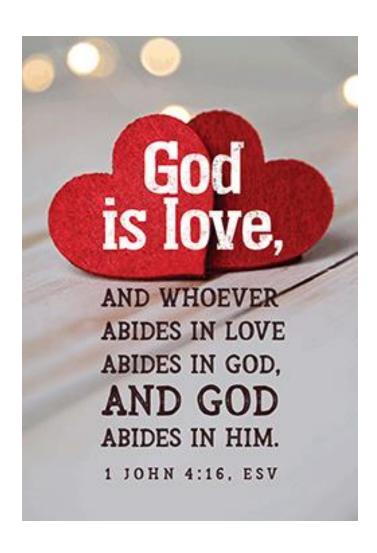
St. John's Epistle

February 2023

A Newsletter of
St. John's Lutheran Church—LCMS
515 College Ave. W. Ladysmith, WI 54848
stjohnladysmith@centurylink.net
715-532-5780

http://www.stjohnsladysmith.org





Evil is Defeated

Jesus said, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered. But after I am raised up, I will go before you in Galilee." Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." Jesus said to him. "Truly I say to you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And the disciples said the same. (Matthew 26:31-35)

The disciples seemed so lost when it came to evil. They still expected Jesus to rise to the top and lead a secular nation and possibly place them in prominent positions. They were repeatedly warned by Jesus about His suffering and death, but they didnøt listen. They underestimated sinful men and the evil forces behind them. Consequently, they overestimated themselves too. They all agreed with Peter that they would never disown Jesus, even if they had to die for Him! When they were able to pray with Jesus for strength, they simply fell asleep.

Do we fall asleep too? Do we live in a false optimism with the world around us? Do we underestimate the forces of evil? While the family unit is breaking down, human lives are snuffed out, and massive attacks are aimed at the church. We still believe that our faith can withstand any test, and we too promise to remain faithful, even unto death. Remember what Jesus told the disciples, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." (Luke 22:40) Jesus also warned Peter, "Simon, Simon behold Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may

not fall." (Luke 22:31-32) Yet, even with warnings from Jesus, we still miss the opportunities we have to be with our Father.

Jesus faced His darkest hour as He looked forward with full knowledge on what was going to happen to Him on the cross. He accurately assessed His need for communing with His Father. He prayed and was strengthened. He moved on to the cross defeating sin, death, and the devil with His Holy Precious blood.

Today, and every day, Jesus stands by us! He turns our unrealistic view of evil and makes it real through faith in Him. We are able to claim His victory in our lives. We are able to come daily to His Word, live in our Baptisms, and go to the Lord Supper for strength and forgiveness. We are able to repent and turn away from temptation. Jesus is our Savior. He is our Savior from sin, death, and the devil. Without our Lord Jesus Christ, His gifts, and the help of the Holy Spirit, we would be in big trouble. Temptation would win! Thanks be to God we have Jesus! Amen.

In His Service,

Pastor Craig S. Zandi

Notification of Pastor When in the Hospital

There has been some confusion when people check in or go to the hospital. The hospital will **not automatically** inform your church, or pastor, that you are there unless it is specifically stated in your records. Furthermore, inform your family members to call your pastor. They can also contact the chaplaings office at the hospital and give them the information. Again, dongt assume the hospital will do it, because they wongt. You must be proactive to make sure your pastor is informed if you want him to come see you. Many times people are in the hospital and he has no idea they are there.

ASSISTING FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Acolytes: Ushers

Altar Guild: Kim Grabowski & Debbie Flater **Finance:** Judy Bishop & Karen Kmosena

Worship Assistants for February

Sunday, Feb 5 Elder: Ray Tousey

Greeters:

Ushers: <u>Team 4</u>: Chuck Perenchio-Captain, Sam Barg, Dave Werner, John Monnier,

Gene Zillmer

Sunday, Feb 12 Elder: Sam Barg

Caring & Sharing Greeters: MaryAnn Riegel & Donna Howard

Ushers: <u>Team 5</u>: Jim Kuchta-Captain, Gary Drohman, Don Josi, Dave Thompson,

Russ Thompson

Sunday, Feb 19 Elder: Tom Rosolowski LWML Greeters: Judy Bishop

Mites In Ushers: <u>Team 1</u>: Dave Scott-Captain, Dave Gathering Kuchta, Tom Rosolowski, Vic Plockelman,

Stu Pask

Wednesday, Feb 22 Elder: Tim Dolan

Ash Wednesday Ushers: <u>Team 2</u>: Dave Kmosena- Captain,

Terry Schar, Mike Kuchta, Jim Rodd,

Lee Purdy

Sunday, Feb 26 Elder: Randy Scott

Stewardship Greeters: Dave & Jamie Werner

Ushers: <u>Team 3</u>: Dennis Flater-Captain, Bob Hauser, Alden Hook, Ray Tousey,

Kurt Harris

Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast



St. John's Christian Preschool will be sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 5 immediately following our Sunday morning worship service.

