

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PORTAGE, PA
NEWSLETTER

October, November, & December 2026



906 Caldwell Avenue, Portage PA

Sunday Service @ 9:00AM

Phone: 814-736-3662

Website: Flcportage.com

John 17:21

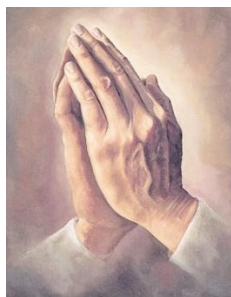
"As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

Monthly Happenings

October: 4 Sunday Worship 9AM
5 Council Meeting 6:30PM
11 Sunday Worship 9AM
12 Columbus Day
18 Sunday Worship 9AM/*Harvest Fest Bethany Church 2–5PM*
25 Sunday Reformation Worship 9AM/Soup Sale @ church
31 Happy Halloween! Be safe Trick or Treating!

November: 1 All Saints' Sunday Worship 9AM / Daylight Savings Time Begins (Fall Back)
2 Council Meeting 6:30PM
8 Sunday Worship 9AM
11 Veterans Day – Thank a Vet!
15 Sunday Worship 9AM
22 Sunday Worship 9AM
26 Thanksgiving Day- Enjoy Family & Friends
29 Sunday Worship 9AM/1st Sunday of Advent

December: 6 *Sunday Worship 9AM/Congregational Meeting 27 Budget & Council*
7 *Council Meeting 6:30PM*
13 *Sunday Worship 9AM/Winterfest Soup Sale @ church*
20 *Sunday Worship 9AM/Decorate church after service w/snacks to follow*
24 *Christmas Eve Worship*
25 *Merry Christmas!*
27 *Sunday Worship 9AM/ Happy New Year!*



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Carolyn Pinos	Emma Rosman	Military Members
Cheryl Sherbine	Keith Sherbine	Kay Pohopin

Prayer: Be near me in my time of weakness and pain; sustain me by your grace, that my strength and courage may not fail; heal me according to your will; and help me always to believe that what happens to me here is of little account if you hold me in eternal life, my Lord, and my God. Amen.

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

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Lutheran Book of Prayer: Advent: Lord God, we praise You that You comforted Your people with the promise of a Redeemer. We praise You that in the fullness of time You sent Your Son as the Redeemer. We praise You that You give promise that You will send Him to us again to judge the world in righteousness. Open our hearts to receive our Redeemer now as He comes to us in Word and Sacrament. Open our eyes in awareness of His rule in our lives by His grace. Make Advent a blessing to us as we welcome our Kin in faith and love. We lift up our heads to welcome Him anew. Fill us with gladness as He comes to us. Amen.

The Father's Love: Dear Lord Jesus, through your human heart we can catch a glimpse of the divine love with which we are loved and with which you yourself love us, because you and your Father are one. Heavenly Father, help us to reflect your love in our lives each day. Amen.

The Father's Love: Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" Lord of Light, fill me with your peace in this day. Allow me to reflect it back out to the world as a beacon of my faith in you. Amen.

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We apologize if anyone was missed on the birthday and anniversary list. If a correction is needed or if you would like to see something else in the newsletter, please leave the information in Becky or Sharon's mailboxes, located at the back of the church.



Allegheny Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Mailing Address: 916 Hickory St Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-2248 USA
alleghenysynodcommunications@gmail.com

Synod Office Hours

Office hours for the Allegheny Synod's Office of the Bishop are Monday through Friday from 9am to 1pm and afternoon hours by appointment. If you wish to make an appointment with Bishop Kevin or any of the staff, please reach out to Office Manager Michelle Bossler at 814.942.1042 or email michelle.bossler@alleghenysynod.com

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Lutheran Book of Prayers:

Morning Prayer: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray You that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hand's, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening Prayer: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray You that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hand's, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Thanksgiving & Praise: Great and wondrous God, Creator and Keeper of the world, You are so high above and beyond my little thoughts and ways that I cannot by my own reason or strength comprehend the extent and fullness of Your being. With thanks and praise I acknowledge Your majesty and power. Because in Your steadfast love and mercy You have made Yourself my Father in Jesus Christ and re-created me in the image of His holiness, I cannot by my own reason or strength comprehend the extent and fullness of Your love. In faith I thank and praise Your grace and mercy. You do so much for me without any merit in me that all I can do is thank and praise Your holy name through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

In Anger: I cannot pretend, Lord. You know I am angry, and You know I act like I never knew You. But You are here. Hold back my fury with Your love. Turn me around again, so that I may be filled with Your love that won forgiveness for all men. Enable me to speak forgiveness in Your name. Amen.



KITCHEN KORNER:

If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please place a copy in Becky or Sharon mailboxes at church. Enjoy!

Party Punch

3 large cans unsweetened pineapple juice 2 pkg Kool-Aid (any kind)
2 large cans unsweetened orange juice 4 ½ cup sugar
1 small can frozen lemon juice 2 qts. water (heat to make syrup)

Add 3 qts. Ginger ale just before serving. Serves 100

Dorothy Naugle

Yorkshire Pudding

2 eggs ¾ cup flour 1 c. milk

Beat eggs till frothy. Mix flour and milk together then pour into eggs. Salt to taste. Use meat drippings or Crisco in 9 x 13-inch cake pan. Heat oil in oven till steaming. Pour mixture in pan and bake at 425 for 20 minutes.

Janice Bolton

Harvest Apple Cake

4 c. apples (chopped)	2 eggs (beaten)
2 c. sugar	1 c. salad oil
3 c. flour	1 tsp vanilla
2 tsp soda	1 cup chopped nuts
½ tsp salt	

Mix apples and sugar. Let stand 1 hour. Sift together flour, soda, and salt. Add to apples. Beat together eggs, salad oil, and vanilla. Add to mixture, beating well, then last add nuts. Add raisins if you wish. Bake in greased 9 x 13-inch pan for 50 to 60 minutes at 325 in oven.

Edna Wass/St. John's Addison

Happy Birthday

October	1	
	3	Brady Warner
	4	Sam Lamar
		Patricia Nagle
	6	Lauryn Bobolsky
	8	Kirsten MacLaughlin
		Katie Lloyd
	10	Mina Dunlap
	11	Tristan Miller
		Carter Troxell
	12	Naomi C. Maul
		Benjamin Fox
		Parker Schmidt
	13	
	18	Lorraine Steberger
		Cooper Maul
	19	Joseph D. McKrush
		Myah Lamar
	20	Matthew Chappell
		Geri Maul
	21	Krista Leman
		Sammy Lamar
	22	Abigail Duttry
		Joelle Lutz
	25	Jacob MacLaughlin
		Kaylyn Steward
	26	Jenny Williams
	27	Alex Fedorko
	28	Leah Lamar
	29	Emily Canavan
	30	Ella Mae Kittell

Happy Anniversary

Josh & Geri Maul
Garrett & Heidi Lamar

Robert & Holly Maul
Rick & Kathy Hazlett
Joe & Kelly Stancovich

Joe & Jen McKrush
Scott & Kayla Krise
Eric & Jill Maul

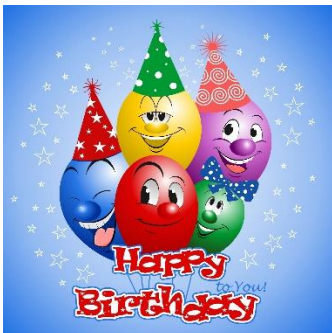


Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

November	1	Kelly Oldham
	4	Elizabeth Kleman Annette Labar
	5	Lindsay Selepack
	6	Tammy Warner Jessica Litzinger
	7	Casey Cann
	8	Gail Stancovich
	9	Richard Huber
	17	Patricia Burggraf Karen Pohopin
	18	Brandon Kick
	21	Wayne Pinos Jr
	24	Lisa Crum Ruth Elaine Pinos Joseph Litzinger III
	26	
	27	Dayton Maul
	29	Skyliegh Slebodnick
	30	Madison Walter

