhaps it should not be. Luther urges us to kneel at the baptismal font because from there the voice of the Holy Trinity sounds. Making the sign of the cross at the baptism font or kneeling is our confession that the God who spoke to Moses from the burning bush speaks to all Christians through His Son in Baptism to give us His Spirit.

+ In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Dr. David P Scaer is Professor of Systematic Theology at
Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN



Strap on your life jacket and get ready for a rip-roaring river ride with **Splash Canyon: God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride**. Life is full of thrills and spills, and we may not know what's around the bend, but God does! At Splash Canyon VBS, kids discover that on life's wild ride, Jesus is always by our side.

Monday, July 30th from 8am – 3:30pm

The Board of Christian Education is looking the following volunteers:

2018 Super Duper Director

Riverside Snacks

White Water Games

Sandbar Crafts

River Riff Music

For questions or to volunteer please contact a member of the Board of Christian Education

May 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 8:30-11:30 Preschool 9:00AM Quilters 6:00PM Board of Christian Education/Youth Ministry	2 8:30-11:30 Preschool	3 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Study 8:30-11:30 Preschool 10:00AM Thrift Store – Rice Lake	4	5
6 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Fellowship 10:30-11:30AM Bible Study 10:30-11:30AM Sunday school 11:30AM Board of Elders	7 8:30-11:30 Preschool 6:00PM Ladies Bible Study <i>“Living a Chocolate Life”</i>	8 8:30-11:30 Preschool 9:00AM Quilters 11:30AM Birthday luncheon 6:15PM Evangelism-Stewardship meeting	9 8:30-11:30 Preschool 1:00PM Ladies Aid 6:00PM Confirmation	10 8:30-11:30 Preschool	11	12
13 Caring & Sharing Confirmation Day! 8:15AM Board of Finance 9:00AM Worship+ HC 10:00AM Fellowship 10:30-11:30AM Bible Study 10:30-11:30AM Sunday school	14 8:30-11:30 Preschool 6:00PM Ladies Bible Study <i>“Living a Chocolate Life”</i>	15 8:30-11:30 Preschool 9:00AM Quilters 6:00PM Council	16 8:30-11:30 Preschool	17 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Study 8:30-11:30 Preschool 10:00AM Thrift Store – Rice Lake	18	19 10:00-12:00 Crafty Stitches
20 LWML Mites Ingathering Pentecost 8:45AM Hymn Sing 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Fellowship 10:30-11:30AM Bible Study 10:30-11:30AM Sunday school Last day of Sunday School till fall!	21 8:30-11:30 Preschool 4:30PM Ladies Bible Study	22 8:30-11:30 Preschool 9:00AM Quilters NEWS LETTER ITEMS DUE TODAY!	23 8:30-11:30 Preschool 1:00PM Rachel Circle	24 Last day of school 8:30-11:30 Preschool 10:00AM Graduation 1:00PM Deborah Circle	25	26
27 Stewardship Charity of the Month-Hope Food Pantry/Backpack Program 9:00AM Worship + HC 10:00AM Fellowship 10:30-11:30AM Bible Study	28	29 9:00AM Quilters	30	31 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Study	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> St John's Volunteers serve meals at the Senior Center Meal Site the week of May 28th </div>	

How We Got The Bible

Please join in the study of “How We Got the Bible.” This study will be five lessons included a DVD and discussion.

Sixty-six books, more than 1,100 chapters, an astounding 30,000 verses, a mind-boggling 700,000 words—it’s no wonder it’s the world’s most fascinating book. See how it was all put together in “How We Got The Bible”, featuring Dr. Paul L. Maier.

Joining Dr. Maier are Joel Lampe, manager of The Bible Museum, an extraordinary repository of printed texts, ancient manuscripts, and rare Bibles housed in Goodyear, Arizona. Additional commentary and insight are provided by Bruce Wurdeman, executive director of Lutheran Hour Ministries and Dr. Jeff Kloha, associate professor of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Lesson 1: The World’s Most Important Book

Lesson 2: Can We Be Confident in the Bible?

Lesson 3: Silencing the Old Testament Critics.

Lesson 4: Did the Church make Jesus Divine?

Lesson 5: The High Price of an English Bible.

Please check the weekly bulletin for date and time!

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND FAMILY RETREAT

May 25-28, 2018



Enjoy a flexible and relaxing schedule with your family and other families during this holiday weekend. Activities include pontoon rides, kayaking, trail biking, swimming, cookouts, disc golf, Bible study, and campfire devotions. Plus...we do all the cooking!

Start a new tradition this year. Visit the Retreats & Cottages tab at www.campluther.com for all the registration information.

