



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN www.stpaulslutheran.ca

JUNE 2022

Pastor

Do we do good works for God or for our neighbour?

It is common to think that we do good things to get on God's good side, but the truth is God doesn't need our good works. God's love for us is pure grace. There is nothing we can do to earn His love or to increase it. It is already ours in Christ Jesus through the gift of faith we have received by the working of the Holy Spirit. Our faith clings to God's promise that in Christ our sins are forgiven, our relationship with Him is restored, and we will have eternal life in heaven. God is the cause of our salvation, and we have nothing to do with it. Jesus cried out on the cross, "It is finished!" and it is. There is nothing we can add to what God has done to save us. St. Paul teaches about this in his letter to the Ephesians, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:8-10).

The fact that our salvation is not caused by our good works does not mean that we don't do them. It does not mean that we are free to do evil works. In daily

repentance we fight our sinful nature and inclination for evil acts and seek to do the good works which God has prepared for us to do. Not having to worry about our salvation because it is secured in Christ means we are free to love God and our neighbour. We love God by trusting in Him, receiving His gifts, praying, and thanking, praising and worshipping Him. We love and serve our neighbours by supporting their lives, honouring them, encouraging them, by proclaiming to them that God's salvation is also theirs. What this looks like varies from person to person because it depends on our station in life and who God has put around us for us to serve. The Ten Commandments provide us with the framework we need for loving our neighbour no matter who they

are, so it is important to meditate on them often.

Our good works are necessary. They are certainly not necessary for earning God's love and salvation, but they are necessary because they are God's will for our lives. They are necessary for the sake of our neighbour's life and as a sign that faith is living in us. St. James teaches, "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works? Show me faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works" (James 2:17-18). The people around us need our love. We need to be loved. Thanks be to God for first loving us that we can love each other in all we say and do.

God's blessings, Pastor Keith



REMEMBER WHEN: Remember those great social gatherings?

The Spirit

Reminders

• Please remember that, because we have a number of members with allergies to nuts, any foods brought to church events should be nut-free.

• Also, several have allergies to fragrances. Please consider them when choosing toiletries and whether or not to wear perfumes.

• LWMLC mites and society offerings may be put in the offering plate, mailed to the church or given to society treasurer, Marion Hollinger. Please make any cheques payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church but mark them clearly as being for LWMLC. Indicate the amount for mites and the amount for society funds.

Classifieds

Something to sell or give away? Need something? Services to offer to fellow members? Try The Spirit Classifieds first. No cost. Leave your ads at the church office or give them to the editor.

Pastor: Rev. Murray Keith Office Secretary: Sandy Harper phone: 306-343-9535 e-mail: stpaulslcc@sasktel.net web: www.stpaulslutheran.ca Facebook: www.facebook.com/ stpaulslutheran Instagram: www.instagram.com/ stpaulslcc Spirit Editor: Marion Hollinger hollinger@sasktel.net

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Evangelism

God's Word for living the Christian life

Putting on the new self

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which you were indeed called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks

to God through Him."

(Colossians 3: 12-17 ESV) His Steadfast Love Endures Forever – Give Thanks

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

(Psalm 100 ESV) May God bless your summer, Clara Zirk for the Board of Evangelism

Stewardship

What do you have that you have not received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in Luther's Small Catechism.

In the explanation of the Creed's First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

"He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.

continued next page

The Spirit

Stewardship, continued

He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

"(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

"That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

With these thoughts in our hearts and minds, we remember our needs here at St Paul's congregation, needs that include our mission and ministry here and abroad. Recently the Board of Stewardship received

our monthly financial report from our treasurer showing a deficit to the end of April 2022 in the amount of \$13,334. This is similar to the deficit we had at April 30, 2021, of \$13,523. Our donation revenue is up almost \$1,500, however the difference is that in the same period last year we received \$4,055 in federal COVID subsidy which we did not receive this year. Additionally, our expenses were lower this year by about \$3,000.

