

Hello brothers and sisters in Christ,
I've tried to find the blessings of the time in isolation that we have been forced to keep due to COVID-19. It's very easy to find the difficulties, but the blessings are what keep us moving forward at a time when we don't have much control over the outcomes around us.

One blessing (among many) has been the additional time I've been given to read some really wonderful articles and essays that speak theologically/spiritually into this time of pandemic. Good, thoughtful words that have a way of inspiring me to press on, to hold on and to remember the One who holds our future.

I am subscribed to a bi-weekly email from a woman I met at a Biblical Storytelling workshop I attended last August in Dayton, OH. Speaker and writer, Donna Marie Todd, wrote a very good article for her email newsletter this week that I really wanted to share with you:

From Pandemic to Possibility

Isolation. Fear. Financial Ruin. Government Incompetence. Panic.

Have you caught any of these yet? They're as contagious as the virus. It seems COVID-19 is challenging everything we hold dear. Our ways of life, our families, trust in our country's leadership, our finances, health, security and safety, even our 1st Amendment right to assemble and to worship freely. All have been impacted by COVID-19.

We were supposed to be better prepared than this. Why didn't our corporations heed the warnings from abroad and manufacture more toilet paper and hand sanitizer?! How many days can Americans live on frozen wieners, beans and rice, anyway? Have you heard that Corona beer is making record sales and profits? And to answer the latest debate: obviously, liquor stores are essential businesses. Half the country would go mad without them.

And speaking of that... How are your nerves doing? Mine are getting a little frayed-out, frankly. One can only cling to hyper-vigilance for so long. We're only human, as this rapidly replicating virus already seems to know. The word "virus" actually has its roots in the Latin word for "poison." Wendell Stanley was awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1946 for his seminal work in first isolating a virus, the tobacco virus oddly enough – talk about two poisons having a meet-up.

Stanley determined that viruses lacked the essential systems necessary for metabolic function. To put it another way, a virus is not actually alive until it enters a host. A virus exists on an odd border between chemistry and life. In fact, you might say that a virus lives a borrowed life. COVID-19 is borrowing its life from us.

Now rather than beat you over the head with infection numbers and death tolls, I'd like to ask you a question: If COVID-19 is borrowing life from us, what can we borrow from COVID-19?

That sounds like a strange question and I did admit that my nerves are getting fraggy due to isolation, but the question itself is solid.

What new opportunities have you already borrowed from this pandemic? Has the fear of infection and death reminded you of the pristine value of life? Have you become aware of how much you cherish those around you: your partner, your family, your friends?

Without the need to commute, have you regained lost sleep in those days spent working from home? Is staying home giving you an extra hour of rest in the morning and added relaxation at night? Have you found yourself connecting more deeply with your spirit? Have caught yourself contemplating the meaning of life and re-evaluating what really matters to you?

Grab a sheet of paper and write down the things you have borrowed from the pandemic called COVID-19. In times like these, it's important to realize that God is always moving, asking us to make changes for the better.

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CHRISTIAN ED

Ginny Westover, Christian Ed Director

The tune has been playing in my head for several weeks now—since we began our Lenten study, if not before. Maybe it's been on your internal playlist, too. You know—the opening ditty from Mr. Roger's Neighborhood: "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood, a beautiful day for a neighbor, won't you be mine?" Lately, the looping lyrics are lilting, "It's a *very different* day in the neighborhood." Different means change and change is often uncomfortable, especially if the change is unexpected. Each one of us has been changed by the current coronavirus pandemic (are you tired of hearing that phrase yet?). Our schedules, routines and even our vocabulary aren't what they used to be. Our daily lives look different from what they did two weeks ago.

So how are you in the midst of this change (as we were challenged in our first Lenten study, think beyond "fine.")? Calm, cool, collected? Anxious? Determined? Overwhelmed? Restless? Focused? Fretful? Frozen? Peaceful? 😊 I confess I have visited each a few times...and rather expect to return. Here's what I'm learning and what I'm trying to put into practice to help walk through each day—I trust you will find something to encourage you here.

Remember—God's got this! This isn't cliché, it's foundational truth. Nothing is out of God's control; not a world crisis or my personal troubles. He loves me more than I can comprehend and is working for my good. That "good" might not feel comfortable right now, but I can count on his goodness. God calls me to trust him; rely on, put my confidence in him (a friend challenged me to read Psalm 145 and take note of who God is and what he does according to this passage; good stuff!). Jesus offers me the gift of peace; his peace—peace of mind and soul that goes beyond positive thinking and relaxation techniques (though these have their place). Peace that is beyond my understanding and ability to describe (I've spent some helpful time in John 15 and Philippians 4).

