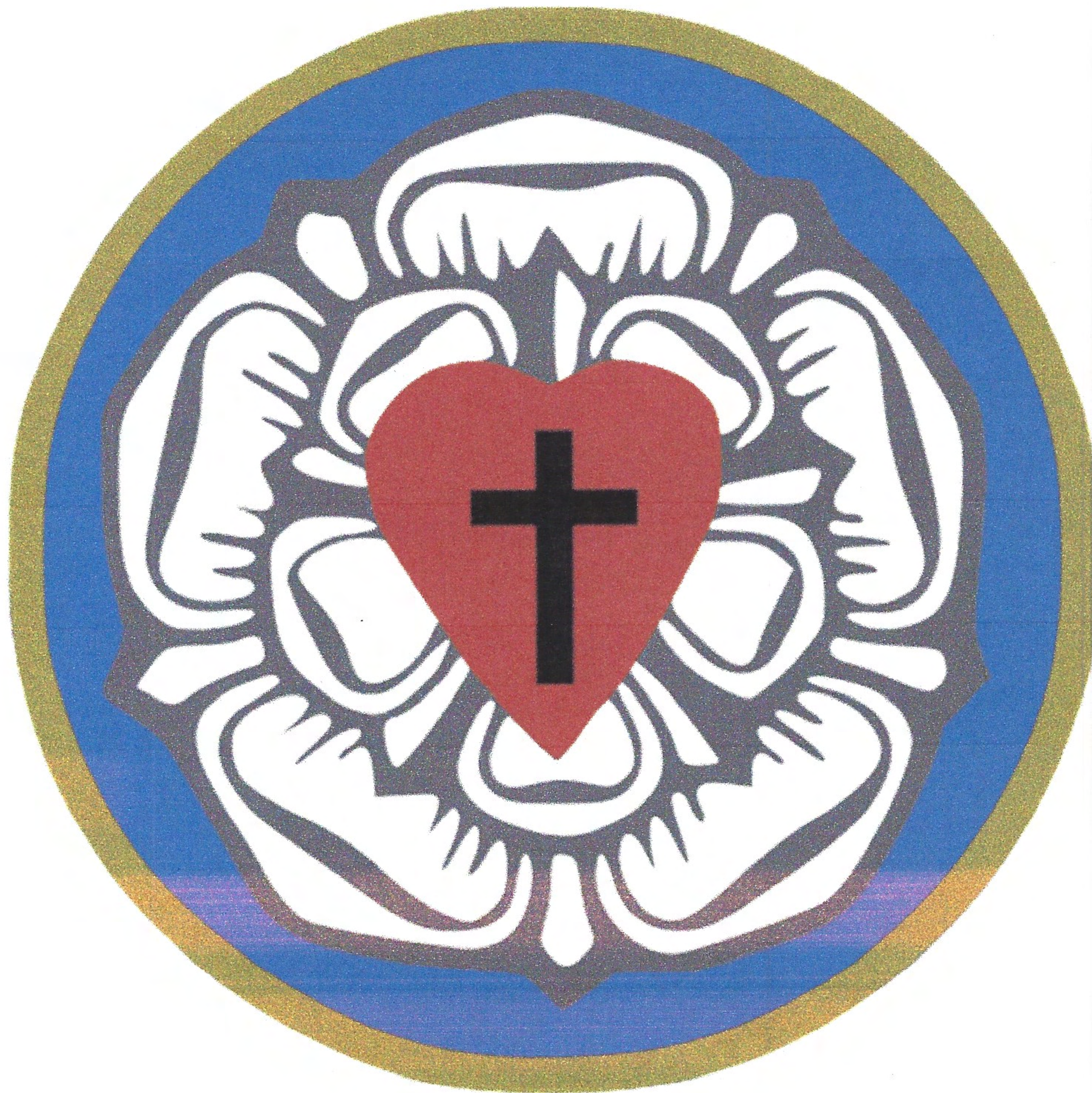


FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PORTAGE, PA

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, MAY & JUNE 2023



“In Christ’s flesh, in his death and resurrection, all people are invited to behold and to receive the fullness of God’s grace and truth.”

Monthly Happenings

- April:
- 1 April Fool's Day
 - 2 Palm Sunday Worship 9 AM
 - Pancake & Sausage Breakfast after service, All Welcome!
 - 3 Council Meeting 6:30 PM
 - 7 Cross Walk 12-3 starts are Portage Community Church
 - 9 Easter Sunday Worship 9 AM, All Welcome!
 - 16 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 - 18 Tax Returns Due
 - 23 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 - 30 Sunday Worship 9 AM
- May:
- 1 Council Meeting 6:30 PM
 - 7 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 - 14 Mother's Day Sunday Worship 9 AM with 1st Holy Communion
 - 21 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 - 28 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 - 29 Memorial Day Holiday
- June:
- 4 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 - 5 Council Meeting 6:30 PM
 - 11 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 - 18 Father's Day Sunday Worship 9 AM
 - 25 Sunday Worship 9AM