The deficit we are showing is of some concern because, while it is similar to previous years at this time of the year, we need to remember that in 2021 we received just over \$12,000 in federal subsidies while in 2020 we received \$29,500. In 2022 we do not qualify for any further federal subsidy support meaning any shortfall to support our mission and ministry programs will need to come from increased donations or program reductions. We know that St. Paul's members have always been generous in their support for our programs and operations when the need is there. We respond to these needs in thanksgiving and give back to God as He asks us to - with a first fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

Over the next month members will be invited to consider how they might give of their time to serve on board and executive positions as we will be holding elections for some time in June. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the work of the church by using the gift of your time and ability to serve.

May God continue to bless you and this congregation as we look to support our ministry.

> Blessings and Peace Board of Stewardship

A mission in our "backyard" — and members of St. Paul's helped it get started

Recently the congregation received an invitation to support LELC. The Board of Lay Ministry approved. I was sent information for the newsletter but I was still mystified as to what the letters stood for other than one "L" likely was for Lutheran. It was with a somewhat red face that I learned they spoke of something I had helped get started. It was all about the Lutheran Early Learning Centres right here in our "backyard." Let me tell you what I remember and then share the invitation.

Education has always been important in the Lutheran church. Luther wrote the catechism to help parents teach their children the basics of faith. He encouraged schools and learning in all aspects of life, not just the spiritual. When the Lutherans who formed The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (the parent of Lutheran Church-Canada) came to America they began by establishing not just a congregation but also a school. Today they and other Lutheran synods have many schools and colleges across the U.S.

In Canada it has been somewhat more difficult, because of government regularions which vary from province to province, to establish faith-based schools. Still there are 26 centres across the country, many daycare or preschool, fewer for school age. LELC is the only one (counting as 4 of the 26 centres) in Saskatchewan.

Memory doesn't produce a specific year (between two and three decades ago sounds about right) when a group of women from LWML–Canada (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) societies in Saskatoon saw the benefit of Lutheran daycares and preschools in sharing the Good News, not only with the children of their congregations but other children from the community. But no one really knew where to start.

After much thought, prayer and

discussion it was determined that workshops should be organized to provide the information and encouragement needed and made available throughout the district. Because money was needed to develop and hold them, a mission grant proposal was prepared. It was quite different from all the previous grant proposals as they were usually for tangible items, this was not. But the proposal was adopted by delegates and the local group forged on.

It took some time to figure out the content of the workshops, connect with speakers, etc., but eventually three were held in the district, one in Saskatoon.

Out of that grew a committee with representatives from the four city congregations, St. Paul's, Faith, Holy Cross and Grace. Each church facility was considered in turn with respect to government regulations. Only one met them, Grace. St. Paul's and Faith decided it would not be feasible to adapt their buildings but they still remained involved. Holy Cross decided to house a daycare and preschool in a new stand-alone building on their property.

As things came together, a board of directors formed including members from St. Paul's and they were incorporated as Lutheran Daycare/Preschool. By this time St. John's, Warman, had enlarged its church building and was able to accommodate a preschool. The district, trying to initiate a mission congregation in Martensville, had purchased a double-wide mobile home in that community, used for worship and a daycare. Both came under Lutheran Daycare/ Preschool. That name has now been changed to Lutheran Early Learning Centers (LELC). The stand-alone building next to what was Holy Cross remains part of the Centre, Martensville continues although the congregation never came into being, Grace continues and Warman built a new daycare/preschool building but instead of stand-alone it is part of their church building.

LELC is a separately incorporated entity and although it is more directly connected to St. John's, Warman, and Grace, you can see that this mission effort is in many ways ours too. During May a donation of \$342 was approved to allow LELC to purchase chilren's booklets from Lutheran Laymen's League–Canada. How else can we help support this mission, not only as a congregation, but as individual members? Perhaps it is time to find out.

Here's their website address: <u>https://www.</u> <u>lutheranearlylearningcenters.com/</u>

Marion Hollinger, editor

An invitation to participate

On behalf of St. John's Lutheran in Warman, I'd like to invite our sister churches in the Saskatoon area to participate in supporting LELC (Lutheran Early Learning Centers) and the education liaison ministry we have for the children and workers of LELC.