Reach out—I am not alone in this crisis. This is about "we" not just "me." The greatest commandment hasn't slipped in the rankings of what is important to Jesus. "Love God with all your heart, mind, and strength and love your

neighbor as yourself" is still the number one priority. Make a phone call. Send a text. Check in on a neighbor. At the same time remember, it's not all up to me. I have been given gifts and abilities for this time and this place and so have others. I don't need to take on the unnecessary and unrealistic pressure to be the perfect (fill in the blank).

Re-focus—Different is also "new." There are so many new opportunities! I can take full advantage of the time to slow down and have conversations; to spend time with family—eat meals around the same table, listen to my children, play together and enjoy not having to be hurried out the door. There are new opportunities to take on projects that I had placed on the proverbial "back burner," like deep-cleaning, painting, gardening and even those work-out videos (now that the weather promises to warm up, daily walks outside will replace T-25!)! The blessing of technology gives new opportunities to share the love and hope of Jesus in the midst of social distancing. While I don't ever want on-line worship services to become the permanent norm, it is a new and meaningful opportunity to come together as believers in Jesus Christ. I am thankful, too, for the means to give and receive resources and have a place to connect with co-workers and friends.

Re-focus also means working at being present; as my friend says, "be where your feet are." Jesus said, "Don't worry about tomorrow. Today has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:25-34). I don't need to use up mental and emotional energy on things that are out of my control. In order to do this, I need to shut down the electronics for a time and live in the moment. I will stay informed but not stay glued to the news; especially Facebook's version. When I am tempted to give in to the "what ifs" and other unknowns, staying in the present helps me choose to be thankful. Right now I am healthy and have the means to live this day and share with others. Thank you, God. The movie clip of Mr. Rogers praying comes to mind.

Repeat truth—often. As the Father of Lies, Satan would like nothing better than to send me spiraling into a pit of despair based on a lie. I

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YOU SMELL LIKE A SWIMMING POOL!

Ginny Westover, Preschool Director

Sounds like something a preschooler might say, doesn't it? It certainly could have come from the mouth of a four or five year old, had there been any four or five year old in the classroom at the time, but sadly there was not. In fact, the classroom was empty when this observation was made, but it could have applied to any of the teachers or to the classroom itself! With the school shut down, we three teachers got busy with "Spring Clean-itzing"; washing every toy and wiping down every piece of furniture and shelving in the classroom. It was a project that called for buckets of bleach water (responsible for the scent of chlorine cologne), many loadings and unloadings of the dishwasher) and plenty of "elbow grease"! And a little bit of muscle to move a few things around. The results were especially sparkly! We can't wait to see the students' faces when they see the changes... Rex, the classroom turtle, seems to approve (nothing has changed with him!). That's all I can say. I promised not to "spill the beans" by posting pictures, etc. (we did **move** some beans, but only a few spilled).

Now all of us teachers are at home, as most of you are, figuring out a new normal, "doing the five" to help stop the coronavirus. When we return to the classroom we will have some new vocabulary words to add to our ABC Word Wall—**C** is for coronavirus, **S** is for social distancing, **W** is for wash your hands, and **Q** is for quarantine. For now, let me review several words from the wall that we enjoyed learning about before our extended home time began.

F is for fairy tale, and **M** is for make-believe. Princesses, castles, and dragons; oh, my! (and a frog or two on the side). Whether we were reading fairy tales passed down from generation to generation or using puppets to make up new tales about princesses and dragons, we put our imaginations and creativity to work! Castle construction saw a new high in production as the children worked together to build structures fit for a king (and for those pesky dragons). We practiced rhyming and alliteration with fun songs like, "There's a Dragon in my Wagon" and letter recognition with the help of lily pads and hopping frogs. The story of Jack and the Beanstalk was full of fun, fascination and "fee, fi, fo, fums" ("Fee, fi,

fo, fum! I smell someone's bubble gum!" was our variation of the Giant's rant)! It was especially fun to plant our own beans (not the magic variety, sorry), and make a castle plant stake for the vines to climb into the clouds and right to the castle door. Most of these seedlings were sent home, with many well on their way to the giant's domain. No judgment, we promise, if your plant doesn't make it to the goose that lays the golden eggs!