Join us for fellowship and fill your tummy with some delicious Super Bowl Sunday Pancakes.

Show your support to our preschool through your free will donation

Crafty Stitchers

Thank you to all who contributed to our hat/mitten tree! We were able to donate hats, mittens, and socks to the following area schools: Ladysmith Elementary, Flambeau, O.L.S. and The Imago Dei Academy.

We meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Our February meeting will be February 18.

If you like to craft, come join us!



February's Bible Study is "Transforming Faith: A Gift from a Faithful God"

We will meet February 11,

2023 at 10AM for Bible Study and 11AM we will have our business meeting

. All women of St. John's are invited to attend,

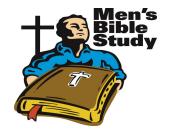


Ladies! Birthday lunches aren't just for birthdays; of course birthdays for the month are celebrated, but also it gives us an informal excuse

to get together with our sisters in Christ to form bonds and friendships. No invitation needed!

Birthday Mondays! Monday, February 6th at 11:30 a.m. at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant.

All are welcome!



Men's Bible Study will be on Thursday, February 9th & 23rd; 7:00AM at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant.





What Luther says:

In the first sermon of his Lenten series, with Matthew 26:36-46 as his text, Luther says that words are powerless to describe what Christ endured.

On His soul lay the sins of the whole world. The death He had to suffer was a death caused by sin and imposed by the wrath of God. For since He had stepped into our place, had taken our sins upon Himself, and had ventured to render satisfaction for them, He felt both at once, the sins of the whole world and then the death He had to suffer for the sake of these sins. Therefore we are not only unable sufficiently to speak of this suffering and anguish, but we are also unable to think of it sufficiently. All the anguish and fear of all other human beings are, by comparison, much, much to slight, because the sins of the whole world are resting on Him alone, and He is to pay for them with His death, whereas everyone of us has only his own sin resting on him. Yes, human suffering is slight when compared with that of this Man; all the worldos sins- sins committed from the time of the first human being, Adam, until Judgment Day-burden the back of this one Man. (WLS p. 1423)

Such was our Lord, õGod manifest in the flesh.ö Thus His life is pictured in the Four Gospels. But especially the last week, with the passion, engages the attention of the Evangelists. For while other men are born to live, Christ was really born to die and rise again. There lay the heart of His mission. And in keeping with Scripture, Luther emphasized His death. To him, as to Paul, Christ was, above all, Christ Crucified. During Lent in 1543 the talk at his table turned, as it often did, to the mystery of

that suffering and death.

Oh, the disciples did not have exceptional cares. They had sympathy with Christ when they noticed how He acted. But sleep overpowered them. They were as some who watch the sickbed. They express their sympathy, but they often fall asleep while the sick person cannot sleep. Therefore He comes three times and asks them to stay awake: Please do not sleep. Why do you not talk to Me? Ah, it is a great weakness in Christ to call upon those for help who He has created. The heart of no man can entirely comprehend what sort of suffering it was that it brought on a bloody sweat. Those were our sins which he bore. (WLS p. 179)



JOYFUL RESPONSE

JOYFUL Response (e-giving program) is run through VANCO and LCEF. It is now available for use by St. John's members, free of charge to you, as long as the money is taken out of your bank account (no credit cards). This account is for General Operating offerings only, no designated funds. The information and application to enroll are on St. John's website (www.stjohnsladysmith.org). As the Financial Secretary of St. John's, Nancy is the contact person for this program. An account has been set up at LCEF for your offerings to be deposited. Nancy will receive a statement when your offering is received at LCEF so she can enter it on your St. John's offering account. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy.



Preschool is going pretty well so far this year! We are busy with learning the alphabet, shapes, colors, and writing our names.

For the month of February, our themes will be Outer Space, Valentines, and Presidents.