Sam & Diane Lamar



Happy Birthday

December	1	Lydia Maul Karen Fedorko
	2	
	3	Heather Franey
	4	Dan Kerch Linda Kick Rhylea Ciokota
	5	Cody Gouse Hailey Krisko
	6	
	7	Mason Robine
	8	Noami Jean Maul Ann Franck Josh Canavan
	9	Misty Troxel
	10	Kelsey Lysinger Melissa Feathers
	11	Amy Canavan Sam Fedorko
	13	Brenda Kerch Kathy Kleman Carolyn Pinos
	17	
	18	Gini Gray
	21	Scott Maul
	22	Savannah Maul
	23	Kaitlin Cann
	24	Landon Maul
	25	Breann Woznak
	26	Bethany Hanak
	29	Todd Feathers
	30	Steve Fedorko



Happy Anniversary

Richard & Naomi Maul

Girard & Jessica Brunick

Frank & Kim Pohopin



FYI:

How to Forgive Someone

This is one of the most difficult disciplines of faith. It seems to cost you more when you have already been wronged. Swallowing your pride for a greater good can yield great healing and growth.

- 1) Acknowledge that God forgives you when you realize that God already forgives us and continues to forgive sinners like us, it's easier to forgive someone else.
- 2) Consult Scripture Read Matthew 6:9-15: Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer to his disciples and forgiveness was a big part of this.
- 3) Seek the Person Out Whenever Possible: Consciously decide to seek the person out and speak to them in person. If this is geographically impossible, find another way to reach out. Depending on the situation and level of hurt, timing may be important and you may want to speak to a clergy before taking action.
- 4) Say "I Forgive You" Out Loud Speaking the words enacts a physical chain reaction that can create Healing for both speaker and hearer.
- 5) Pray for the Power to Forgive: Praying for this is always good, whether a forgiveness situation is at Hand or not. It is especially helpful when declaring forgiveness Seems beyond your reach. Be Aware When someone sins against you personally, forgiving them does not depend on them feeling sorry or asking for your forgiveness, but it helps. You may have to struggle, but forgive them without their consent or participation.

Taken from The Lutheran Handbook here we stand Augsburg Fortress.



FYI continued:

Just a few thoughts and sayings:

When I heard the church bells ring, I thought I heard the voice of God. (Albert Schweitzer)

If God created shadows, it was in order to better emphasize the light. (Pope John XXIII)

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

No one is too small to be able to help a friend God in His Heaven -- All's right with the world! (Robert Browning)

God gave us our memories so that we might have roses in December. (Sir James Barrie)

Make new friends but keep the old; Those are silver, these are gold. (Alexander Pope)

Kindness is the sunshine in which virtue grows. (James Boswell)

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Proverbs 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

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Harvest Fest will be held October 18, 2025 from 2-5 pm at the Bethany United Methodist Church parking lot, 700 Farren St Portage Pa. There will be games, food, prizes, pumpkins, music, and trunk or treat. Any donations for trunk or treat or volunteers to do anything at Harvest Fest would be appreciated. A poster with all information is posted on the door in the narthex.



FYI continued:

Election day is coming up and our country needs your prayers, as does the world. Please pray for our country to get on the right path. The whole world is in dire need of getting on the right path and finding God. It feels like somewhere along the way people have lost their faith and trust in God. Election day is November 3, 2026 and prayer is needed for whoever gets elected, that they rule with the best interests of our people and country in their decisions. We can only hope that those running in the election also pray for faith and trust to move our country in the right direction.

