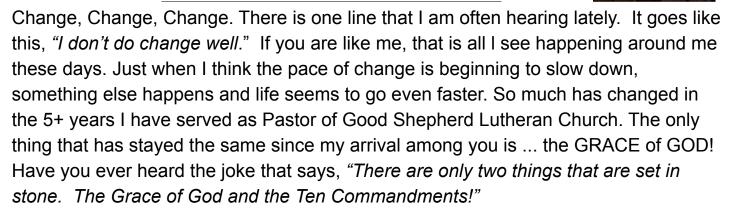
The Shepherd's Voice

November 2023

439 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy, Hernando, FL 34442

PASTOR'S PAGE





Do you know the old adage that reminds us that "Life" is a journey, it is not a destination? I run into so many people who think life is a destination and that time will stop just for them. Yes, I know it is frustrating. Friends have come and friends have gone. And we face challenges all the time. I never imagined I would be addressing the social issues that we face today. Sometimes I want to ask the question, "What is next?" But then, I know better. I know not to ask a question like that because I might just get the answer.

Instead, in times like this, I just ask myself, "Where is God in all this?" Sometimes, it is easy to find God and sometimes it is not so easy. Many of us can point to times in our lives when we knew God was present in the events that shaped the lives of ourselves, our friends, and our families. That is the same God we know in and through Jesus. This is the same God who walks with us and interacts in human history. God may not appear to be present at times, but God is still very much there. What we need to remember is that the God we know in and through Jesus is active in our world transforming us, our lives and our world – even without us knowing it! That also implies, "CHANGE" – that word that so many people hate to hear, is, also, part of God's world. You know about that thing I mentioned – "Journey"? How about journeying with Jesus?

NOVEMBER 2023

I will not reiterate the words here because of space constraints, but most people know or have read the famous poem "Footprints". That poem articulates that fact very well. Did you know that idea is reflected in the very name of God?

Dwell on this for a moment: *Yahweh,* is the personal name of God, given to us in Exodus (and other books of the Bible as well). Now, this is where it starts to get interesting. The name, Yahweh, reinforces the fact that God is with us. The message of the present reality of God is in the name itself. That name, Yahweh, means, "I am". It is not just a name; it is much more. It is a present reality.

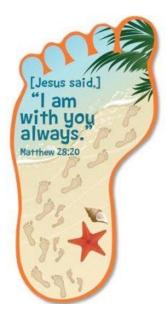
Many times, I have noticed that when something happens that challenges what we consider to be "normal" or to be the "standard," many, if not all of us, would like to go "back to the golden years when ..." You know back to the past that we just knew, "when things were better." But what the name, *Yahweh*, implies is that God was there in the past, but God will not be found in our past, because God is here and now! It means God is working in life around us.

That name, *Yahweh*, is also a promise. God will be in our future as well, but God is not there now because God is busy with us right here, right now.

When you find yourself caught up in the ambiguity that life seems to throw at us just remember that God is here and perhaps the better question to ask is, "Where is God in this?"

This month let's take time to give thanks for what our God has done, and is doing, in and amongst us and in the world around us right here and right now.

Pastor Dennís



everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form ot evil 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22, NRSV

Deacon's Corner





It was decided that a Take-out Turkey Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, **Nov. 23rd**, will be available for those who otherwise would not be able to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

There will be several sign-up sheets:

- 1. Sign up for the number of meals you need.
- 2. Sign up to volunteer on Tuesday, Nov. 21, to help prep food items.

3. Sign up to volunteer on Wednesday, **Nov. 22**, to help fill the food cartons with the meal items.

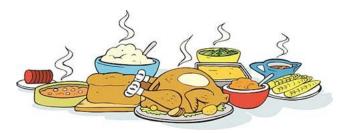
4. Sign up for Thursday, **Nov. 23**, to help with the distribution of the Take-Out food containers from **10 AM to 12 PM**.

5. Sign up to contribute. Prepared food items needed: string beans, white potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, pies (any type), and dinner rolls. Cook food items at your home and bring them to church on Wednesday morning.

If you have any questions please just contact me, Bob, at 352-220-4307 or <u>deaconbob73@gmail.com</u>

We greatly appreciate all who are willing and able to help with this meal.