Our Bible lessons for the month of February will focus on some of Jesus' miracles-feeding the 5,000, stopping the storm, etc.

Preschoolers are having a great time playing on the snow hills! Hopefully they don't get too much taller!

We have enjoyed our 'visits' from our Bible Buddies! Thank you to all of our Bible Buddies!





The YOUTH of St. John's invite you to join them for a night of <u>SNOWTUBING FUN</u> at Christie Mountain

WHEN: Saturday, February 11th

TIME: 5pm - 8pm

COST: 2 hours - \$25 per person

~ Saturday Night Special: 2 Tubers for the price of 1 starting at 5pm ~

Spread the News - Bring your family and friends and meet us at Christie Mountain on February 11. The Youth Group will cover Snow tubing costs for all St. John's Youth



Februar

SUN	MON	TUE	
Everything is subject to change. Please check our			
website (www.stjohnsladysmith.org), Facebook. and/or phone the Church office 715-532-5780.			6
5 8:00AM Finance 9:00AM Worship Super Bowl Pancake Breakfast Bible Study after worship 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School 11:15 Elder meeting	6 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 11:30AM Ladies Birthday Luncheon	7 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 6:00PM BOCE/YM	8 8 1 1 6
9:00AM Worship +HC (Youth Acolyte) Bible Study after worship 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School	13 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	14 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	1 8 6
19 LWML Mites Ingathering 9:00AM Worship Bible Study after worship 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School	20 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	21 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 1:00PM FAP Quilt Guild 6:00PM Council NEWSLETTER ITEMS ARE DUE TODAY	2 8 6 C n
26 Stewardship Sunday 9:00AM Worship +HC (Youth Acolyte) Bible Study after worship 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School	27 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	28 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	2 8 6 C n



LENTEN WORSHIP 2023-PROMISED TREASURE- MATTHEW 13:52

This Lenten season, we have a fresh opportunity to embrace God amazing love for us, His baptized children, in new ways. St. Paul clearly says that ofaith comes from hearingo (Romans 10:17), but the Gospel is also communicated through the physical senses of sight, smell, touch, and taste. Jesus mentions that a good teacher not only brings out new treasures but reminds people of old and rich treasures as well (see Matthew 13:52). So each Wednesday in Lent, we will take a weekly journey to concretely see, smell, touch, and taste a number of biblical elements. Our Lenten series is called Promised Treasures. Just as Israel wandered through the wilderness under Moses for forty years, awaiting the Promised Land, we await heaven in the wilderness of this life. Life as exiles in the wilderness of this world is not easy and pain-free. In this vale of tears, we await our real home, the new promised land of heaven. Until we enter our eternal promised land, however, the Lord calls us to be His light in this dark world (see Colossians 3; Ephesians 4). This series will begin with ashes, then proceed to salt, water, light, bread, and finally, palms. Then, during Holy Week, the focus shifts toward water and blood, wood, fragrant oil, and finally, on Easter, milk and honey. All these beautiful Old and New Testament elements will remind you of Godøs eternal love in Christ, fill you with renewed hope, and increase your joy, knowing that because we are His baptized children, God is near to us now more than ever.

ASH WEDNESDAY- FEBRUARY 22, 2023-SITTING IN DUST AND ASHES

Lent begins with ashes. After Job endured ashes and crosses of suffering, God graciously delivered him out of them. Jesus Christ washes and raises you out of every suffering, trial, and sin with renewed purpose, hope, and joy. All of these were nailed to the cross with our Lord Jesus Christ. St. Paul says, õ[God] made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of Godö (2 Corinthians 5:21). In the righteousness of Christ, you are clothed anew to serve Him each day.

MIDWEEK OF LENT 1- MARCH 1, 2023 - SALT: THE GIFT THAT SWEETENS AND PRESERVES

You are God

sown dear child, baptized, washed, and salted in Christ. This Lenten walk reminds us that Jesus died on Calvary

scross to vaccinate us completely from sin

power and eternal death. God is not distant from you but very near. He comes to deliver you and preserve you amid all your troubles. He is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

MIDWEEK OF LENT 2- MARCH 8, 2023-WATER GIVES YOU LIFE

Water circulates throughout Scripture to wash, cleanse, flood, and reshape. Like a potter, your heavenly Father remodels you every day, conforming you more closely to the image of His Son, Jesus. As a baptized child of God, you will grow to appreciate through the example of daily washings how rich an inheritance is given to you by the water and the Word in Holy Baptism.