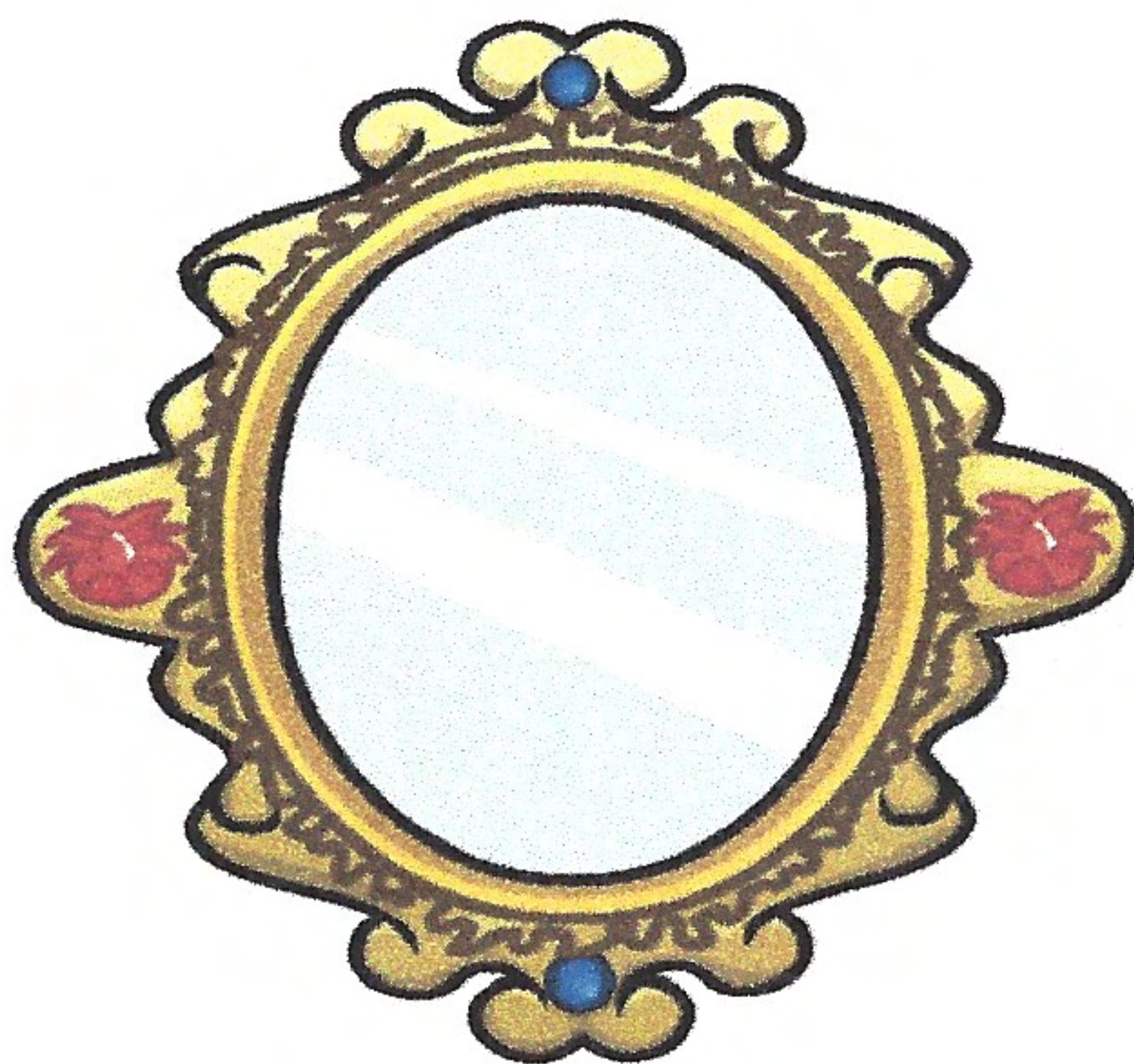


April showers brings May Flowers

REV'S REFLECTION

A Lenten Reflection by Pastor Fischer:

As I sit here recuperating from knee replacement surgery, one of the constant things I hear from my physical therapist is that I need to be able to straighten my leg out completely; full horizontal. And oh, how painful it is to get my knee to cooperate. Hearing my physical therapist reminded me of the first verses of Matthew 3: In those days, John the Baptist came into the wilderness of Judea proclaiming, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near." For John is the one about whom the prophet Isaiah had spoken: "The voice of one shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' Very often life is not a straight path. We might like it to be so but often it is not. Sometimes, curves in life are welcome. There is giftedness and a blessing in curves. Curves make our life easier. Just think of US 22 going down to or up from Altoona. How much harder would it be if US 22 was a straight road up and over the mountain. Lent reminds us that for God to reconcile God's people, the straight and narrow to full reconciliation of humanity needed a curve. And that curve was God becoming fully human and fully divine in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ who came and lived with us, like us in every way except he followed the straight path and was without sin. God set up the ultimate curve to make the path to eternal life straight for all humanity; that curve was the cross and Jesus's death on it for the sin of humanity once and for all. Lent is that time to remind us we can't go straight to the garden and the empty tomb of the resurrection of Jesus. We have to take the curve to the cross of Golgotha and Jesus' dying there. Let us walk with Jesus on that curve to the cross to remind us and inform us that our lives have been made straight by Jesus' dying on the cross for our sins. Have a blessed Lent Pastor Mark W. Fischer





Allegheny Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

701 Quail Ave., Altoona, PA 16602

814.942.1042

Office hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 4:30pm

Called by God to be one in Christ: we worship, grow in faith, and serve all people.

If you need assistance from the Allegheny Synod, contact information provided.

Upcoming Synod activities:

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Johnstown Spring Caucus Meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 [Mt. Calvary, Johnstown](#) Time TBD: All welcome!

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Synod Assembly: Saturday, June 17, 2023 [Blair County Convention Center](#) : Elected Voting Members and Pastors

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You can find daily bible readings on the Allegheny Synod website: Link is provided:

[Daily Bible Reading - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](#)

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FYI SECTION

SYMBOLS ON OUR STAIN GLASS WINDOWS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

