

## OUR REDEEMER'S VOICE—MAY 2022

People are bound by time. It is built into creation. In Genesis 1 we read:

### TIMES, SEASONS, FEASTS, FESTIVALS AND COMMEMORATIONS

<sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. (Genesis 1:14-15)

Because of this, time keeping has always been something humans do. Ask any 3-year-old how old they are and they will proudly tell you while holding up three fingers. The earliest 12-month calendars we know of date back to 3100 BC, and were created by the Sumerians. The people of the Old Testament did the same and God provided them with special holidays to celebrate. In Exodus, the people are instructed to keep the Passover festival every year.

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. ... <sup>10</sup>You shall therefore keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year. (Exodus 13:3, 10)

Their Harvest Festival was called the "Festival of Booths" or "Pentecost." It was called the "Festival of Booths" because the people would set up booths and camp out in them as part of the celebration. It was called "Pentecost" because it came 50 days after Passover. In total, there were originally three main festivals and we read about them in Leviticus 23.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts of the LORD that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts. (Leviticus 23:1-2)

Solomon knew what he was talking about when he wrote Ecclesiastes 3:

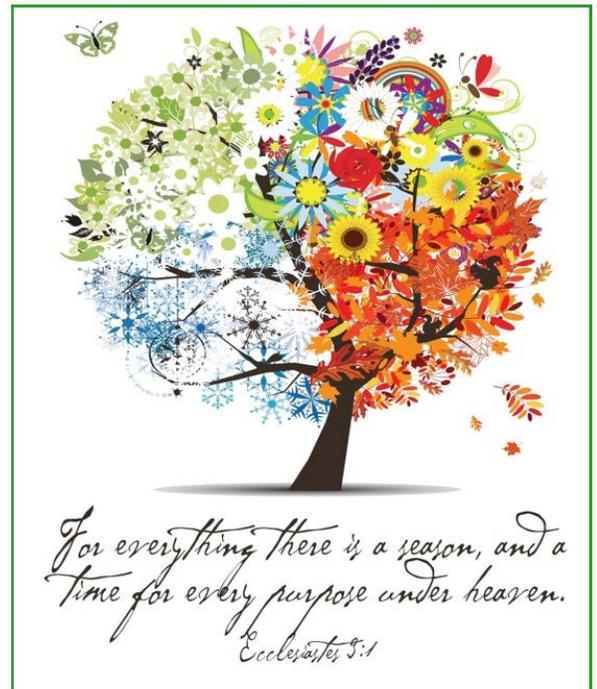
For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Everything, not just our religious life, is bound by time.

The Church, following the example of God's Old Testament people, and indeed following the example of all creation, has also divided the year into discreet units of time and provide us opportunities to celebrate and remember the goodness of God, especially his goodness as revealed in Christ our Lord. As an article on the Church Year, found on the LC-MS webpage puts it:

In our daily lives we keep track of our activities and special events with a calendar. The church throughout the centuries has also "kept track" of days and seasons and commemorating special occasions with a calendar.

The Christian church has continued to follow the example set in the Old Testament of structuring the year around the marvelous acts of salvation that God completed for us in his Son, Christ. We call this structure the Church Year.



The church year calendar is organized into three sections: Sundays and seasons, feasts and festivals, and commemorations. (<https://www.lcms.org/worship/church-year/sundays-and-seasons>)

We are currently in "The Time of Easter." This "Time" begins with "Ash Wednesday," which marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. This season ends with Holy Week. The next season is the "Easter Season," which begins with Easter Sunday. The Last Sunday of the Time of Easter is Pentecost Sunday (June 5 this year). We then will move to "The Time of the Church" with the Season of Pentecost. These Sundays are called "Sundays **after** Pentecost" and the first Sunday of this season is Trinity Sunday. (By the way, the Church Year begins with "The Time of Christmas," which includes the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Seasons.)

So every Sunday in May this year is an Easter Sunday. This will be reflected in our scripture lessons, in our prayers, and especially in the hymns Pastor picks. While an Easter hymn is always appropriate because every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, they are especially appropriate during the fifty days of Easter. Join us this May as we continue to celebrate that "He is Risen, indeed! Hallelujah!"

