



# Allen AveNews



June 12  
Bridal Shower  
Lis Potts



June 14  
Flag Day



June 20  
Father's Day



July 4  
Independence Day

## Special Collections



June 13  
World Renew

June 27  
Resonate Global Mission

July 11  
Back to God Ministries

July 25  
Calvin Seminary

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church  
695 Allen Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442

I love camping. When I was a kid, we went with our entire family to the local state park, Lake Keomah, in south-central Iowa for a week or two during the summer.

Like my father, I love sitting around a campfire and putting the logs on to keep the fire burning. I still love the smell of a campfire and the orange and red glow of the embers in the dark of the night. I also enjoy being out in nature and exploring God's creation. I understand the thought many people have that being out in nature gives a sense of being close to God.



Camping for my mother was simply more work. She enjoyed the change of pace and being out at the campground, but it took a lot to plan, prepare, pack up and care for all us kids away from the convenience of home and do all the unpacking and cleaning up once we were home again.

Because there were so many of us, we couldn't all sleep in the bus we had for a camper. We boys didn't get to sleep in the beds but experienced the rougher life of sleeping out in a tent. Though alright for a while, we knew we didn't want to do it all the time. A good thing about camping is we know it is temporary and makes us appreciate being home all the more.

The Bible talks about God "tenting" among us. In the Gospel of John we read, "The Word became flesh and *made his dwelling* among us." Literally, "he *tented* among us." Jesus took up his residence and lived among us—God in human flesh. If we had lived back then, we could have met God and walked and talked with Jesus as we do each other.



The idea of a tent as a place of meeting with God goes back to the Old Testament tabernacle which was known as the Tent of Meeting. It was the place where God in his glory would come down and meet with Moses and be in the midst of the people. The tabernacle was a temporary arrangement pointing forward to a more permanent place of meeting with God. Even the temple, a building made of stone, was a temporary arrangement—a picture of the permanent place of meeting with God.

When John is given a vision of heaven, he reports in Revelation 21:22, "I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple." Heaven is where we will not only meet with God, we will finally be home with God living in his presence forever.

Jesus makes that reality for us. For now, enjoy "tenting it," but know it's only temporary. Our home and eternal place of meeting and being with God awaits us!

—Pastor Stan

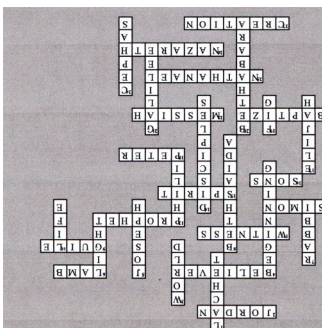
# Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church



Pastor Stan Sturing



Peg and Gerbert





# Molly Patton's Shower

On May 1, the ladies of the church gathered to celebrate the wedding of Molly Patton and Ryan Butkis. Each one of us gave Molly a recipe along with some of the ingredients and a pan or dish for serving. We had a box lunch outside and then went inside for opening gifts.



## Laurie Slorf's Lenten Lamb Project



Sue Sytsema did the older craft with Craig's girls, Emma and Lyla.



Mrs. Peg and Gerbert did the younger craft.



Grandma Sandy did the younger craft with Ron's granddaughter, Aubry Sundell.

Laurie designed 2 crafts for children to do. One was for the older kids and one for the younger ones.



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## Happy 99th Birthday



John Walhout  
July 4



## Coffee Schedule

- June 6: Susan and Bob Vanderlaan  
Jill and Brian Schuitema
  - June 13: Sue and John Sytsema  
Laurie and Jack DeJonge
  - June 20: Sherrie and Jack Wolffis
  - June 27: Sandy Volkers  
Ron Friday
- If you are willing to help, call  
Deanna VanderPloeg

## Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study had a kind of rough year as many of the groups in church did. We weren't able to meet much of the time because of the pandemic, but we did start in the spring. We met in the church basement with masks and social distancing.

We studied a book this year called 12 Women of the Bible. This book was accompanied by a video. We would study our lesson at home, then come together to watch the video, and discuss the lesson.

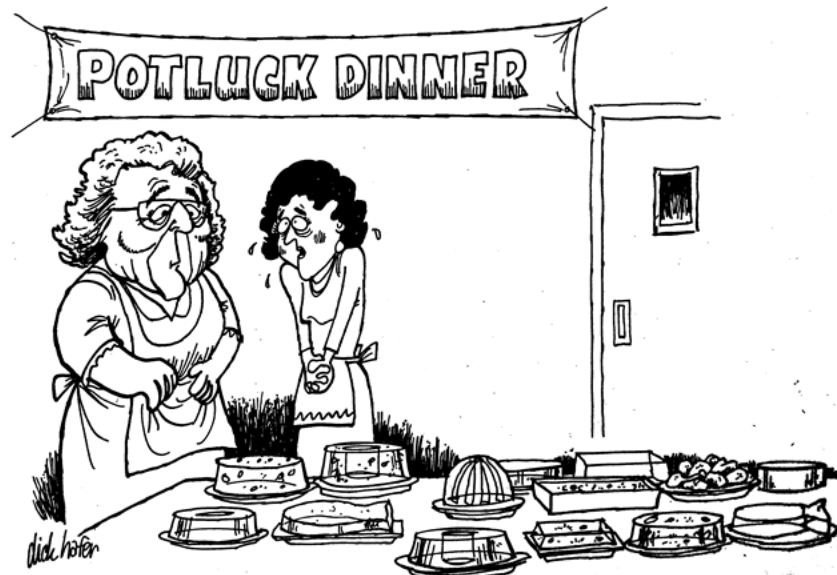
It was a little different from the books we have studied in the past. This time we did not only read the facts and story of the person, but focused on a certain difficulty that the woman faced. We learned how God helped her through that rough time.

A couple of the women that we studied were Hannah in her childlessness, and Leah who struggled to feel accepted because her husband never loved her as he loved Rachel, Leah's sister.

These were good lessons. We were given guidance on how we need to look to God when we face difficulties. God will be there for us.

We still have four lessons in the book for next season which will begin in the fall. We would love to have more people join us next season.

—Judy Vaandering



**IT FINALLY HAPPENED... 73 JELLO SALADS... AND 1 PLATE OF CHICKEN**

## GEMS YEAR COMES TO AN END

We started out wondering if there was going to even be a beginning to our GEMS year. Last year ended abruptly in March with the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic. We did keep in touch with our GEMS with notes and phone calls but it sure was not the same.

So, in September, we called the moms of the GEMS from last year. Everyone was in agreement that with taking temperatures, using hand sanitizer, wearing masks, and keeping social distancing we could meet in person. So we did! We reconfigured our meeting schedule so the girls stayed in their classrooms and the leaders rotated into each with a lesson, a craft, and a worship time. We really enjoyed our time together this year finishing our LOVED period lessons from last year.

With a slightly smaller number of girls, we had some good discussions on life, challenges, and expectations. In all these things, we went to the Bible where we heard who God tells us we are and where we were reminded of the great truth that we are LOVED period. In the times we are living, it is so important for these precious girls to know that God has lavished His love on them and that He calls them His children!

We enjoyed some fun times together. We hiked at Hoffmaster, we held a bake sale raising \$552.00, we packed 20 Christmas shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse, we earned the sewing badge, we spent 2 years' worth of GEMMIES at our GEMMIE auction, and we closed out the year with GEMS Sunday when we helped the congregation learn our theme verse from 1 John 3:1. Being able to pour God's love into these girls has always been such a privilege for us counselors. The support from Allen Avenue is incredible and we are so blessed to be able to have this ministry for the 2nd - 8th grade girls. This year's team included Jennifer (who moved to Alabama part way through the year), Charry, Renee, Amber, Emily, and Jill. These women love the Lord and love these girls. Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to share God's love and to watch these girls grow in their faith walk.

Please keep this ministry, the leadership, and the girls in your prayers as we seek to "live like we're loved."

—Jill Schuitema



**LET'S SEE... THIS NUMBER THREE FELLOW ON YOUR LIST, "SAUL OF TARSUS"... HE'S A ROMAN CITIZEN... HE HEADED THE GROUP THAT HUNTED DOWN AND KILLED MANY OF OUR FELLOW BELIEVERS... HE STONED FOLKS... SENT LOADS OF US TO PRISON. NATHAN, WE'VE HAD SOME LOUSY CALL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN IN THE PAST, BUT YOU TAKE THE CAKE!!!**



## Allen Avenue Small Groups Update

New small groups of 10-12 members will be forming in July and early August (if the Covid situation allows). I will be recruiting new small group leaders in the next several months. Please prayerfully consider becoming a small group leader.

Small group activities will include prayer, Bible studies, fun outings/activities and eventually outreach to non-believing neighbors, friends and co-workers.

What are the benefits of joining a small group?

**In a small group you are noticed.** When you are part of a small group it will make you part of a tighter community of friends who are willing and able to support you when it is most needed.

**Small groups are like an extended family.** Being part of a small group that meets regularly to fellowship gives you the same loyalty and support that you would receive from family. And family is priceless!

**Small groups allow you to search and ask questions.** It allows you to discuss challenges, praises, and questions with other believers.

**Small groups provide advice and support.** Not only do they help with spiritual questions, they can also provide support on a variety of life matters. You may ask for input and prayers regarding your career, relationships, and other life decisions.

And ultimately, **small groups help the church grow.** They give you an opportunity to connect with people in a less threatening environment than the church setting provides.

To establish new small groups, we need additional small group leaders. What are the benefits of leading a small group?

Your leadership will provide others a small group to join. Without leaders, we cannot add additional small groups.

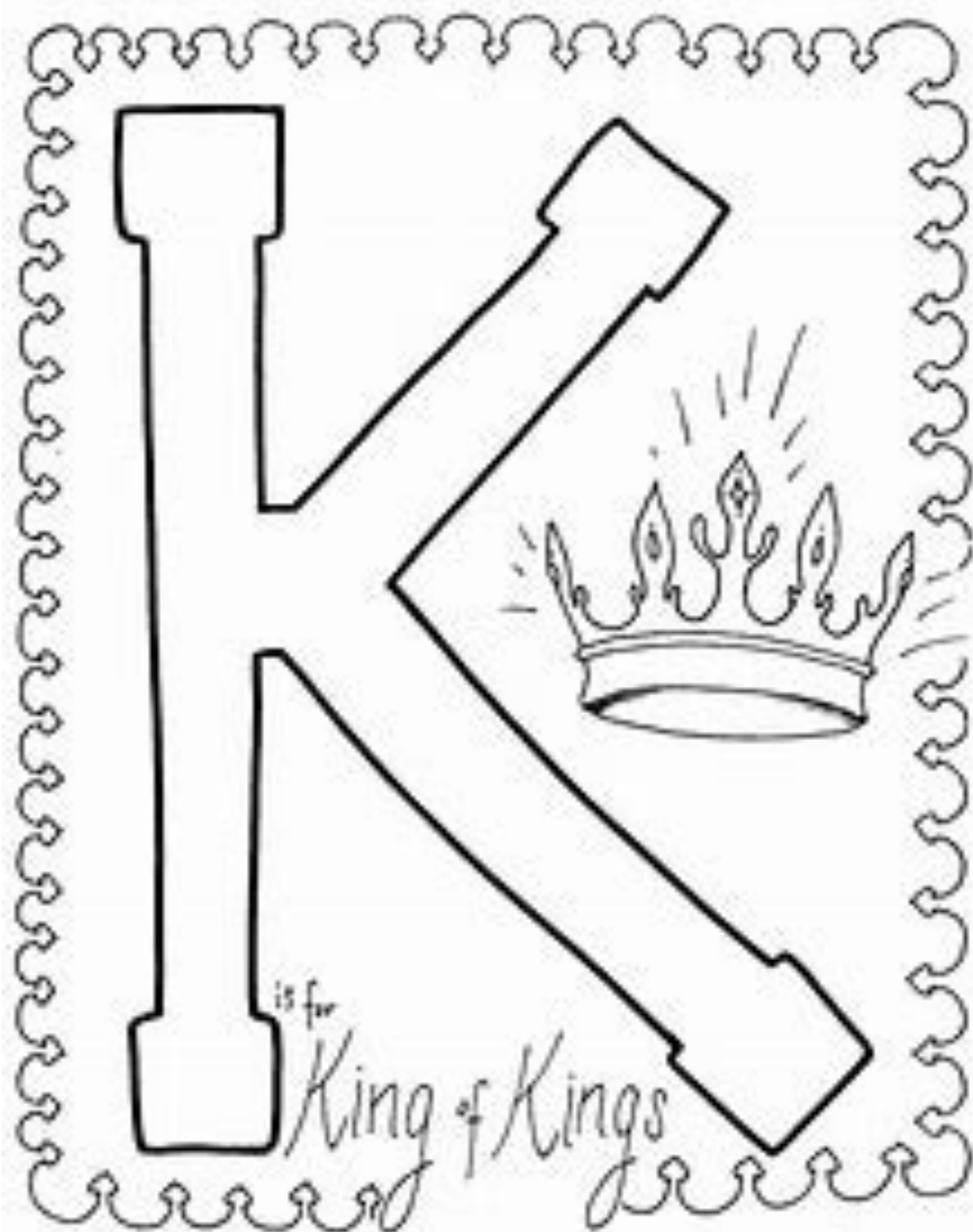
Your leadership will help other people grow in Christ.

You will help provide the chance to build a Christian community where people can build a bond that lasts a lifetime.

You will model the importance of small group leadership. You may inspire others in your group to become leaders of a new small group.

Please pray for God's direction on whether leading a small group is a calling he has for you. If you feel lead to head up a small group, please contact Steve Rop – [swrop@yahoo.com](mailto:swrop@yahoo.com) or (231) 736-8969.





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ministry-for-children.com





# Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

## Paul's Journeys

A L N B X R T O I Q Z X H S O T S B B Q  
L Y S T R A G O B B I I E Q M D L I Q S  
I T Z S B W M L R Q E Z Q G A A F A O N  
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V R E K T I R V K J H Y J N T A P M C M  
V S N I O Y P N Q B E T P N A S M V O V  
G U A J Q Q V W A L U J E I I C Q M R R  
A S I D X O P O R B V K X A C U D J I Z  
L P H R V P D X C E A R X H C S W E N D  
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T E E R T C S K S Q X K J M O J E I H S  
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J V L U I Z Z G J Y F E P H E S U S A V  
T S Y N A G O G U E F O Y L B W L D O G

CORINTH  
TORAH TEACHER  
PAUL  
ANTIOCH  
ROME  
SYNAGOGUE

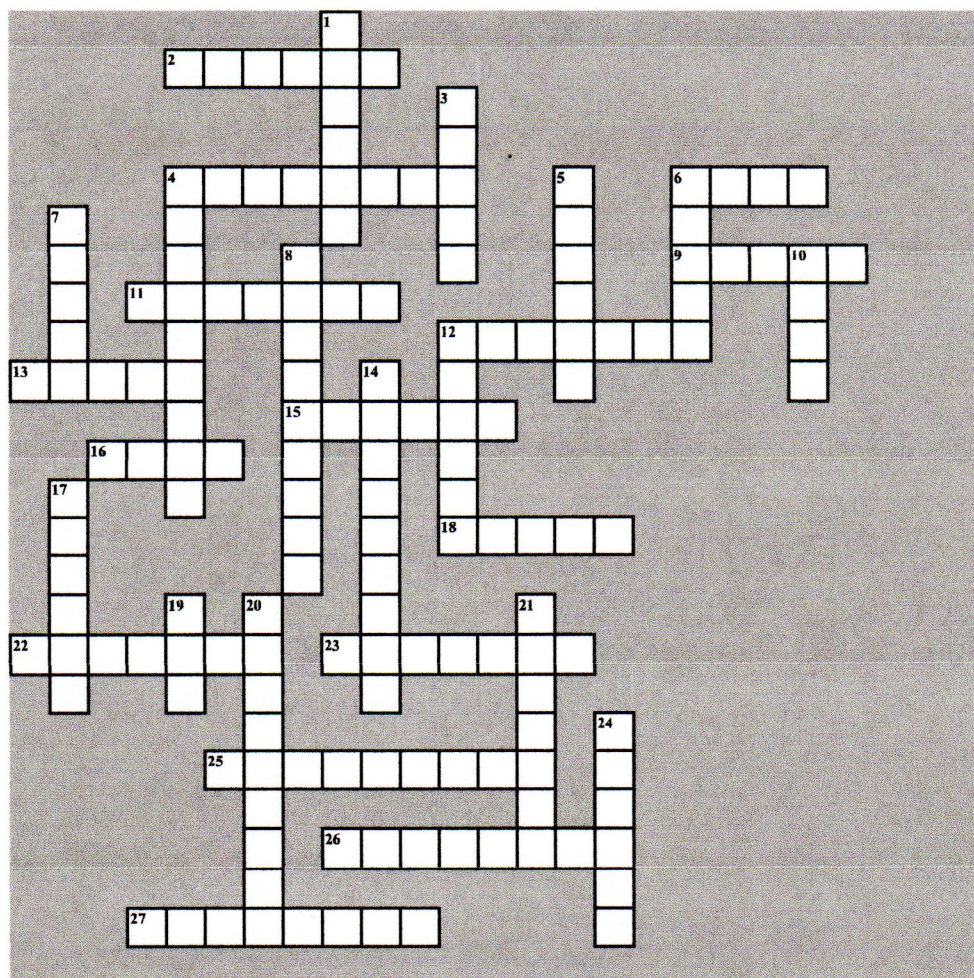
LYSTRA  
EPHESUS  
BARNABAS  
GALATIA  
PRISON  
ISRAELITE

SHIPWRECKED  
DAMASCUS  
TARSUS  
DISCIPLES  
YESHUA  
MALTA



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[www.biblepathwayadventures.com](http://www.biblepathwayadventures.com)

# In the Beginning Was the Word



## Across

- 2 A river in Palestine.
- 4 Who has power to become a son of God?
- 6 Animal Messiah is like.
- 9 Nathanael had none.
- 11 John gave this concerning the Word.
- 12 Moses said Messiah would be one of these like himself.
- 13 The son of Jonah.
- 15 What John saw descending from Heaven like a dove.
- 16 Born by the will of God.
- 18 Andrew's brother.
- 22 John did this with water.

- 23 Ladder upon which Jacob saw angels ascending and descending.
- 25 Bartholomew
- 26 Jesus' hometown.
- 27 Work the Word performed in the beginning.

## Down

- 1 John unworthy to loose this.
- 3 Made by the Word.
- 4 When the Word was with God.
- 5 Jesus' legal father.
- 6 What the darkness could not comprehend.
- 7 Master or teacher.
- 8 Hometown of Philip, Andrew and Peter.

- 10 What the Word was to men.
- 12 Probably Nathanael's brother (Lk. 6:14).
- 14 Andrew and Philip were this to John.
- 17 Prophet that wore a leather girdle.
- 19 Jesus saw Nathanael sitting under this kind of tree.
- 20 One of the places where John baptized.
- 21 Region of northern Palestine.
- 24 Hebrew equivalent of Peter.



# June 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Carla Kieft John Schuitema	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Carlie Vander Ploeg Ro VerHeul Molly Patton	12
13	14	15	16 Joe Vlasma Stan Rop Steve Rop	17	18	19
20	21 Howard Dirkse	22	23 Pearl Kitchen	24	25 Myla Workman	26 Susan Vanderlaan Brian Schuitema
27	28	29 Phil Snyder	30 Sherrie Wolffis			



# July 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Gabe Vlasma John Walhout	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Deb Green	13	14	15 Sue Secord	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Art Kieft
25	26 Zoe Sytsema	27	28	29 Vicky Fisher	30	31