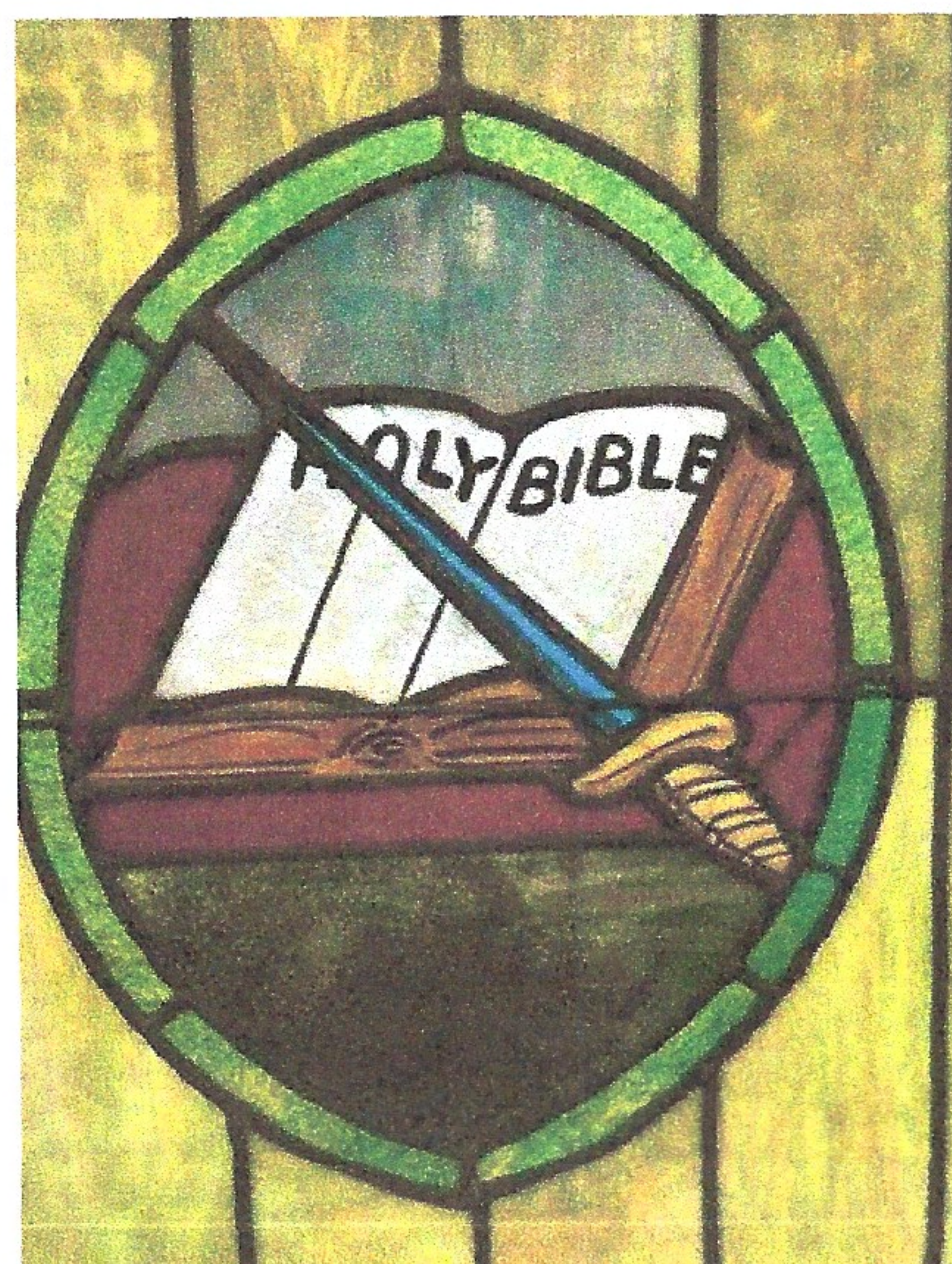
Have you ever really looked at the stain glass windows in church and wondered what the symbols mean?

We will feature a few windows from the church and their meaning every issue of the newsletter.



The dove is traditionally seen as a sign of peace, especially when carrying an olive branch.

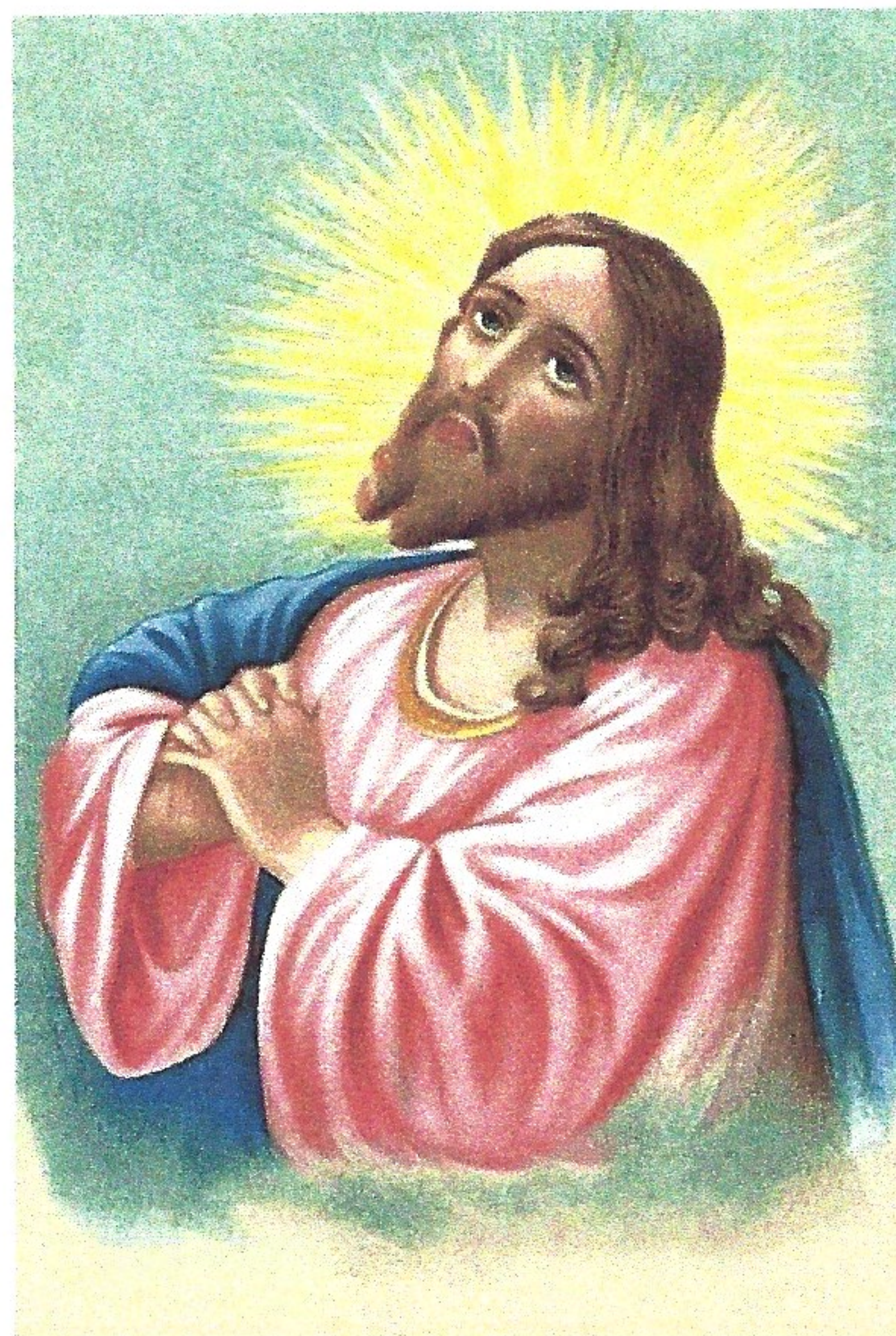
“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.” Matthew 3:16



