

The Shepherd's Voice

439 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy, Hernando, FL 34442

PASTOR'S PAGE

It is now the beginning of June. It is Summer and we have (in the Church) entered into the church season of Pentecost. Life is happening. The days are longer. The temperature and the humidity are going up and up. The trees, bushes, and grass are getting greener. And, you should notice that the color we use in the church is "green" and will remain so until this fall. There are birds, squirrels, rabbits, and lizards everywhere! Life is happening. Everything seems to be moving.

So, how's your summer looking? A little break from the busyness of life? A little space for some reading and reflection? Some time away? Time away on vacation? A little more family time? Maybe you are planning on some time spent visiting family? Maybe you plan to spend more time outdoors?

I thought I should point out that the two big seasons of the church year which we just completed which focused on the person and work of Jesus, now give way to the implications of those events for the life of the Church. The focus of the readings we will hear in worship will be how the Church lives out its calling. The season of Pentecost calls us to proclaim, bear witness to, and live out God's ongoing will for the world God so deeply loves. The Church knows and believes in its very bones that salvation is bound in and of a love for the world, not an escape from the world.

This summer most of our Gospel readings will come from the Gospel according to Mark. The Gospel of Mark portrays Jesus and his ministry with urgency, focus, and a relentless drive forward to ensure that the kingdom of God comes among us. It is important to try and remember that. Because our world sees the world differently and tries to sell us on its plan for life. For instance, I offer a couple of tidbits as food for thought:

1

Self-care has rightly received increased attention in recent years and can involve all the ways an individual can tend to body, mind, and spirit. Scripture includes some self-care in the command to remember the sabbath. This practice is not limited to the self, however, as the command is also for one's children, colleagues, resident-alien neighbors, and livestock. The sabbath is both self-care and community care. How might this passage speak to care of both self and community care for families? For congregations? For youth sports leagues? Corporate offices? Other gatherings of human community?

You might, also, consider that we live in a world of intense measurement. Smart watches can track all manner of fitness and health data. We receive surveys so the businesses we visit can track and measure their performance and processes. Perhaps your electric or water bill gives you a comparison to your utility use over the past year. Social media counts of "likes" and "follows" seem to measure how well our thoughts and pictures resonate with other people. Job figures and productivity numbers count people's participation in the workforce in various ways. Jesus tells us that humankind was not made for the sabbath, but the sabbath for humankind. Likewise, humankind was not made for metrics, but metrics for humankind. Sabbath is an important reminder that we are not our productivity, nor is our identity in our work.

What are you watching? Twenty-four-hour access allows us to binge-watch an entire series without missing an episode. The same is true of the news. We can watch the same content again and again if we like. This access also provides opportunities for us to connect and share with others who have watched the same shows.

In Mark's Gospel the religious leaders were watching a show they have already seen. People in need of help are present in the synagogue, and they know that Jesus is going to respond. He does as they expect, and they begin to conspire against him. Who are we binge-watching with suspicion? Who do we gossip about and otherwise criticize? Who do we conspire with as we set ourselves against one another? How does Jesus' response about what is lawful on the sabbath speak to our watching and our responding?

Maybe ask yourselves who or what runs your life? On whom or what, do you depend?

Pastor Dennis



Church Council News



The Council met on May 9th and approved the following items:

- Approved \$100.00 to the Pinelands Conference.
- Approved a request from the Citrus Hills Women's Club to use our parking lot from 9:00 to 10:30 to collect donations for several Citrus County charities on a nearly monthly basis through March 26, 2025.
- Approved the Spanish Language Church to hold a fundraiser for their mission trip. They will be selling empanadas and pork kebobs after our worship service on June 2nd.
- Approved Patricia Howard to become our new Financial Secretary due to Cheryl Cox moving out of state.

In other news: Since the Council has the fiduciary responsibility for the church funds, it was decided that the Council will be responsible to do the money counting on Sundays. That process started on May 4th and once all Council members are trained and comfortable in the process other volunteers will be able assist in that process. We want to give a huge thank you to that small, dedicated group of members who have been doing this important task for several years. You all deserve a break!