LELC has centres in Warman, Martensville, Grace Lutheran in Saskatoon and on the grounds of the former Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Saskatoon.

Three ministry programs have been implemented:

- 1. Daycare Children Ministry books for Book Club, biblical toys and playsets.
- 2. Preschool Ministry Lutheran Laymen's League Project Connect booklets for children
- 3. Staff Ministry Congregation members from St. John's Lutheran in Warman were asked to add two LELC staff members to their daily prayers for the term of one year. Each January, congregation members will be provided with two names. The

cost is free. We'd like to open this up to anyone in our sister churches who would be willing to pray for a LELC worker during the year.

We're looking for support towards these initiatives so congregations in the Saskatoon area churches can feel connected to and be part of this outreach program. A sister church might also decide to cover the cost of one of the programs (e.g., Project Connect booklets for children) or simply give a donation. All donations are eligible for a tax receipt as this liaison program will be administered through St. John's Lutheran Church in Warman. We'll also accept donations of very gently used Bible story books, picture Bibles or Bible story board books. Many of the daycare children and their families are unchurched, so we are planting seeds that the Holy Spirit will grow. We only have to plant the seeds.

Sheri Haichert is the Education Ministry Liaison between the churches and LELC. She has put together a breakdown of the ministry program and costs. If you have any questions, you may email Sheri at <u>sherihaichert@yahoo.ca</u>

Matthew 19:14

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Malachi 3:10

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

Blessings to each and every one of you in the name of Jesus. Jason Schmiedge, Chairperson, St. John's Lutheran Church



Tales of Glory Nativity playset (3 x \$52) One playset given to each preschool daycare room. \$156/year

Book Club costs for 1 teacher book, 5 toddler books, 5 preschool books Warman: \$112/quarter Martensville: \$128/quarter Saskatoon: \$129/quarter Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada – Project Connect kids booklets given to each child registered in the preschool program. Cost: \$342 per year.





Little People Nativity playset (3 x \$77) One playset to each toddler daycare room. \$230/year

St. Paul's is contributing \$342 for these and other children's booklets.

Lay Ministry

We hope and pray that everyone is doing well and after a long winter are enjoying the spring weather. Over the past several months the Board of Lay Ministry, working with Pastor Keith, have continued to monitor the situation with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically as it relates to our worship service protocols and keeping those attending worship services safe. Based on our assessment of the current environment we have been able to relax several of the protocols established over the past two years. It is our hope that by the fall we will be able to return to normal worship practices. We assure members of the congregation, however, that as we move forward in adjusting our worship service protocols we will do so keeping the health and safety of our members front and centre.

We continue to be thankful for the dedication of Laura Neufeld in sharing her musical talents for our worship services. Thanks also to Natalie for the technical assistance to Pastor Keith in recording the services that are made available to members who are not able to attend in person. As well we continue to use a small group of people for the Altar Guild and ushers. We thank those individuals for their faithfulness in preparing communion and in ushering worship services and we thank Doreen Morris and Daryl Walter for coordinating the Altar Guild and ushers respectively. Finally thanks, as always, to Sandy for her administration of the church office and her assistance to Pastor Keith in carrying out his ministry. Her contributions are greatly appreciated.

Pastor Keith continues to be a constant in providing leadership to St. Paul's in carrying out the ministry of word and sacrament to the congregation and we thank God for his ministry. This includes in-person and online Bible studies and confirmation classes as well as his private ministry and communion to members. While Bible studies and confirmation classes are concluding for the summer months, Pastor Keith will be preparing for their resumption in the fall.

Finally, on behalf of the board we wish all the members of St. Paul's a safe and pleasant summer.

Barry Walter, Art Timm Board of Lay Ministry



REMEMBER WHEN: Weren't church picnics a great activity?