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CH CH (what is missing?) **UR**

Our church family is missing you. If you have not been coming, please consider coming back. It may give you the boost you need to face the challenges of the coming week. Hearing God's word and promises and being with all our other church family is a great feeling and we miss seeing you in the congregation and our family is not complete.

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Upcoming activities: Weakland Farm trip is planned for September 20. Please see the church's Facebook page for updates and any plan changes.

The church is planning a soup sale in October, weekend of the Halloween parade and December, weekend of Winterfest. Anyone interested in helping with these activities, there will be a sign-up sheet on the door at the church or you can speak with Sharon Cordwell. See Pews News section for more info.

Congregational meeting is scheduled for December 6 at the church to review and approve the 2027 budget and election of council members. If anyone is interested in providing your time as a council member, please let a member of council know. We are in need of 3 members since the current 2 are going off and have to take a year off according to the church's bi-laws. Please offer to help.

Anyone who is available to help decorate the church for Christmas is asked to stay after church on December 20. There will be snacks and refreshments provided for all your help. Hope you all can take a few minutes out of your day to help make the church beautiful for the Christmas season.

Pews News

Well, where did the summer go? It seems like we just did the newsletter for June, July and August and here we are doing the last quarter which will include Christmas. We have a few things to catch up on since May as in the summer months we do not have Sunday school and people are on vacation so activities are at a minimum. Never fear, though things will be gearing up and we have several activities and subjects to talk about.

First the kids did have some fund raisers and T-shirts were sold. A Curve game was planned for August 16, 2026 on Allegheny Lutheran Synod night and a group of kids and several people from the congregation went to the game, but it got rained out. Tickets were able to be used for any home game till end of season from that night.

A church picnic was planned for September 13, 2026 with church service at the gazebo at 9AM, social hour with donuts followed at the park pavilion above gazebo and then picnic lunch around noon. Hamburgers and hot dogs were provided by the church and it was a covered dish for anyone attending. We had a great variety of good food and a wonderful time of fellowship. A BIG THANK YOU to Crichton McCormick Park as they did not charge us for the use of the gazebo or the pavilion for the picnic. We also want to especially thank, Sheetz as they donated all the hot dogs and hot dog buns, Stagers donated the hamburger buns, and McDonald's donated two bags of ice. Jean Kinley graciously left us use her keyboard organ for Theresa to play. We also want to thank all those who helped set up, clean up, haul or put away the supplies, we truly appreciate you all. Anything not used for picnic was taken to church and put in freezer for future use at any upcoming activity.



Pews News continued:



The kids have some upcoming plans for Weakland Corn Maze, and Harvestfest is coming up.

Before we know it, Advent will be here and we will be decorating the church for Christmas.

The church is in need of a new roof and some of us have been talking and thinking of ways to make some money to help with costs. We are going to try having a soup and sandwich sale on Sunday, October 25, 2026. This is the day of the Halloween parade and people will be lining up on Caldwell Avenue so we thought maybe we would try the first one that day as there would be more traffic on the street. We are also thinking ahead to Winterfest and possibly doing something in conjunction with that. We welcome any ideas anyone may have and please bring any ideas up to any council member. We will put up a signup sheet for anyone interested in helping with these activities and then we may have a casual meeting to talk about any other ideas.

The suggestion to make hard tac candy to sell for Christmas was brought up.

These are a few things the church family is trying to line up and I think would be a lot of fun to work together and enjoy the fellowship and help out the church in the process.



Pews News continued:

Summer is over and Fall has arrived, please if you have not been coming to church, think about joining us. Our family is not complete without you and we miss you. Sunday school will be starting September 27, and catechism classes will be starting also. Christmas is coming and what better gift to yourself than to come hear God's promise and receive the greatest gift of all God's only Son. Come join us for church, any of the activities coming up, and fellowship. We would love to have you.

