



Allen AveNews

Pulpit Supply

September 6
John Koedyker

September 13
Bob Pohler

September 20
Bruce Anderson

September 27
John Koedyker

October 4
Bob Pohler

October 11
Bruce Ballast

October 18
Bruce Anderson

October 25
Becky Tjapkes

Special Collections



September 13
Muskegon Christian
School

September 27
CRC Office of Race
Relations

October 11
Safe Church Ministries

October 18
GEMS International

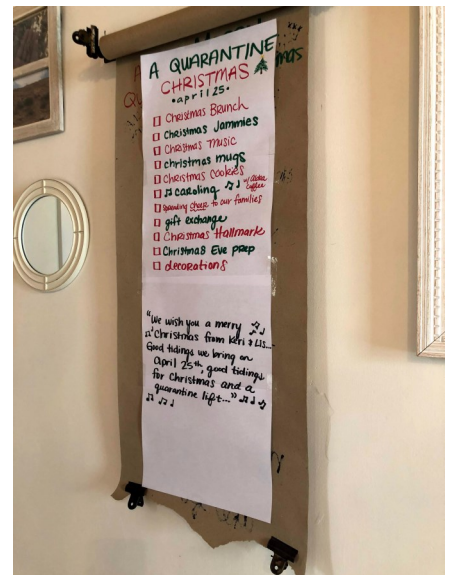
Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church
695 Allen Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442

Pandemic Issue

Welcome back to the Allen AveNews! This issue is about what we have been doing during the quarantine. God has continued to be with us and has kept us safe. Many of our members have been keeping busy doing a lot of things with family and with small groups. Here are a few of those activities that people have shared with me.

Lis Potts and Keri Verwolf

During the early days of quarantine, Lis and Keri needed something to look forward to. So they decided to celebrate Christmas in April! On the 24th (the night before Christmas), they decorated a "tree" and put gifts to exchange under it, prepared a Christmas brunch, and baked cookies for their unsuspecting family members. The following morning they were ready to check off all the Christmas activities on their list (see picture). Their favorite activity was caroling and delivering Christmas cookies to their family members. With the Christmas brunch, caroling, and Christmas movie, it was certainly a Christmas quarantine to remember!



Bob and Jean Botting



What have we done since the COVID outbreak and quarantine? Well, I would like to think that we used that time for intellectual growth, improved fitness and old-fashioned house cleaning. But in reality we binge-watched "Murder, She Wrote" and made lists of all the things we could do around the house.

Initially we stayed at home. Our first mask-making attempts stalled out when it took an hour to make a bobbin and thread the machine. That all took more Google searches than the actual mask pattern. But we persevered and eventually had a mask worthy of a grocery store trip. I was out of chocolate; those were desperate times.



Bob and I cut each other's hair. Mine grew back; his didn't.

Like everyone else, we downloaded the Zoom app. Our small group used this weekly as we "gathered" every Sunday morning to stay in touch and support each other. We also used it to keep up with Bob's siblings who are scattered across the Midwest and Canada. (Why did it take a pandemic for us to decide to share each other's lives?) We also Zoomed with our boys. What a wonderful thing that is. Certainly a positive outcome from quarantine, something we will want to continue.

As things started to open up, we got out more. Primarily we went to our son Joe's house where we tackled all sorts of home improvement projects with him. We've been camping a few times at various Michigan state parks. We've also returned to our volunteer work at DIBS On Resale. And we're still staying pretty close to home because we're not yet completely comfortable with "normal" activities. We hope and pray that all those we care for will stay healthy and safe until these crazy

Brian and Jill Schuitema

And So It Began. It was one week after our 2nd granddaughter was born and 3 days after we had last held her and her almost 2 year old sister when our son called with the dreaded words, "Mom, you're not going to like this, but Lauren and I have decided to self-quarantine." **And so it began.** I knew it was coming but that didn't help. We would be able to visit only by phone, by facetime, by window, and by the new-to-most-of-us Zoom visit. Yuck. But, we do what we have to do and so far we have survived. We found ways to be somewhat creative with our visits and we have not been forgotten so we're happy. It was only a couple of days after that that we found out the Lakeshore Fitness Center was closing because of the Corona virus. We have been fairly faithful members, exercising

a couple times a week there and playing wallyball every Tuesday and Thursday. With those doors being closed, we knew we needed to do something to stay somewhat in shape and active.