Education

KIDS CORNER GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

One Lord, One faith, One baptism (Ephesians 4:5)

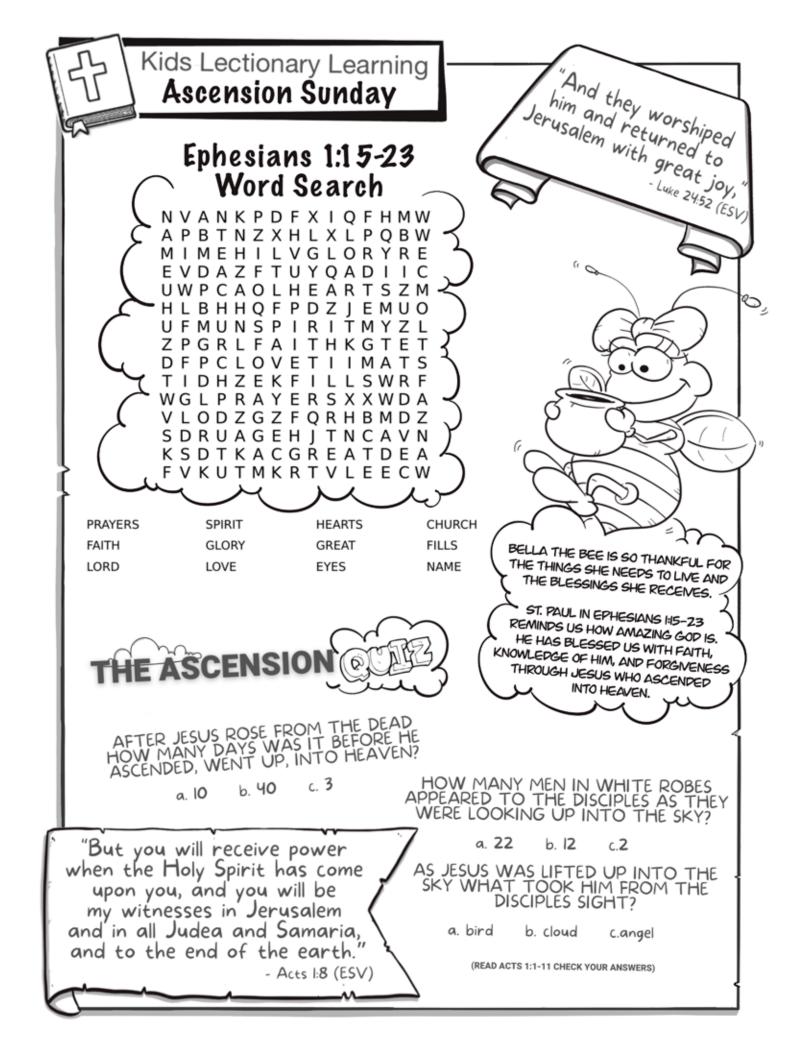
Ascension Sunday!!! I forgot to tell you about Ascension Sunday last month! We celebrated it in the last week of May. It's when Jesus rises up to heaven before His disciples' eyes, 40 days after He was resurrected from the dead. That would have been a sight to see!