Deacon Bob



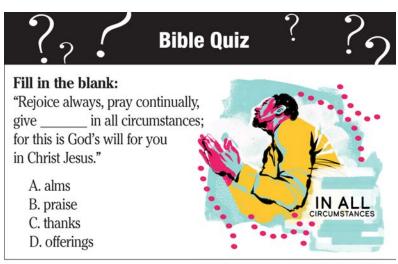
Church Council News

Executive Council Meeting

November 2nd @ 9:30 AM

Council Meeting

November 9th @ 3:00 PM



Answer: C (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.)



Roger Johnson

September 2, 1943 - October 16, 2023

Funeral Service: November 21st @ 11 AM

Angel Tree

Once again we are supporting the Citrus County Family Resource Center with our Angel Tree Ministry beginning Sunday, November 5, 2023. This ministry helps underprivileged children have a Merry Christmas. The Angel's names will be on a Christmas Tree placed on a table in the Narthex of the church. When you pick your Angel, we will record the name of the Angel(s) and give you a wish list of items that the child would like for Christmas. You may purchase any number of the gifts listed, depending on your budget. <u>Do not wrap the presents</u>. Donations of wrapping paper and ribbon are always welcome. When returning your gifts to Good Shepherd, **please attach to the bag: the angel tag and the sheet of paper for that Angel from the Family Resource Center.** Return all gifts and donations of wrapping paper and ribbon to the large Christmas box in the Narthex. Someone will check in the Angel and deliver the gifts to the Resource Center.

Please contact Pat Ouwerkerk at 914-671-9939 if you have any questions.

Stewardship is living out our commitment to Christ.

Applying Bible Principles

If you were to ask the average pastor, "How is your church doing?" the answer would probably focus on the ABCs of church growth: Attendance, Buildings and Cash.

Attendance is important. It's hard to carry on a ministry if no one is there or if the numbers dwindle so low that no one wants to be there.

Buildings are important. Many a church visitor has been turned off by an old, run-down building or by one that is dirty and in need of routine maintenance.

Cash is important. As Zig Ziglar said, "I've had money, and I've not had it. It's a lot more fun with it than without it." The same thing is true of churches.

But attendance alone has nothing to do with the health of a church. There can be thousands present who are a mile wide and an inch deep in their relationship to God. A building can be packed week after week, but that alone does not mean the church is spiritual. In fact, some of the largest churches in this country are made up of congregations who are spiritual pygmies.

Paul sent Timothy to check up on the Thessalonian church. He had been able to spend only three weeks with this new assembly before he was run out of town. Do you know what questions Paul gave Timothy to ask the leaders of that congregation? He didn't ask about attendance, buildings or cash. Instead, he wanted to take a temperature reading of their spiritual health. To do that, he mentions their **faith** five times in 1 Thessalonians chapter 3:

- We sent Timothy ... to strengthen and encourage you for the sake of your **faith** (v. 2).
- ...when I could bear it no longer, I sent [Timothy] to find out about your faith (v. 5).
- But Timothy has just now come to us from you, and has brought good news about your **faith** and love (v. 6).

- For this reason, brothers and sisters, during all our distress and persecution we have been encouraged about you through your **faith** (v. 7).
- Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your **faith** (v. 10).

Throughout this chapter, Paul is concerned about one thing: **FAITH.** That's why he sent Timothy in the first place, i.e., to "strengthen and encourage" the people in their faith. Why does Paul give faith such a great emphasis to the exclusion of other worthy topics? Because Paul knew what we seem to have forgotten, that when people break down in their behavior, grow cold in the Lord, no longer desire to serve the Lord, are not consistent in their attendance, find other activities to occupy their time during the week and on the weekends, and reduce their giving or stop giving to the Lord's work, it is because their faith has broken down.

What is faith? Faith is simply believing God, often when there is no logical reason to do so. Faith is trusting God completely without reservation of any kind. Faith is being willing to take the next step when we cannot see fully what lies ahead.

The writer of Hebrews said, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him" (Heb. 11:6).

Shelly Fortin, Stewardship Reprinted by permission of Parish Publishing, LLC

Is Jesus calling you to serve? Bear Fruit for Jesus!

"When God burdens your heart to use your time and talents and you confirm God's leading according to the Scriptures, you can obey, being confident God will provide a blessing, even when circumstances appear contrary." (Jerry Bridges, The Navigators)

A complete listing of all the volunteer positions available here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is on our website, and printed copies are available in the Narthex.

(Please note these two changes to the Opportunites sheet you received on October 1st: For <u>Choir</u>, please contact Renate. Also, a new contact for the <u>breakfasts and lunches</u> is TBD.)

Please prayerfully consider volunteering for one or more of these positions.