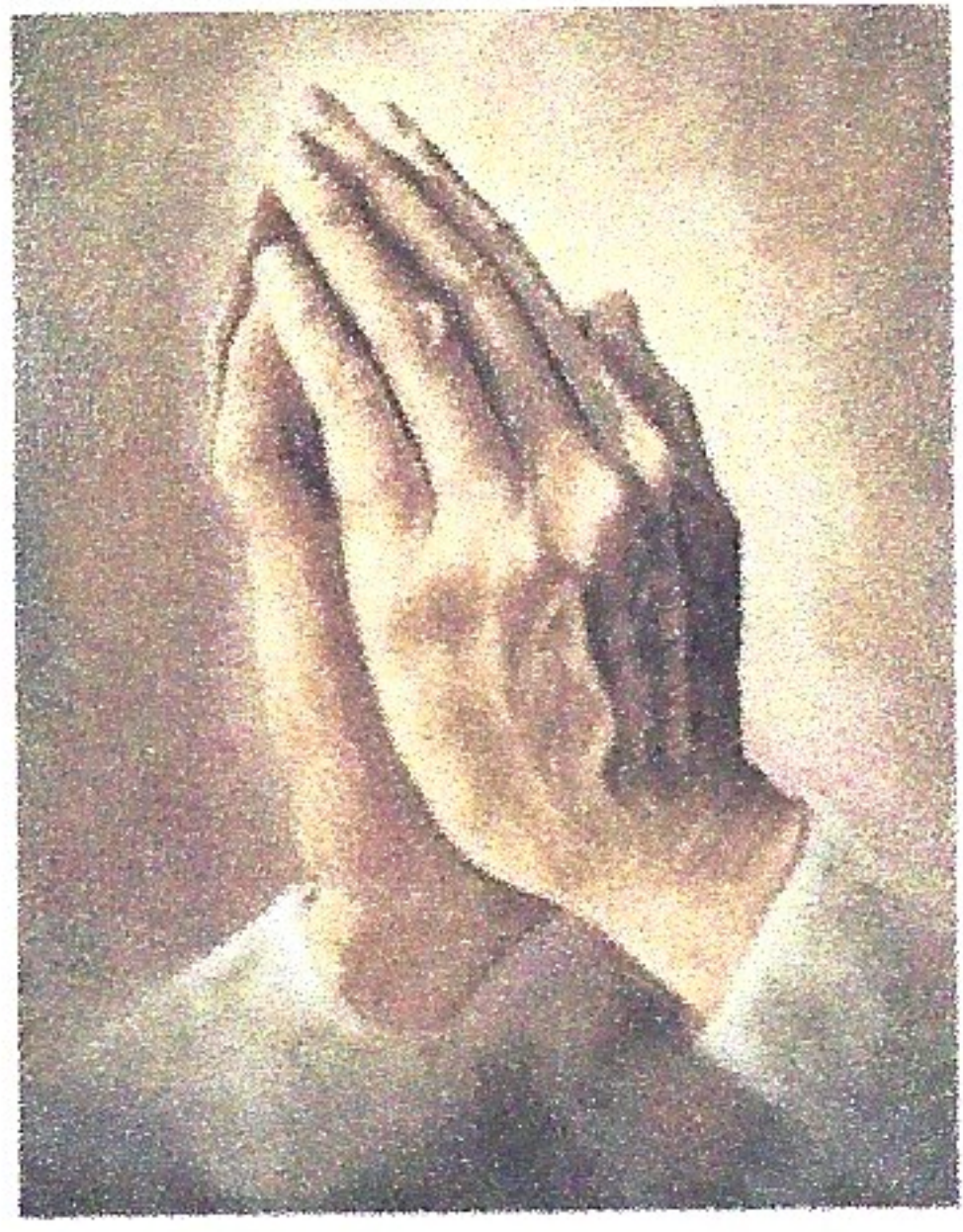
In Ephesians 6:17, Paul speaks of the Word of God as being the sword of the Spirit.



The two ancient tablets with the Roman Numerals I to X are a traditional Jewish symbol for the Ten Commandments. The tablets are surrounded by clouds representing God's presence with Moses on the mountain and with the nation of Israel in the wilderness.



We apologize if a birthday or anniversary was missed. Please leave a note in Becky or Sharon's mailbox, located at the back of the church, with the correction.



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Sally Rush

Vic Schaffranek

Harry Maul

Bob Bieter

Ida Kerch

Pastor Kaltenbaugh

Pastor Fischer

Elzie Pauley

Michelle Coukart

Prayers: Lord, your Word speaks promises of healing and restoration and I thank you for the miracles you still perform today. Today I claim those promises over my friend. I believe in the healing power of faith and prayer and I ask you to begin your mighty work in the life of my friend. Please reach down and surround my friend with supernatural peace, strength, and the faith to believe that all things are possible through you. Protect and let the miraculous healing begin. Amen.

Please keep in your prayers the sick, lonely, and forgotten.

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Mother Teresa: Teresa of Calcutta

On a wall in one of St Teresa's Children's Homes:



- ♥ People are often unreasonable, irrational and self-centered; forgive them anyway.
- ♥ If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway.
- ♥ If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies; succeed anyway.
- ♥ If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you; be honest and sincere anyway.
- ♥ What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight; create anyway.
- ♥ If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous; be happy anyway.
- ♥ The good you do today, will often be forgotten; do good anyway.
- ♥ Give the best you have, and it will never be enough; give your best anyway.
- ♥ In the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway.