T is for topsy-turvy, and **W** is for wacky. Both the 3s and Pre-K classrooms looked decidedly different in celebration of Dr. Seuss month. An umbrella suspended from the ceiling? Snacks growing from a palm tree? A snake lounging on the big screen? Yes, there was. Mats were flipped over in a circle time arc that faced the opposite way, a table stood upside down, "A" was where "Z" belonged (and vice versa), the snowman "melted" in a very odd formation, and there was even a shoe on the wall (and we all know that "a shoe on the wall shouldn't be there at all!"). The crazy-silly, wacky appearance of the Pre-K'ers really brought lots of smiles! We had fun counting fish, learning about opposites, playing rhyming games and making Wosets in closets. The only disappointing part of the day was not getting enough pictures!

Life is wacky for all of us now, and can feel very upside down. We will continue to stay connected through our Facebook pages by posting videos, links, etc. We are confident that much good will come from this difficult time. We serve a good God who promises never to leave us and always to be at work in our lives, leading us to the best good of a deeper relationship with himself. I truly believe that God is offering us many gifts, even as we are living quarantined lives. It's a good time to remember what's really important. These days of social distancing give us a precious opportunity to enjoy our children. This is a wonderful gift! Life is rarely quiet with young children at home, but slowing the pace down can give us time to spend doing quieter things like enjoying a good story (how about one from your own childhood? Kids love to hear stories about "when mom/dad was little") or playing a game, putting a puzzle together or working on a project. You are a gift to your children. Your presence and interaction are more valuable than any material thing they will ever

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CHRISTIAN ED *(continued)*

have the choice to believe the lie or believe the truth about myself, my circumstances and my future. Jesus called himself the Truth. He always speaks truth about who I am, my circumstances and my future. These words, written by counselor and speaker, Leslie Vernick, were very encouraging: Life is fragile. Never are we more aware of this truth than when in crisis. Yet God tells us that our lives are like a vapor or a flower, here today, gone tomorrow. That's always true, but we don't pay attention or think about it until it smacks us in the face. There is an eternal reality that we don't often grasp but nonetheless is real and true. Fixing our eyes on eternal reality can help us manage present emotional distress. Paul practiced this in [2 Corinthians 4](#) when he writes, "We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down but never

abandoned by God. We get knocked down but not destroyed." How? How did Paul manage to not get freaked out by what was his temporal reality of hardships? He tells us. He writes, "That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them all and will last forever. So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."

Our neighborhood looks different these days, it's true, but our song does not have to change. "A beautiful day in the neighborhood" is ours for the making!

PRESCHOOL *(continued)*



have. Please know that we miss your children, pray for them (and you, parents—especially remembering those who are getting ready to welcome a new family member!), and are with you through this stretch. It *will* end and we will be back in the classroom when it does! Before I wrap this article up, I will include a few links to some songs that we've enjoyed in the classroom. FYI, they aren't all quiet! (Click on the title if you received this newsletter electronically; type the address into your search engine if not.) Enjoy!

[Jesus, Strong and Kind](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sX8uUaZqrs>

[Hip, Hip, Hip Hippopotamus](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqt8RKNEB9k>

[My God is So Big!](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiWYtwFt9Jc>

[There's a Dragon in my Wagon](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1wSV-xqBmA>

[Sing It, Say It, Sign It!](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP1bIVh1ZQM>

PRESCHOOL PICTURES!



FINANCIAL REPORT

Susan L. Ferguson, Church Treasurer

Jan - Feb 2020

Budget

% of Budget

Income

BUDGETED INCOME	33,087.87	201,121.00	16.5%
INVESTMENT INCOME	11,878.53	135,672.00	8.8%
Total Income	44,966.40	336,793.00	13.4%

Expense

BENEVOLENCE	219.85	30,000.00	0.7%
MINISTRY OF THE WORD	11,702.90	82,462.00	14.2%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	1,118.52	5,700.00	19.6%
MUSIC AND WORSHIP	29.84	2,750.00	1.1%
PROPERTY	8,562.07	47,740.00	17.9%
ADMINISTRATION	2,469.87	25,873.00	9.5%
PERSONNEL	20,411.85	136,968.00	14.9%
FELLOWSHIP	111.92	1,800.00	6.2%
PRESCHOOL	146.53	3,500.00	4.2%
Total Expense	44,773.35	336,793.00	13.3%
NET INCOME	193.05		

Note: February 29 marks 16.66% of the year to date

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU! I am so glad our Deacons have started the Shepherd Program in our church. I have received several communiques from my 'shepherd' during the dreadful COVID-19 epidemic. I live alone so the concern for how I was doing was very much appreciated! ~Marilyn Miller

A MESSAGE FROM CAMP KRISLUND: All of us at Krislund want to let you know that we are doing everything that our Governor has recommended to help keep the coronavirus from spreading. The staff who do not live at Krislund are working from home. Those of us who live on site are working on projects around camp but not leaving camp. We are making sure that when business returns to normal that we are ready, sanitized and safe for those of you that come to camp.