Please let us know if anyone has any information that they would like to **share** with the congregation. I would like to have something in the newsletter (pews news) every issue from one family or another if you would like it shared just let Becky or Sharon know and we will be happy to put it in.

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Confirmation for grades 8 and greater will be offered and taught by Dan Kerch. Any parent interested, please contact Dan Kerch @ 814-341-5321.

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1 John 4:7 "Beloved, let us love one another for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God."

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Stewardship

We were created to be stewards of God's creation through our work. There are many passages concerning stewardship in the Bible that tell us this, but the following are important because they give us a biblical framework for stewardship in our lives.

Genesis 1:28- God blessed them. God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:28 is the original call to stewardship. It's where God first calls humanity to cultivate and care for his creation using the unique gifts and talents he has endowed to every person. There are echoes of this mandate in God's words to Noah found in Genesis 9:1-7.

2 Samuel 23:8-17- This is the story of David's mighty men, a story of stewardship in action. If you want to know what stewardship looks like, study this passage.

PEWS News continued:

Matthew 25:14-30- This is the parable of the talents. It illustrates accountability, one of the four principles of biblical stewardship. For everyone who has more will be given, and he will have in abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

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Congregational Meeting:

Our church will have a congregational meeting on December 6 to approve the adoption of the 2027 budget and elect 3 Council Members. Anyone interested in running for council please let a council member or nominating committee member know. Council installation will be the last Sunday in December.

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Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin



A lady recently asked her co-worker what it was like to be a Christian? The lady replied, "It is like being a pumpkin: God picks you from the patch, brings you in and washes all the dirt off you may have gotten from the other pumpkins. Then he cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see." Author Unknown

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All Saints Day: Following the Roman Empire's rule over Celt-occupied lands in the 1st century A.D., the Romans merged many of the Celtic traditions, including Samhain, with their own. Eight hundred years later, the Roman Catholic Church further modified Samhain, designating November 1 as All Saints' Day to honor all saints from Christian history.

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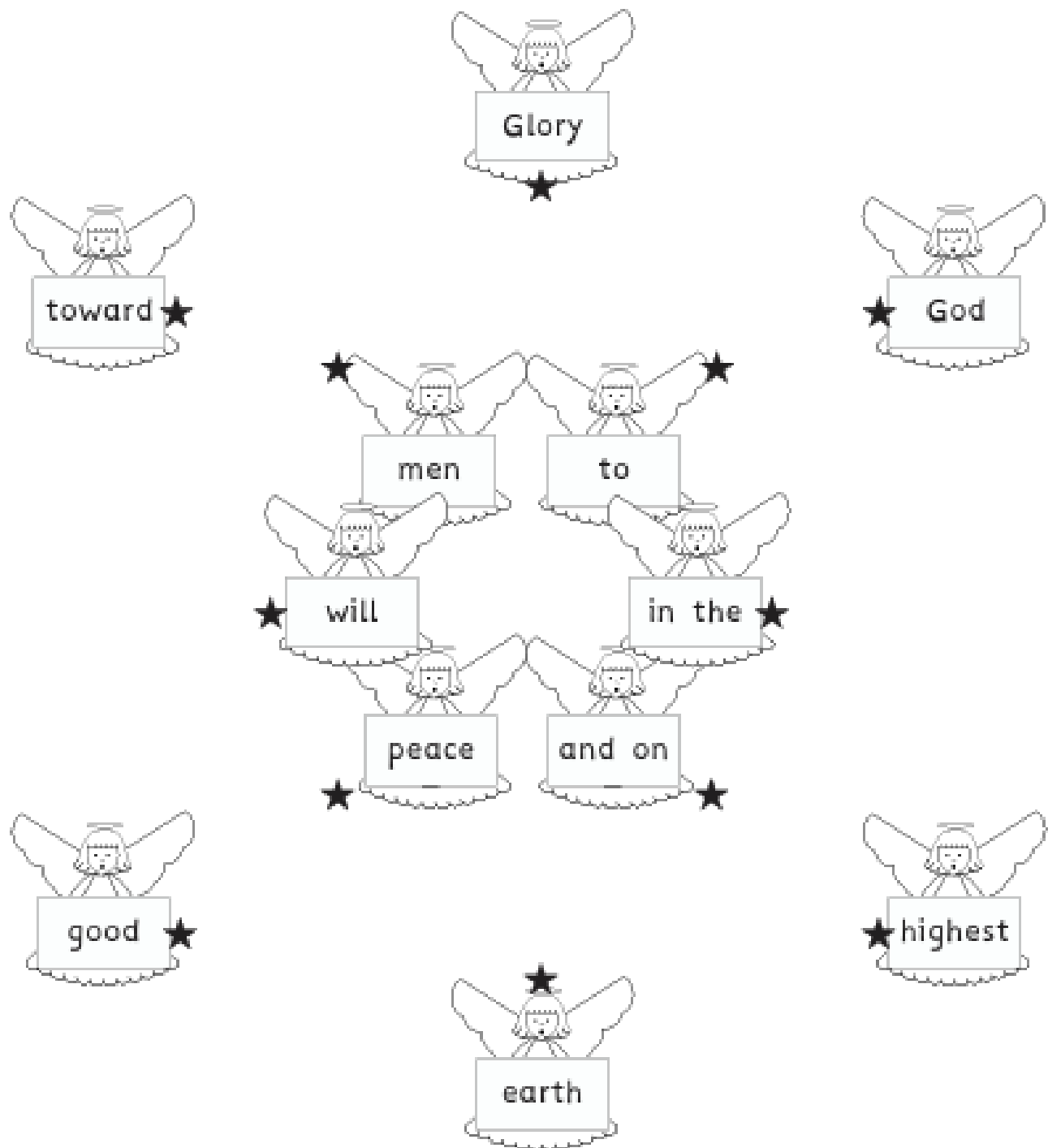