Give Us a Heart:

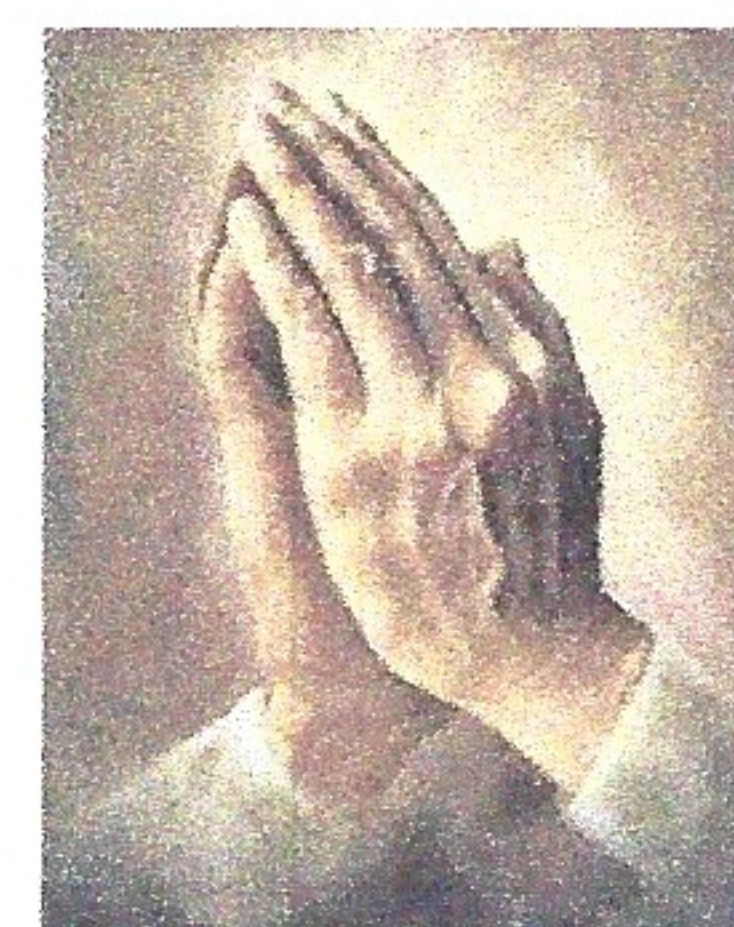


Give us a heart as beautiful, pure, and spotless as yours. Give us a heart like yours, so full of love and humility. May we be able to receive Jesus as the Bread of Life, to love Him as you loved Him, to serve Him under the mistreated face of the poor; we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Who is Jesus to me?



Jesus is the Word made Flesh.
Jesus is the Bread of Life.
Jesus is the Victim offered for our sins on the Cross.
Jesus is the Sacrifice at Holy Mass for the sins of the world and mine.
Jesus is the Life – to be loved.
Jesus is the Joy – to be shared.
Jesus is the Hungry – to be fed.
Jesus is the Thirsty – to be satiated.
Jesus is the Naked – to be clothed.
Jesus is the Homeless – to be taken in.
Jesus is the Sick – to be healed.
Jesus is the Lonely – to be loved.
Jesus is the Unwanted – to be wanted.
Jesus is the Leper – to wash his wounds.
Jesus is the Beggar – to give him a smile.
Jesus is the Drunkard – to listen to him.
Jesus is the Little One – to embrace him.
Jesus is the Drug Addict – to befriend him.
Jesus is the Prostitute – to remove from danger.
Jesus is the Prisoner – to be visited.
Jesus is the Old – to be served.
Jesus is my Everything. Amen.