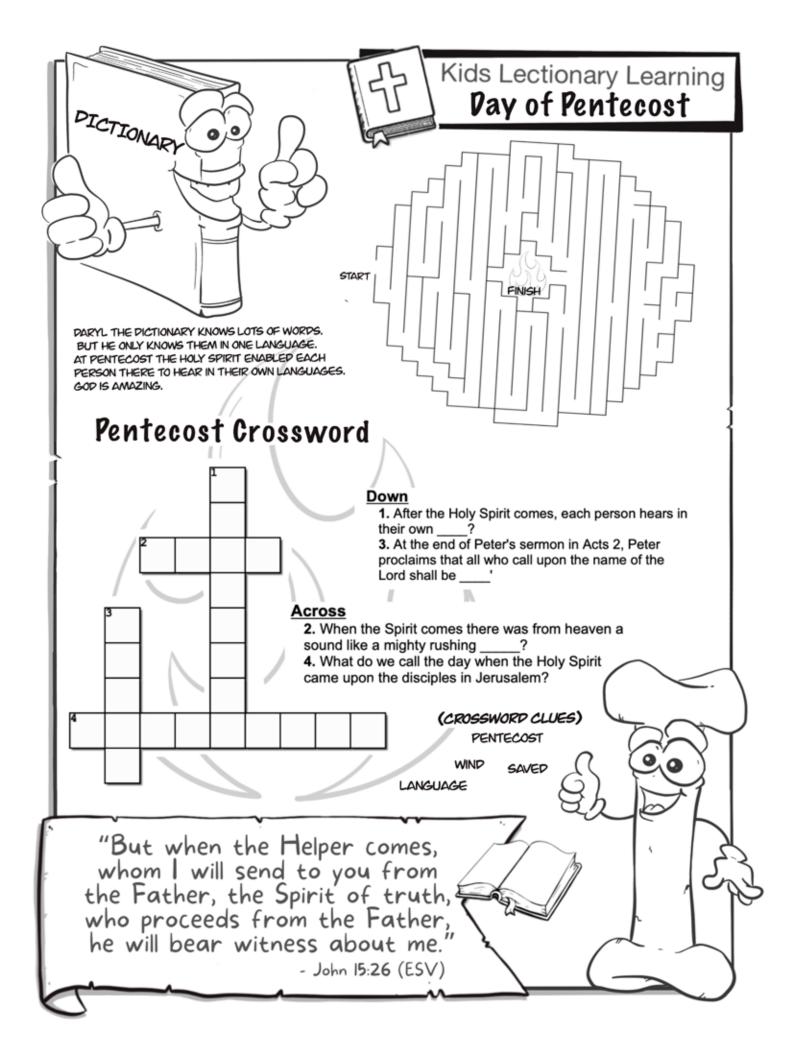
Coming up, the month of June is going to be busy with Pentecost Sunday on June 5, Holy Trinity Sunday on June 12 and Father's Day June 19. I'm sure you know what Father's Day is, but what about the other two? Look for Pastor Cooper's activity sheets in this newsletter to learn what Pentecost Sunday and Holy Trinity Sunday are all about. (Remember to go to <u>lll.ca/kids-</u> <u>resources</u> to find this year's pages). Our God is truly awesome!

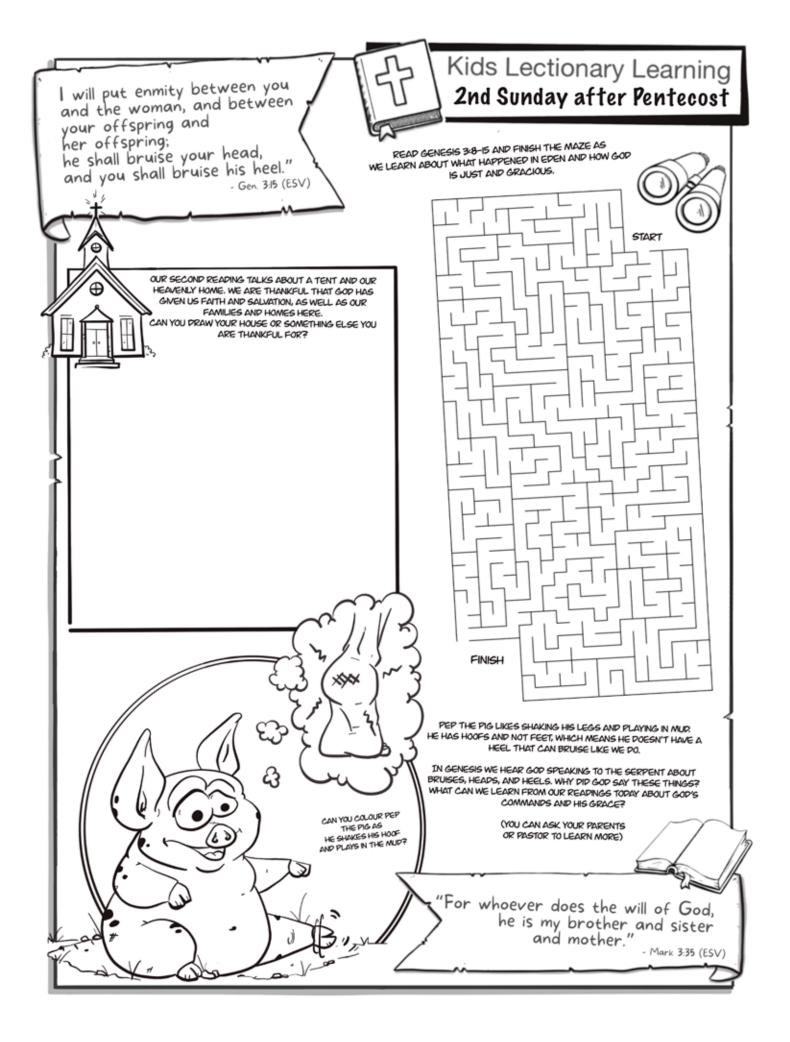
Have fun doing the activity sheets for Dad to let him know how much you love him! There's also a page that reminds us we have a heavenly Father who loves us EVEN MORE than our dads do, if that's even possible!

