

1 CHRONICLES 21:13, NIV

"LET ME FALL
INTO THE HANDS
OF THE LORD,
FOR HIS MERCY
IS VERY GREAT."

The Herald

From the Pastor's Desk

Surprised by God

On Christmas Eve I shared some thoughts about the surprise the shepherds had when the angels appeared to tell them of the birth of Christ. They were doing their routine when God broke in with amazing and exciting news.

Many of you were part of that evening and I want to follow up on the opportunity to anticipate a surprise. The angels told the shepherds their message was a great joy for all people. Even we are included in that promise. Most of us have experienced Jesus as our Savior and enjoy the walk in forgiveness. But God desires to walk with us in so many deeper ways. I think even now he is planning for moments when he intends to break into our lives to surprise us with joy. Perhaps in the middle of a deeply challenging day or season of life suddenly you are aware of an abiding peace in the midst of the storm and you know he is there. It may come in a moment of beautiful scenery or a pleasant smile from your spouse which totally reminds you of how blessed you are. Ever notice how you have shown up at just the right time and someone comments on the coincidence and you will go “no, not a coincidence at all but a God designed surprise”.

When we were together on Christmas Eve I commented that some of you had been surprised by God in the past year. I anticipated a head nod from a few of you but the surprise I received was how many heads were nodding and faces smiling as many of you recalled the places God showed up through your year. So, in this coming year, plan to frequently pause to consider, “where has God surprised me lately”. In fact I think it is safe to take these moments every day and see where he is with us, Immanuel, just like he said. If you pause to consider I also believe God will show you some places he was at work and you hadn’t seen it at the moment but it is clear he was there.

God has stocked 2020 with surprises just for you. Catch as many as you can.

Pastor Dennis

Greetings from MARS

It's the start of a new year and most people have put away their Christmas decorations. Some people including my wife are still scanning the radio stations in hope of finding any lingering Christmas songs being played. Hopefully the past couple weeks were filled with family and friends. Now comes the time to get the kids weaned off the Christmas goodies and back to a normal sugar intake.

I find Christmas time is a good time of reflection, not only on the birth of Christ, but on the state of our family, job, friends, etc. I believe this is a normal practice for most people as we tend to take the time to break from our normal busy lives and focus on relationships. It is then we look and ponder on things. Things we could do better, what we may like to change about ourselves or our lives. This sometimes leads to New Year's resolutions.

I found an article online (so take it for what it's worth) that says 60% of people make a New Year's resolution, but only 8% will achieve it. I am happy to report I have been 100% on my resolution every year for so many years, I can't remember the year I made the resolution to "Never again make a New Year's Resolution." Yes, I do feel a sense of accomplishment each year I hold true to this commitment. It's a good thing to be hopeful and to look for things to be better in the coming year. We need to be careful what lens we are looking through at the world.

Given the political climate of our country with an upcoming election, the state of our public schools, kids lost in the background of broken families, and churches being divided and falling further away from the truth each day. Hope could easily be squashed or unseen with all this heaviness in our time. We need to look through the lens of our Savior Jesus Christ. He reminds us "all the earth is His" in Exodus 19:5. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus He has conquered for all time the sin of this world. He is in control and has a plan.

May we look to Him to accomplish His promises for us and this life. In case you didn't know, God is 100% in keeping His promises and having them come into being. There is no better place to put our hope and faith.

In Christ,

Ben Larsen

Family Life Pastor

Mother in New York Chooses Life for Her Baby

From SaveTheStorks.com

By Brittany Smith

Eight months ago, Kendra walked into an abortion clinic in Schenectady, NY after escaping an abusive relationship.

A relationship that forced her to flee her home town in the middle of the night to protect her daughters, left her with another baby on the way, with few resources, and no hope of reconciliation.

The receptionist at the front desk of the abortion clinic told her she needed Medicaid or another form of insurance to get the procedure done.

“I have cash,” Kendra said. “I can’t have this baby and I need to do it fast.”

They booked her appointment for the next day.

“I walked out the clinic with a million thoughts in my head,” she said.

A chance meeting with a sidewalk advocate

Distracted and unsure of whether or not she made the right decision, she was startled when Kelly Mapes approached her outside of the clinic and asked her how she was doing.

Mapes is a sidewalk advocate who works with Alight Care Center, a pregnancy resource center serving the Schenectady and Albany areas. She volunteers with Alight’s Stork Bus, also known as a mobile medical unit. The same unit parked outside of the abortion clinic where Kendra was that day.

