



The Spirit of St. Paul's

JANUARY 2026

Seminary provides learning to all through Quest course

Concordia Lutheran Seminary (CLS – Edmonton) will hold its upcoming 2026 Quest course beginning this month, and the theme will be “Cross-Cultural Ministry Tools.”

Rev. Dr. Mike Kuhn will teach the free course, which can be attended in person as well as online.

Classes will be held at 7:00 p.m. (8:00 p.m. Sask. time) every Tuesday evening (January 27, February 3, 10, 17).

Each week will feature a different topic:

Week 1 – Avenues for Accessing Vernacular Scriptures

Week 2 – Creating Culturally Inspired Art Forms Using Mother Tongue Scriptures

Week 3 – Trauma Healing Groups and Resources

Week 4 – Translating the Bible into Action: A Scripture Engagement guide

Details about upcoming Quest courses and other seminary news is updated regularly at www.concordiasem.ab.ca.

2026 Member Directory

The active member directory on our website is now up-to-date. This is a password protected page which all members have access to. If you need the password, please let the office know.

If your contact information changes, please let the office know as corrections can be easily made.

For privacy, hard copies of the directory are available to members on request. Just let Sandy know.

Get Ready for the 2026 Chili Cookoff Challenge

Mark Sunday, January 18 on your calendar and get your favourite recipe out. The Board of Parish Fellowship is planning the **Great Chili Cookoff Challenge of 2026** and they promise there will be prizes. If you aren't a chili maker, just come and enjoy.



Be a judge or just enjoy the chili – from mild to very hot, to sometimes imaginative. Pictured are Keith Wallace and Pastor Keith, two of the judges at a previous cookoff.

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 in an envelope separate from your church offering, 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. Send your ads to the editor.

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EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

HOPE!

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

I once owned a book of quotes that included, “Hope is always expecting God’s best!” These words certainly describe my anticipation as I await His answers to prayer, His solutions to challenges, and His unfolding of end-time events that His Word declares are sure to come.

In his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul is quick to explain the hope that is ours as followers of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ:

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:1-5).

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the

creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he see. But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

(Romans 8:18-25)

The portion of Paul’s letter recorded in Romans 15:8-13 begins with the heading “Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles” and concludes with the prayer, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

The first stanza of hymn #575 in *Lutheran Service Book* provides us with opportunity to acknowledge the firm foundation on which our hope rests:

*My hope is built on nothing less
 Than Jesus’ blood and
 righteousness;
 No merit of my own I claim
 But wholly lean on Jesus’ Name.
 On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
 All other ground is sinking sand.*

text and music: public domain

*Verla Schmirler
 Board of Evangelism and
 Public Relations*

STEWARDSHIP

POINTING TO THE ROCK OF AGES

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

Christians may think of the birth of Christ as His incarnation — His moment of “taking on flesh.” But rather than on Christmas Day, His birthday, Christ’s incarnation took place at the moment of His conception. That which the angel Gabriel

announced to the Virgin Mary— “and behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus” (Luke 1:31) — is a pronouncement of Christ’s first coming. The One who is the eternal Word (John 1:1) clothed Himself with flesh and inhabited life in the womb for the first nine months of His life. This month, we celebrate Christ’s birth and the redemption that He won for all flesh, even those who are

yet unborn (Psalm 22:23).

“And He who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true” (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of “new” talk. Parties are held to ring in the “new” year. “New” year’s resolutions are made to set a “new” course of life in the *continued next page*

Thank you for your stewardship



Above Gail Mitchell and Gaylene Haugen prepare to pack your generous donations. Right, delivery to the Global Gathering Place.

The Mitten Tree has been put away for another year after being decked out by your generosity, your stewardship in action. This year a total of 60 pairs of mittens and gloves, 42 toques, 7 scarves, 5 pairs of socks and a box of baby items were packed up and taken to the Global Gathering Place.

The staff were very appreciative and send thankyou to the congregation. The Global Gathering Place has a mission to engage and support immigrants

and refugees to integrate and help them thrive in Canadian society. They help refugees and immigrants navigate everything from language, healthcare, and employment, to developing life skills many of us do without thinking (like grocery shopping and taking the bus). The staff said that their mom and tot program will make good use of the small mittens we gave them.



Interested in learning more about Global Gathering Place? Visit their website <https://globalgatheringplace.com>.

Stewardship, continued

“new” year. There is date forgetfulness as cheques and other forms are filled out without using the “new” year on the dateline.

We use all this “new” talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the “new” resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That “new” person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The “new” habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The “new” person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need “new” talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of “new” is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This “new” comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of “new” is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary’s cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ’s body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long

for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God’s creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbour because he or she looks or sounds or acts in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbours. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.

St. Paul’s Board of Stewardship thanks you for your faithful gifts of time, talents and treasures, this past year. While we don’t know yet how we ended the 2025 year financially, we do know that God has continued to bless us through your gifts.

*God’s Peace to you in this new year.
Board of Stewardship*

.....

*Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,
Brance of royal David’s stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.*

LSB 394:1, Christopher Wordsworth, Public Domain

St. Paul's FAMILY NEWS

WELCOME to new members Evan McInnis, Karen Neufeld and Jenna Neufeld, formerly members at Holy Cross Lutheran, Saskatoon.

WELCOME also to Jasmine Reinecken Custodio, pictured with her parents, Henrique and Juliana Custodio, was baptized December 21, 2025.



Wasn't that a party!?

St. Paul's congregation gathered for their annual Christmas party... singing carols, solving a Christmas puzzle and, of course, eating. More pictures on the next page.



Christmas party, continued

Three Wise Men: What are the facts and what is tradition



What tradition says about who the wise men were: We assume that there were three wise men because of the three gifts that were given: gold, incense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:11). The Bible does not tell us how many wise men visited Jesus and does not tell us their names. However, tradition has it that the three wise men who came to seek and honour

the infant Jesus were named Gaspar, Balthasar, and Melchior.

What tradition says about when the wise men visited Jesus: Christmas cards and manger scenes depict the wise men visiting Jesus at the stable on the night of His birth. It is a common misconception that the wise men visited at that time. In fact, the wise men came days, months, or possibly even years later. That is why Matthew 2:11 says the wise men visited and worshiped Jesus in a house, not at the stable.

What tradition says about the wise men being kings: The unfounded idea that they were also kings came from the imagery of Isaiah 60:3: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

The facts are: the magi were men who 1) read and believed God's Word, 2) sought Jesus, 3) recognized the worth of Christ, 4) humbled themselves to worship Jesus, and 5) obeyed God rather than man. They were truly wise men!

EDUCATION

KIDS CORNER

GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

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

Happy New Year, Kids!!!

I hope you had an amazing Christmas celebration and break from school! In the month of January, we are in the season of Epiphany. I'm sure lots of you remember



what Epiphany means, but in case you need a reminder, please see the explanation below from LCMS. In case you don't know what LCMS (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod) is, it is the LCC's (Lutheran Church-Canada) counterpart organization down in the USA.

What Is Epiphany?

Epiphany is a special day in the church year, celebrated by Christians all around the world, including those in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). It happens every year on January 6, right after the Christmas season. The word "Epiphany" means "showing" or "revealing." It's the time when we remember how Jesus was revealed as the Son of God to people everywhere, not just to one group.

Why Is Epiphany Important?

On Epiphany, we remember the story of the Wise Men, also called the Magi, who travelled a long way following a bright star to find baby Jesus. When they found Him, they brought special gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This shows us that Jesus came for everyone, not just for people in one country or group. He is the Saviour of the whole world!

How Do We Celebrate Epiphany?

- We read the story of the Wise Men from the Bible (Matthew 2:1-12).
- Some churches might have special services or decorations, like stars or crowns.
- We sing songs about Jesus being the Light of the World.
- Families might talk about sharing Jesus' love with everyone, just like the Wise Men shared their gifts.

What Can You Learn from Epiphany?

Epiphany teaches us that Jesus loves all people, no matter where they live or what language they speak. It reminds us to be kind and to share God's love with everyone we meet. Just as the Wise Men travelled far to see Jesus, we can make an effort to help others know about Him, too.

Fun Facts About Epiphany

- Epiphany is sometimes called "Three Kings' Day."
- In some places, people bake a special cake and hide a tiny figure of a baby inside to remember Jesus.
- Epiphany marks the end of the "Twelve Days of Christmas."

Let's Remember

Epiphany is a joyful time to celebrate how God's love is for everyone. When you see a star or hear about the Wise Men, remember that Jesus is the best gift of all, and His love is for you and for the whole world!

A couple more things to remember :) ...

- Watch the church bulletin for the date of the next Sunday School class!
- Check for the activity sheets at the end of the newsletter or pick up a copy of them at church!
- The online Sunday school with Mr. Jacob will be the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m.

God bless your New Year!
Denise Timm
for the Board of
Christian Education
and Youth



Beginning a New Year



by Gaylene Haugen
Christian Growth
Central District

what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,²¹ to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

In this prayer Paul points out the immeasurability of God's wisdom and Christ's love. It is through faith in Christ Jesus that we have access to God's grace, which is not limited by our human understanding. Through grace we have the hope of salvation and eternal life. We can be bold to say...

*I am trusting Thee
to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need. Amen.*

(#729 LSB)

Happy New Year!

The beginning of a new year can be a time of reflection. A time to remember the joys and sorrows of the year that just closed. A new year can also be a time to look forward. Imagine the days ahead as blank pages in a brand-new notebook waiting to be filled with new experiences, events, and moments. As Christians we can praise God for His grace, His mercy and His many blessings as we reflect and as we look forward. Paul's prayer in his letter to the Christians in Ephesus can be our prayer as we look to the new year ahead.

Let us pray.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (ESV)

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints



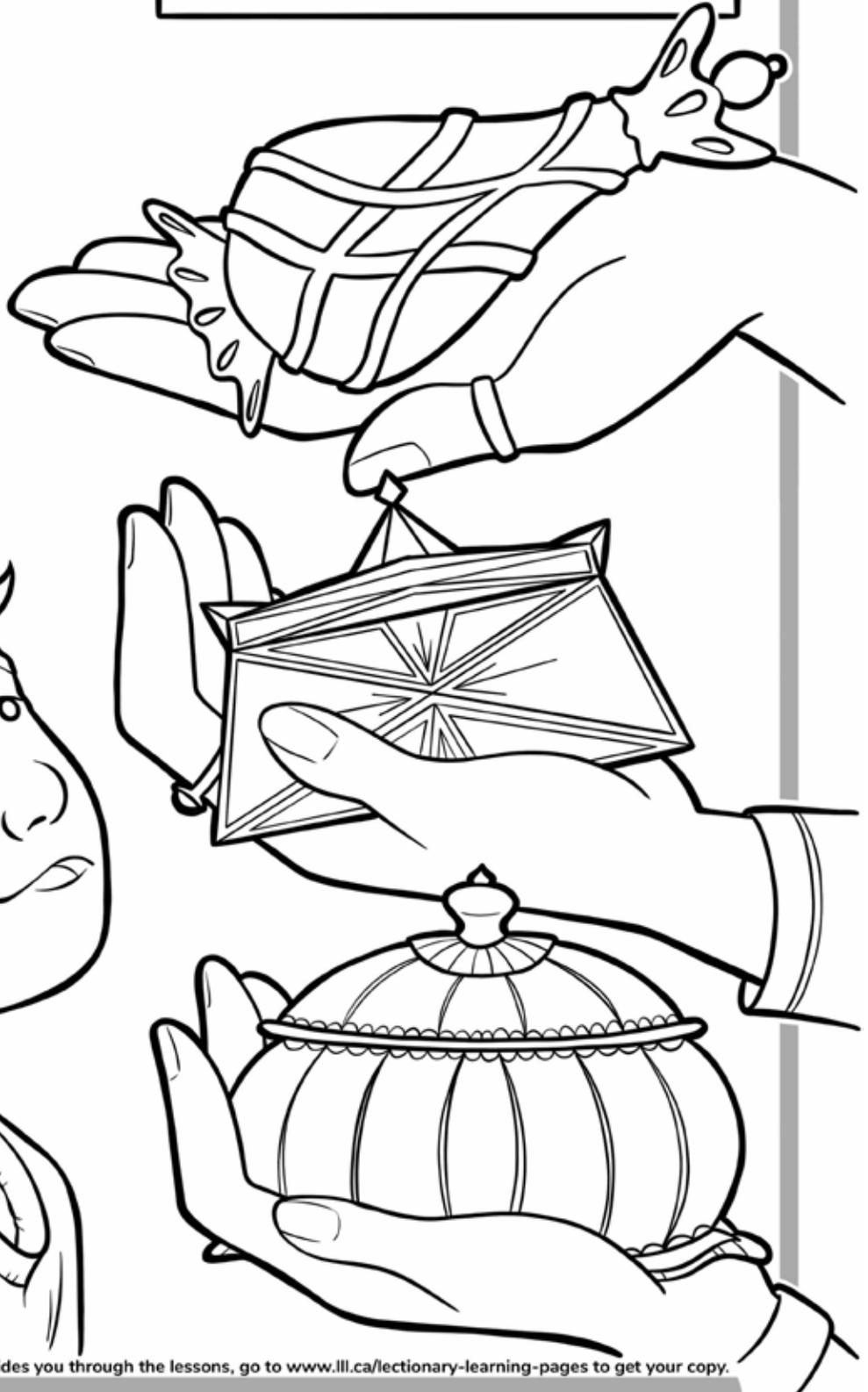
KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

EPIPHANY

BIBLE LESSON: MATT. 2:1-12

And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

- Matthew 2:11



To access the Teaching Supplement that guides you through the lessons, go to www.ill.ca/lectionary-learning-pages to get your copy.



CRYPTOGRAM

Match the letters to the symbols to reveal part
of our Bible verse from this week!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
*	☒	☙	Σ	♀	☒	☉	☐	☉	⌘	☉	☐	☐
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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- Matthew 2:10

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble these words from our Bible lesson!

1. HIDLC _____
2. IMGA _____
3. LOGD _____
4. RYRHM _____



Let Us Pray Together: Dear Father in Heaven, thank You for sending Jesus,
our light and our life. Amen.



Kids Lectionary Learning

2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Bible Lessons

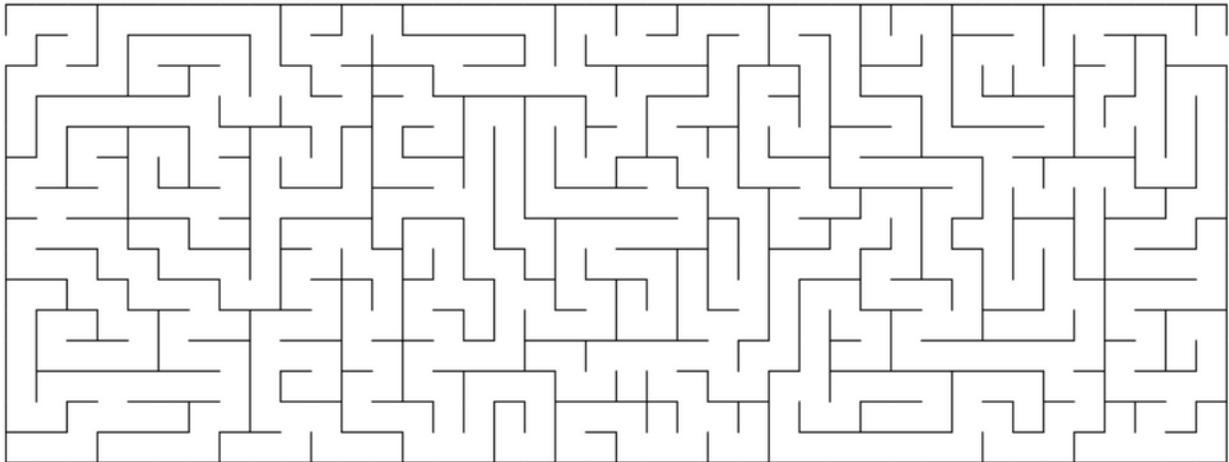
ISAIAH 49:1-7
1 CORINTHIANS. 1:1-9
JOHN 1:29-42



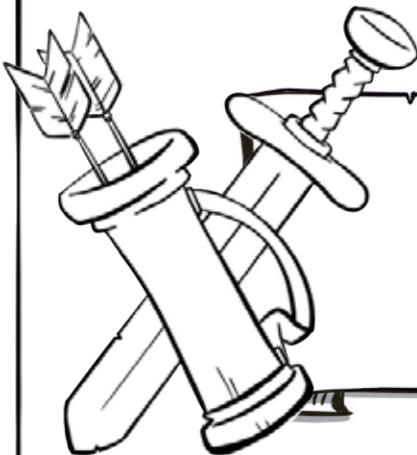
"BEHOLD,
THE
LAMB
OF GOD,
WHO TAKES AWAY
THE SIN OF THE WORLD!"

- John 1:29

START

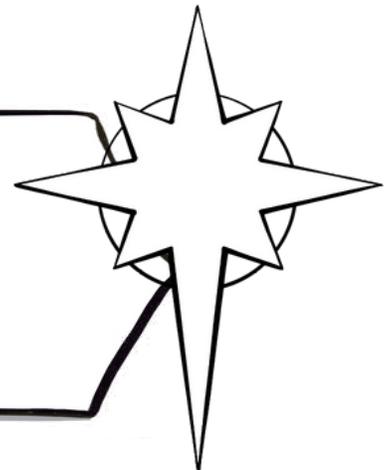


END



"He made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver He hid me away."

- Isaiah 49:2



CAN YOU FIND THESE
WORDS FROM OUR
GOSPEL READING FROM
JOHN 129-42?

WORD-SEARCH

BEHOLD
LAMB
GOD
SIN
WORLD
SPIRIT
JESUS
DISCIPLES
RABBI
JOHN
ANDREW
PETER
FOLLOWED
MESSIAH

G C I K R W X R O E O L C X K
S S F D W X U M E S S I A H E
I T D R A M T O M K R Y J F A
N F I T N A N D R E W X O I J
S S S B J Z F G G N L W H I S
Z O C R E F G O K W E O N G A
V S I U S H M P L T S V X J M
O X P U U J O H T L I T X B T
B R L N S O N L V Z O B L X M
G W E G R H E C D K T W M S U
K Y S O A Z S D J H J S E G Y
I B U D B Z U T K S G X L D E
A Z L I B X W O R L D R B C P
E Y C F I V N P H X S D R X G
S J L U Q K B S X P D P P L H
U M A D Q D O J X U A E T H E
B G M A Y J T S U A J T F Q D
L Q B A S P I R I T S E I I Q
N B U S C R A Z Q J O R R R I
U E A Q M J S U D U J E H W V



"I give thanks to my God always for you
because of the grace of God that was
given you in Christ Jesus,"