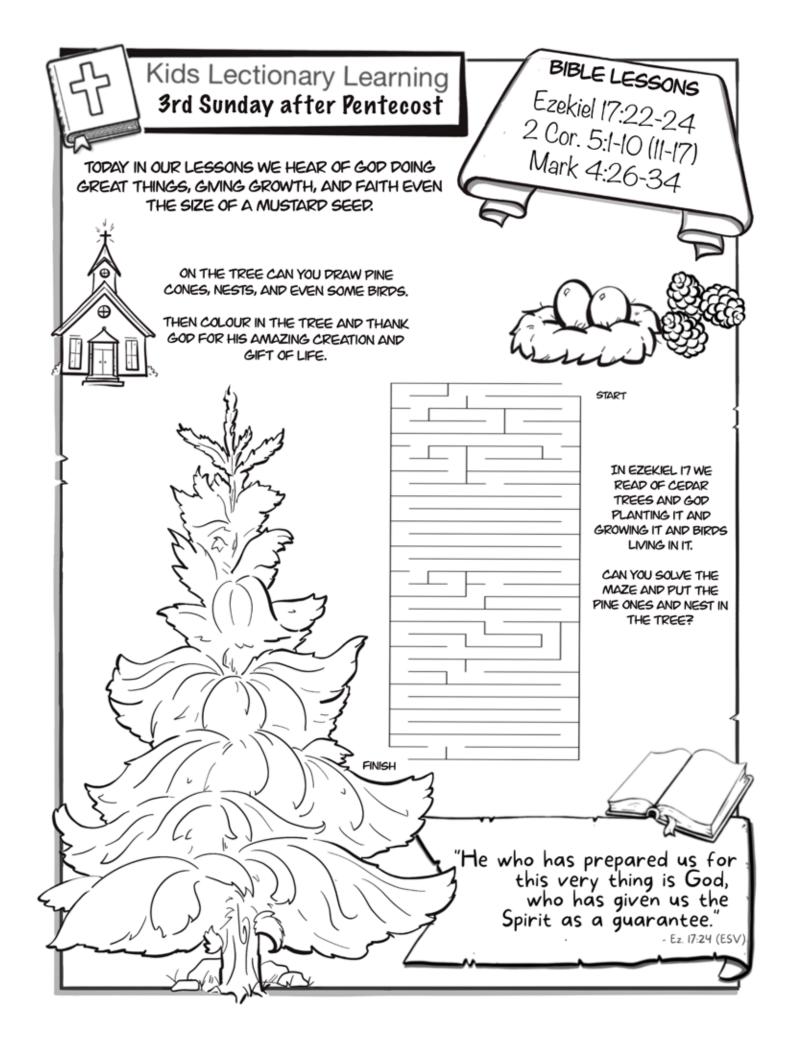
God bless you!