Executive Council Meeting

June 6th @ 9:30 AM

Council Meeting

June 13th @ 3:00 PM

Council President's Message



At our May 9th Council meeting, we had the pleasure of meeting Pastor Nicole Eastwood, Assistant to the Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Pastor Eastwood discussed the pastoral transition process in detail. I know everyone is a little anxious about the thought of Pastor Koch retiring, but I want to assure everyone that I am quite certain we will have an Interim Pastor by the first Sunday in August.

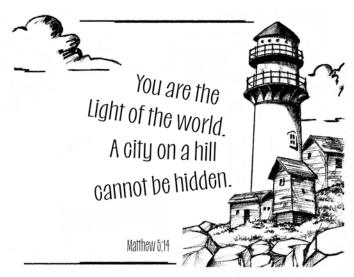
I been asked by so many of you about the Call Committee and why it has not started yet. We are following the Transition Manual throughout this entire process. There is plenty of work for me, the Council, and certain Standing Committees before the call process can begin. Pastor Eastwood confirmed this in her meeting with Council. I expect to have a Call Committee named and approved by the Council soon. Per our Constitution and Bylaws, we are allowed six members to serve on the Call Committee and they cannot be members of the Council.

I want to close by thanking all of our volunteers. I am seeing new faces on some of our committees and a renewed sense of enthusiasm. One example is the Evangelism Committee. For several years, we did not have any members on it, not even a Chair. At their May meeting, we had a full room so much so that we had to get extra chairs! Thank you all.

Grace and Peace,

Joe





Serving Our Savior

Update from April 2024

Families served: 557

People served: 1,392

Pounds of Food: 31,840

Average pounds per person: 63 pounds 7 ounces

SOS now has an updated
Facebook page and will take
credit card
donations.

DONATE

Click for donations:



NOW!

MANY THANKS ONCE AGAIN

On behalf of the SOS food pantry, I send heartfelt thanks to the wonderful congregation at Good Shepherd. Whenever we ask – you deliver. We had a successful tag sale in Beverly Hills at Our Lady of Grace Catholic church and most of the credit was the result of your generous contributions. We managed to raise \$1136.00.

Your generous hearts warm ours as we continue to serve the needy of Citrus County. So far this year in only four months we have distributed over 147,000 pounds of food. Needless to say, our clientele are very grateful. Thank you once again, and remember that monetary donations are always welcome and needed.

Maria Cyr President, SOS Food Pantry



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



Stewardship



A SHORT STEWARDSHIP FAQ

WHAT STEWARDSHIP IS NOT

- Annual drive to balance the budget and pay the church's bills
- All about money
- A committee no one wants to be on
- A committee that you're on because you didn't speak up soon enough to be on one of the 'good' committees

WHAT STEWARDSHIP IS

- The definition of steward is "one who manages another's property, finances, or other affairs". Stewardship, then, is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.
- Whose property are we managing? God's of course, because everything we have, everything we see, everything we are, comes from and belongs to God. Stewardship encompasses:
 - o Being stewards of God's grace spreading the Gospel
 - o Taking care of creation concern for the environment, caring for animals
 - o Taking care of each other feeding, clothing, housing those in need, advocating for health care and mental health care
 - o Taking care of the congregation in a non-physical way volunteering on committees and for projects
 - o Taking care of the church's physical property
 - o Managing the church's finances in a responsible way
 - o Managing our own finances in a responsible way that gives God the first fruits of our labor (tithe) as a **response** to God's generosity
 - o Using our spiritual gifts to serve God
 - o Managing our time in such a way that we give God our first fruits attending worship joyfully rather than begrudging the time we can't be golfing or going to lunch.

And...(with credit to PDK) have fun doing it! Because Christ is risen! Alleluia! There is no greater cause for joy!

Your Stewardship Committee



WELCA NEWS

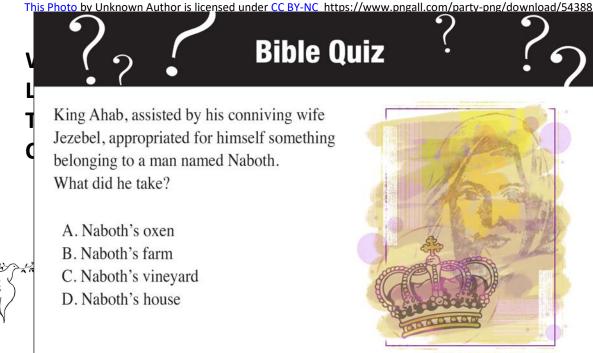
As a community of women created in the image of God called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the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

WELCA's Board will meet on Tuesday, June 4th at 11 AM. There will be no circle Bible study in June. However, on Tuesday, June 18th, we will host a "Getting to Know You" tea. There will be refreshments and all women of Good Shepherd are invited. A signup sheet is in the narthex, or email me at sthennessey1@charter.net if you're coming. We'd love to see you!

