



July/August 2025

Allen AveNews

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Pastor Mark Hofman
695 Allen Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442



July 4
Independence Day



Guest Pastors:
July 13, August 3
Pastor Dan Wierenga
July 27
Pastor Don Byker



July 14-18
Kings Kids



July 22
National Hammock Day



August 13
National Lefthander's Day

Special Collections



July 6
Love, INC
August 3
Thrive

Rooted and Grounded in Christ

The Apostle Paul writes these words to the Ephesians: "I pray that ... Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love."

What inspires Paul to use such botanically green language like "rooted and grounded?" Not only was he inspired by the Holy Spirit, but he's also recalling the whole story of God's Word in Scripture. Jesus taught his disciples that all of the law, the prophets, and the writings were about him (Luke 24:27 & 44) And we are invited to consider that all scriptures (even the plants!) reveal who Jesus is and what he has done. This is why Paul says he's praying Christ may dwell in their hearts as they're being rooted and grounded in God's love.



So what does this being rooted and grounded in love look like in the Bible?

From Genesis to Revelation, God is constantly using the language of creation to speak of love—*of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought*. In Genesis 1:2 the Spirit is hovering over the waters, while the earth is formless and empty. These same waters are poured out during the flood, which brings a preview of a new and redeemed creation. Moses is both rescued from the waters of the Nile and parts the waters of the Red Sea. God calls Israel his plant and vine (Isaiah and Jeremiah); Jesus curses a fig tree in Jerusalem in a symbolic and prophetic judgment of unbelieving Israel. From the Psalms and Proverbs to the Prophets and Parables, God speaks in three-part harmony about the way in which creation itself is bound up in the redemption of humanity. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," Isaiah cries! And God's answer is fulfilled in Christ and through Israel for all nations: "They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit ... for as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people. I will extend peace to Jerusalem like a river and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream."

From Hosea's final words to the Gospel parables of the Sower, the Seed, and the Soils—God's love looks like a creation that "waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed." (Romans 8:19)

May we listen to Christ who dwells in our hearts and learn how to be rooted and grounded in his love this summer at Allen Avenue.

—Pastor Mark

Note: If you exchange assignments with someone, let Susan Vanderlaan know so she can have it right in the bulletin. susan.vanderlaan@allenavechurch.org or 231.722.6411



NURSERY SCHEDULE

July	6	Sue Sytsema, Maelin Vlasma
	13	Carol Peterman, Hope
	20	Amber Johnson, Violet
	27	Becky Schout, Tayla Vlasma
August	3	Amber Johnson, Serenity Alphenaar
	10	Karen Alphenaar, Becki Fisher
	17	Toni Schuitema, Addie Maat
	24	Mary Paton, Renee Vlasma
	31	Kristen Vlasma, Beth VanRees



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July	6	Kristen Vlasma, Amber Johnson
	13	Dale Johnson, Stephanie Hofman
	20	Carol Peterman, Bob & Susan Vanderlaan
	27	Beth VanRees, Laurie DeJonge
August	3	
	10	
	17	
	24	
	31	



COFFEE SCHEDULE

July	6	Elaine & Bob Holwerda
	13	Carolyn & Justin Wilson
	20	Laurie & Jack DeJonge
	27	The Snyder's
August	3	Karen & Sonya
	10	Stephanie Hofman
	17	Sherri & Jack Wolffis
	24	Sue Secord
	31	Sue & John Sytsema

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

I asked God to take away my pride,
But God said, "No. It's not for me to give away
but for you to give up."

I asked God to take care of the hungry and the
homeless. But God said, "No. That's your job."

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.
But God said, "No. Her spirit is whole, her body
is only temporary."

I asked God to grant me patience.
But God said, "No. Patience is the result of tribu-
lation; it isn't granted it's earned."

I asked God to give me happiness.
But God said, "No. I bless you with many good
things; happiness is up to you."

I asked God to spare me pain.
But God said, "No. Suffering draws you apart
from worldly cares and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow.
And God said, "Yes, we'll work on that
together."