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor



### DIGGING IN THE NICENE CREED THIRD ARTICLE, PART 3

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord **and giver of life**, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Last month we continued our look at the Third Article of the Nicene Creed by considering our confession that the Holy Spirit is "Lord." We now move on to the phrase "and give of life." The very first reference to the Holy Spirit, in the very first chapter of the Bible, speaks to his role in Creation and the giver of life.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:1-2)

In Genesis 2 we read:

<sup>7</sup>then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (Genesis 2:7)

The Hebrew word translated "creature" can also be translated "soul," or "breath" or "wind." This Divine wind that gives life has, from before the birth of Jesus, been considered a reference to the Holy Spirit. So, in Psalm 33:6, the Church Fathers correctly understood the reference to "the word of the Lord" as meaning the Son and "the breath of his mouth" as meaning the Spirit.

<sup>6</sup>By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
and by the breath of his mouth all their host. (Psalm 33:6)

The Holy Spirit is not only active in granting us physical life, but also spiritual life. Jesus tells Nicodemus:

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)

Saint Paul wrote, "no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:3).

The Church Fathers connected these two "givings" of life by the Holy Spirit. So, for Ephrem the Syrian (306-373), when in his commentary on Genesis considered the Holy Spirit "hovering" over the waters, he made a natural connection to baptism seeing both waters as waters of life.

It was appropriate to reveal here that the Spirit hovered in order for us to learn that the work of creation was held in common by the Spirit with the Father and the Son. The Father spoke. The Son created. And so it was also right that the Spirit offer its work, clearly shown through its hovering, in order to demonstrate its unity with the other persons. Thus we learn that all was brought to perfection and accomplished by the Trinity.

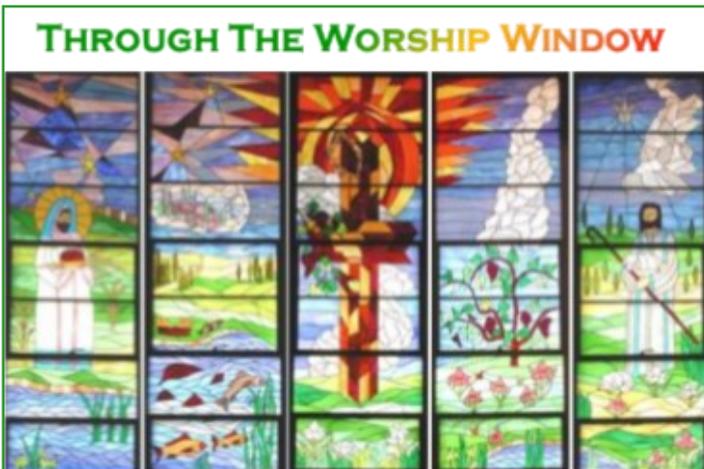
... The Holy Spirit warmed the waters with a kind of vital warmth, even bringing them to a boil through intense heat in order to make



them fertile. The action of a hen is similar. She sits on her eggs, making them fertile through the warmth of incubation. Here then, the Holy Spirit foreshadows the sacrament of holy baptism, prefiguring its arrival, so that the waters made fertile by the hovering of that same divine Spirit might give birth to the children of God. (Joel C. Elowsky *Ancient Christian Doctrine 4 We Believe in the Holy Spirit* 36)

We may smile a bit at Ephrem's understanding of the creation, reflecting the then current opinion that the hen fertilized her eggs, but his connection between the Holy Spirit and the gift of life, both physical and spiritual, remains true. So, with the Church throughout time, we confess faith in the Holy Spirit who is the giver of life.

Next month we will turn our thoughts to the phrase "who proceeds from the Father and the Son." Until then, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14). Amen



## MAY—EASTER

The Gospel lessons begin with the miraculous catch of fish early in the Lord's appearances. Then we are reminded of the unbelief by the Jewish leaders in Jesus identity. Then Jesus tells His disciples of His departure and His resurrection. He tells them of the Holy Spirit who will guide them with knowledge.

Jesus continues to instruct them in other meetings when He appears to them.

May concludes with Jesus' prayer for the disciples and all believers as He expects the trials we all face.

In this segment the Old Testament readings are taken from Acts. The initial message is the story of the con-

version of Saul and his commission to the Gentiles as Paul the Apostle. What follows are the accounts of Paul's many missionary journeys.

But Peter's ministry includes an outreach to the Gentiles on occasion.

Paul's mission includes Macedonia after his vision that called for him.

At one point Peter is questioned about his actions when Gentiles received the Holy Spirit also.

Persecution began in Antioch as the church grew and spread throughout the world.

*We too are eager for this spread of the Gospel.*

Arlen D. Besel—Worship

## LOVE & THANKFULNESS

Advent Devotions were written by Dr. Kari Vo.



Acts 5:12-16 - *Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.*

That must have really been something to see—that the people of Jerusalem "even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them." They wanted miracles, and they were confident Peter could give them some. It was enough to give anybody a swelled head. Anybody except for Peter, I suspect.