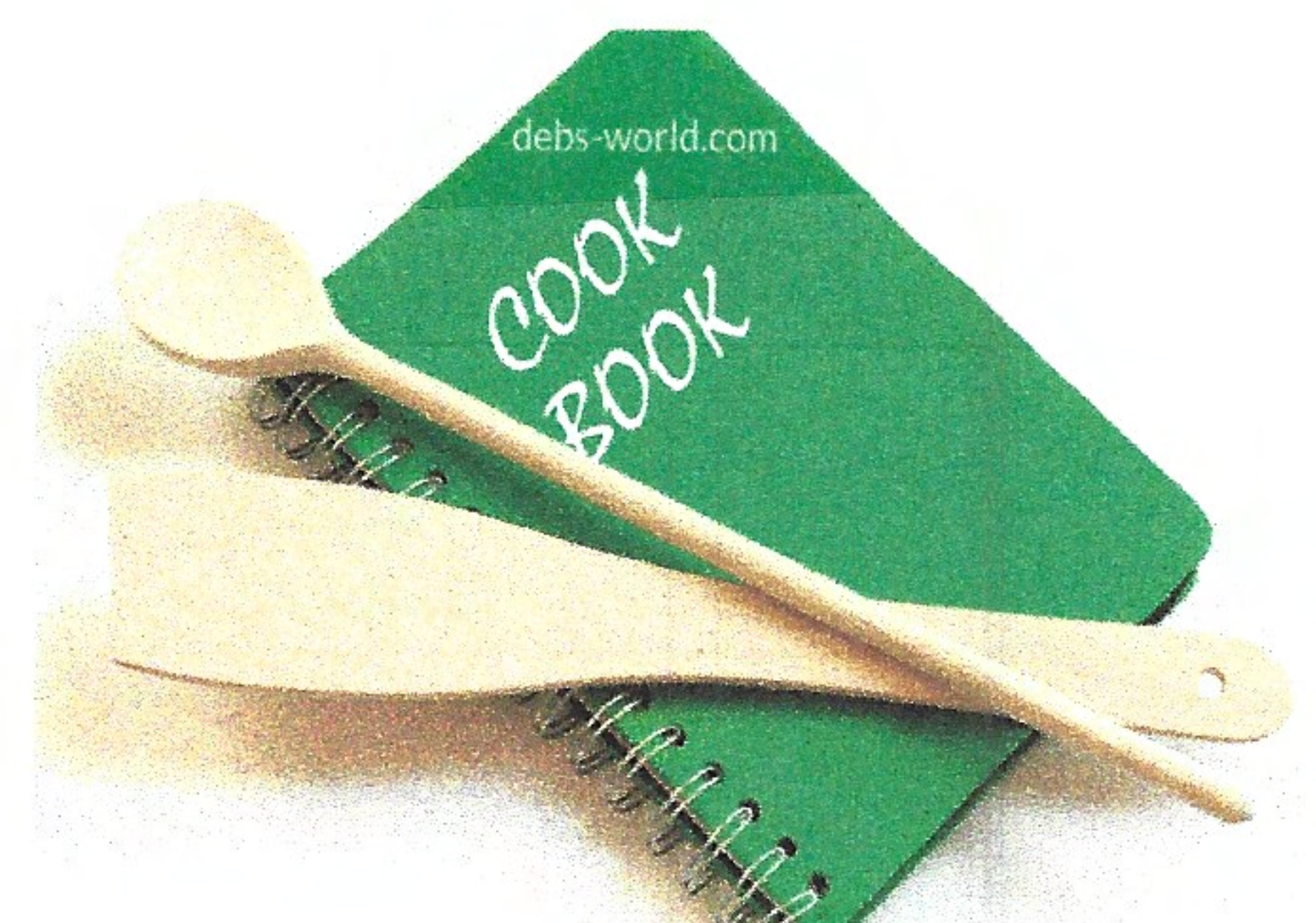
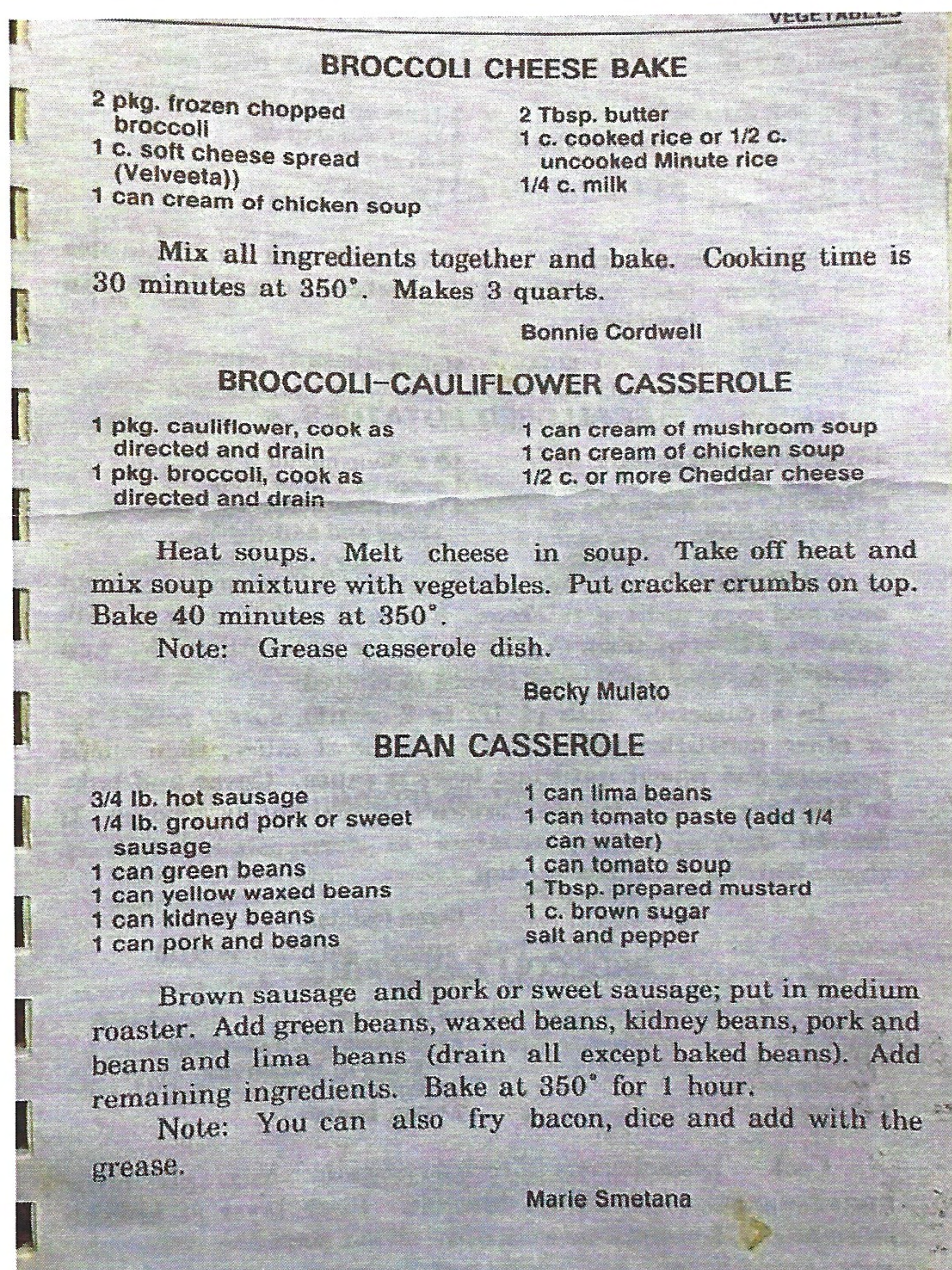


Prayers by Mother Teresa

KITCHEN KORNER

Anyone wishing to share a favorite recipe please put in either Becky's or Sharon's box in the back of church and we will be sure to put in our next issue of the newsletter.

Here are a couple of past recipes from First Lutheran's Cookbook Our Favorite Recipes





Congratulations to all our graduates!

With God, Good luck with your future plans!

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Congratulations to all our Confirmands!

May the Spirit of God guide your faith!

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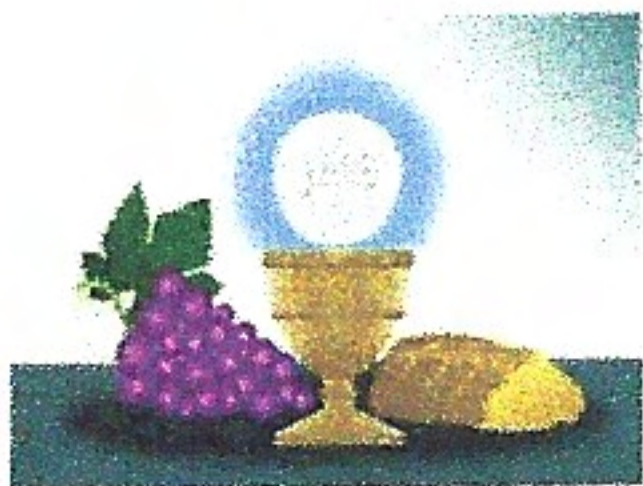
Happy Mother's Day to all!

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Happy Father's Day to all!

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Congratulations to all our 1st Communion children! May you know the true blessing of God's Love through the Holy Sacraments!

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Thank you to all who helped with the fish fry's, cakes, setup/cleanup, and prep work!

God Bless!