Preschool News

It's hard to believe we are in our last few weeks of school! Please join us on May 24th at 10am for our Graduation Program! We would love to see you!

We have been reviewing the alphabet daily and practicing our writing. We are very good at recognizing letters!

Our last few Bible lessons will focus on Philip, Timothy, and reminding us of how God loves us and takes care of us.

Thank you to Bible Buddies—Jan MacLachlan, Mary Ann Riegel, Donna Howard, Roberta Baye, and Diane Rodd for stopping in to see us! We LOVE when you visit!

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR
GRADUATES!





Ladies Bible Study May 21st at 4:30 pm
 Bible Study is found in the Spring 2018 Lutheran Women's
 Quarterly on page 16; is titled Comfort Ye, Comfort Ye My People
 If you need a copy see Paula.

There will be a short business meeting after the Bible Study.

The 37th Biennial North Wisconsin District LWML Convention
 will be held June 24-26, 2018 in Stevens Point,
 Wisconsin. Theme: "Remember All the Blessings" Psalm 103:2.

Four mission groups have been chosen to be recipients of the
 convention in-gathering. They are:

MOST Ministries;
 Peace Lutheran Campus Ministry, UW-Stevens Point;
 Shirley's House of Hope, Marshfield;
 Orphan Grain Train.

If you read the Annual Report you will know how many
 eyeglasses and eyeglass cases were sent to MOST Ministries in
 2017. We did not send that many by ourselves, it took volunteers
 from the entire congregation. We are asking the congregation's
 help again in 2018. We would like to take to the convention gifts
 for MOST Ministries and at least one other of the recipients list
 above. More information will be provided as decisions are made
 and we hear more from the District.



Crafty Stitchers



Our busy group of crafty women continues to meet on the third Saturday of each month.

Dana is still knitting mittens and has set a goal of making ten each month. As of now, she already has 40 pairs of mittens made! Way to go Dana!

We will meet again on Saturday, May 19, from 10:00 a.m.-noon. Come join us!

KEWEENAW BASE CAMP (KBC) SUMMER RENTALS

Camp Luther is excited to offer four units available for rental at Keweenaw Base Camp. Each of these units are comfortably furnished with all that you need for a relaxing stay in the Keweenaw, including fully equipped kitchen and wood stove. Book your cabin through Camp Luther by contacting Janette "Swoops" Marien, Community Outreach Coordinator at janette@campluther.com or 906-281-0614. You can view the cottages and get more information at www.campluther.com under the KBC tab.



CREATE YOUR OWN RETREAT

Looking for a place to host your next event? Camp Luther is your destination for year-round retreats, conferences, and gatherings. In the midst of God's beautiful creation, your group will be treated to comfortable accommodations, wonderful meals and a helpful staff. Join us soon and you'll come to know why thousands of people return to Camp Luther year after year.

Visit our website at www.campluther.com for more information.



STEWARDSHIP

*A godly attitude in using our time, talents,
and treasures for Christ and His Kingdom.*

May Charity of the Month—On May 27th, our charity will be **Hope Food Pantry/Backpack Program**. Please use the designated envelope from your packs and mark on them the charity for that month. Only monies that are specifically designated will go to that charity.

If you have any questions about the Charity of the Month, please speak with a member of the Stewardship Board. Members are:

Dana Woebeking Marie Perenchio
Debbie Flatter

Submit Your Information!

**Respect the
Deadline!**

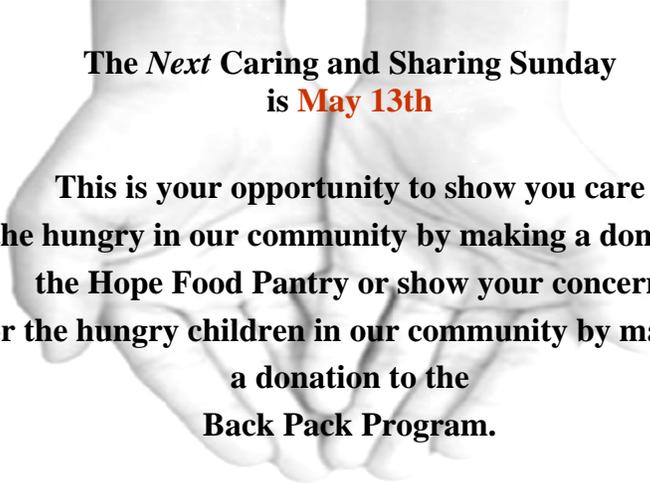


ITEMS FOR BULLETINS are due on Tuesday by close of day each week (unless indicated otherwise in bulletins due to holidays).