MIDWEEK OF LENT 3- MARCH 15, 2023- LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, who enlightens all who believe in Him. His light dispels sin and darkness and fills you with so much light and joy that you truly reflect His light to the world. Although Godøs Word exposes all your sin (see Hebrews 4:12), in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. As His baptized child, you now walk as a child of the light (see Ephesians 5:8), reflecting His light to others.

MIDWEEK OF LENT 4- MARCH 22, 2023-BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus is the true bread of life given by the Father to us. In Him, and only in Him, is life forgiven, meaningful, renewed, and satisfied.

Crave and desire the bread of life, Jesus Christ, who the Father has sent to feed the world. In Jesus Christ, you have all that you need every day and for eternal life.

MIDWEEK OF LENT 5- MARCH 29, 2023- PALMS AND VICTORY

Christians remain joyful and hope-filled even though life circumstances may change. All of Godøs people remain victorious even amidst pain, adversity, trials, sin, and death. This is why palms are at the forefront for all the people of God. The Christian remains hopeful even when life, trouble, and circumstances declare something opposite. The ultimate victory in Christ encourages all Christians to remain strong even when sin, death, and trial oppose you.

HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY-APRIL 6, 2023- WATER AND BLOOD

Jesus was baptized into death through water and blood, and on this night, we celebrate receiving the testament which our Lord inaugurated in the Lordøs Supper. Godøs people appreciate why both water and blood poured out of Jesusø side when He died on the cross and how they still pour out to us now in His forgiving sacraments.

GOOD FRIDAY- APRIL 7, 2023-THE OLD RUGGED, WOODEN CROSS

The wood of Jesusø cross brings peace, forgiveness, and salvation. By it, the lives of Christians are rescued, sweetened, and lightened.

EASTER SUNDAY-APRIL 9, 2023- WELCOME TO THE PROMISED LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

As Joshua led the people of Israel across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land, so Jesus crossed the river of death by His death and resurrection and leads us to the promised land of heaven, which will never end. Although the promised land of heaven is not ours in its fullness yet, heaven still meets earth because Jesus Christ has risen from the dead.

The Next Caring and Sharing Sunday is February 12th

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.

Mites are collected on the third Sunday of each month! Simply deposit your donation in the large mite box when you come to worship. These mites continue to fund district and national mission projects. Check the LWML bulletin board for details on some of those projects. Please let Amy Tousey or Paula Hook know if you have any questions.

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 Christmas and wedding gifts*.

Stewardship Ministry

Don't Replace "And" with "Or"

Weøve all heard that stewardship means giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money but about our whole lives.

The time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all three of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have, and indeed, everything we are, comes from Godøs fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity is that it is always written with the AND, but when we read it, we read it with the word OR. Thus, this quite helpful trinity turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose from when we serve God.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasure? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give of our treasure and not of our time and talents? But these are the wrong questions. This overlooks that everything we have is a gift from God to be given back in service of His church.

The right question is: Can we give of our time and talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. Rather, they are given to us, and we are to press them all into Godøs service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus, we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ

sholy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith

toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors. For God has provided all these things for us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, AND treasure as a means to bless those around us. We give of our time, talents, AND treasure to our families, our society, our church, and our local congregations.

We do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price: the holy, precious blood, and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything ô His time, His talents, and His treasure ô to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

We have all these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love ô time, talents, and treasure together.



It truly is a blessing when all the planning and shopping is done and the cooking and organizing is done, and so many come together to put on a wonderful event like the Christmas dinner and we get to see the fruits of our labors!

Many stayed to enjoy fellowship and friendship on that Christmas day.

Thank you to all who contributed to the dinner; volunteering time, food, and/or monetary donations and shopping. It is a joy to watch it all come together!



Taking the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth

"Ends of Earth" Scholarships Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries — \$50,000

2021–2023 Blennlum Mission Goal: \$2,150,000 Mission Grant #18 \$50,000

The harvest is

plentiful, but the

laborers are few,

therefore pray

earnestly to the

Lord of harvest to

send out laborers

into his harvest.

(Matthew 9:37).

Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS. In response to Jesus words in Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth", MOST Ministries has sent mission teams throughout the United States and 52 countries around the world for the past 32 years. Some of these countries include Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa, Thailand, Peru, and Sri Lanka.