I asked God if He loved me.
And God said, Yes, of course. Why did I create
you? Why did I give my own Son to die for you?
Only because I love you."

So I asked God to help me love others as much as
He loves me.

And God said, "Finally, you've got the idea."

—Submitted by Betty Ten Brink

PRAISE GOD!

On June 1, Asher Hofman made profession of faith. One week later on June 8, Maelin Vlasma made profession of faith.



Sally sang "Jesus Loves Me" to Maelin when she was baptized and again at her profession of faith

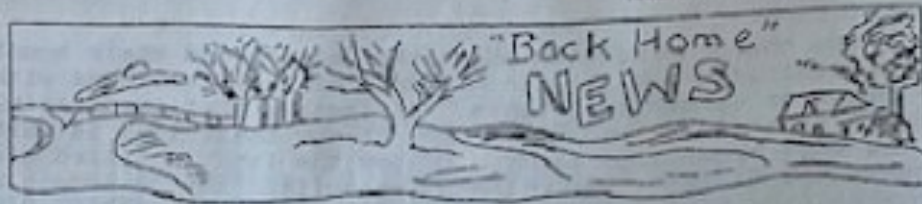
CONGRATULATIONS!



Luke Maat and Tekalegn Vlasma graduated from Western Michigan Christian. Luke is going to Calvin University and joining the ROTC. Tekalegn is going to Palm Beach Atlantic University in Palm Beach, FL and will be studying business.

A Blast from the Past, Allen Avenue Advisor

March - 1946



We have just received word that Rev. J. Holwerda has rejected the call extended to him by our church to become our pastor. Let us continue to pray the Lord may soon send us an under shepherd of His choice.

A Fellowship Banquet for the men and boys of 16 and above will be held at the Christian School on Wednesday evening, March 27. The Rev. J. O. Schuring from Fremont will be the guest speaker.

Plans for a mother and daughter banquet to be held this Spring are on the way.

On Friday evening, February 1st the Sunday School teachers together with their wives, husbands and friends gathered in the chapel for a very special occasion. It was to honor one of our esteemed teachers, Miss Rattie Oldenburg who has completed twenty-five years of service as a teacher. We first had our regular lesson explanation by our Superintendent, Mr. J. O. Rop, followed by a short program. Mr. John Zuidema then in behalf of the teachers presented Miss Oldenburg with a gift in recognition of her service. Refreshments were then served.

Quite a change has been made in the parsonage. The interior has been redecorated with new wallpaper, linoleum and carpeting.

A few Sundays ago Mr. Jack Koelofs, a representative of the Gideons, spoke at our evening service in behalf of their work. A special offering was received for that cause. They are seeking to place a New Testament in the hands of every school child.

CONGRATULATIONS! to the following students from Allen Avenue who have just graduated from Muskegon Senior High School: Frances Rop, Laura Weesies and Arnold Vanderlaan; also to Jack E. Musch who has recently graduated as an Ensign from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor under the V-12 program.

We have some very interesting news about the Kindergarten class in our Christian School as given to us by their teacher, Miss Geraldine DeYoung:

Twenty-six five-year old pupils, having completed their first semester in the kindergarten successfully, began the new semester with renewed zeal. They are the high kindergarteners and put all emphasis on the high when they speak about it. "Yes, we can work in our workbooks now, can't we teacher?" is the question asked so very often at the beginning of the new semester. The characters that we talk about in connection with our workbooks are Dick, Jane,

baby and their pets Spot and Puff. You can ask any high kindergarten about these people and their pets and they can tell you many interesting facts. We have built a grocery store with the teacher would love to satisfy the longing wishes, "Teacher, may I be storekeeper today?" We also have a special truck for the delivery of groceries, which the afternoon pupils made.

The children of the low kindergarten number eighteen at the present time, but the enrollment seems to fluctuate for we began with nineteen pupils, lost two, and then gained one. These children are rapidly learning many songs, Bible texts, numbers, letters, and art work. To date we have celebrated several birthdays in this new February Class and then the children made birthday chains and received a treat.