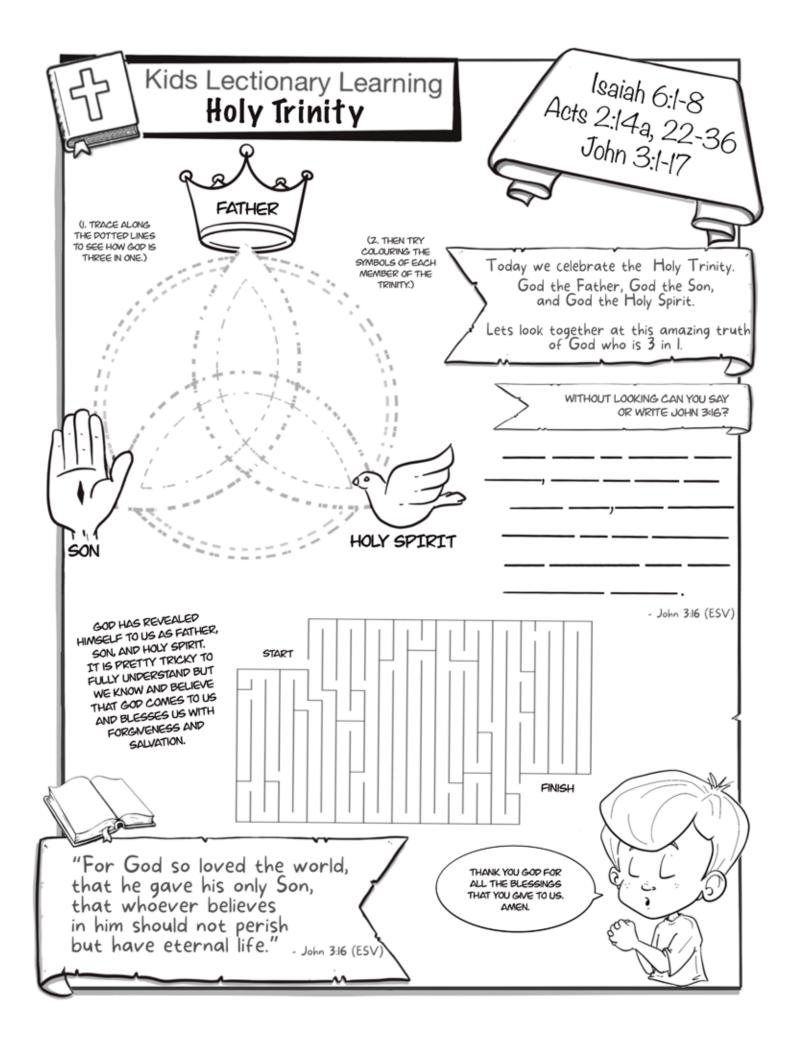
Mrs. Denise Timm Board of Christian Education and Youth