“Kendra’s story is a lot,” Mapes said. “She has five children. One of them has sickle-cell anemia. She’s on her own. She had just moved here, and had nowhere permanent to stay.”

Mapes understood immediately why Kendra felt like abortion was her only option.

“It was the toughest story I’d ever heard,” she said.

Mapes asked Kendra if she wanted a free ultrasound on the Stork Bus so they could talk more.

The two women boarded the bus and the center’s licensed nurse practitioner gave her a sonogram. As soon as the heartbeat came through the speakers Kendra broke down and sobbed.

Kelly looked at Kendra at that moment and told her: “You’re not going to go through this alone. You’re not going to ever get rid of me.”

And she meant it.

Help every step of the way

Over the next few months, Kelly and the staff at Alight Care Center were with Kendra throughout every step of her pregnancy.

They got her furniture, clothes, and food for her girls. The center also threw her a baby shower so she would have all the resources she needed for the new baby. In addition, they checked in with her constantly.

“We’re not going to talk you into doing something really hard and then walk away,” Mapes said. “We’re going to hook you up with resources and parenting classes and baby clothes. Our staff is going to be in your life as much as you want us.

That’s not just true of me, that’s true of most pro-lifers.”

Kelly and the people at Alight “caught me off guard,” Kendra said. “I’ve never had that kind of kindness before. They genuinely cared...If I could turn back the hands of time I would have never thought about an abortion. He or she really deserved that chance to be great. I have great girls, and I believe my next baby is going to be the same. This life growing inside of me is one of the best things that has ever happened to me.”

Watch more of Kendra’s story.

Update: Kendra gave birth to a healthy baby girl on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019. Both mom and baby are doing well.

* * *

The March for Life:

The right to life is a human right. Our defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person.

The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful. Vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It’s the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest... TOGETHER, WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE.

We celebrate life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death, and every moment in between.

We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected.

The March for Life will take place on Jan. 24, 2020, near the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday:

On January 13, 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation designating January 22 as the first National Sanctity of Human Life Day. (January 22, 1973, was the day the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion-on-demand in all 50 states.) Reagan issued the proclamation annually thereafter, designating Sanctity of Human Life Day to be the closest Sunday to the original January 22 date.

Churches around the United States use the day to celebrate God's gift of life, commemorate the many lives lost to abortion, and commit themselves to protecting human life at every stage. Churches continue to recognize the third Sunday in January as Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.

In 2020, the date will be January 19.

The LWC will be recognizing Sanctity of Human Life a couple of ways. On Sunday, January 12th we will have some guests from Children's Home Society to talk about Foster Care. There will also be a question and answer time after church service if you are interested.

We will also be helping the Black Hills Pregnancy Center with their annual Baby Bottle Drive starting Sunday, January 19th. You can pick up a bottle from the basket in the Fellowship Hall and fill it up with loose change, cash, checks and return it to the church by Sunday, February 16th.

See the next page for ways your donation will help!

* * *

Some items in our library related to the sanctity of life topic you might find interesting:

Books - October Baby, Tilly, unPlanned, ProLife Answers to ProChoice Arguments, Why ProLife? Jimmy, and Karen Kingsbury's Sunrise series

DVDs - 180, Abortion Inc, Bella, October Baby, ProLife Stories, A Vow to Cherish

A few booklets titled Pro Choice is No Choice by Adrian Rogers are also available in the library to read and share.

Happy New Year and may you be looking UP in 2020!

January Librarians: Cindy Dusing & Georgie Neff



Fill A Bottle, Save-A-Life

Help us share the truth with young women and teens who find themselves facing an unplanned pregnancy.

Fill a bottle with coins, cash, or check. Return the bottle to the church.

Sanctity of Life Month

January 19—February 16

Thank you!

Your donation supports Pregnancy Tests, Layettes, Limited Ultrasounds, Earn While You Learn Educational Classes, Baby Boutique Items, Pre-Natal Vitamins, Nutritional Classes, and other life affirming resources.



Focus on Missions– CLM–Mur Anderson



2019 at a Glance:

- *560 clients seen in our counseling center
- *290 new clients walked through our doors
- *6,000 counseling hours logged by 11 staff
- *God's truth shared in the following areas: marriage, parenting, depression, anxiety, anger, addictions, grief, compulsive behaviors, and false self-image

Mission:

To change lives,
restore families,
and equip the
Church through the
enduring power of
God's Word.



**98% of our
operating budget
was donation-based
from supporters
like you!**

The Wise Men Worshipped Jesus

January 6 we celebrate the revelation of King Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, the people who walked in darkness, who saw a great light. Those who lived in a land of deep shadows—Light! Star-bursts of light! God's star-rise broke in upon them and shone upon them and upon us, to show us the way to Himself.

We celebrate the end of the 12 days of Christmas on January 6, the Day of the Magi. But our focus is not the magi, but the King whom they worshipped.



The magi knew the kingly prophecies; they saw and understood the symbolic light in the sky, they came searching for the divine King of kings who had the kingship in and of Himself, they came prepared to worship Him.

This band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem and asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews?...We're on pilgrimage to worship Him."

When they found the Child they could hardly contain themselves. The right place! The right time! They entered the house and saw the Child with His mother Mary. Overcome, they fell to their knees and worshipped Him.

Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. The last two were valuable spices that were used in sacrifice and burial, perhaps to be in keeping with Daniel's prophecy of the Messiah Prince, the Anointed One who would die as the Atonement for all sin.

LORD, we join the magi: All hail, King Jesus! All hail, Emmanuel! All glory, power, praise, majesty and kingdom authority be Yours. We lift up on high Your name! We crown You LORD of all!

Announcements & Upcoming Events

The Annual Concert of Prayer will be held Sunday, January 26th during the Sunday School Hour. This will be for adults and high school students.

See Lynda Pringle if you have any questions!

Three National Comedians – One Night of Laughter - Marriage Date Night will be held Saturday, February 8th at First Assembly in Rapid City. Information and advance tickets are available at extremefait productions.com or by calling 480-812-1100.



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Amazon Smile will donate .5% of your purchase to the LWC. Go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7112412> to sign up today!

Attention Ladies!!! - Beth Moore is coming to Rapid City and we want to go!!
Living Proof Live will be here June 26-27 at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center.
If we get a group of 10+ tickets will be \$65/person—\$20 savings.
So in order for the WM team to start planning...please sign up on the sign up sheet by the Bulletin Board. Thanks!

***Visit www.thelittlewhitechurch.net
to get updates and information
& Check us out on Facebook!!***

www.facebook.com/Littlewhitechurchhillcitysd/



Online Giving Now Available!

You can now give to the LWC online!

Set up recurring donations or one time donations.

Go to www.thelittlewhitechurch.net—Support Tab & Online Giving to get started! It's easy and completely safe to use!

If you have questions please contact Stephanie at 605-574-2426.

OR use the Giving App

Give using

 **TITHE.LY**

AVAILABLE ON THE APPLE APP
STORE OR USE DIRECTLY AT
TITHE.LY/GIVE

more information @ tithe.ly

January Volunteers

Ushers: Alan Case, Keith Hayes, Larry Heddles, Jack Jewett, Mike Verchio, Dominic Cognato

Sound System: Joey Fowler, Steph Larsen, Mary Jo Anderson, Mike Blount

Nursery Attendants:

1-5: *Volunteers Needed*

1-12: *Volunteers Needed*

1-19: *Volunteers Needed*

1-26: *Volunteers Needed*

Children's Church:

1-5: Deb Marshall & Sara

1-12: Jackie Isakson & Julia

1-19: Jacque Pennel & Nate

1-26: Eileen Hamm & Kody

Librarians: Cindy Dusing & Georgie Neff

Social Hour: (Treats)

1-5: *Volunteers Needed*

1-12: *Volunteers Needed*

1-19: Tom & Cindy Dusing

1-26: *Volunteers Needed*

Cornerstone Rescue Mission: 1-4: Celebrate Recovery



Thank you to Jackie Isakson for volunteering
to be our new Children's Church Coordinator!!

Approachable—By BJ Reese

My husband was an over-the-road truck driver for the first 14 years of our relationship. Because of that, we ate a lot of meals at our local truck stop. The waitresses all know us on sight. Even though Rich has retired from trucking, the truck stop is still our favorite place to have breakfast.

A few years ago, a new manager took over the restaurant. I never saw the old manager; I knew about the change because the waitresses talked about it. In no time, we knew who the new manager was, and what he looked like. Where previous managers had been tucked away in some unknown office, Don was IN the restaurant.

Five days a week, he's sitting in a booth near the kitchen, doing paperwork. He greets the customers as they come and go, and engages them in conversation. He interacts with the waitresses. It is in that booth that he holds meetings with vendor reps who come calling. It is there that he meets with other staff members.

He discusses problems with them. Concerns and needs are addressed. He shows them he cares. He interviews job applicants in that booth. If someone comes in looking for work, he has applications with him and can hand them one on the spot.

His pleasant smile and gentle voice send a crystal clear message to everyone who sees . . . he is approachable. People can talk to him about whatever is on their minds. Their opinions and preferences matter to him. If he ever has to reprimand someone, customers never witness that conversation. Don's pleasant, approachable demeanor has earned him the respect and affection of those who work there.

Continued on Page 15

Approachable—By BJ Reese

“Good morning, Boss!” is said cheerfully and genuinely, and is returned in kind. For the customers, Don has become a fixture. If you’re there on a weekend, it seems odd for someone to sit in that corner booth. That’s Don’s booth. Because he’s always there . . . at least, it seems like he is. He has become such a presence, something seems missing when he is not there.

I’ve learned a lot from these observations. I’ve learned to keep my mind open. To be willing and ready to listen to someone’s opinions – even if they’re uncomfortable for me to hear. To be approachable, rather than easily offended. To avoid going on the defensive when someone’s opinion differs from mine.

Can you imagine how wonderful this world would be if more bosses were so approachable? Contentment in the workplace could become the norm, instead of the exception. What if we were all that way in all of our relationships? I offer us all the following challenge:

Whether you’re the boss or an employee; a spouse or a parent; a friend or a relative, strive to be more approachable. Give yourself a chance to see what it does to improve your world.



“Command them to do good,
to *be rich* in good deeds, and to
be generous and willing to
share.”

1 Timothy 6:18

I See Jesus

I don't look back: God knows the fruitless efforts,
The wasted hours the sinning, the regrets;
I leave them all with Him Who blots the record,
And mercifully forgives, and then forgets

I don't look forward, God sees all the future,
The road that, short or long, will lead me home,
And He will face with me its every trial,
And bear for me the burdens that may come.

I don't look round me: then would fears assail
me,
So wild the tumult of earth's restless seas;
So dark the world, so filled with woe and evil,
So vain the hope of comfort or of ease.

I don't look in; for then am I most wretched;
Myself has naught on which to stay my trust;
Nothing I see save failures and short-comings,
And weak endeavors crumbling into dust.

But I look up — into the face of Jesus,
For there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled.
And there is joy, and love, and light for darkness,
And perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled.

By: Annie Johnson Flint

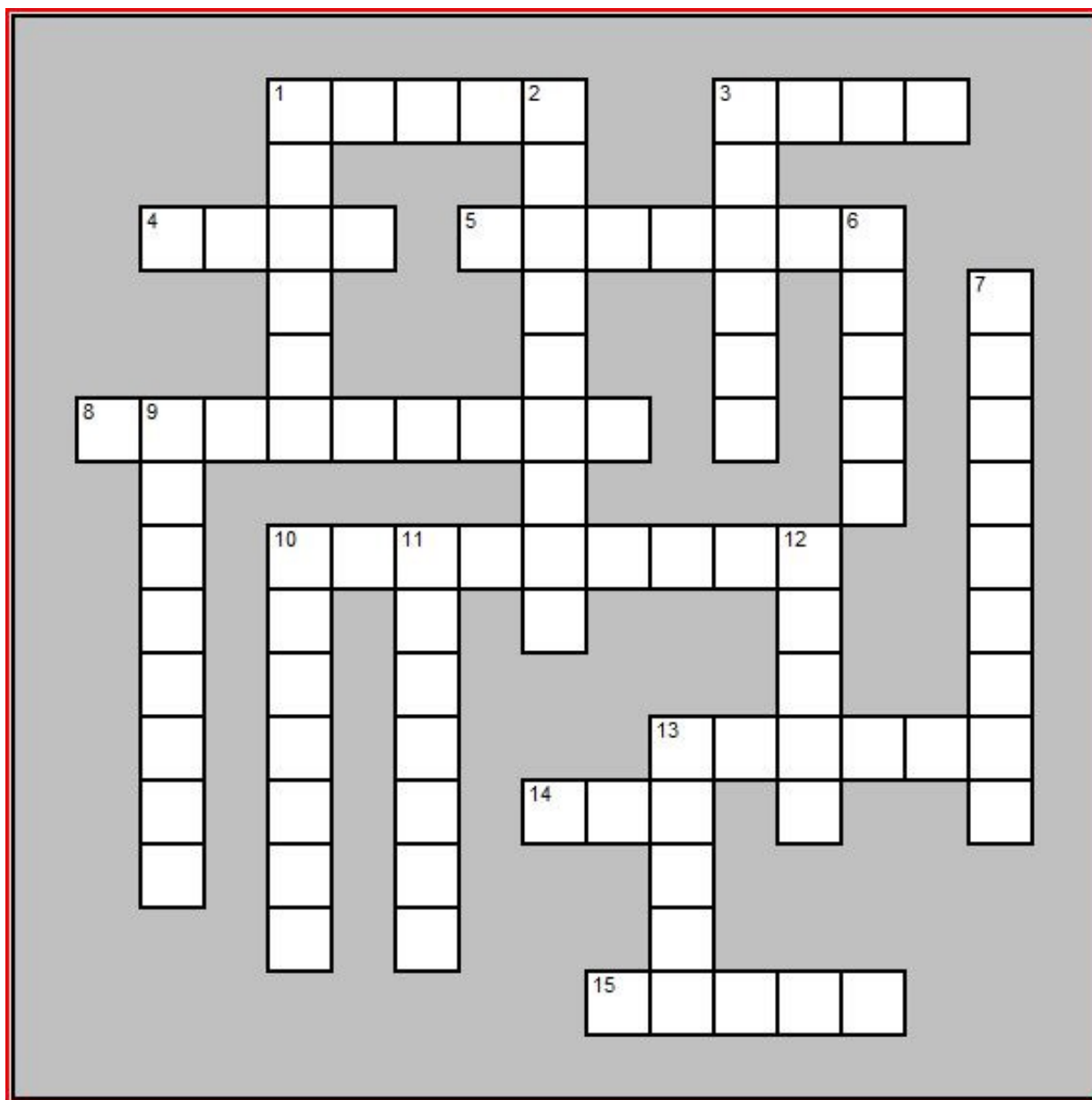
2 Corinthians 4:6: "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Hebrews 12:2: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