We will be taking July and August off and will resume in September with our regular Board meeting and a Bible study on *Katie Luther* on Tuesday, September 17th. Please join us.

We got a few ideas from other WELCA groups at the Pinelands Conference in May and one thing we're considering is bi-monthly or monthly luncheons at an area restaurant. If there is something you would like to see WELCA do – a particular Bible study, more social time – or if you'd come to WELCA events if only we changed x,y, or z – please tell me or any of our Board members. They are Anne Storan, Secretary, Aagot Green Treasurer, Maggie Bregger, circle co-chair, Nancy Gomes, circle co-chair and Cindy Gaertner, projects

Sally Hennessey, Unit Leader



Evangelism

All Are Welcome!

"We need to get more members!" "We need kids! Kids are the future of the church!" These are sentiments expressed at many churches these days and Good Shepherd is no exception. But how do we let visitors know that we're happy to have them? How do we make new members feel part of Good Shepherd? How do we make sure that visiting children and their families have a good experience worshipping with us?

At the May evangelism committee meeting, someone mentioned the book Becoming a Welcoming Church, by Thom Rainer. (This book has been provided to all Council members and copies are on one of the shelves in the church library. Everyone should read it. Of course, as is usually the case with books like this, not everything applies to Good Shepherd. But enough of it does that it is a very worthwhile read.) This led to some discussion about our own church and the need to see ourselves through the eyes of a first-time visitor. When was the last time you introduced yourself to someone new? (New people need to feel welcomed by everyone!) Would you be willing to sit with a visitor to help them navigate the service? (For non-Lutherans, liturgy might as well be in a foreign language, let alone all that sit-stand-sit-stand.) Have you invited someone you don't know well to sit with you during coffee hour to chat and get to know each other better? We on the Evangelism/Outreach team are asking these questions to help us understand the kinds of things we often don't think about, but need to remember. Thom Rainer wrote that there are what he calls gospel realities to the welcoming church, especially with non-Christians. When people are seeking a church, being treated hospitably can make all the difference in their feelings toward our church, maybe all churches and even God.

Let's practice hospitality!

The Evangelism/Outreach Team

Craft 'n Share



We will next meet WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Bring your lunch; beverage and dessert will be provided. This will be the last meeting of the summer and will resume in September. However, many can continue at home on projects.

HELPERS ARE NEEDED!! We will continue working on cloth grocery store shopping bags and will assemble or sew pillowcase dresses for the Little Dresses for Africa project. We have a large supply of donated pillowcases. We have instructions for those who like to sew at home

We were given beautiful floral drapery fabric that WE HOPE TO MAKE INTO GROCERY STORE BAGS to make available to congregation. By using a cloth bag, we will save more plastic going into landfill, ultimately into our water supply, and the ocean.!!

Thank you to our home crafters. We gave out several prayer shawls to bereaved families.

Contact Maggie if you need 4-ply yarn. We have directions for other knitting or crocheting patterns for lap robes, shawls, and baby hats. If you know of someone who could use a shawl or lap robe, please call Maggie.

Questions? Call Maggie Bregger 352-860-2215

Social Ministry





Worship and Music

June 4th @ 1:00 PM - Monthly Meeting

Tuesdays @ 6:30 PM - Bells

Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM - Choir



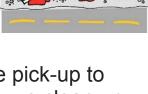
Health Ministry

Your Faith Community Nurse is Kathy Metz, she can be reached @ Health Ministry 352-746-1911 and the Health Team members are: Barb Lauer, Donna Pease, John Colson, and Leith Masters. We will provide blood pressure screenings after worship. See you June 30th.