Our spring bookings have been postponed to ensure the health & safety of our guests and staff. At this time we are planning to move forward with our summer schedule of camps and activities. The Board of Directors will reexamine this again on April 14th. The goal at Krislund is to provide a sacred and safe place for people to gather when the time comes. As we all shelter in place, know that the staff, volunteers and board of directors will all pray for every one's safety and well being.

PASTOR'S LETTER (continued)

So take a few minutes to contemplate any new awareness that this novel virus has brought to you. When we move from pandemic to possibility we engage our spirits in the ongoing work of God. When we consciously engage our minds with questions like these, we also release our panic-stricken reptilian brain and begin to think about life's possibilities from a saner point of view.

Thank you to Donna Marie Todd for giving us "words that matter." I hope you find her article as helpful to you as it was for me. You can read more of her articles at donnamarietodd.com.

Love and peace to you all! Pastor Sarah

TENTATIVE DATES FOR THIS SUMMER

Summer 2020

Save the dates!

We are the host church this year for the Community Vacation Bible School. Save the date, mark your calendar and think of the children in your family and community that you would like to invite!

Monday—Friday

June 22nd —26th



6:00—8:00 PM

Supper at 5:30 PM

The Christian Education Committee are looking for opportunities for Christian growth for our children and families within the church and the community.

Through the generosity of the church, we are able to provide partial or full scholarships for children to attend Krislund. We would like to highlight [You and Me Camp](#) that will be held for children entering grades K-6, from July 1—3. For more information about this and other summer activities at Krislund, go to *Krislund.org*.

We are also looking into programs for community outreach replacing Krislund Traveling Day Camp this year. Please continue to lift up the children in our community as we seek God's guidance.

Please talk to a member of the Christian Education Committee if you would like to learn more about scholarships and other activities available for children.

Leah Riden, Elaine Siddons, Ginny Westover Susan Ferguson & Pastor Sarah

CAMP KRISLUND

2020

YOU & ME CAMP

(entering grades K-6)

You & Me Camp is for campers entering Kindergarten through 6th grade and anyone they consider family. This camp is designed for all ages so you can come strengthen your bond and enjoy new adventures together!

July 1st – 3rd

DEVOTIONS FOR A DAY

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Neither sugar nor salt tastes particularly good by itself. Each is at its best when used to season other things. Love is the same way. Use it to "season" people.
—Vera Nazarian

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot" (Matthew 5:13, NIV).

If you are like me, perhaps you think that the *primary* use for salt is in food preparation, or as a seasoning for food.

According to salt experts, however, food preparation and seasoning accounts for only 6 percent of salt usage. In fact, salt can be used in more than 14,000 different ways. These applications can be sorted into five major categories: Water conditioning, food grade salt, agriculture, highway deicing and industrial chemicals. Salt is used in the making of products as varied as plastic, paper, glass, polyester, rubber and fertilizers. It is used in household bleach, soaps, detergents and dyes.

I read recently of another use for salt. In Jordan, a country that borders Israel in the Middle East, salt is sometimes used to help the cooking process. In rural Jordan, the Jordanians put salt on fire to increase the temperature of the rocks for baking bread. When the salt they use for this purpose is no longer effective, it's taken away and thrown onto the path, just as Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus said that we are the salt of the earth. What I really like is that this metaphor leaves a lot of space *for us to all have different "uses," functions and purposes.* Some salt is used as seasoning. Salt is sometimes used as a preservative. Salt can also be used to thaw ice. Salt can also be used to make water potable.

As Christians, we do not all look alike, nor do we have the same function. We have our own ministries and things we do well, just like salt!