And so it began. Brian calls it "Jill's Basement Boot Camp" but really it's about 40 minutes of plain old exercises like sit-ups, push-ups, jumping jacks, plank, leg lifts . . . You get the picture . . . all of which is done in the basement. Faithfully doing this workout has kept us from gaining and has even helped us to lose weight. And it has saved us the monthly membership fee! Because 40 minutes of exercise didn't sound like it was quite enough in comparison to our fairly active lifestyle, we decided we needed to do more. **And so it began.** Hiking at Hoffmaster (until in May when the mosquitoes drove us out), walking the neighborhood (at least 3 miles



anyway), biking sometimes up to 30 miles, playing tennis with Mom and Dad Schuitema, and learning the fine art of pickle ball all became an extra activity to add to the morning exercise each day. During the stay at home time, we did some evaluation of the state of our home. It was acknowledged that it had been quite some time since Spring cleaning had actually been done (say about 20 years). **And so it began.** We finally put to good use the Murphy soap, the buckets of water with Lysol, the dust cloths and Endust, the special Norwex window cleaning cloths, the ladder, and the big and little vacuums in order to accomplish this great task. No drawer, shelf, cabinet, or cupboard escaped our deep cleaning. You cannot believe the amount of paper we accumulated over time!! We filled 3 paper boxes just with the maps and brochures of places we might visit that were crammed into the bottom drawer of our filing cabinet. Dibs! On Resale was the recipient of at least 4 truckloads of treasures . . . some of which were items we hadn't used in 35 years! Truly, though, it was a great feeling to purge and clean. (Now, if we can only keep it that way). We found ourselves in a dilemma in that we were supposed to stay at home but yet we were hungry, so we needed to devise a plan to get groceries. **And so it began.** We started our 3 Week Grocery Shopping Program. Do you know that most fresh produce only stays good for about a week? That's not so special when you only shop every 3 weeks. That last week is when choices at home are limited to potatoes, onion, apples, oranges, celery, and carrots. And really, that's not so bad, but we found ourselves stuffing ourselves with blueberries, strawberries, grapes, broccoli, cauliflower, squash, spinach, and snap peas during that first week in a rush to eat it while it was good. At least we ate a fairly healthy diet for part of the



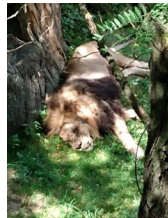
month. Our granddaughter, Brynn, celebrated her 2nd birthday in May with one of the recently popular drive by Birthday parties. John, our son, asked if we could put together a little video of us wishing her a Happy Birthday. **And so it began.** You can't just wave and say "Happy Birthday" into a camera and expect a 2 year old to think it's anything special so we put together a whole show complete with birthday cupcake, candle, party hats, and singing. You know, you can change the lyrics of a song to make it say whatever you want. By changing a few words to "Head and Shoulder, Knees and Toes" and to "If You're Happy and You Know It", we personalized our songs especially for Brynn and apparently we were a big hit. We also decorated our truck with balloons, signs, and pop cans on strings. We were obnoxiously another big hit for the birthday drive by. This account is getting pretty lengthy. **And so this must end.** During the past 5 months we have also gotten to know our neighbors really well, we have done more reading and Bible study, we have connected with "old " friends, we have looked at our life priorities and made changes, and we have come to have a greater appreciation for our church family and for our wonderful Lord and Savior. We are blessed and pray that God equips us afresh each day to serve Him and others wherever we are.

Phil, Charry, Devin, Travis, and Emily Snyder



As the Spring gave way to summer, the news headlines continued to flash with more and more Corona headlines. Things remained closed, then open with new restrictions, or maybe even closed again. We soon realized that more and more of our favorite summer activities and festivals were going to be cancelled or postponed for this year. Leaving us with mixed feelings as to what this summer would have instore for us. But God would not disappoint!! This summer brought us a bigger and greater appreation for each other and all that He has created. We spent

much of our time enjoying our surroundings. From Charry's first hike to sunflower fields and lots of beautiful sunrises and sunsets. There was much to see and do! We spent three different weekends up north on family property. Where we enjoyed things such as camping, quad riding, fishing and beautiful rainbows after a summer rain! His promises are everywhere! When we were at home we would spend plenty of warm summer days relaxing, floating and enjoying our Great Lakes as a family. We spent a day at the John Ball Zoo.