Adopt a Highway Program

Our next Adopt-A-Highway Trash Pick-up will be Saturday, **June 1st.** We will meet at the church at 8 AM and expect the pick-up to take 1.5-2 hours. Come and experience the fellowship while we clean up a 2 mile portion of Norvell Bryant Highway. If you have any questions, email Linda Koch at LCK1164@gmail.com or text/call 386-589-4727.

HELP WANTED: Our group is in search of a <u>new coordinator</u>. If you are interested, Linda can fill you in on the responsibilities each quarter.



Fellowship



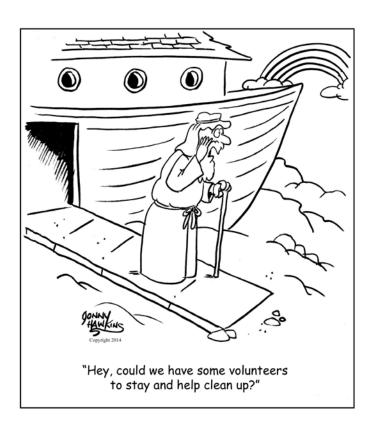
Our next month's Fellowship Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, June 10th at 1:30 PM. We are asking our committee members to attend if their schedule allows.

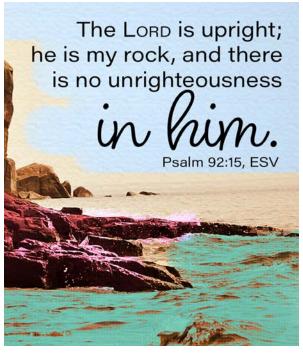
We are still looking for volunteers to sign up to help with serving coffee after worship in the Fellowship Hall and clean up afterward. Some of our members are not available in the summer months to help and we are trying to schedule in advance. The sign-up sheets are near the coffee counter in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help, please contact me at 352-527-8706 or egiammasi@gmail.com. Thank you for considering.

Join us weekly in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and treats. We are always looking for new items to share, especially gluten free and sugar free.

Elaine Giammasi, Co-Chair John Giammasi, Co-Chair







Special Dates

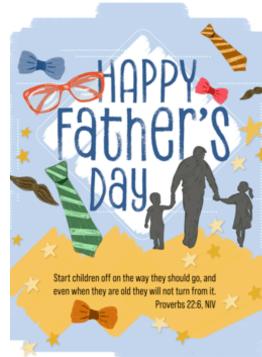
- 14 Flag Day
- 16 Father's Day
- 17 21 Vacation Bible School
- 19 Juneteenth
- 20 Summer Begins



REMINDER:

When entering the Sanctuary, please remember many are preparing for worship by praying and reflection.









Wednesdays @ 9 AM A Time for Prayer

June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10A Worship Sunday School	3 1:30P Social Ministry Meeting	4 11A - WELCA Board Meeting 1P - Worship & Music Meeting 6:30P - Bells	5 7:30A - SOS 10:00A- Quilters 11:00A - Bible Study 1:00P - Newcomer's Club 6:30P - Choir	6 7:30A-SOS 9:30A Executive Council 2PStewardship 3P Evangelism	7 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	8
9 10A Worship Sunday School	10 1:30P Fellowship Meeting	11 6:30P - Bells	12 7:30A-SOS 10:00A- Quilters 11:00A - Bible Study 6:30P - Choir	13 7:30A - SOS 3:00 P Council Meeting	14 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	DEADLINE: Newsletter Articles
16 10A Worship Sunday School	17 9A - Noon VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Through June 21st	18 1P - WELCA Getting to Know You Tea 6:30P - Bells	7:30A-SOS 11:00A - Bible Study	20 7:30A - SOS 10A-11:30A Citrus Hills POA Meeting	21 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	22
23 10A Worship Sunday School	24	25 6:30P - Bells	26 7:30A-SOS 10:00A - Craft n Share 11:00A - Bible Study	27 7:30A - SOS	28 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	29

30 10A Worship Sunday School

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

First Thursday @ Noon Lunch @ Angelotti's

ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS



Linda & Tom Krenauer	06/01/73
Jo Ann & Tom Clutz	06/06/64
Bob & Lenore Deck	06/06/70
Karen & Larry Benefiel	06/07/84
Gary & Judy Knecht	06/14/69
Bob & Cheryl Cox	06/17/89
Jim & Cherie Earl	06/17/61
Tom & Wendy Wolber	06/23/79
Rick & Lois Lenhart	06/24/67
Dave & Peg Bocker	06/28/80