MOST Ministries teams impact the world for Jesus by providing opportunities for individuals to be part of a hands-on mission team. They are field driven as they connect with LCMS missionaries and national church leaders in the field to assess ministry needs and develop and plan team projects. Teams are equipped to share the love of Jesus as they fit people with eyeglasses, build churches/schools, provide medical/dental care and health education, teach women marketable skills like sewing, or provide youth outreach through VBS, sports, music, or English language camps.

As part of their preparation to go into the field, team members need to raise the funds that will support their mission trip. They use personal funds and reach out to family and friends in the body of Christ for support. The average cost for participants ranges from \$3,000 to \$4,000 depending on the country they will serve. During a five-year period, there were twenty-four mission team trips cancelled due to a lack of team members. People were unable to raise the funds needed for their travel and service. The increasing travel costs are a hindrance to those willing to serve on mission teams.

The grant of \$50,000 for MOST Ministries will provide scholarships that will cover up to half of the travel costs for mission team members needing financial assistance. With these scholarships, MOST Ministries will be able to send more mission teams to the ends of the earth to proclaim the Gospel through service and love alongside the missionaries and church leaders serving in these countries. This grant will help MOST Ministries to reach their goal "to impact the world for Jesus Christ, through short term missions".

To learn more about MOST Ministries go to mostministries.org

"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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20).

Learn more about this mission grant at lwml.org/mission-grants





Taking the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth

"Ends of Earth" Scholarships Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries — \$50,000



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Prayer #1

Heavenly Father, we ask You to touch the hearts of volunteers to answer Your call to "Go", by saying, "Yes Lord, send me!" We trust You to provide safety for the mission teams as they gather needed resources, prepare, and travel. We pray that the Gospel message and service they bring will touch all those who hear the Word that they may come to know You as their Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer #2

Lord, we thank You for the opportunities that You have given MOST Ministries to send mission teams to the mission field. Bless those who are being sent as they work with our LCMS missionaries around the world to share the life changing Gospel message. Continue to open doors so that Your Gospel will spread to people of all nations. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Prayer #3

Merciful Lord, we ask for Your guidance and protection as MOST Ministries prepares mission teams to share the Gospel message and serve others. Bless the recipients of these scholarships that they would be prepared and enabled to go to the mission field. Help them to continue to know and trust You as their Savior and Lord as they share the Gospel, build relationships, and meet the physical and spiritual needs of those they serve. Fill them with joy and gladness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer #4

Dear Jesus, look with favor on each member of the mission team as they prepare to answer Your call to "Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Give them courage, patience, and understanding as they work side-by-side with the missionaries in the field and share the life-giving message of Your Word. Let all that they do and say glorify You. In Your Holy name we pray. Amen.

Learn more about this mission grant at lwml.org/mission-grants



ONGOING COLLECTIONS

- Aluminum cans for Preschool
- ◆ Canceled Stamps (LWML)
- Greeting cards
- ♦ Used eye glasses
- ♦ Soft eyeglass cases



Please, leave only aluminum cans! We cannot take aluminum foil, plates, etc.; aluminum cans only! Thanks for your assistance.

Submit Your Information!

ITEMS FOR BULLETINS are due on <u>Tuesday</u> 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 <u>Tuesday</u> 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!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cali Miller
- 2 Andrew Cleaves
- 5 Tyler Holman, CeeJae Miller
- 6 Denise Webster
- 8 Stu Pask
- 9 Lynnea Holman, Jackson Rodd
- 10 Lane Firari
- 11 Ken VanTreese
- 13 Susan Monnier
- 15 Katie Canfield, Miles Witt, Joe Zandi
- 16 John S Kmosena
- 17 Asher Hampton
- 18 Camren Miller, Diane Rodd
- 21 Cierra Basham
- 22 Rochelle Boss, Mabel Glessing
- 23 Andrea Balko
- 24 Kathryn Flohr
- 25 Kelsey Wilson
- 28 Cody Miller



- 7 Earle & Linda Gustafson
- 8 Judith & James Bishop

PUZZLE		
The light of forgiveness The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?		
Directions: Use the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.		
But if we in the, as he is in the, we have with one another, and the		
of Jesus, his Son, us from all sin. If we claim to be		
without sin, we deceive ourselves and the is not in us.		
If we our sins, he is and just and will		
us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.		
1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV		