

Holy  
Cross  
Lutheran Church

January 2025

*Transformed in Christ to share  
the hope of eternal life*



# CROSS-WORD



HAPPY

NEW YEAR

MAY THE LORD'S GUIDANCE BE  
WITH YOU IN EVERY STEP YOU  
TAKE IN THE NEW YEAR.



Back to the Future With an eye to Him on High!  
“He who was seated on the throne said, ‘ I am making everything new! Then he said, “write this down for this is trustworthy and true.”



For all intents and purposes it is the tenth day of Christmas! I wonder how many Christmas trees are still up and whether or not we might learn something from the recent past of one of our friends.

We were greeted before Christmas by friends who lost their most recent Christmas tree purchase when their cat chewed through the electrical wires. The cat above was not the culprit, but one of its species was. The responsible feline was not injured, not tortured, nor were they put out of the house. More about what happened later.

As we continue in this New Year, you might wonder why start with such a story that appears to be just a minor occurrence amongst all that could or did happen in December before the celebration of Christmas and the beginning of this New Year?

There are so many things that happen in our lives that can frustrate us, lead us to feelings of anxiety, and so much

more. At times it seems life is flying by us like the vehicle in the movie, "Back to the Future. The DeLorean time machine would go into time travel when it hit 88 miles an hour.

I can only speak from our own experience over the past 3 to 4 weeks that have impacted our lives in a number of ways. Ed, a dear friend and member of the church we served in Tennessee, was called home to the Lord after battling with dementia. On December 18th, one of my older brothers, Gene, was called home to the Lord after a 7 ½ year battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Our intention was to attend the funeral, but we had an uninvited guest who came to our house on Christmas Day in the form of Covid. Its presence is still being felt as Covid is not our friend. I share these events not to cause more grief to anyone nor to say how bad life has treated us or any of those who are experiencing challenging times, but rather to lead all of us to place our lives in the hands of Him who has our past, present, and future in His Hands!

2025 has come! God has blessed us with the promise of being with us as He has always been with His people. The celebration of Epiphany, the visit of the Wise Men is only three days away.

The Lord willing, we will have the opportunity to experience His Presence in His Word as we walk into the season of Lent in March and revisit Christ's past and path of suffering before we take another sigh of relief on Good Friday when we call to mind His death on the cross for our sins. Then, again the Lord willing, we and all believers who have lost loved ones will sing resurrection songs on Easter Sunday.

But wait, there's more! When Christ returns, He will make all things new! There will be no more sin, no more death, no more tears. There will be a new heaven and a new earth. No more aging, no more dementia, no more pulmonary fibrosis. God says, NO MORE! All things will be made new!

So, what do we do while we wait for Christ's return? Perhaps we can learn from what took place with our friends with their seemingly unimportant events, like their cat eating through the wires of their new Christmas Tree. Someone once said something like this: "It's not what happens to you, it's how you react to what happens to you that matters."

Our friends decided to take the tree and put it to good use. This was no small feat. The tree made it out to the midst of where the husband keeps his fishing lures and there the tree became a "fishing lure tree." The picture below is the outcome of that adventure. Fishing lures were hung on the tree. They became ornaments like no one else has seen.



Maybe there is a lesson in all of this for us. May we become a "tree" of sorts as we, by the Lord's help, seek to be "ornaments" of faith. When we share the reason for the hope we have regardless of outward circumstances may He use us to show His love to others.

Pastor Jim



# Bible Riddles

## Who am I?

MATCH THE BIBLE EVENT WITH THE PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH IT

1. I LIVED FOR 900 YEARS \_\_\_\_\_ A. LAND OF NOD
2. I ATE LOCUST IN THE DESERT \_\_\_\_\_ B. METHUSELAH
3. REUBEN IS MY FIRST CHILD \_\_\_\_\_ C. THREE WISEMEN
4. I WAS THE ONLY WOMAN JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_ D. JOHN THE BAPTIST
5. MY BROTHER STOLE MY BIRTHRIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ E. DEBORAH
6. I SOLVED "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN" \_\_\_\_\_ F. LOT
7. I AM THE FATHER OF FAITH \_\_\_\_\_ G. JOSEPH
8. WE BROUGHT BABY JESUS GIFTS \_\_\_\_\_ H. JACOB
9. I KILLED A LION WITH BARE HANDS \_\_\_\_\_ I. ESAU
10. I'M FAMOUS FOR THE BURNING BUSH \_\_\_\_\_ J. HOSEA
11. MY WIFE TURNED INTO A PILLAR OF SALT \_\_\_\_\_ K. DANIEL
12. I SAID JESUS WILL BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM \_\_\_\_\_ L. MOSES
13. I AM THE LAND EAST OF EDEN \_\_\_\_\_ M. SAMSON
14. I WAS SOLD INTO SLAVERY \_\_\_\_\_ N. ABRAHAM
15. I AM THE LAST KING OF ISRAEL \_\_\_\_\_ O. MICAH

**SEARCH-A-WORD PUZZLE**  
**GOD'S BEAUTIFUL CREATION**

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