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

April 1 Kay Pohopin
Kayla Asfar

2 Amber Noel
Traci Cook

4 Joe Selepack

6 Jamie Miller

7 George Ernest
Jacob Warner

8 Eric Sherbine

10 Colton Palesch

11 Susan Kerch

12

14 Avery Krise
Jim Hale

16 Kimberly Fox
Joe Stancovich Jr.

18 Lilyann Coleman

20 Dave Lamar

21 Amanda Hershberger

23 Mark Stancovich
Jaemy Smithro

25 Ashley Coleman

26 Todd Feathers

27 Cindy Maul
Paul Smith

Tyler Lysinger

28 Jill Maul
Jarrett Werner

George & Rose Ernest

Keith & Meagan Maul

Tony & Linda Girard

Jeff & Wendy Kerch

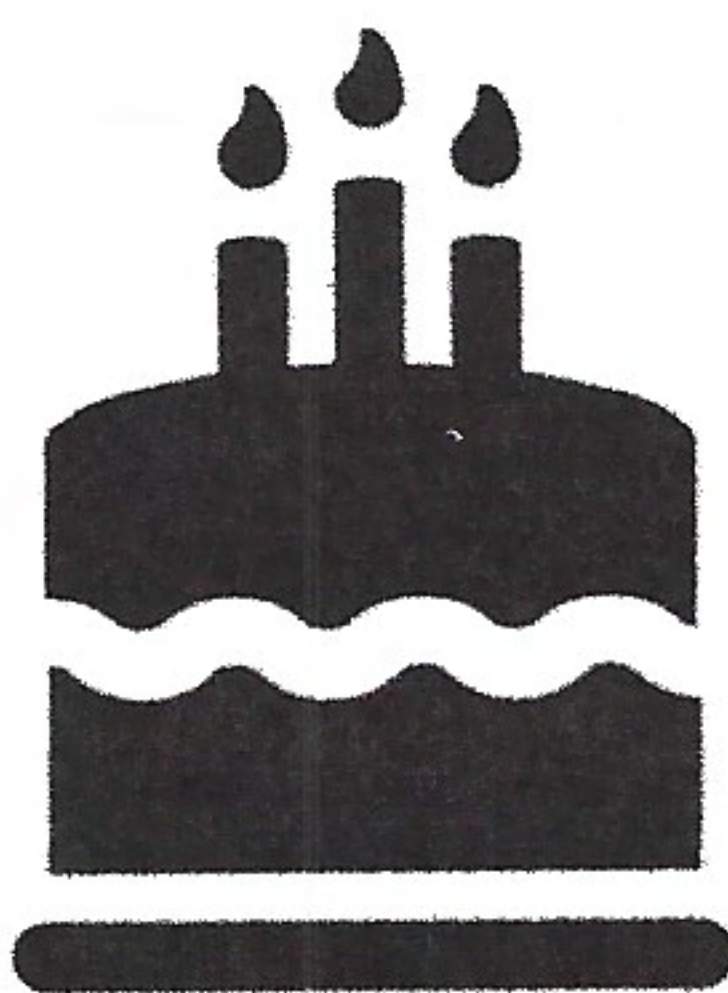


Happy Birthday

May	1	
	2	Harry Maul
	5	Judy Miller
	6	Makennah Gray
	7	Zackery Hershberger
		Sasha Yetsko
	8	Laura Maul
	9	
	10	Jeff Kerch
	11	Linsey Donoughe
	12	Gavin Troxel
		Jack Kittell
		Mandy Troxell
	17	
	20	Zachary Lamar
		Jennifer Brant
		Kaitlyn Yetsko
	24	Cathy Franey
	25	James Schmidt
	26	Robert Maul, Sr.
		Wade Maul
	27	Greg Cordwell
		Tom Cordwell
		Lacey Kittel
		Haley Pinos
	28	Marty Kerch
		Irene Beyer
		Tim Popish
	29	Jonathan Lamar
		Dave Kleman

Happy Anniversary

James & Joanne DeMatteis
Mark & Kirstin MacLaughlin
Tom & Becky Canavan
Mary & Matt Boland
Dann & Terri Crum
Bill & Annette Labar
Ken & Susan Schaffranek
Gerald & Linsey Donoughe