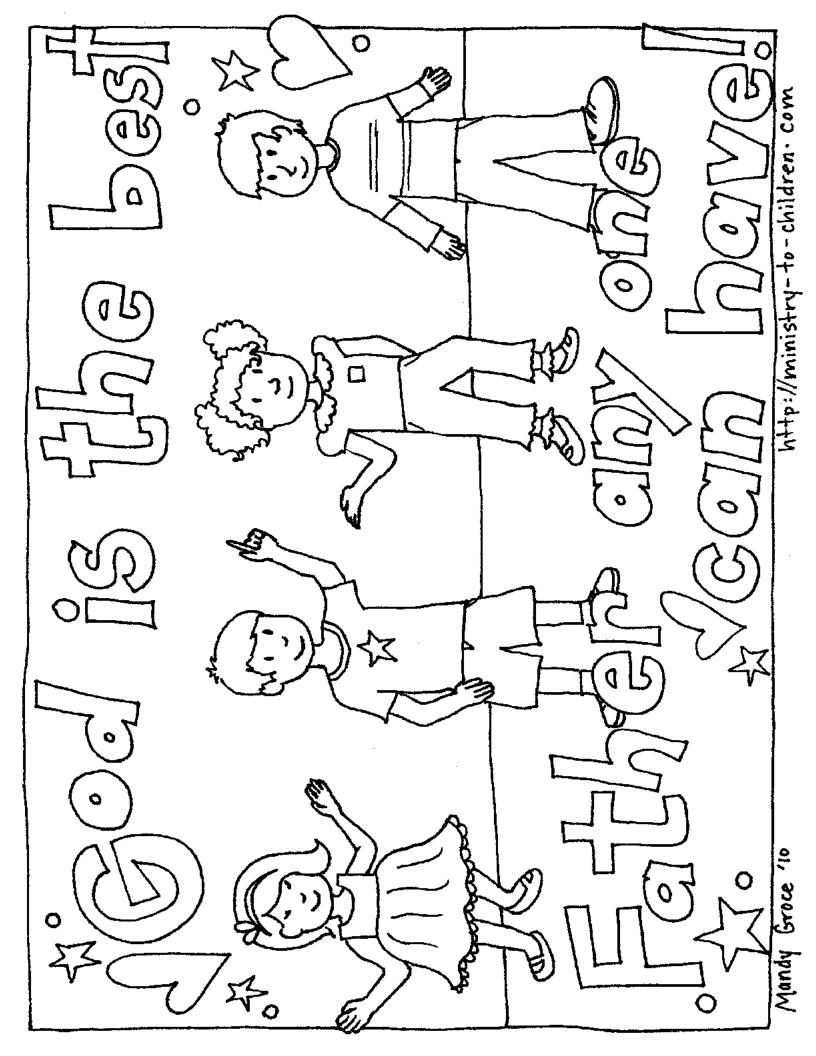


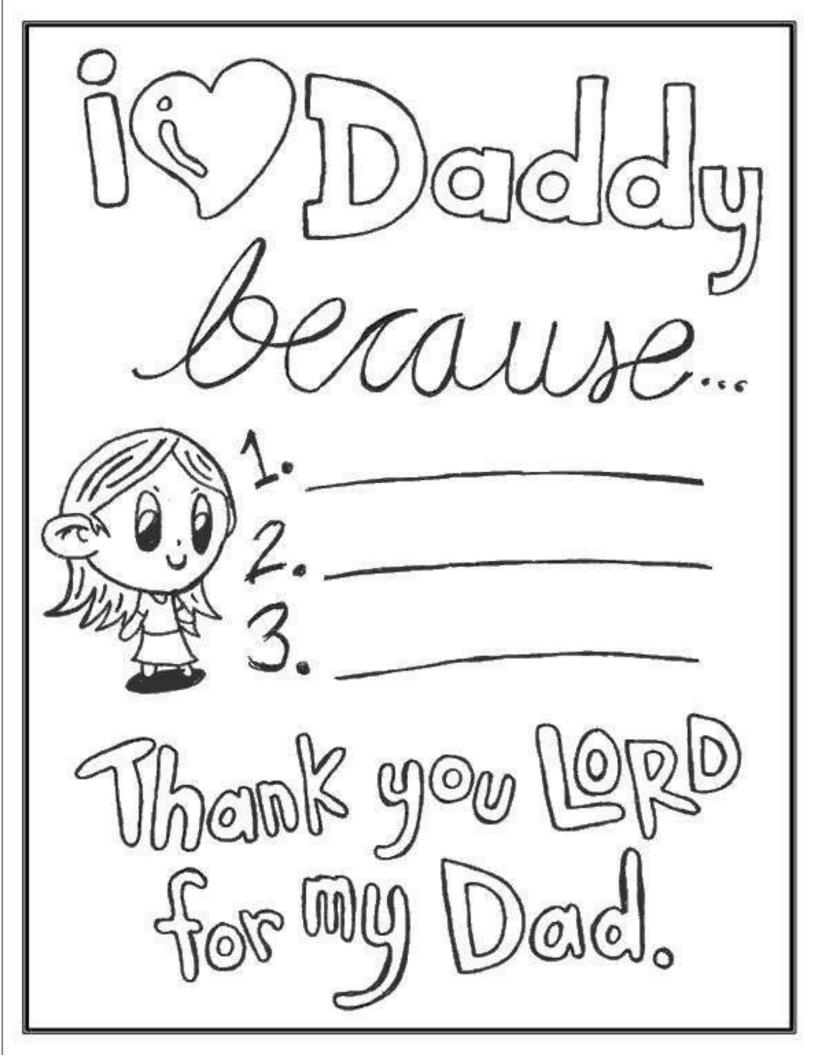












66 MIM Thank you lop for my Dad. D)