3 - Eloise Mongardi	14 - Aagot Green	23 - Joseph Lepore
7 - Mike Busler Jim Earl	15 - Jesse Lepore	24 - Sauny Williams
8 - Lisa Nelson	17 - Janet Haight Karl Weissert	25 - Joe Wildman
9 - Jeremy Page-Wood	18 - Betty Thomas	27 - Tom Clutz Gerry Kauth
11 - Cherie Earl	19 - Mel Pease	Donna Pease Angela Eggert



Let us remember:

Bendtsen, Elin
Benefiel, Larry & Karen
Brit-Busler, Elizabeth
Cashman, Dan
Clark, Dawn
Costa, Denise
Drennen, Rose & Family

Fowler, Bob
Giamassi, Elaine
Goetter, Lisbeth
Hassinger, Doug & Donna
Jimenez, Jeanette
Johnson, Carol Lee
Koch, Dennis,Linda,& Michael

Kranauer, Linda Lauer, Barbara Lawrence, Ivalee Lepore, Linda Masters, Leith Meltesen Family Miles. Ilse Mongardi, Eloise Page-Wood, Jeremy Pawelko, Diane Peterson, Gloria Wagner, Carole

Wildman, Joe

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

Charon, Carol Frost, Joann Hartsfield, Sylvia Lowe, Faye Moll, Bob

Philipp, Dick Whitcomb, Ray

All who serve our country in the military:

Burba, Jake Jackson, Brad Ceballos, Jason Johnston-Garcia, Christian Corsino, Mykael Luchay, Alan Day, Kenneth McCann, Jim Harrington, Bryan Miller, Tyler Heinz, Karinne Much, Jason Hickman, Richard Piott, Trenton Hicks. Nathan Posa, Codymicheal Holman, Evan 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
Cahoone, Bill

Campano, Thomas
Cato, Cecelia
Cipollone, Elaine
Crooks, Candi
DeVenuto, Lisa
Dortin, Rachel
Drake, Matthew
Farmer, Tom
Fidwell, Eloise
Fowler family

Fratto, Joseph
Garling, John
Gifford, Judy
Goetter, Thomas
Goforth, Jeffrey
Goodloe, Ernestine
Graves, Janice &Declan
Hertel, Karl
Hunt, Jim

Iudiciani, Georgia

Johnson, Jim
Kraft, Carter
Krenauer, Linda
Lahera, Andy
Lavaja, Jim
Lewellen, Emily Anne
Lobenthal, Jean
Loftin, Tracy
Longworth, Kathy
Lublemon family

Lundsford, Victoria	Page-Wood, Jake	Sbani, Carol	Vulkelich, Alejandra
Magnotta family	Parruche, Linda Ama	Scheetz, Cathy & Family	Welch, George
Magrum, Corbin	Pope, Jeff	Sillen, Rita	Wells, Emmarie
Maidhof, Dexter, Gary, Jeremiah	Pufahl, Jean	Small, Brenda & Steven	Wierzel, Rosalee
McHugh, Mark	Queen, Max	Smrdel, Louis	Williams, Dorothy
Meidl, Nancy	Rajotte, Keith	Smrdel, Terri	Wilson, Karen
Mena, Steve	Ralph, Bruce	Stewart, Sam	Wizard, Joe & Dana
Nickerson, Mike & Beth	Rambaldini, Jim	Stuart, Neil & Family	Wolff, Jack
Nine, Tim	Reiner, Linda	Thatcher, Jean	Wood, Harper
O'Berry, Darlene	Riccio, Gino	Thompson, Lori	Woods, Donna Jean
O'Keefe, Chris	Robertson, Jeanine	Traywick, Edward	Woolf, Nick
Pach, Barbara	Rothmeyer, Heidi	Tuegel, Chuck	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 gslchernando@gmail.com for any updates.

Newsletter Editor

ALL submissions for the **newsletter** or website should be sent to <u>gslchernando@gmail.com</u>. Remember, the online versions of the newsletters have some interactive features.

Stephanie



July Deadline is June 15th





ME: After 'oo' time!

SUNDAY SCHOOL/NURSERY

Susan Fowler

USHERS

June 2nd & 9th

Cara & Tom Stickler Susie Steinour

June 16th, 23rd, & 30th

Stephanie Adams Gladys Kean Lois Lenhart

MEDIA CENTER

Fran Stetson John Gifford Joe Adams Dan Cashman



Donate QR code

Click for Link

LECTORS

June 2nd

Vera Swade

June 9th

Brenda Langfried

June 16th

Shelly Fortin

June 23th

Sue Okimoto

June 30th

Ann Serafin

DEACON in Training

John Colson



CHURCH STAFF The Rev. Dennis W. Koch Pastor

Office: 352-746-7161 * Fax: 352-746-5013

Phone: 386-872-1031

E-mail: <u>gslcpastor@outlook.com</u>

Intern Rick Mainster

Cell: 352-207-8140

Email: <u>twoboats@tampabay.rr.com</u>

Administrative Assistant Shirley McField

Phone: 352-746-7161 Email: gschurch@live.com

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building / Property

Harv Johnson 352-270-3391

Christian Education

Sue Fowler 352-464-0571

Enduring Gifts

Dan Cashman. 352- 400-6024

Evangelism

Ron O'Keefe 401-474-0416

Fellowship

John & Elaine Giammasi 352-527-8706

Finance

Gail Sotrines 352-860-1765

Mutual Ministry

Sharon Maxwell 352-249-7032

Pastoral Care

Intern Rick Mainster 352-207-8140

Social Ministry

Vera Swade 352-637-5308

Stewardship

Tom Stickler 610-659-5553

Technology

Fran Stetson 352-419-7227

Worship & Music

Renate Williams 352-228-7809

COUNCIL LIAISONS

Building / Property

John Colson 352-634-5470

Christian Education - YOUTH

Carole Wagner 352-270-8485

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

Sharon Maxwell 352-249-7032

Pastoral Care

Bill Mehnert 352-513-4624

Social Ministry

Vera Swade 352-476-9072

Stewardship

Tom Stickler 610-659-5553

Technology

Fran Stetson 352-419-7227

Worship & Music

Sally Hennessy 440-796-9055



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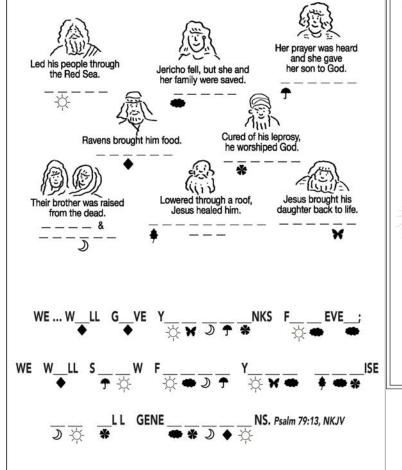
Kid's Corner



Puzzle!

Use the list of names to identify each thankful Bible character. Then use the symbol code to complete Psalm 79:13, NKJV.

NAMES: Elijah, Naaman, Mary & Martha, paralyzed man, Jairus, Moses, Rahab, Hannah



Answers: Moses, Rehab, Hannah, Elijah, Maaman, Mary & Martha, paralyzed man, Jairus; We ... will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations. Psalm 79:13, UKJV



FOLLOWING OUR FATHER'S WILL

Jesus always did his Father's will. What does our heavenly Father desire of us?

Directions: Using the coordinates, circle the corresponding words. Then add those to the blanks below to complete John 6:40, NIV.

Coordinates

T3, R1, F6, E2, T1, H5, A6, R4, F5, T5, H3, F2, A4, E6

	F	Α	Т	Н	Е	R
1	Father	them	the	believe	that	who
2	have	will	if	heart	to	live
3	perish	whoever	everyone	shall	shall	give
4	God	eternal	send	into	Him	believes
5	in	come	him	Son	rest	with
6	looks	and	forever	Where	life	hope

or my Father's will is the			
	-KA	- 24)	
Con to	PAIN.	3	

and I will raise them up at the last day." John 6:40, NIV

nswer: everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal lif

Learn about me!