Happy Birthday

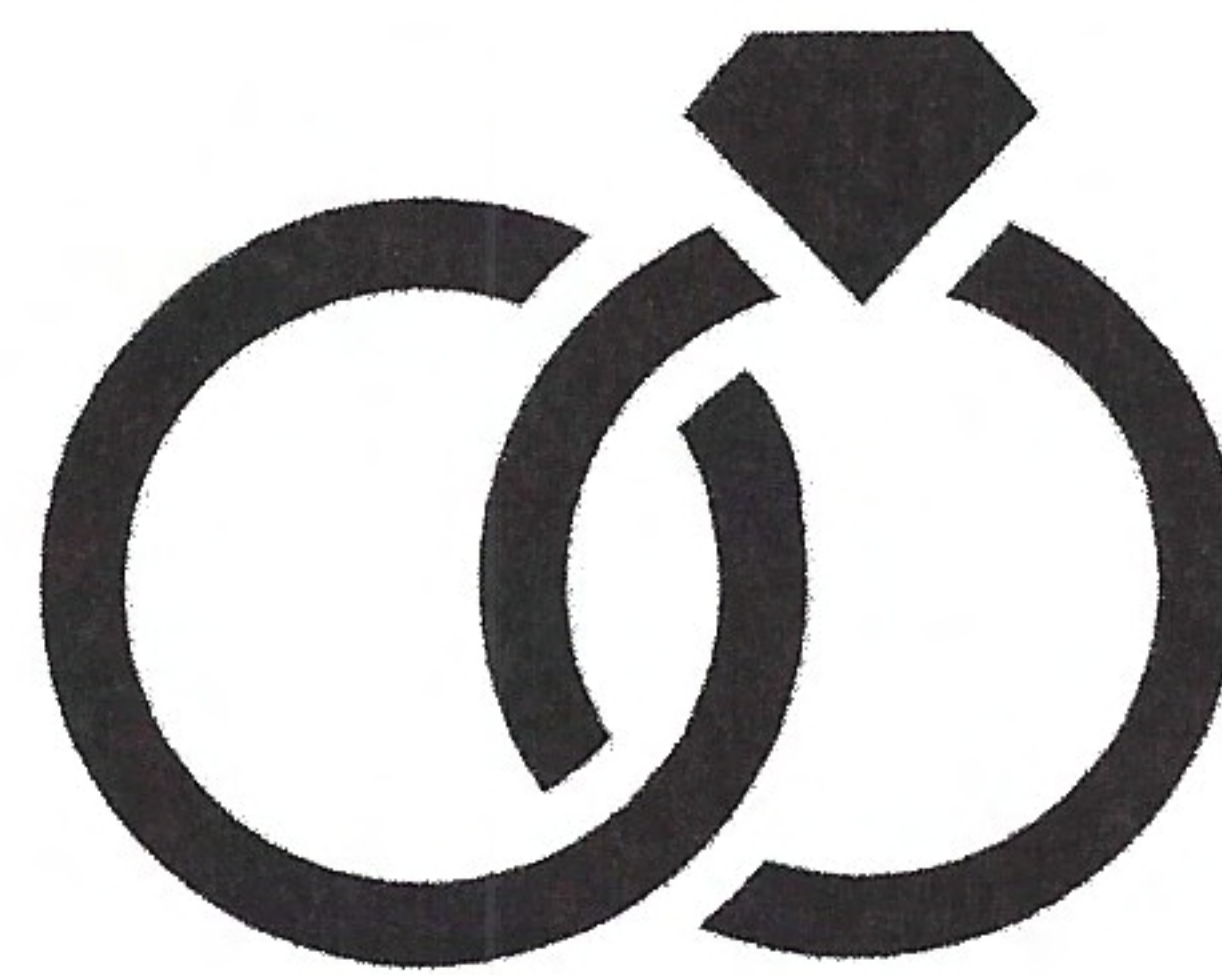
Happy Anniversary

June	2	Brian Hershberger
	3	Rick Hazlett
	4	Ashley McKrush Brandon Rietscha
	5	Bailey Kerch
	7	Debra Cooper
	9	Jack Coleman
	10	
	11	Emily McKrush Connor Palesch
	12	Paul Maul Nicholas DeMatteis Adyson Lloyd
	13	William Labar Brandt Troxell
	14	Sonny Kerch
	15	Ruth Ann Enderlein
	17	
	18	Philip Krisko
	20	
	21	Patty Crum Carter Maul
	23	
	24	Matthew Riley
	28	Michele Hartline Robert Crum Jr.
	30	Nathaniel Salovich

Dave & Kathy Kleman
James & Lori Pohopin

Jim & Becky Mulato

Todd & Melissa Feathers



Ron & Sherry Caldwell

Allen & Sue McQuillen

Tony & Kelly DeMatteis

Casey & Krista Leman

24 Matthew Riley

28 Michele Hartline

Robert Crum Jr.

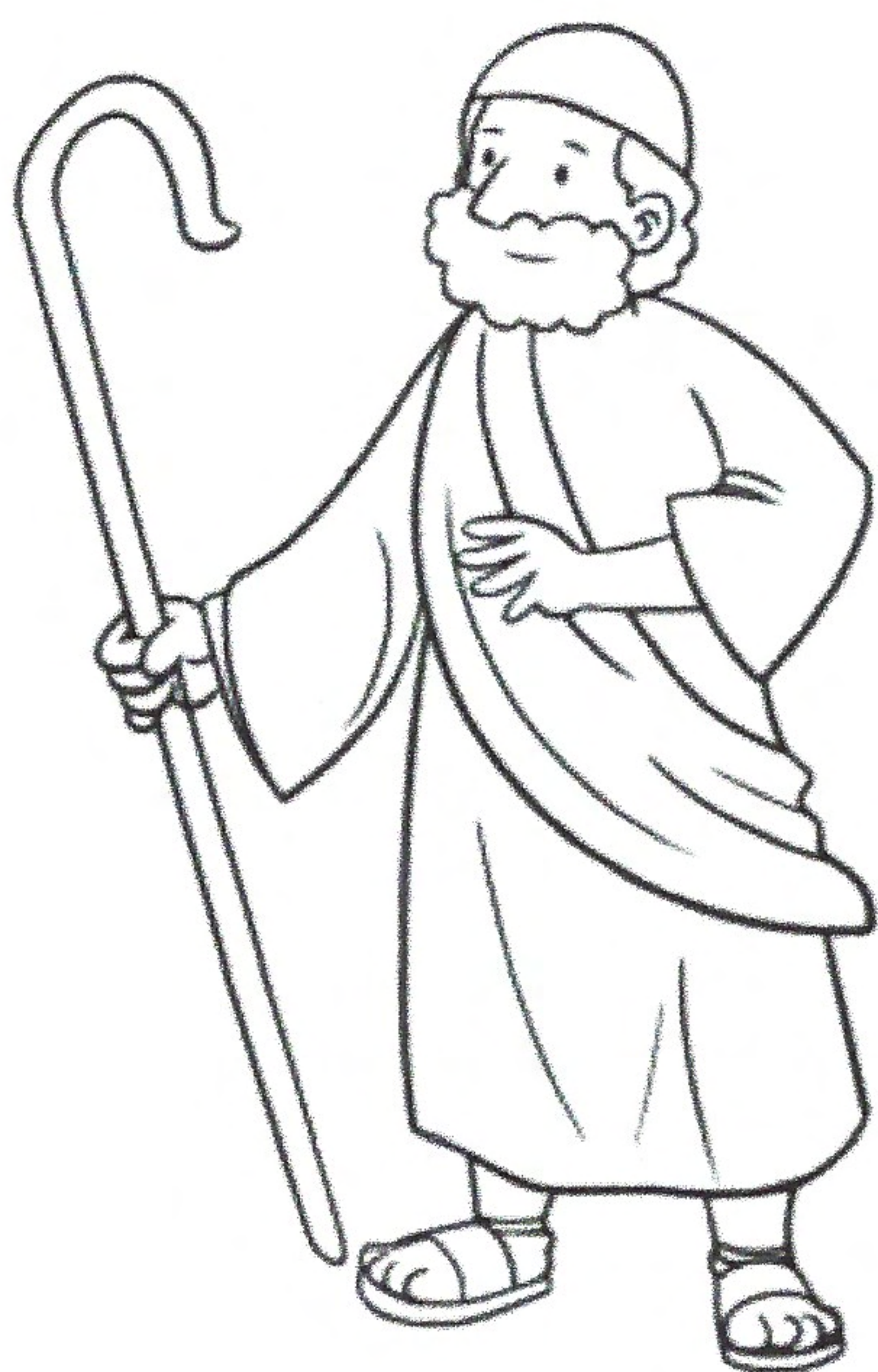
30 Nathaniel Salovich

NAME _____

DATE _____

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE BOOKS

Fill in the Blanks in the Bible Book Names



P_a____

____ver____

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So__ o_ So____on

_s____h

J____mi____

G_n_s_s

Ex__u__

Lev____cu__

N__be____

De____ro__my

Jo____a

Ju__e__