The children often, in their sincerity and child-like faith, express their gratitude for the privilege of attending a Christian School where they can hear stories from God's Word. The children's faith is so often manifested and will long be remembered. May I as their teacher ever be an example of Him, for Him, to them.

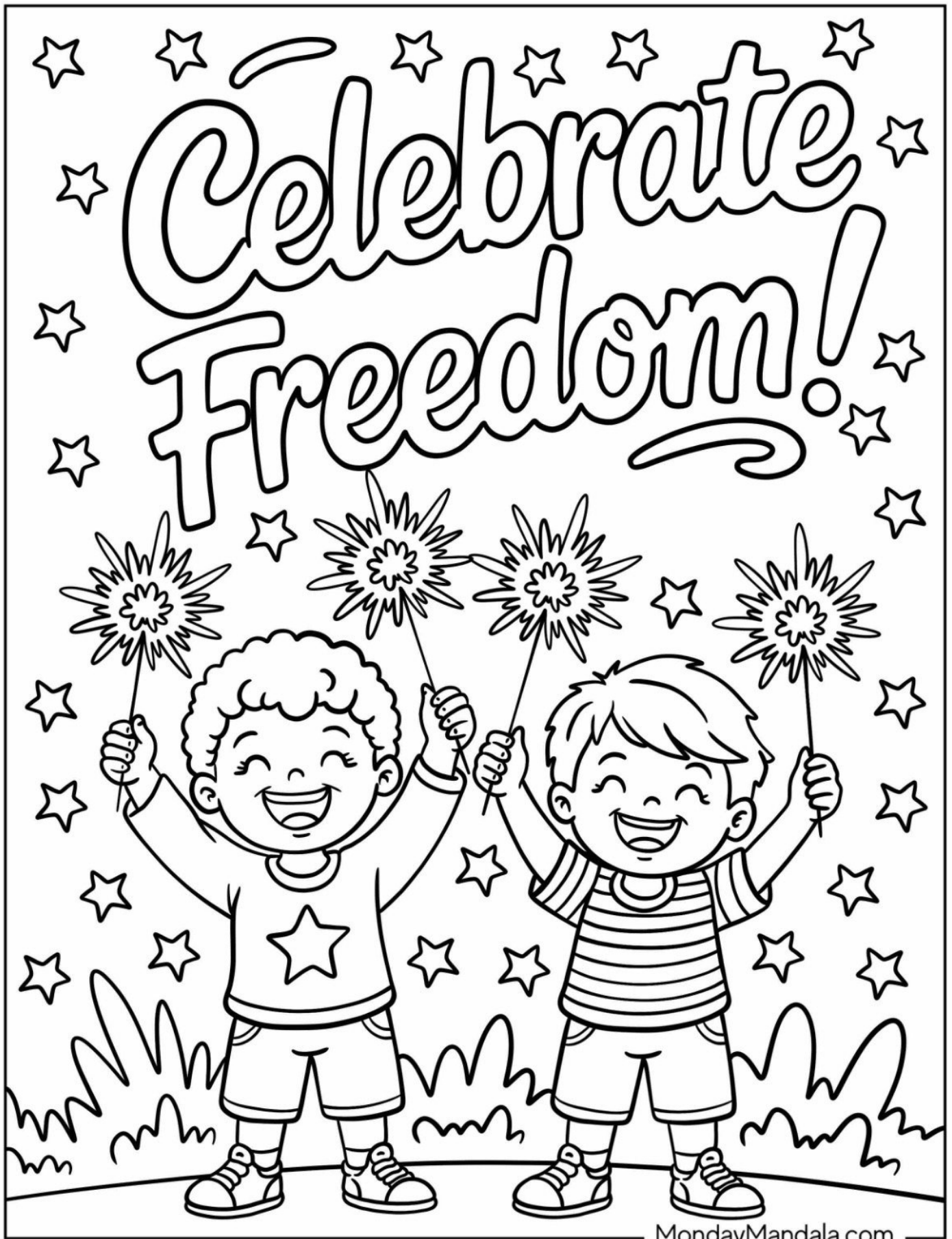
"Not mine--not mine the choice
In things both great and small
Be Thou, my Guide, my Strength,
My wisdom and my All."