Peter had a kind of protection against ego trips. He could never forget what he had done just weeks ago, when Jesus was on trial for His life. Peter was so scared that he denied Jesus, even cursing and swearing that he didn't know Him. And when Jesus turned and looked at Peter, Peter broke down crying. It was a fall Peter would never forget.

But neither could he forget Jesus' love. After Jesus rose from the dead, practically the first thing He did was go to Peter for a private conversation (see Luke 24:34), the content of which was never recorded in the Bible. We can

only guess what happened. But afterward, we see Peter behaving like a man struck to the heart with love and thankfulness. Jesus forgave him and gave him back his place of service as an apostle—and Peter carried that out as faithfully as he could. He knew where the real honor and glory belonged—with Jesus, who forgives and saves and heals.

We too sometimes face the temptation to take credit for God's work. People may praise us for something we know very well is God's doing, even if He used us to help carry it out. And the devil tempts us to take the credit—to behave as if we ourselves had done it from start to finish—to bask in the spotlight and say mock-humble things to keep the praise coming just a little longer.

What can protect us against this? Only Jesus. He knows what to do with glory—the same thing He did through His whole ministry. He gives it to the Father! And His Holy Spirit living in us can help us do the same thing. If we need our egos punctured, He can remind us of our weaknesses. But far more important, He reminds us of Jesus' love—of the incredible warmth and compassion He showed us when He lay down His life to save us and make us God's own. If we're loved like that, who needs an ego boost?

*Arlen D. Besel – Ambassador*

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## NEWS & NOTES

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### O.R.C.H.A.R.D SEASON IN FULL, BLOOM

O.R.C.H.A.R.D Community Garden kicked off the season with the news of a \$2,500 grant for the purchase of a storage shed that will make garden equipment and tools accessible to all. The Urban Farmer & Gardner Mini Grant Program awarded the grant through the New Castle Conservation District.

On April 12 community and church plot holders were treated with a presentation by Master Gardener Rick Judd from the University of Delaware. He was followed by a Master Gardeners Linda Ulmanis and Becca Gulino from the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd's community garden.

This will be the fourth year for the O.R.C.H.A.R.D project. Our goal is to encourage more people in the neighborhood and surrounding community to join our garden. Building our membership will increase vegetable production so that members can not only grow healthy food for themselves, but also for others in need.

O.R.C.H.A.R.D will continue to provide a productive and beautiful neighborhood garden space for people of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels. We want to build sense of community within the neighborhood and between the church and neighbors. We want this to be a place where people will not only want to garden but to socialize and enjoy nature. In doing this we hope to increase knowledge of, and donations to, the Food Bank of Delaware.

We look forward to seeing you all in the garden this spring and summer. If you have questions, or would like to volunteer to help with food bank deliveries, please contact Robin Billy

### BUILD-A-BAG

April 5, we finished our last sleeping bag for the cool weather season. A total of 28 bags were donated. 24 to the Newark Empowerment Center and they said that no more were needed until the fall. The last 4 bags went to the Meeting Grounds organization in Elkton which is a faith-based response to homelessness in Cecil County ([meetingground.org](http://meetingground.org)). In addition to the sleeping bags, 18 cosmetic bags filled with toiletries and make up samples were donated for their women's shelter.



I thank everyone for their donations of blankets, comforters and other bedding, toiletries, gloves, hats, and socks, towels and wash clothes and cosmetic bags. We asked and you gave. With your support we gave more than a warm sleeping bag, we ALL shared the Lord's love with those in need. Thank you for your support of these projects.

Our scheduled work sessions will resume in September. We hope you will join us in the fall. *Lina, Marybeth and Ruth*

**"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." 1 John 3:16**

## CHECA—COMMUNITY NEWS

### YARDSALE

Chestnut Hill Estates will hold a meeting on May 9th at 7 p.m. at the church. Their annual community wide yard sale is scheduled for Saturday May 14. from 8a.m. until 2 p.m. Our Redeemer will not be participating during this event.

## LITTLE LENDING LIBRARY—JULIE HOCKERSMITH

We continue to seek books so that we can restock the library at least once a month with children's books for all ages as well as some adult novels and history books.

If you have any books that you would consider donating to us, we would appreciate it very much. If you have no books, but would like to help, the Elkton Salvation Army has children's books on sale for \$.50. On Wednesdays everything in the store is discounted.

If you need someone to pick up books at your house, I would be happy to do that. Thank you for any help you can give us.

## EVANGELISM

The Evangelism Committee has completed the first part and second part of its Facebook advertisement for ORLC.