So, let's be salty Christians this week! Let's be the salt of the earth! Let's be the person Jesus wants us to be, and bring glory to God! —Timothy Merrill

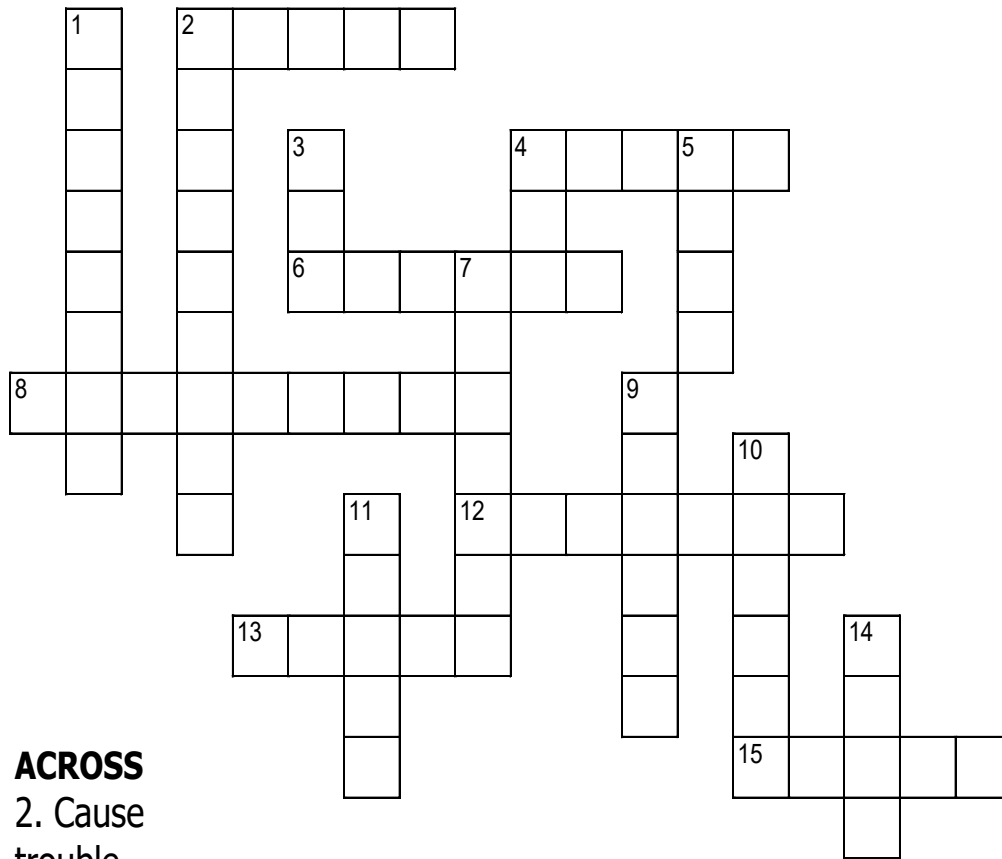
Prayer: Lord Jesus, keep me from getting in the way of the blessing you have for others. Instead, help me to be the seasoning and love to make their blessing even better! In your name. Amen.

DAILY ACTIVITY PAGE

Verse to Remember: Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. -Isaiah 40:31



CROSSWORD: All of the clues and answers are taken from the story of Job, the book in the Bible that comes right before Psalms.

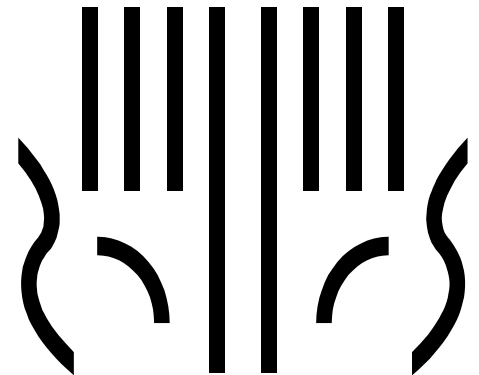


ACROSS

- 2. Cause trouble
- 4. Twinkling, heavenly lights
- 6. The Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
- 8. Creature of the deep, (41:1)
- 12. The Temanite, a friend (2:11)
- 13. Sores

DOWN

- 1. The One who ever lives (19:25)
- 2. Affliction
- 3. Had seven sons
- 4. Ocean
- 5. Precipitation
- 9. The Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
- 10. Job had 3,000
- 11. Job's 4th friend (32:2)



Nevertheless, the righteous
will hold to their ways, and
those with clean hands will
grow stronger.

J o b 1 7 : 9

Solution: Across

- 2. Satan
- 4. stars
- 6. Bildad
- 8. Leviathan
- 12. Eliphaz
- 13. boils
- 15. sheep

Solution: Down

- 1. Redeemer
- 2. suffering
- 3. Job
- 4. sea
- 5. rain
- 7. donkeys
- 9. Zophar
- 10. camels
- 11. Elihu
- 14. oxen



Christ is Risen Indeed!