- 1 Corinthians 1:4



Kids Lectionary Learning

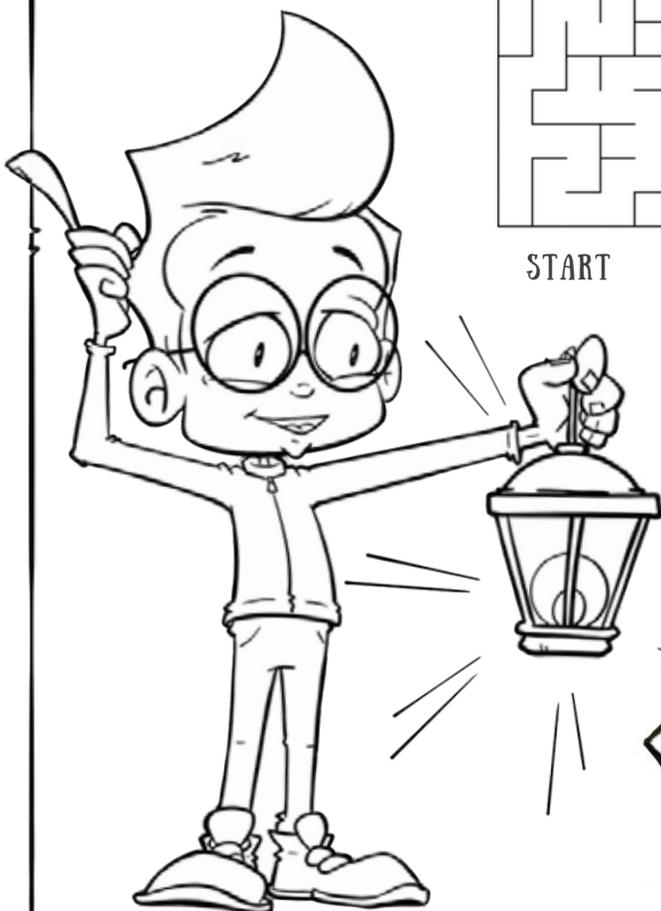
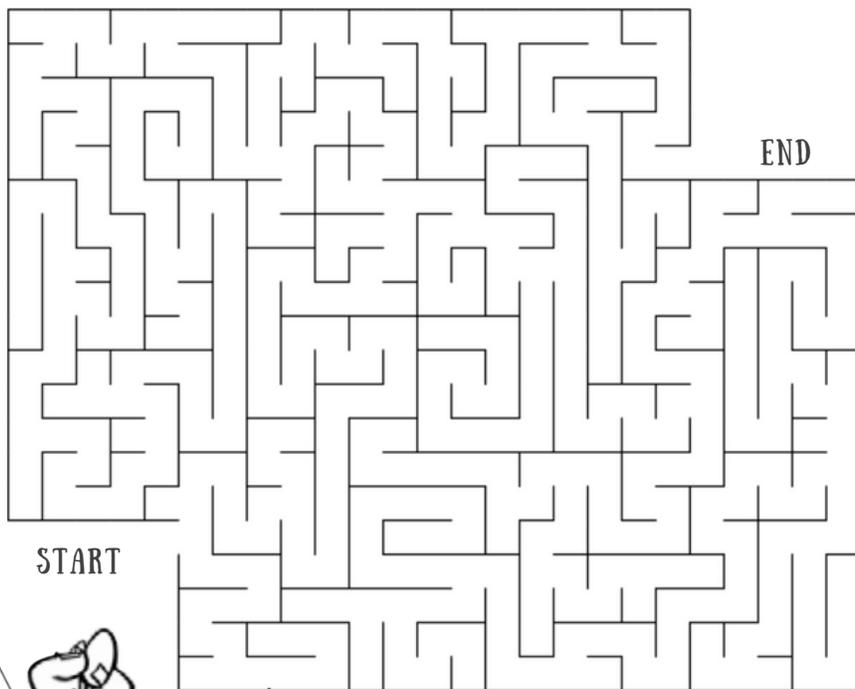
3RD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Bible Lessons

ISAIAH 9:1-4
1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18
MATTHEW 4:12-25



"THE PEOPLE
WHO WALKED
IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A
GREAT
LIGHT"
- Isaiah 9:2(a)



"those who dwelt in a land of
deep darkness,
on them has light shone."

- Isaiah 9:2(b)

Kids Lectionary Learning

WORD-SEARCH

CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS FROM OUR GOSPEL READING
OF MATTHEW 4:12-25?