CONSOLATION

There is never a day so dreary
But God can make it bright.
And unto the soul that trusts Him,
He giveth songs in the night,
There is never a path so hidden,
But God can lead the way,
If we seek for the Spirit's guidance
And patiently wait and pray.

There is never a cross so heavy
But the nail-scarred hands are there
Outstretched in tender compassion
The burden to help us bear.
There is never a heart so broken,
But the loving Lord can heal
The heart that was pierced on Calvary
Doth still for his loved ones feel.

There is never a life so darkened,
So hopeless and unblessed,
But may be filled with the light of God
And enter His promised rest.
There is never a sin or sorrow,
There is never a care or loss,
But that we may bring to Jesus
And leave at the foot of the cross.



Names of Jesus

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

Lamb of God
 Word
 Morning Star
 Good Shepherd
 Way
 Son of God

Prince of Peace
 Immanuel
 Vine
 Life
 Messiah
 Christ

Alpha and Omega
 Savior
 Light of the World
 Truth
 Son of Man
 Jesus

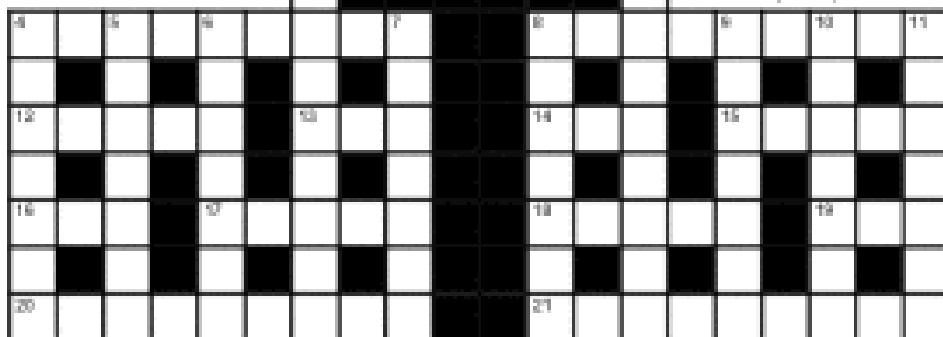
CROSS-SHAPED BIBLE CROSSWORD

Authors

- 1 Donkey (3)
2 Jesus' Father (3)
4 One of the twelve (9)

Down

- 1 One of God's messengers (5.2.3.4)
3 1940s archaeological find (4.3.7)