Prayer: We are thankful for our families, friends, food and our many blessings, thank you Lord.
Amen

Wishing you all a blessed Harvest, Thanksgiving, a Joyful Christmas, and safe New Year!
God Bless!

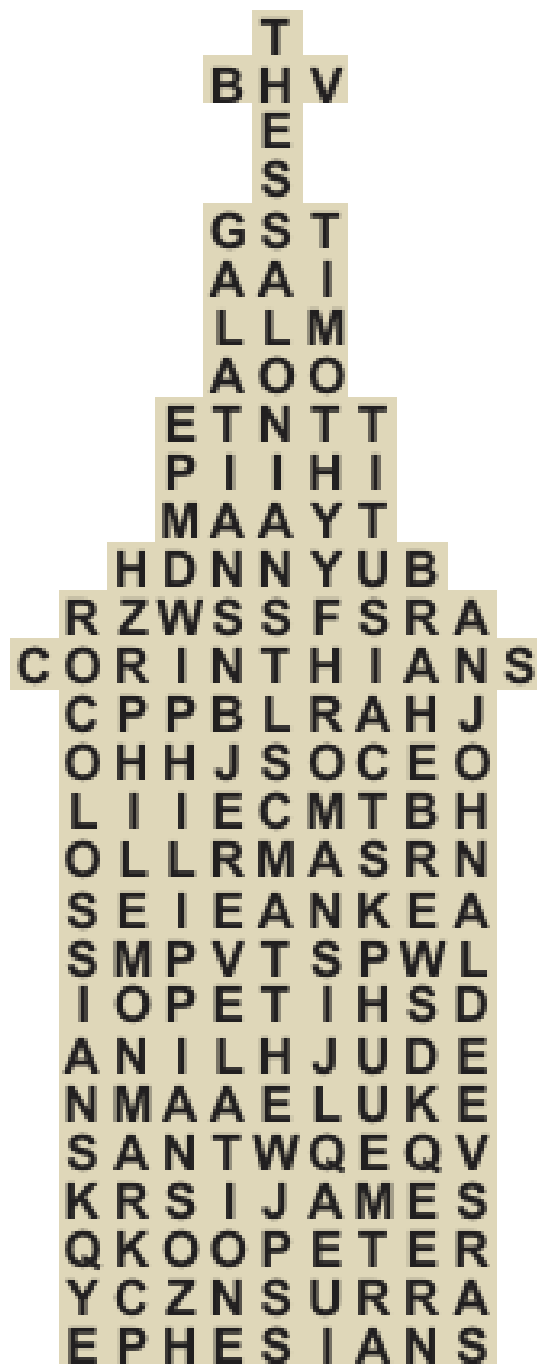
Luke 2:14 Star-to-Star

Connect the stars by following the correct order of the words to the Bible verse.



Books in the New Testament

Acts
 Colossians
 Corinthians
 Ephesians
 Galatians
 Hebrews
 James
 John
 Jude
 Luke
 Mark
 Matthew
 Peter
 Philemon
 Philippians
 Revelation
 Romans
 Thessalonians
 Timothy
 Titus



The Christmas Story

- | | |
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| <p>1. Who told Mary that she would give birth to the baby Jesus?</p> <p>A. The angel Michael
B. The angel Gabriel
C. A multitude of angels
D. Joseph</p> | <p>9. The wise men first went to this city asking, "Where is He who is born King of the Jews?"</p> <p>A. Bethlehem
B. Jerusalem
C. Nazareth
D. Capernaum</p> |
| <p>2. What baby leaped in his mother's womb when he heard the sound of Mary's voice?</p> <p>A. Abraham
B. Moses
C. John the Baptist
D. Peter</p> | <p>10. What three gifts did the wise men give to the baby Jesus?</p> <p>A. Blankets, sleepers, diapers
B. Rattler, crib, pacifier
C. Gold, diamonds, rubies
D. Gold, frankincense, myrrh</p> |
| <p>3. Why did Joseph marry Mary after he learned that she was going to have a child?</p> <p>A. His parents forced him to marry her.
B. An angel told him to marry her.
C. He had already promised her parents.
D. He was required by law to marry her.</p> | <p>11. After the wise men left Bethlehem, an angel told Joseph to take Mary and the baby Jesus to</p> <p>A. Egypt.
B. Jerusalem.
C. Galilee.
D. Samaria.</p> |
| <p>4. Where was Jesus born?</p> <p>A. Bethlehem
B. Nazareth
C. Egypt
D. Samaria</p> | <p>12. Jesus grew up in</p> <p>A. Bethlehem.
B. Jerusalem.
C. Nazareth.
D. Damascus.</p> |
| <p>5. Jesus was born</p> <p>A. at home.
B. in a manger.
C. in a hotel room.
D. in a hospital room.</p> | <p>13. God had promised this man that he would not die until he saw the Christ.</p> <p>A. Simeon
B. Zacharias
C. John
D. Paul</p> |
| <p>6. Who was king of Judea when Jesus was born?</p> <p>A. Joseph
B. Caesar
C. Pilot
D. Herod</p> | <p>14. This prophetess served God in the temple day and night and spoke of Jesus to all that looked for Redemption.</p> <p>A. Ruth
B. Deborah
C. Elizabeth
D. Anna</p> |
| <p>7. Who was the Roman emperor at the time of His birth?</p> <p>A. Marc Antony
B. Pilot
C. Caesar Augustus
D. Herod Antipas</p> | <p>15. And the Word was made flesh and ...</p> <p>A. immediately left.
B. lived among us.
C. moved far away from us.
D. perished us.</p> |
| <p>8. Before whom did a multitude of angels appear praising God?</p> <p>A. The inn keepers
B. The High Priest
C. The Wise men
D. Shepherds</p> | |