CRAFTNSHARE

WELCOME TO 'FALL' Craft and Share will meet next on the FIFTH WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29th from 10 AM to 2 PM. Bring your lunch as beverage and dessert will be provided.

We plan to finish gifts for our shut-ins for Christmas using men's ties. We made 12 of these reindeer ornaments from men's ties in September and can make a few more. Bring your scissors; we have the rest of supplies. No sewing needed; glue guns are available.

We will also be stuffing fabric teddy bears we cut last June or making more teddy bears from washcloths for next year's Citrus Baby Shower in the spring.

Also, we have a good supply of pillowcases, pre-cut elastic, wide elastic, and need to make up kits for those who like to sew pillowcase dresses at home. We mailed off a box of these dresses to the Little Dresses for Africa project. We have been sending off dresses for over 15 years.

We did give out prayer shawls and a lap robe to members who had surgery or were in hospital or lost a loved one. We have directions for knitting or crocheting these shawl and lap robes as well as patterns for newborn caps. If you know of someone who could use a shawl or lap robe, please call me.

Look forward to seeing you on the FIFTH WEDNESDAY Nov, 29th (this will avoid meeting on 4th Wednesday just before Thanksgiving. We will resume meeting on 4th Wednesdays in the future.

JOIN US as your time allows.

Questions? Call Maggie Bregger 352-860-2215



And the LORD will become **KINNOG** Over all the earth; on that day the LORD will be one and his name one. ZECHARIAH 14:9, NRSV

Thank You

To My Church Family,

I thought Clergy Appreciation was for the Pastor and Deacons! I was very surprised and humbled by the beautiful cards I received and the gift cards and monetary gifts. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I appreciate ALL of you as well! All of us together is how we keep our church and faith continuing on and on....Thank you again!

With much love and appreciation, Renate



To my GSLC family,

My heart overflows with love and gratitude for the many gifts of appreciation I received. Your generosity continues to fill my heart with gratitude and joy. I am more grateful to you than words can express. I thank each of you for your kindness and for b



words can express. I thank each of you for your kindness and for being the wonderful, amazing people you are. I know that I am blessed to have you in my life. May you continue to be blessed today and always!!

Shirley McField



My deepest appreciation to the members of our congregation for the Pastor Appreciation Sunday gifts that I received. I am humbled by your generosity and words of encouragement. Linda is also appreciative of the flowers and kind words shared with her.

Thank you all and may God continue to bless us as we share together in the work of the Church.



Pastor Dennís

WELCA NEWS



As a community of women created in the image of God called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

A big THANK YOU to all who contributed to Thankoffering. Collections will continue through November.

SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, December 13th – 1:00 PM "Birthday Party for Jesus"

This event is open to our entire church family. Please bring a baby gift for the Pregnancy & Family Life Center. Sign-up sheets are in the clipboard rack in the Narthex.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under <u>CC BY-NC</u> https://www.pngall.com/party-png/download/54388

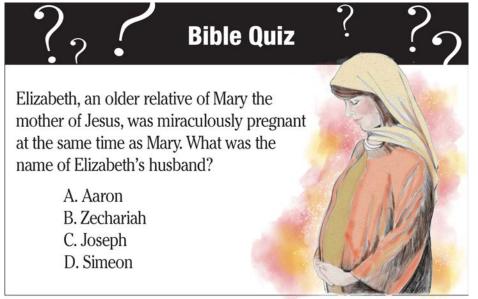
Our next WELCA Circle Meeting will be held on November 8th at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Cindy Gaertner will lead the Bible Study and Ann Neville will provide refreshments.

Our next WELCA Board Meeting will be November 7th at 9:30 AM.

Adopt a Highway Program

Our next Adopt-a-Highway road clean-up will be Saturday, December 2nd. We meet at the church at 8 AM. Safety vests, gloves, trash bags, and pickers are

provided.For any questions, contact Linda Koch at <u>LCK1164@gmail.com</u> or 386-589-4727.



Answer: B (See Luke 1:5, 39-41.)



Happy Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks!



Social Ministry







Fellowship

As many of you know, Betty Sanger wishes to step down as Chair of the Fellowship Committee. We were asked by Pastor Koch and Betty to take on this challenge. We will be Co-Chairs and were introduced to the Fellowship Committee at their monthly meeting on October 9th. We know we have big shoes to fill and ask for your patience while we step into this new endeavor. We are looking forward to serving on this committee of very talented people and know the transition will go smoothly. Thank you for considering us!