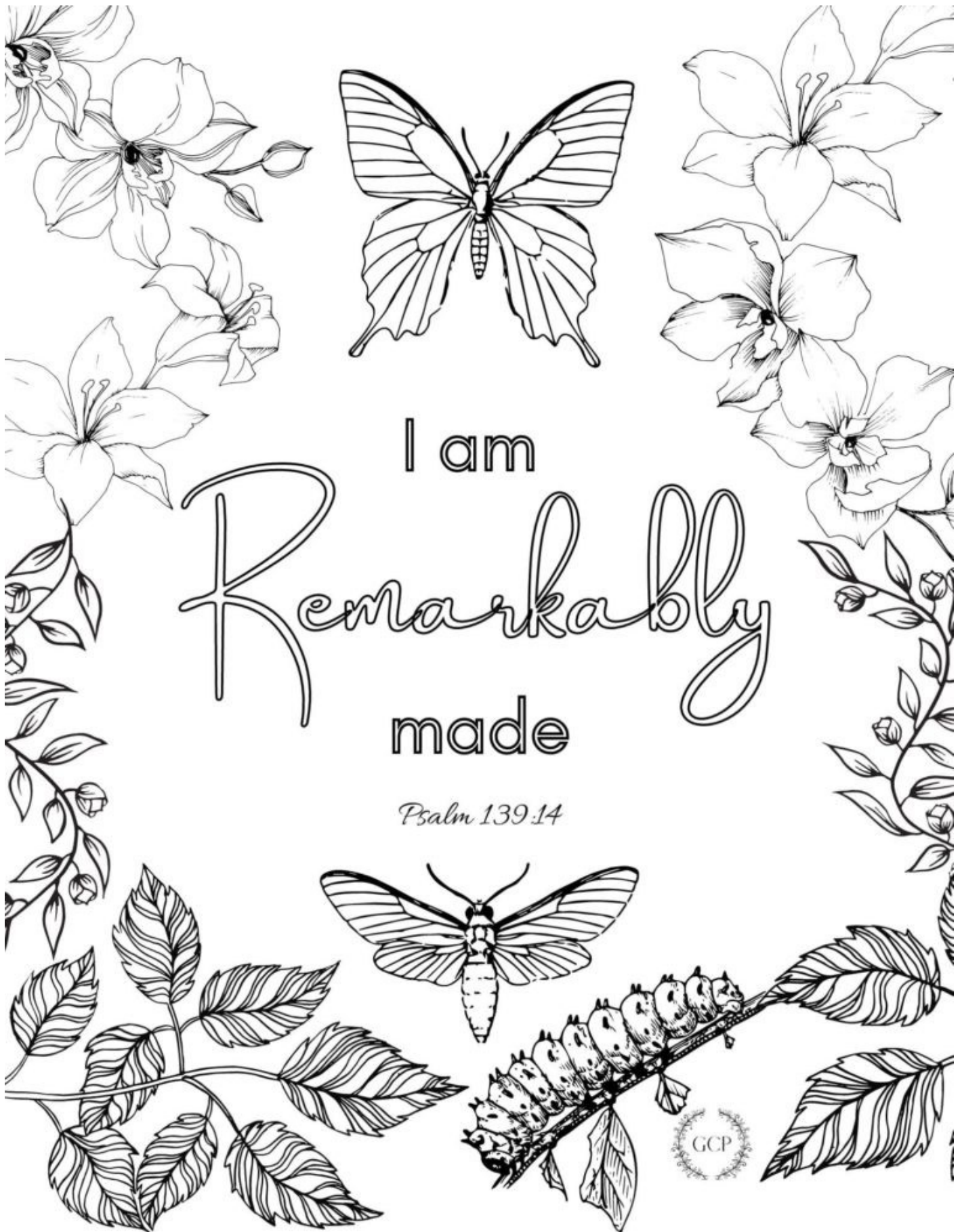


- 8 Didn't believe in resurrection (9)
12 One of David's warriors (5)
13 First word of the Lord's Prayer (3)
14 New Testament name for Noah (3)
15 Wish harm upon (5)
16 Hole in the ground (3)
17 Adversary (5)
18 Saviour (5)
19 First woman (3)
20 Mother of John the Baptist (9)
21 Family of priests (9)
22 Third son of Jacob (4)
23 Hates (8)
26 Assurances (8)
30 Endured pain (8)
31 Return from the dead (4)
32 Intercessor (8)
35 Decorating (8)
39 Old Testament book of the Bible (4)
40 The prince of Ilish, Mesect and Tubal (3)
42 A wise insect (3)
44 Dwelling place of kings (6)
45 Make bigger (8)

- 4 Tread down (7)
- 5 Father of Jonah (7)
- 6 Very salty water bordering Israel (4,3)
- 7 Defensive structures (11)
- 8 Refuges (11)
- 9 Dirty (7)
- 10 Devout (7)
- 11 Pieces of money (7)
- 24 Used to listen (3)
- 25 Used to see (3)
- 26 Positions (5)
- 27 Made available (7)
- 28 Snake (7)
- 29 Destroyed along with Gomorrah (5)
- 33 Finish (3)
- 34 Possess (3)
- 35 King of the Amalekites (4)
- 36 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 37 Almost sacrificed by Abraham (5)
- 38 Present (4)
- 41 Unlisten (4)
- 43 Fish traps (4)

[illegible]

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A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner featuring a blue swirl, a red star, a yellow star, and a blue star, with smaller stars scattered around.

A decorative graphic in the top right corner featuring blue and red stars, yellow stars, and blue and red swirls, resembling a stylized '4th of July' theme.