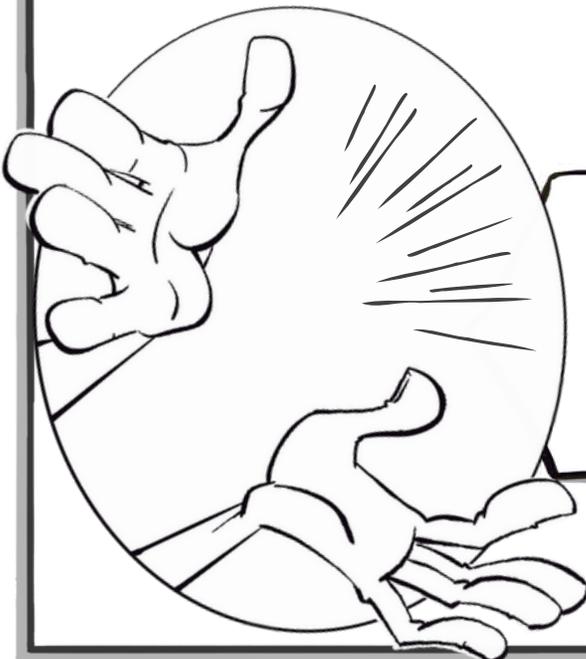
DARKNESS
LIGHT
JESUS
PREACH

REPENT
KINGDOM
HEAVEN
FISHERMEN

CALLED
TEACHING
GOSPEL
HEALED



X V H B Q M V N L B C U L R C B R K Z H
W D E V E I B A Q R S C T E A C H I N G
H E A L E D A Q Y W D P D C L I Y N P G
F G V F I S H E R M E N W A I E P G G O
F X E A E M N E J X T P G L G X N D U S
A L N A R S P R E A C H L L H V F O W P
H R E P E N T S S I V V S E T V O M O E
O G A X G P Y R U D P E U D N M L E F L
Q X B I C S A H S N D A R K N E S S E W
N A Q S Y B T V I E Y E K C D A B R U L



"And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching
in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel
of the kingdom and healing every disease and
every affliction among the people."

- Matthew 4:23

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA



Kids Lectionary Learning

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



Bible Lessons

ISAIAH 42:1-9
ROMANS 6:1-11
MATTHEW 3:13-17



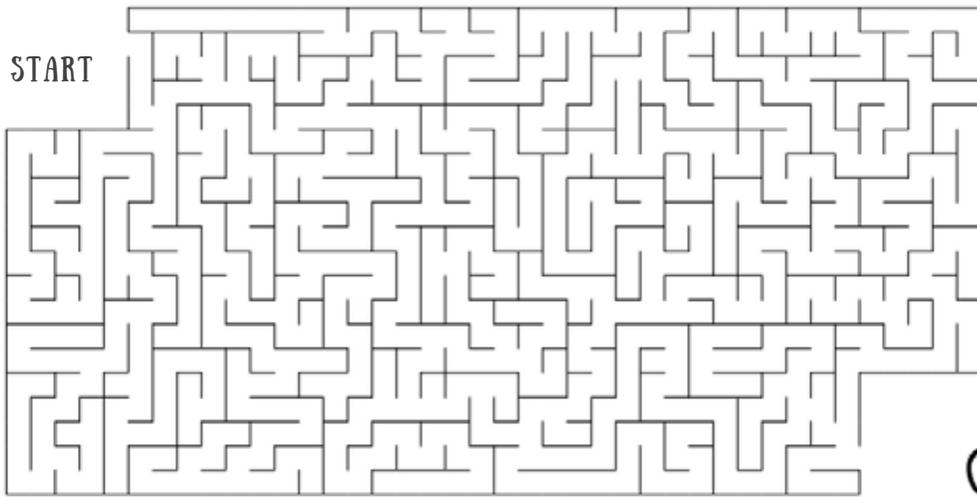
"THIS IS MY BELOVED SON,
WITH WHOM
I AM
WELL PLEASD."

- Matt. 3:17

TODAY IS THE CELEBRATION OF OUR
JESUS, OUR LORD'S, BAPTISM.

GRAB YOUR BIBLES AND SOMETHING TO
COLOUR WITH AS WE LEARN AND
CELEBRATE JESUS' BAPTISM AND SAY
"THANK YOU" FOR OUR OWN.

START



END



"Then Jesus came from Galilee
to the Jordan to John, to be
baptized by him."

- Matt. 3:13



Kids Lectionary Learning



LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA



BAPTISM OF JESUS WORD-SEARCH

CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS FROM
MATTHEW 3:13-17 ABOUT JESUS'
BAPTISM IN OUR WORD-SEARCH?

D Q W V B Y A E K C Z G V R X
 A G V A V A M J D J H S B W S
 P G V O T S P I R I T O N E M
 J J M C I E G T B L U N J W J
 B O Z A P C R J I A G Q D F E
 M N R P W H E O H Z G B E D S
 K G A D W G W H G D E E D B U
 O Y Q U A T D N Z A K D O Z S
 M R T F R N O P S F G L V Y O
 O Q C U F O U G A L I L E E S

JESUS
 GALILEE
 JORDAN
 JOHN
 BAPTIZED
 WATER
 SPIRIT
 DOVE
 VOICE
 SON



"Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
 I have put my Spirit upon him; he will
 bring forth justice to the nations."

- Isaiah 42:1