Elaine and John Giammasi

As the current chair of Fellowship, I want to express how happy I am that Elaine and John said, "YES!" when asked. They have jumped right in with kitchen duty, making delicious treats for coffee hours, making small wooden signs to identify sugar-free and gluten free goodies, etc.

Elaine and John will continue to learn on the job and we look forward to when they take on the title of Fellowship Co-Chairs the first of the year. We are very fortunate to have them in this role and in our church family.

Betty Sanger

Fellowship Chair



In our service for Christ, we need to believe that what God asks us to do CAN be done, and WILL be done by God's grace.

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Reprinted by permission of Parish Publishing, LLC





Worship & Music

November 7th @ 10:00 AM -

Monthly Meeting **November 11th from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM** Handbell Workshop **November 11th @ 3:30 PM**

Handbell Concert

We will perform a small concert at 3:30. All are invited to attend the concert. If anyone is really interested in Handbells, they are invited to attend the entire workshop!







December 10th

Worship - Christmas Program

3:00 PM - Piano Recital



Health Ministry

Health Ministry

Your Faith Community Nurse is Kathy Metz, she can be reached @ 352-746-1911 and the Health Team members are: Barb Lauer, Ann Neville, Donna Pease, and John Colson. On the last Sunday of every month, we provide blood pressure screenings after service. **See you November 26th**



Serving Our Savior

SOS Food Pantry PO Box 640774 Beverly Hills, FL 34464 email <u>sos4food@gmail.com</u>



1 Corinthians 15:58

Special Dates

- 1st All Saints' Day
- 5th End of Daylight Savings Time All Saints' Sunday
- 11th Veteran's Day
- 12th Coffee & Tea Sales
- 19th Christ the King Sunday
- 19th 25th National Bible Week
- 23rd Thanksgiving
- 24th Native American Heritage Day



of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever."

DANIEL 7:18, NIV







Every Tuesday @ 7:30 AM Breakfast at Mama's Kuntry Kafe

First Thursday Lunch @ Angel		Nove	ember 20	23		Pray
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30A-SOS 10:00A - Quilters 11:00A - Beginner Bible Study 1:00P - Newcomer's Club	2 7:30 A- SOS 9:30 A Executive Council	3 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	4 DON'T FORBET TO FALL BACK
5 10 A Worship Sunday School	6 1:30P Social Ministry Meeting	7 9:30A - WELCA Board 10 A- Worship & Music 6:00P - Scouts 6:30P - Bells	8 7:30 - SOS 11:00A - Beginner Bible Study 1:00P - WELCA Circle 6:30P - Choir	9 7:30 A - SOS 9:00A Pastoral Care Committee 3:00P Church Council	10 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	11 3:30P Handbell Concert
12 10 A Worship Sunday School	13	14 6:00P - Scouts 6:30P - Bells	15 7:30A- SOS 10:00A - Quilters 11:00A - Beginner Bible Study 6:30P - Choir	16 7:30 A - SOS 10:00A - Citrus Hills HOA	17 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	18 DEADLINE Newsletter Articles
19 10 A Worship Sunday School	20	21 11A - Roger Johnson Funeral Servíce 6:30P - Bells	22 7:30A-SOS 11:00A - Beginner Bible Study 6:30P - Choir <i>Filling of Food</i> <i>Containers</i>	23 10A - 12P Take out Dinners	24 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	25
26 10 A Worship Sunday School	27	28 6:00P - Scouts 6:30P - Bells	29 7:30A-SOS 10:00A- Craft n Share 11:00A - Beginner Bible Study 6:30P - Choir	30 7:30 A - SOS 200 10:00 A	<u>Link to</u> <u>Pastoral</u> <u>Prayer</u> <u>Calendar</u>	14

ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS



Bill & Wendy Knarr Todd & Cindy Gaertner

11/12/05 11/24/88



- 2 Helen Maidhof
- 3 Pat Bentley - Denise Bianchi-Costa
- 6 Gladys Kean
- 9 Dennis Moore
- 10 Lisbeth Goetter Judy Teague

- 14 Gary Bush 16 - Michele Schortemeyer
- 20 Sue Okimoto

22 - Jeanette Jimenez Walter Johnson

23 - Dianne Kohm Pat Mainster Vera Swade Stacey Wilson

© Randy Glasberg

- 24 Bob Deck Marty McMahon
- 25 Dave Boerger

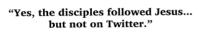
27 - Stephanie Adams

28 - Linda Koch Marge Symons

30 - Ray Whitcomb - Louis Costa

Dan's World











Wagner, Carole

Whitcomb, Ray Wildman, Joe

Let us remember:

Bendtsen, Elin	Hartsfield, Sylvia	Lepore, Linda	
Benefiel, Larry & Karen	Hassinger, Doug & Donna	Masters, Leith	
Brit-Busler, Elizabeth	Hennessy, Sally	Meltesen Family	
Clark, Dawn	Jimenez, Jeanette	Miles, Ilse	
Costa, Denise	Johnson, Carol Lee	Mongardi, Eloise	
Dreger-Parsons, June	Koch, Dennis,Linda,& Michael	Page-Wood, Jeremy	
Drennen, Rose & Family	Lauer, Barbara	Pawelko, Diane	
Fowler, Bob	Lawrence, Ivalee	Peterson, Gloria	

Those who are shut-in or residing in assisted living homes:

Charon, Carol

Frost, Joann Moll, Bob

Lowe, Faye

Philipp, Dick

All who serve our country in the military:

Burba, Jake	Ja
Ceballos, Jason	Jc
Corsino, Mykael	Lu
Day, Kenneth	Μ
Harrington, Bryan	Μ
Heinz, Karinne	Μ
Hickman, Richard	Pi
Hicks, Nathan	Po
Holman, Evan	Ra

Jackson, Brad Johnston-Garcia, Christian Luchay, Alan McCann, Jim Miller, Tyler Much, Jason Piott, Trenton Posa, Codymicheal Radloff, Steven Radosevitch, Eric Springer, Dennis Stroble, Jeramy Swain, Jr., Terry Thomas, Peter Chris Thompson, David Timpe, Chris



Relatives and Friends:

Arbuckle, Amy & Matthew
Balastieri, Casey
Barber, Steve & Kitty
Beeftink, Paul
Bluver, Linda & son
Blyth, Ruby
Brace, Quin
Brugger, Tristan
Burkhardt, Faith & Dina
Campano, Thomas

Cipollone, Elaine Crooks, Candi DeVenuto, Lisa Dortin, Rachel Drake, Matthew Farmer, Tom Fidwell, Eloise Fowler family Fratto, Joseph

Cato, Cecelia

Garling, John Gifford, Judy Goetter, Thomas Goforth, Jeffrey Goodloe, Ernestine Graves, Janice Hertel, Karl Iudiciani, Georgia Johnson, Jim Kraft, Carter Krenauer, Linda Krol, Shirley Lahera, Andy Lavaja, Jim Lewellen, Emily Anne Lobenthal, Jean Loftin, Tracy Longworth, Kathy Lublemon family Lundsford, Victoria

Magnotta family
Magrum, Corbin
Maidhof, Dexter, Gary, Jeremiah
McHugh, Mark
Meidl, Nancy
Mena, Steve
Nickerson, Mike & Beth
O'Berry, Darlene
O'Keefe, Chris
Pach, Barbara
Page-Wood, Jake
Parruche, Linda Ama

Pope, Jeff Pufahl, Jean Queen, Max Rajotte, Keith Ralph, Bruce Rambaldini, Jim Reiner, Linda Robertson, Jeanine Rothmeyer, Heidi Sbani, Carol Scheetz, Cathy & Family Sillen, Rita Small, Brenda & Steven Smith, Grant Smrdel, Louis Smrdel, Terri Stewart, Sam Stuart, Neil & Family Thatcher, Jean Thompson, Lori Traywick, Edward Tuegel, Chuck Vespa, Hazel Vulkelich, Alejandra Wells, Emmarie Wierzel, Rosalee Wilder, Gayle Williams, Dorothy Wilson, Karen Wizard, Joe & Dana Wolff, Jack Wood, Harper Woods, Donna Jean Woolf, Nick Wright, Matthew

Please take this prayer list and use it in your private or family devotions in the coming month. You can see that our congregation has a great many people who are in need of our prayers. Please let us know if your loved one is no longer serving in the military. Contact <u>gslchernando@gmail.com</u> for any updates.

Newsletter Editor

ALL submissions for the **newsletter** or website should be sent to <u>gslchernando@gmail.com</u>.

I will confirm I received your email within 2 days. If you don't get a response, please resubmit or call me.



Paw Editor

Stephanie



SUNDAY SCHOOL/NURSERY Susan Fowler

USHERS 10:00

5st & 12th Dave & Peg Bocker Stephanie Adams

19th & 26th Carole & Randy Wagner Gary Bush

MEDIA CENTER

Fran Stetson John Gifford Joe Adams Dan Cashman

LECTORS

November 5th

Linda Koch

November 12th

Shelly Fortin

November 19th

John Giammasi

November 26th

Lisbeth Goetter

DEACONS

Deacon Rick Mainster Deacon Robert Bonomo



CHURCH STAFF The Rev. Dennis W. Koch Pastor Office: 352-746-7161 * Fax: 352-746-5013 Phone: 386-872-1031 E-mail: gslcpastor@outlook.com

Deacon

Rick Mainster Cell: 352-207-8140 Email: <u>twoboats@tampabay.rr.com</u> DeaconAdministrative AssistantRobert BonomoShirley McFieldCell: 352-220-4307Phone: 352-746-7161Email: deaconbob73@gmail.comEmail: gschurch@live.com

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building / Property Hary Johnson 352-270-3391 **Christian Education** Sue Fowler 352-464-0571 **Enduring Gifts** Deacon Bob Bonomo 352-220-4307 Evangelism Deacon Bob Bonomo 352-220-4307 Fellowship 352-527-1630 Betty Sanger Finance Gail Sotrines 352-860-1765 **Mutual Ministry** Sharon Maxwell 352-249-7032 Pastoral Care Deacon Rick Mainster 352-207-8140 Social Ministry Vera Swade 352-637-5308 Stewardship Shelly Fortin 352-587-7007 Technology Fran Stetson 352-419-7227

Worship & Music

COUNCIL LIAISONS

Building / Property Joe Adams 352-302-0444 **Christian Education - YOUTH** 352-270-8485 Carole Wagner **Enduring Gifts** Ron O'Keefe 401-474-0416 Evangelism Ron O'Keefe 401-474-0416 Fellowship Gladys Kean 352-514-6998 Finance Kathy Swartz 352-746-5374 Mutual Ministry Mike Busler 860-906-8234 Pastoral Care Cathy Heaps 941-586-5376 Social Ministry Vera Swade 352-476-9072

Shelly Fortin 352-587-7007 Technology Tom Stickler 610-659-5553 Worship & Wusic Jane Isenstead 352-513-4205



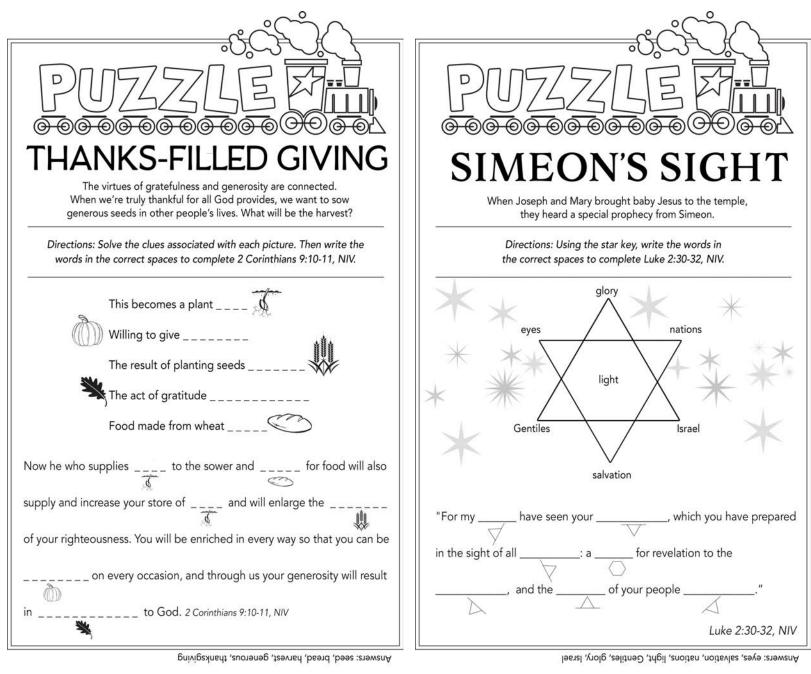
WEBSITE

gshernando.org Webmaster: Stephanie Adams NEWSLETTER gslchernando@gmail.com



Kid's Corner





I'm Rocky, click me!





Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.



What you do:

- In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle the plate's edge.
- Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
- Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
 Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the
- the second second

Keep the yarn tight as you weave

20

up the sides. 6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share you craft with a friend!