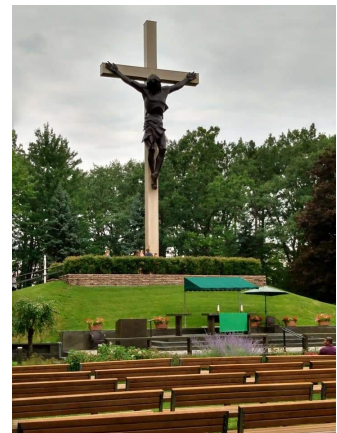
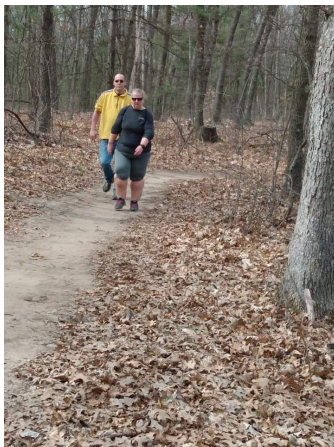


Here Travis tried his best to get attacked by a (Lego) Tiger! And Devin insisted on settling for nothing less than the perfect picture of a Lion. HE SUCCEEDED! We finished the summer out with a trip up to the Mackinaw Bridge.



As Emily says mom look how gorgeous! as she takes in the scenery. While in Mackinaw we enjoyed a bridge side picnic, shopping and of course Fudge! The kids thought this was a fun trip but it wasn't over just yet! A quick stop over in Indian River to take

in all The Cross in the Woods had to offer was a must. After all He is and Remains Our Hope, Refuge and Strength!! We hope and pray that this summer also brought you a minute or two to step outside the pandemic and enjoy, accept and appreciate all of the Lord's Blessings.



Peg Rop and the Bible Quilt

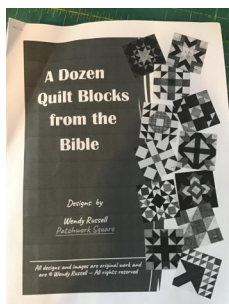
COVID 19 has presented many opportunities and changes for us at AACRC. One way was to use this time to stay connected in Christ by putting together a bible quilt banner. The pattern was adapted from Wendy Russell entitled "A Dozen Quilt Blocks from the Bible". Each block was a separate piece which stood on it's own. The challenge was to create a unified banner in which blocks could be made by different levels of sewers. Also, the blocks ranged from 10" to 15" squares. Since this was started during the early times of quarantine (April/May 2020) fabric stores were not allowing people in the stores but one could order and pay online then pickup at the store. Abby Mae's Quilt Shop was selected and fabrics were ordered online with hopes that there would be enough and that the colors would go together. Most of this was guess work and I would like to say it was guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Fabric was cut for each design, placed in a packet with instructions and delivered (using social distancing and health measures) to those who were excited to be part of this challenge. Each block had a bible name that came with it. A verse was then selected for each block.

Sewing was fun as we each saw our blocks being created right in front of us. One fabric was used in each square to tie them all together. We had a mother/daughter who had never sewed a square and did theirs by hand sewing. We had those who sewed but had never done a block for a quilt and we had experienced quilters.

The blocks were returned to me and with help from Abby Mae's and my sister-in-law, Susan, I was able to design, quilt, embroider and put, not one but two banners together. This was completed in late August 2020.

This was so much fun and gave us all something new, creative and positive to do when we were so isolated from each other. I'd like to call the banners "AACRC Unity in Christ" and want to thank all of those who help these come to fruition and hope they may be enjoyed for many years to come.



These ladies worked on the quilt: Carol, Schuitema, Sandy Volkers, Debbie Anderson, Sue Sytsema, Charry Snyder, Emily Snyder. Not pictured Nancy Rop, Laurie Slorf and Peg Rop

Steve and Nancy Rop Small Group

The Small Group lead by Steve and Nancy Rop has remained active through COVID19 restrictions. The group gets together for a social distancing in-person activity or over Zoom every other week. Activities have included hiking, biking, boating, swimming, Hula dancing, and plenty of ice cream. Zoom gatherings allow us to be steadfast in our prayers for one another. Group members have also recorded a couple songs that are posted on the church YouTube page.



Dave and Joanne Bishop Small Group

The small group members are Dave and Joanne Bishop, Brian and Jill Schuitema, Bob and Susan Vanderlaan, Case and Judy Vaandering, Randy and Becki Fisher, Ron Friday and Sandy Volkers. In the early stages of COVID, we zoomed every other Thursday. Then we had a bring your own sandwich picnic at the Bishops. A couple of weeks ago we had a hamburger fry at the Schuitema's. Brian was the chef. We each brought a dish to pass.

Case and Judy Vaandering



First of all, I got a call on March 13 saying that someone had canceled their surgery and would I like to move up two weeks. Case and I talked about it and decided if I didn't do it then, it might be quite awhile before the hospitals would take elective surgery again. So on March 16 I had my knee replaced. It was strange because they let Case in the hospital with me and into the prep room. A nurse came in and said to Case, "What you doing here?" Case explained he was with his wife, but promptly got kicked out. They weren't supposed to let him in there in the first place. I called Case after I was awake enough after surgery and told him

all went well and I was fine. I called again before I went to sleep that night. It was strange having no visitors. After I went home I really appreciated the cards and calls that I received from our church family. Even though we couldn't meet, people were remembering one another.

We got by ordering groceries online and having them delivered for the first three months. Eric had suggested that we try to help out restaurants also by ordering some meals. Case would pick them up if they didn't deliver. How about that, ordering dinner out and feeling like you aren't spoiling yourself, but rather doing a good deed for restaurant owners who are facing tough times.

To fill some time each day, Case and I played a game of cards. That was fun and we have kept it up, but now it is more like a couple of times a week.

Some projects I worked on those first few months were knitting newborn hats, sending cards to seniors and shut-ins, and doing therapy on my own at home. We always say we have no time to do the good things for others, but I certainly didn't have that excuse during Covid.

Zoom Prayer Time

With Peg Rop

Through the Worship and Music Committee, a weekly online Zoom Prayer Time began on July 8, 2020. This was to unite Allen Ave. members in prayer. Prayer Time outlines are sent out on Tuesdays for a Tuesday 7 PM and a Wednesday 10 AM session. Members are able to call in by regular phone or click on the link using their smart phone, tablet or computer. We use the ACTS form of prayer method. Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication/Intercession. We pray through selected bible verses and songs/hymns. We take prayer requests, pray for a selected congregational member, missionary and shut in. The past two weeks we have prayed specifically for those who are involved in schools. Time is limited to 40-45 minutes. Those who come can pray in silence, words or sentences. This has become a much loved time and we all feel connected with each other through the blessings of the Holy Spirit. We have some that come when they can and others who are able to come regularly. Prayer Outlines are also used by those who are unable to come. Our prayers are that God will lead and guide our church so we can be like Jesus to others.

Sandy Volkers and Ron Friday

Near the end of April, Ron decided brats from Gene's Market sounded good. So we hit the road to go to Grant. After picking out our favorite brats and a few other things, we went to Croton Dam and then to Hardy Dam. We took a short hike to Hardy Dam. It was a warm day and felt great to be outside.



It would have been very hard for these old people to get all the way up the steps in a hurry if the siren went off.



The next Saturday was again a beautiful day. So we drove to Messick to see the Little Mac Bridge. It's a walking bridge across the Manistee River. It's a replica of the Big Mac Bridge. There are many hiking trails near there so we spent time enjoying God's creation.

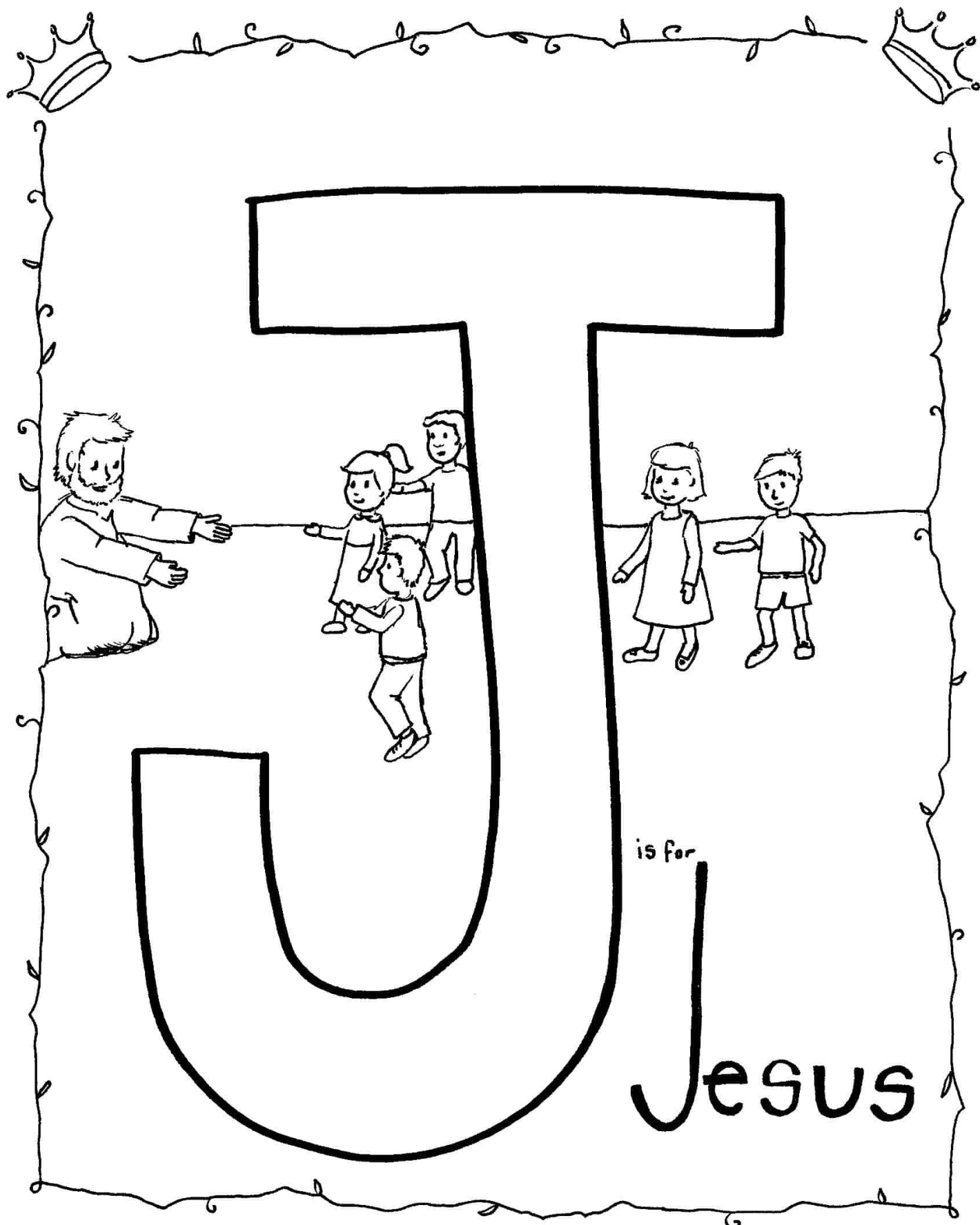
We did spend a lot of time with both of our families. In May, we celebrated two of Ron's grandkids birthdays. We also had his grandkids over to fish in the pond behind our condos. One day they caught enough for a fish fry. There are blue gills, sunfish, and wide mouth bass in our pond.



In June, it was off to Iowa to celebrate my granddaughter's graduation from Unity Christian High School in Orange City. We were unable to attend the ceremony because they were allowed only 4 tickets. We were able to be at her open house and go to church with them on Sunday.

We visited two zoos with Ron's kids. We went to Binder Park Zoo and Boulder Ridge. We also went to the poppy field near Fennville and to the sunflower field near Montague.





is for

Jesus



Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE

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

LION
MOUSE
GRASSHOPPER
PEACOCK
VIPER
HEIFER

FROG
RAM
WOLF
TURTLE-DOVE
LAMB
HORSE

FERRET
DONKEY
QUAIL
LEVIATHAN
BUFFALO
CALF



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worksheets, quizzes and more visit our website at:
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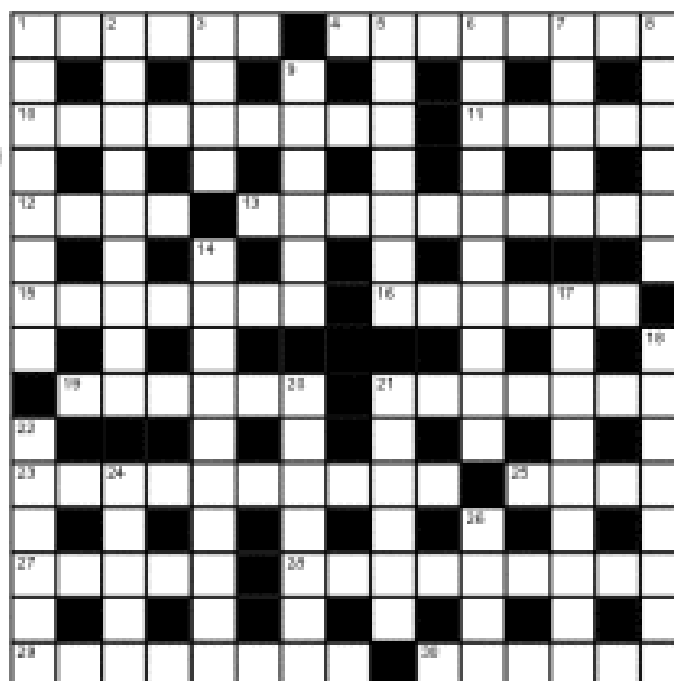
BIBLE CROSSWORD I

Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
- 4 Seemed (8)
- 10 New Testament book (9)
- 11 Unit of length (5)
- 12 '...it is a ____ thing
the king requireth'
(Dan 2:11) (4)
- 13 Contemplation (10)
- 15 Abigail supplied David
with one hundred
clusters of these (7)
- 16 A son of King David (6)
- 19 Concurred (6)
- 21 Light sources (7)
- 23 Propitiations (10)
- 25 A false god (4)
- 27 Gather (5)
- 28 Abimelech was hit by
this (9)
- 29 Instructors (8)
- 30 Hastily (6)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal
workers (8)
- 2 Inspiring (9)
- 3 Compass point (4)
- 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

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6 The words of Jeremiah
said not to listen to
these (10)

7 Jewish leader (5)

8 'He is proud, knowing
nothing, but ____
about questions and
strifes of words...'
(1 Tim 6:4) (6)

9 Bread makers (6)

14 In this year of King
Nebuchadrezzar's reign,
Nebuzaradan arrived in
Jerusalem (10)

17 Ancient city of Og, King
of Bashan (9)

18 Stringed instrument (8)

20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)

21 Tiny amount (6)

22 Jesus did this with
authority (6)

24 Last letter of the Greek
alphabet (5)

26 Province of the Roman
Empire (4)



September 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Don Green Katelyn Morris	3	4	5
6 Daniel Maat	7	8	9	10 Dale Johnson	11	12
13	14 Jack DeJonge	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Owen Sytsema	23	24	25	26
27 Kevin Rop	28	29 Jim Doornbos	30			



October 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Loie VandenBosch	2	3 Emily Snyder
4 Gary Schelske	5 Jill Schuitema	6	7 Karen Alphenaar	8	9	10 Bob Botting
11 Shelby Schuitema	12	13	14	15	16	17 Yeabsira Vlasma
18 Beth VanRees	19 Toni Schuitema	20 Ellie Stahl	21	22 Matt Vlasma	23 Pearl Vanderlaan	24
25	26 Joyce Vanderlaan	27 Pat Madendorp	28 Deb Vlasma	29	30	31