DEVOTIONS FOR A DAY

Scripture Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

When the world says, "Give up," Hope whispers, "Try it one more time." —Author unknown



Niccolo Paganini was a well-known and gifted 19th-century violinist. He was also well-known as a great showman with a quick sense of humor. His most memorable concert was in Italy with a full orchestra. He was performing before a packed house and his technique was incredible, his tone was fantastic and his audience dearly loved him.

Toward the end of his concert, Paganini was astounding his audience with an unbelievable composition when suddenly one string on his violin snapped and hung limply from his instrument. Paganini frowned briefly, shook his head, and continued to play, improvising beautifully.

Then to everyone's surprise, *a second string broke!* And shortly thereafter, a third!

Almost like a slapstick comedy, Paganini stood there *with three strings dangling from his Stradivarius!* But instead of leaving the stage, Paganini stood his ground and calmly completed the difficult number on the one remaining string.

This is a wonderful story, but in actuality, Paganini occasionally broke strings during a performance on purpose so he could further display his virtuosity.

What do you think is the lesson from this story?

There's no one correct answer, but, for me, the story reinforces the importance of *perseverance under duress*. It might have been easier for Paganini to walk off the stage and demand a different violin, disrupting the concert, or perhaps cancelling it altogether. But he didn't.

It's also a lesson in *courage*. It took courage for him to persist when he could not be at his best.

It's also a lesson in *humility*. Not being able to play at his best, he had to be willing to play as well as he could with only one string.

It is important to remember during this present crisis, that God knows how many strings we have at our disposal. God knows if we have four, three, two or only one. Perhaps we're in such a crisis that we feel as though we don't have any strings at all!

God knows and God understands. Let's just tell God that we are willing to serve God with as many "strings" as we have left, and we can also say the prayer below. —Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, I am out of strings. I am out of energy. I have nothing left. But what I have, I give to you. Amen.

DAILY ACTIVITY PAGE

Verse to Remember: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. —Isaiah 55:8

BOGGLE

DIRECTIONS: Write as many words as you can using the following rules. 1: The letters in the words must be connected in the grid. 2: The letters can be connected by an edge or a corner. 3: The words don't have to appear in straight lines. They can be tangled around. 4: Each letter in the word must uniquely appear in the grid. For example, if the word is ERASE, the letter E must appear twice in the grid. The word can't just loop back and reuse the same E. 5: Words must be at least three letters long. 6: Words cannot be proper nouns, such as names or places. Write your words in the space provided. Write as many words as you can and then give yourself a score. See if you can beat a score of 75!

S	M	S	E
M	U	G	M
R	E	N	A
F	U	F	L

[illegible]

SCORING

3 letters = 1 pt
4 letters = 1 pt
5 letters = 2 pts
6 letters = 3 pts
7 letters = 5 pts

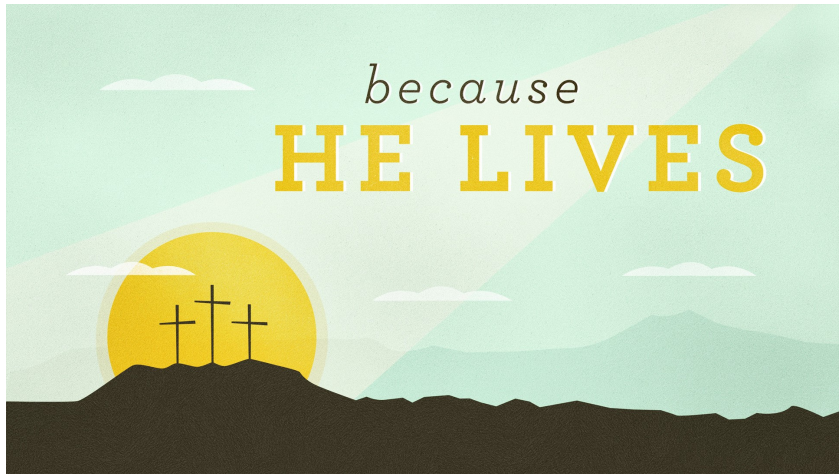
WORDS (some of the possibilities)

WORDS (some of the possibilities)



Lewistown Presbyterian Church
17 East Third Street
Lewistown, PA 17044

Address Correction Requested



Please contact us if you would like more information.
Phone: 717-248-4561
Email: lewispres@comcast.net
Visit us at Website: www.lewistownpresbyterian.org
Find us on Facebook!

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