Newsletter items are due in the office no later than close of day on the Tuesday preceding the last Sunday of the month.

E-mail to: stjohnladysmith@centurylink.net (preferred method).

Don't forget that **LARGE PRINT bulletins** and **newsletters** are available for those who need them.
Contact the office to get your name on the list!



**The Next Caring and Sharing Sunday
is **May 13th****

**This is your opportunity to show you care
for the hungry in our community by making a donation to
the Hope Food Pantry or show your concern
for the hungry children in our community by making
a donation to the
Back Pack Program.**

Dish Cloths

**If you are interested in purchasing Dish Cloths,
please contact Bonietta Bruner at 715-532-5732.
All proceeds go to the St. John's Ladies Aid.
They are on hand!**

Rada Knives

**If you are interested in purchasing Rada Knives,
please contact Lorraine Flohr at 715-532-5095
All proceeds go to the St. John's Ladies Aid.
Orders are processed quickly!**

They make great wedding gifts.

Birthday Tuesdays! The May birthday luncheon will be on Tuesday, **May 8th**, 11:30 a.m. at the Ladysmith Restaurant. **All are welcome!**



Men's Breakfast and Study
Backdoor Café
Thursdays, May 3rd, 17th & 31st
At 7:00 AM

Please, when leaving your aluminum cans, that is all we can recycle! We cannot take aluminum foil, plates, etc.; aluminum cans only! Thanks for your assistance.

ONGOING COLLECTIONS

- ◆ Aluminum cans for Preschool
- ◆ Canceled Stamps (LWML)
- ◆ Paper for recycling
- ◆ Greeting cards
- ◆ Milk Moola™ caps and bag tops
- ◆ Used eye glasses



RECYCLING PAPER

We have an ongoing paper recycling project for the congregation with help from the Deborah Circle. Items to be recycled:
 Stationery, envelopes, mail, notebook paper -
no newspaper material!

Bundle or bag magazines.
Paperback books are also recyclable.

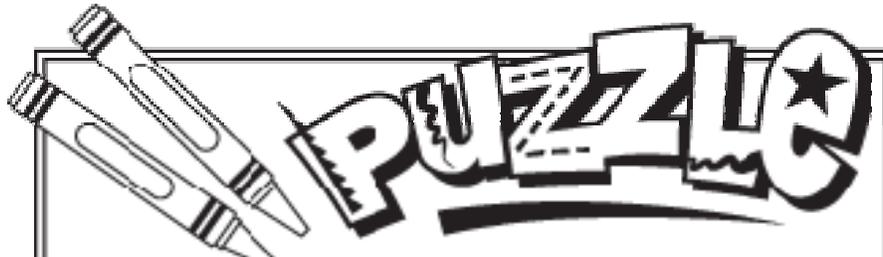
Keep magazines separate from the other paper items.
Thank you for helping!



- 1 Karen Kmosena
- 2 Jan Antczak, Dalton Thompson
- 3 Tammy Busse, Tim Dolan, Ben Kuchta, Ed Witt
- 4 Debbie Flater, Jim Guest
- 6 Paula Hook, Gil Johnson, McKenzie Morgan
- 8 Tammy Goss, Brian Hayes
- 9 McKenzie Wilson
- 10 Mike Kuchta
- 12 Koba Juergens, Marie Perenchio, Marty Shimko
- 13 Kristin Flater, Audrey Riphenburg
- 14 D'Arcy Ewer
- 17 Linda Bachar
- 18 John Kmosena
- 19 Ernie Mogensen, Jordan Pask
- 20 Kim Skabroud, Karlyna Graziano
- 24 John Ragazinski, Bill Ziegler
- 25 Tim Albers, Lee Purdy
- 26 Dick Balz, Wyatt Blomberg, Ethel Diederich, Bill Myers
- 28 Matt Boehmer, Drew Hahn, Chris Kibellus, Josh Zandi



- 1 Lisa (Don) Gleason
- 4 Jason (Meagan) Balko
- 11 Melissa (Travis) Hilliard
- 13 Tom & Kathy Silvernale
- 14 Terry (Patricia) Flater
- 19 Roberta (Joe) Baye
Lee & Judy Purdy
- 26 Bob & Rachel Hauser
- 28 Vic & Bonnie Plockelman
- 31 Gil & Jean Johnson



PUZZLE

WORTHY OF RESPECT

On Mother's Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?



Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.

A	C	D	M*	N*	O*
E	F	G	P*	R*	S*
H	I	L	T*	U*	Y*

" _____ your _____

and your _____

the _____ your _____ has

_____."

5:16, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV