

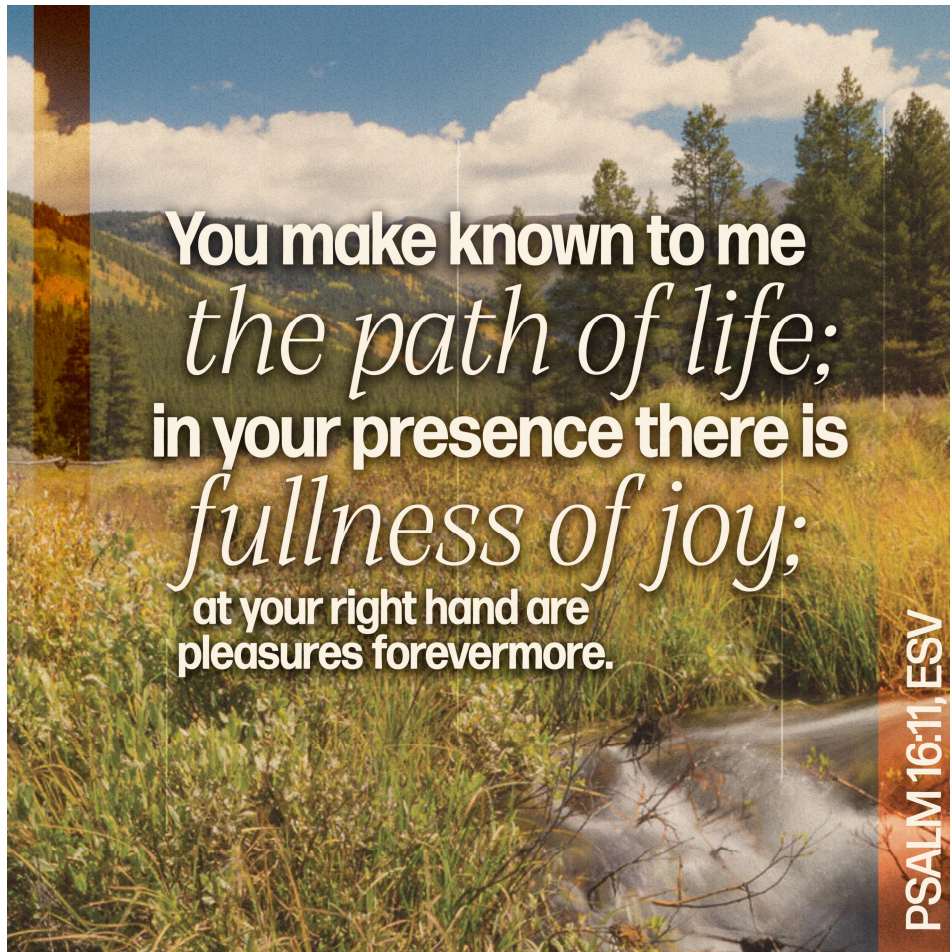
St. John's Epistle

January 2025

A Newsletter of

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

<https://www.stjohnsladysmith.org>



You make known to me
the path of life;
in your presence there is
fullness of joy;
at your right hand are
pleasures forevermore.

PSALM 16:11, ESV



Arise, Shine!

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.” (Isaiah 60:1-2)

The other night as I tried to catch a walleye in the dark I focused on my fish locator. As I sat in the tent, I watched the bright red and green colors of my Vexilar blinking. The colors were so beautiful. Then out of nowhere a red dot came from the bottom of the lake, swam up to my bait, but didn't bite it. As quick as the fish came up from the bottom, it went back down. I thought to myself, I'm sure glad our Lord isn't like that.

In Matthew's Gospel, the Wise men saw the light of the star as they journeyed to Bethlehem to see Jesus. Those same words speak to all of us as we look at all the Christmas lights this season. Jesus, our Lord, is the Light of the world for everyone to see. He came to us, with the help of the Holy Spirit, and makes us His own. He even tells us that He will be with us **“always, to the end of the age.”** (Matthew 28:20b)

Isaiah wrote, **“For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.”** (Isaiah 60:2) Israel had lived in the darkness of rebellion and ended up in the darkness of heathen Babylon. Today, it is the same in our world. We suffer from sin, which tries to extinguish the marvelous light of Jesus Christ our Lord.

How can we arise and shine? How can we stay out of the darkness? The answer is, with the help of the Holy Spirit, keep

your face turned toward Jesus Christ. God shone in this dark world by sending His Son Jesus Christ. In the darkness of Good Friday, Jesus, the Light of the world could not be extinguished. He went to the cross and died for your sins, but death did not prevail. Jesus rose from the dead and continues to shine brightly in your life. His Word and Sacraments illumine you. Drawing on the light every day, God will shine through you with the light of His Son.

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 chaplain's office at the hospital and give them the information. Again, don't assume the hospital will do it, because they won't. 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 JANUARY

Acolytes: *Ushers/Youth*

Altar Guild: *Dave & Jamie Werner*

Finance: *Karen Kmosena & Sue Monnier*

Worship Assistants for January

- | | |
|---|--|
| Sunday, Jan 5 | Elder: Tom Rosolowski |
| | Greeters: |
| | Ushers: <u>Team 2</u>: Dave Kmosena- Captain,
Terry Schar, Mike Kuchta, Jim Rodd,
Lee Purdy |
| Sunday, Jan 12
<i>Caring & Sharing</i> | Elder: Sam Barg |
| | Greeters: |
| | Ushers: <u>Team 3</u>: Dennis Flater Captain,
Bob Hauser, Alden Hook, Kurt Harris,
Tom Rosolowski |
| Sunday, Jan 19
<i>LWML</i>
<i>Mites In</i>
<i>Gathering</i> | Elder: Tom Rosolowski |
| | Greeters: |
| | Ushers: <u>Team 4</u>: Chuck Perenchio-Captain,
Sam Barg, Dave Werner, John Monnier,
Gene Zillmer |
| Sunday, Jan 26
<i>Stewardship Sunday</i> | Elder: Tim Dolan |
| | Greeters: Scarlett & Peggy Hysell |
| | Ushers: <u>Team 1</u>: Dave Scott-Captain,
Dave Kuchta, Jim Kuchta, Dave Thompson,,
Stu Pask |



Preschool News



When we return from Christmas break, we will be reviewing the alphabet from A-N. We will also start learning how to write our names.

Our Bible lessons will include the true accounts of the Angels telling the Shepherds about Jesus' birth and also Jesus growing as a child.

As always, we practice our colors, shapes, and numbers.

Also-when we return to class on January 6th, our classroom should be all set up with our new equipment and toys. Come down to check it out!

Happy New Year!



Are you

Over 70 ½ years of age?

Receiving a distribution from an IRA?

If you answered yes to both of these questions

Congratulations as you are eligible to make a tax free contribution to the church.

What you need to do

1. Contact the payer of your IRA and have them send the amount you request directly to the church.
2. Keep the quarterly statement provided by the church showing the donation.
3. Report both the IRA distribution and the donation on your Federal Tax Return as follows:
 - a. Report the amount shown on the 1099-R on line 4a of your Form 1040.
 - b. Subtract the amount contributed to the church from the amount on line 4a and enter the remaining in line 4b of you Form 1040

For more details, see IRS Publication 526, Charitable Contributions, and Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs).



What Luther says;

Therefore the reason why all men do not accept Christianity is to be found, not in Christianity but in man himself. The fact that Christianity is still the religion of only a minority of mankind casts no suspicion whatever on its divine origin and claims, says Luther in his comments on John 1:9.

The fact that not all, nay, that but a minority of human beings are enlightened is not the fault of the Light, or our Lord Jesus Christ. For He is called and is indeed the Light of the world and of all people and is also constantly sending forth His light. Moreover, God ordained Him to do so, as He says by the prophet Isaiah: "It is a light thing that thou shouldest be My servant to raise up tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved Israel; I will also give Thee for Light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be My Salvation unto the end of the earth" (49:6). This promise began to be fulfilled rapidly in the early apostolic age (Acts 13). For the Gospel resounded throughout the expanse of the heavens and sent forth its light and radiance not only to those who were Christ's own, that is, to the Jews, to whom it had been promised and from whose fathers Christ came according to the flesh, but also to all the world. But the Light does not lose its name and honor because not all have accepted it or not all accept it now.

The Light (he said above, John 1:5) shines in the darkness, that is, in all the world, which without the Light is simply stone-blind, nay, is utter darkness in matters pertaining to God; but the darkness comprehended it not. The fault then does not lie with the Light, but with those who are unwilling to accept it, who, in fact, love the darkness more than the Light (as Christ says, John 3:19). How can the dear sun help it if I close my eyes and do not want to see its light or hide myself in the earth when it beams and shines? (WLS 252,253)

**The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Stewardship
Newsletter Article – January 2025**

Repenting of “Feasts that Know No Fast”

Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air into the lives of the people we know and love. This is not a meteorological statement either. While it is true that January is one of the colder months for those in North America, the cold front blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December’s celebration, it really puts a damper on things.

Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunkered down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense.

“Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast” – This hits us hard, doesn’t it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ.

“For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul” In “The Parable of the Sower,” we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that starve the soul. But it also happens in our congregations. When corporate stewardship is not managed in a responsible way, it can and does destroy individual stewardship. Is it good individual stewardship to support a ministry that doesn’t take its corporate responsibility seriously?

“For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast and blur our vision of the Kingdom goal.” This is the ultimate end of the idolatry of failed stewardship. We build walls between believers within the church and hamper those who are outside from coming to the Light of Life that is Jesus. The wars we fight over money and its impact on ministry do the same. It eventually blurs our vision of what we are here to do: share the Good News of Jesus. When the wintry blast of January hits us in this fashion, we are called to repent.

When the Holy Spirit uses the cold front of the call to repentance, we meet the God who forgives and restores. That is what He does for individual and corporate stewards. When the bills hit, they call us back to Jesus. He is the One who indeed forgives us our shallow thankfulness and leads us into the bounty of His mercy yet again.

January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Everything is subject to change. Please check our website (www.stjohnsladysmith.org), Facebook, and/or phone the Church office 715-532-5780.</p>			<p>1 New Year's Day No Preschool</p>	<p>2 No Preschool</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 9:00AM Worship with Installation of Church Offices <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Elder meeting</p>	<p>6 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day 11:30AM Ladies Luncheon</p>	<p>7 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day 6:00PM Board of Christian Education/Youth Ministry</p>	<p>8 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day 11:30AM Evangelism/Stewardship 1:00PM Ladies Society 6:30-7:15PM Confirmation</p>	<p>9 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 10:00AM LWML Bible Study.</p>
<p>12 Caring and Sharing 8:00AM Finance 9:00AM Worship +HC <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School</p>	<p>13 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day</p>	<p>14 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day</p>	<p>15 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day 6:30-7:15PM Confirmation</p>	<p>16 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day</p>	<p>17 12:00-5:00PM American Red Cross Blood Drive</p>	<p>18 10:00-noon Crafty Stitchers</p>
<p>19 LWML Mites Ingathering 9:00AM Worship <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School</p>	<p>20 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day</p>	<p>21 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day 1:00PM FAPQG 6:00PM Council NEWSLETTER ITEMS ARE DUE TODAY</p>	<p>22 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day 6:30-7:15PM Confirmation</p>	<p>23 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>St John's Volunteers serve meals at the Senior Center Meal Site this week</p>						
<p>26 Stewardship Sunday 9:00AM Worship +HC <i>No Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School Voters annual meeting</p>	<p>27 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day</p>	<p>28 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day</p>	<p>29 Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day 6:30-7:15PM Confirmation</p>	<p>30 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant Preschool Schedule 8:30-11:30AM Morning 8:30-3:30PM Full day</p>	<p>31</p>	



2023-2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 19 TANZANIA CHILDREN'S HOME EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TANZANIA, AFRICA | \$74,500

Protecting Albino Children

An albino child is characterized by the partial or complete absence of pigment in the skin, hair, and eyes. Lack of skin pigmentation makes for more susceptibility to sunburn and skin cancers. In Tanzania, albinos represent one in every 1429 births, a much higher rate than in any other nation. Albinos are especially persecuted because witch doctors have promoted a belief in the magical and superstitious properties of albinos' body parts. An albino child is often seen as a bad omen and treated as unwanted. Children may have their hands or arms amputated and sold to witch doctors. Parents of albino children will protect their children by sending them to an orphanage that will offer more security than their own home. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese (ELCK SELVD) currently has a teaching center for training church leaders in Mwadui where there are a high percentage of albino children. The church is growing through baptisms and evangelism. On the campus of the teaching center is the Lutheran Boarding School. In 2021, an orphanage was built on the campus to provide a home and school for albino children. The orphanage, sponsored by the ELCK SELVD is safer and more secure for the children than the government run orphanage. Since the orphanage is located next to the Lutheran boarding school, the albino children are integrated into a more normal life and are not isolated. The most important care they receive is that their body and soul are served as they are cared for, and they are reared in the fear and instruction of the Lord. The purpose of the grant is to purchase a school bus to transport children from their homes to school and to assist with the funding of the children's care. The school provides for their bodily needs as they are threatened by health risks, and protects them from the pagan practices. They are built up in their faith and are children of God.

2023-2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 19 TANZANIA CHILDREN'S HOME EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TANZANIA, AFRICA | \$74,500

Protecting Albino Children

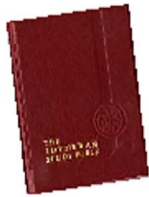
PRAYER #1 Heavenly Father, we ask You to protect the albino children in Tanzania. They face physical problems due to the lack of pigmentation in their skin. The risk of sunburn and skin cancer is high. The greatest challenge is the isolation they face as sometimes they may be ostracized from their own home. Provide people who will care for them and protect them. It is through Your power that they will be kept safe. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER #2 Jesus, we ask You to protect the albino children from evil superstitions. We cannot begin to understand how anyone would cut off the hand of a child and sell it as a potion for wealth and prosperity. The evil is so great and only You have the power to contain it. We pray for protection for the children, and we also pray for the followers of evil superstitions. Enter the hearts of the witch doctors and replace the evil with Your love and forgiveness so that this terrible practice will stop. We pray in Your name. Amen.

PRAYER #3 Lord, we ask You to be with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania as they spread the Gospel throughout the country. Bless the leaders and pastors that their teaching will bear fruit. We ask You to be with the leaders in the Mwadui area as they reach out to protect the children suffering from albinism. Guide them as they offer physical protection but also share with them the saving words of the Gospel. Albino children can feel isolated, but we know that You welcome them into Your loving arms as Your children. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER #4 Dear Lord, we ask You to bless the contributions of the LWML to support this mission grant. The monetary gifts will protect children from an evil that we do not understand. Many children around the world face hardships that we cannot imagine. We ask You to surround all children with Your protection and motivate us to reach out in love. Bless these children with the gift of faith so that they can feel secure and loved as Your children. In Your name we pray. Amen

St. John's CPH Resource Center



is
OPEN



The Board of Christian Education has worked with Concordia Publishing House and a Resource Center has been set up in the fellowship hall for our members.

- *Every book is marked with the purchase price, which reflects a 20% discount from the original price*
- *If you see something you'd like to purchase, place your money in the envelope and drop it in the slot on the box – make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church*
- *Additional information is located at the Resource Center*
- *Question? Please reach out to a member of our Board of Christian Education*

There is no money being made by our Resource Center, the Board of Christian Education is simply providing access to exceptional Christian resources at a discounted rate.



Hello! My name is Kenzie Scott, and I grew up going to St. John's. Since going to college, my faith has grown even more.

After going on a Summer Mission to Alaska last year with a campus ministry called Cru, I realized how much I love outreach. This coming year, I will be working for Cru, doing outreach at UW-Eau Claire. Because Cru is a nonprofit, every staff member builds a support team. I would love it if you would prayerfully consider partnering with me, either financially, prayerfully, or both! For more info on what that looks like, ask Pastor Zandi or reach out to me at 715-403-2745. I also have some really fun stories that I would love to share with you about how God is already working at UW-Eau Claire!

Saint John's will be helping at the Rusk County Senior Center the week of Monday January 20th—Friday January 24th.

You would need to arrive at the center around 11:20am. Duties include: Passing out the silverware, pouring water into glasses, & handing out cartons of milk After serving everyone, you get to eat for free! When everyone is done eating yo need to wipe down the tables. This all takes between 45 minutes to one hour.

The sign up sheet will be in the fellowship hall



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.



Submit Your Information!

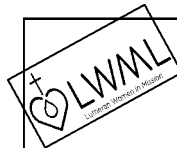
ITEMS FOR BULLETINS are due on Tuesday by close of day each week (unless indicated otherwise in bulletins due to holidays). *Newsletter items are due* in the office no later than close of day on the Tuesday preceding the last Sunday of the month.

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

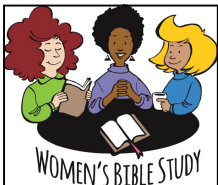

Don't forget that **LARGE PRINT** bulletins and newsletters are available for those who need them. *Contact the office to get your name on the list!*

Respect the Deadline!

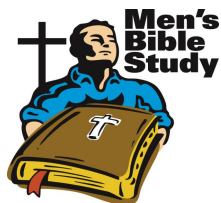




Saturday, January 11, 2025; Ladies Bible study, "The Third Article of Steadfast in Christ: Gift of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament" All the women of the congregation are invited to attend. If you wish a copy of the Bible study they are found in the LWML mailbox.

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.



Men's Bible Study will be on Thursday, January 16th & 30th at 7:00AM at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant.

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, **January 6th** at 11:30 a.m. at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant.
All are welcome!



**The *Next* Caring and Sharing Sunday
is January 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.**

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.*

<p>ONGOING COLLECTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Aluminum cans for Preschool ◆ Canceled Stamps (LWML) ◆ Greeting cards ◆ Used eye glasses ◆ Nonprescription sunglasses ◆ Soft eyeglass cases 	<p>Please, leave only aluminum cans! We cannot take aluminum foil, plates, etc.; aluminum cans only! Thanks for your assistance.</p>
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1	Tami Kraft, Jean Seifert
2	Andrew Fredrick, Kelli Grotzinger
4	Bob Hauser
5	Cheri Lee
6	Brady Bishop
7	Christine Rosolowski
10	Janet Witt
14	Amy Baars
15	Dallas Zunker
19	Gary Drohman
20	DeDe Bishop, Mark Grabowski
22	Randy Scott
24	Luke Harris, Dana Hauser
25	Jack Canfield
27	Lisa Gleason
28	Deb Zillmer



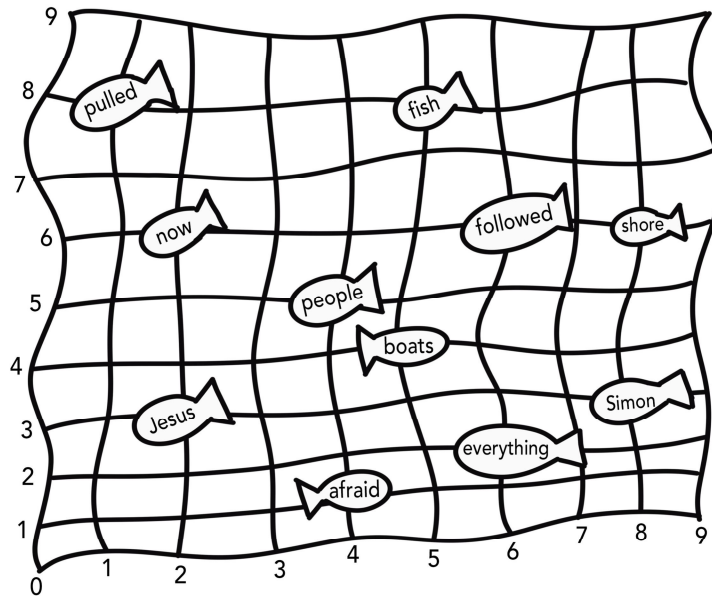
5	Katie & Breyen Canfield
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FISHING DIRECTIONS

When fishermen obeyed Jesus and let down their nets, they caught so many fish that their boats began to sink! Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees. What happened next?

Directions: Use the coordinate clues to locate the correct words and complete Luke 5:10-11 (NIV) below. The first number in each clue pair goes across, and the second number goes up.



Then Jesus said to _____, "Don't be _____; from _____
 on you will _____ for _____." So they _____ their
 _____ up on _____, left _____ and _____ him.

Luke 5:10-11, NIV

Answers: Jesus, Simon, afraid, afraid, Simon, Simon, followed, followed, everything, everything, shore, shore, boats, boats, pulled, pulled, people, people, fish, fish, now, now