Kathy O'Malley reported that The Evangelism Committee ran a Facebook ad for a second time and stats from that run were similar to the first. To date, (second campaign) 4,196 people were reached and 106 clicks received to our website with directions to the church and the service times. (First ad stats—4,300 viewed and 90 clicked on website)



The two ad campaigns reached a total of 8,496 individuals who viewed the ad and 196 actually went a step further and clicked on the website.

The Facebook campaign was successful in the fact that it let folks in the 19713 area code know that ORLC is there and told them a bit about what ORLC does. Thank you Kathy for using your talents in helping us get the word out.

Our Prayers for the Ukraine Vigil was picked up by the Newark Post, online and with two articles covering the event. We continue to send out ripples of welcome with all that we do each and every day. Whether it is helping with the Little Library, O.R.C.H.A.R.D., Build a Bag, Orphan Grain Train, sharing Facebook posts, or opening our church to others, we reach out and touch lives.

## PROPERTY BOARD—BOB COOLEY

The Property Board continues inventory items stored at the Church. The purpose is to eliminate items that no longer have a use or value to the Church, and limited storage space can be maximized. If you have anything that you are keeping at the Church, would you please identify it so that it is not arbitrarily removed. Items that no longer have a use but have a value may be sold and any realized funds will be returned to the Church. All other items with no use or value will be removed by trash collection later this Spring.

If you notice anything that needs attention, please contact Bob.

## ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN—RUTH HEWLETT

As you spring clean, please remember Orphan Grain Train. We need gently used clothing, household linens, blankets and bikes. Also wheelchairs, crutches and walkers.

We seek additional donations to send to Europe for Ukraine refugees as soon as arrangements can be made for shipping.

Orphan Grain Train is readying another shipment. We are hoping to send it to the Ukraine area. They have requested disposable diapers, both adult and infant/toddler sizes. Clothing and blankets are also appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!

## A EASTER SEASON OBSERVATION (FROM CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS)

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4given.

## GREETINGS FROM TEDLA FAMILY

Hello Everyone:

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! It has been over two years since we have attended a church service in person due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The reason for that is because Eden and I have not been vaccinated yet. So, to be safe, we decided to stay home. However, everyone in the family is doing well. I wish everyone a safe and healthy Easter. God Bless you.

*The Tedla Family*



## THANK YOU FROM LCM

A warm thank you from our hearts to all who contributed to our online spring fundraiser! It was wonderful to gather virtually in late April with students, alumni, board members, our many generous friends and ministry supporters. Special thanks to all who contributed items for our basket raffles, the online auction. And who bought raffle tickets and who bid generously during the auction. Thank you for your outpouring of support for Lutheran Campus Ministry!

LCM continues to seek tenants for its Bonhoeffer House for the 2022-23 academic year. The property offers space for four. It is rented as a house, not single room. Contact Alex at office@lcmde.org.

Your support helps LCM continue to provide a vibrant, Christ-centered, and engaging context for students to grow in faith, leadership, discipleship, and service. All of us at LCM wish you a blessed, healthy, joyful, and restful summer ahead.

Mindy Holland, Minister of Word and Service + Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD  
302-368-3078; chaplain@lcmde.org

## MILITARY BIBLE STICK MONTH



Hope for our Heroes—Around the world the men and women of the U.S. Military are defending our freedom and helping to fight oppression.

Many soldiers, sailors, airman and Marines live in cramped, uncomfortable and challenging circumstances working hard and pulling long hours every day — too tired to read a Bible, even if they have one.

The Military BibleStick reaches these service men and women, deployed in some of the most dangerous areas of the world. God's word in audio can go with them and sustain them in the most difficult circumstances.

BibleStick contains the entire audio Drama New Testament and selected Psalms chosen specifically for warriors, yet it is only the size of a pack of gum. It is designed to military specifications for safe and discreet use in low light conditions, and runs on a single AAA battery.

Each service member who receives a Military Bible Stick has the option to request a free Audio New Testament or Kids Bible for the family back home. They may be separated but they can listen through the Word together. The Military BibleStick provides real hope for our heroes!

The Military BibleStick is designed specifically to bring God's Word to the men and women deployed in the U.S. military. It represents hope for our heroes! It's small enough to take anywhere they go—bringing hope and comfort through God's Word when they need it most.

During the Month of May Our Redeemer asks for donations to provide Bible Sticks to our Military personnel. The cost of a BibleStick is \$25. Any donation will be appreciated. Checks should be made out to Our Redeemer and with a notation BibleStick. Our Redeemer will forward all gifts to **Faith Comes By Hearing** as a collective Church gift. Thank you for your consideration.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

**2 Jason Cooley**

**9 Christina Johnston**

**9 Dale Allen Streets, Jr.**

**12 Mike Cannatelli**

**14 Juliana Johnston**

**21 Arlen Besel**

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

**12 Milton & Mitzi Steltz**

## MASK PROTOCOL RELAXED—MUTUAL MINISTRY UPDATE

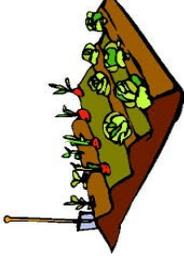
Our committee has received questions and concerns about the wearing of masks during church services. We brought this concern to our monthly Council meeting on Sunday afternoon April 25, 2022. As a result, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Council has voted to follow the recommendations of the Governor of Delaware concerning the wearing of masks. Going forward, masks are optional but encouraged. We will continue to monitor the state's recommendation going forward and may pivot as future guidance changes.

Other COVID-19 precautions will stay in place, such as forgoing sharing of the peace and keeping windows and doors open for ventilation. We also are hoping to purchase new fans to help with air circulation. As in the past, neither the heating system, nor air conditioning will run during the services. We will continue to recommend social distancing, and for now, will keep some pews roped off. Several of the Council members plan to continue wearing masks during the services. All members are encouraged to use their own judgement when deciding whether to wear masks. For now, masks will not be required.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact any member of the Mutual Ministry committee, Julie Hockersmith, Robin Billy, or Pastor Rickert.



# MAY 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship—Divine 2, 10 am Communion Junior Confirmation 5 pm 	2 	3 Announcement Deadline	4 	5 	6 	7 
8 Worship—Divine 2, 10 am Junior Confirmation 5 pm Mother's Day	9 CHECA 7 pm	10 Announcement Deadline	11 	12 	13 	14 CHECA—Yard Sale 8 am—2 pm
15 Worship—Divine 2, 10 am Communion Church Council—Noon Junior Confirmation—5 p.m. 	16 	17 Announcement Deadline	18 	19 	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 
22 Worship—Divine 2, 10 am Junior Confirmation 5 pm	23 Pastor Vacation	24 Announcement Deadline Pastor Vacation	25 Pastor Vacation	26 Pastor Vacation	27 Pastor Vacation	28 Pastor Vacation
29 Worship—Divine 2, 10 am Pastor Vacation	30 Pastor Vacation	31 Announcement Deadline Pastor Vacation	<b>SERVING</b> Pastor Rev. Dr. John Rickert Organist Julie Hockersmith David Rash	<b>USHERS</b> Arlen Basel Dennis Boon Jim Rose	<b>LECTORS</b> 5/1 Kitty Rickert 5/8 Gary Weaver 5/15 Julie Hockersmith 5/22 Sarah Tackitt 5/29 Bob Cooley	<b>STREAMING</b> 5/1 Laurel Pearson 5/8 Laurel Pearson 5/15 5/22 S & E DiBenedetto 5/29

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# MAY BIBLE READINGS

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- 1** 1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Titus, Philemon
- 2** Psalm 121  
Hebrews 1-4
- 3** Psalm 122  
Hebrews 5-7
- 4** Psalm 123  
Hebrews 8-10
- 5** Psalm 124  
Hebrews 11-13
- 6** Psalm 125  
James 1-3
- 7** Psalm 126  
James 4-5
- 8** Psalm 127  
1 Peter 1-2
- 9** Psalm 128  
1 Peter 3-5
- 10** Psalm 129  
2 Peter
- 11** Psalm 130  
1 John 1-3
- 12** Psalm 131  
1 John 4-5
- 13** Psalm 132  
2 John, 3 John, Jude
- 14** Psalm 133  
John 1-2
- 15** Psalm 134  
John 3-4
- 16** Psalm 135  
John 5-6



- 17** Psalm 136  
John 7-8
- 18** Psalm 137  
John 9-10
- 19** Psalm 138  
John 11-12
- 20** Psalm 139  
John 13-14
- 21** Psalm 140  
John 15-16
- 22** Psalm 141  
John 17-18
- 23** Psalm 142  
John 19
- 24** Psalm 143  
John 20-21
- 25** Psalm 144  
Acts 1-2
- 26** Psalm 145  
Acts 3-4
- 27** Psalm 146  
Acts 5-6
- 28** Psalm 147  
Acts 7-8
- 29** Psalm 148  
Acts 9-10
- 30** Psalm 149  
Acts 11-12
- 31** 1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Acts 13-14