... looking to Jesus the
PIONEER and PERFECTER
of our faith ...

Hebrews 12:2, NRSV





Across:

- 1. Saviour
- 3. Joseph's espoused wife
- 4. Many
- 5. What angels said (2 wrds.)
- 8. City of David
- 10. Baby clothes
- 13. Shepherds reaction to seeing angels

- 14. Place of lodging

- 15. Herd of sheep

- 7. Many

- 9. Engaged

- 10. Redeemer

Down:

- 1. Espoused husband

- 2. Sheep watchers

- 3. Feeding trough

- 6. Why Joseph went to Bethlehem

- 11. Staying

- 12. "___ to God in highest ..."

- 13. Heavenly creature

Newsletter Newsletter

At Home with God

Of all persons, the Christian should be best prepared for whatever the New Year brings. ... In Christ he has disposed of a thousand enemies that other men must face alone and unprepared. He can face his tomorrow cheerful and unafraid because yesterday he turned his feet into the ways of peace and to-day he lives in God. The man who has made God his dwelling place will always have a safe habitation.

—A.W. Tozer

A Penguin “Parable”

During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective “crèches” (French for “cribs”); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can’t survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.

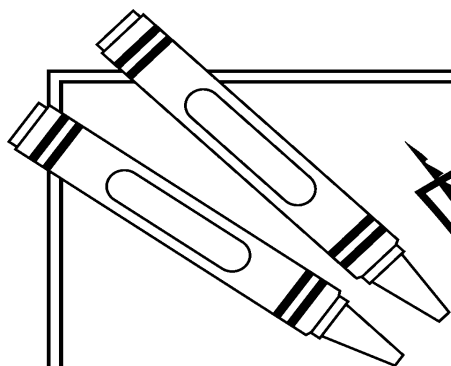


Come Back to Christmas

When January comes along, we can continue that sense of comfort and warmth that comes at Christmas by returning to the Christmas story, which gives us two great promises: God understands you, and God can redeem you.

I encourage people to make it a point to reread the Christmas story every month, and allow Christmas to be Christmas every month. We need to keep coming back to it.

—Max Lucado, *Publishers Weekly* interview



PUZZLE

A NEW CREATION



The apostle Paul says everyone who believes
in Jesus becomes brand new.



*Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the
blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.*

THIEROEFQORXEIDFAMNYAON
SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE
QWCDREYATMIOCNHFASWCOR
MEGTHWEOFLDXHASSGZONL
ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

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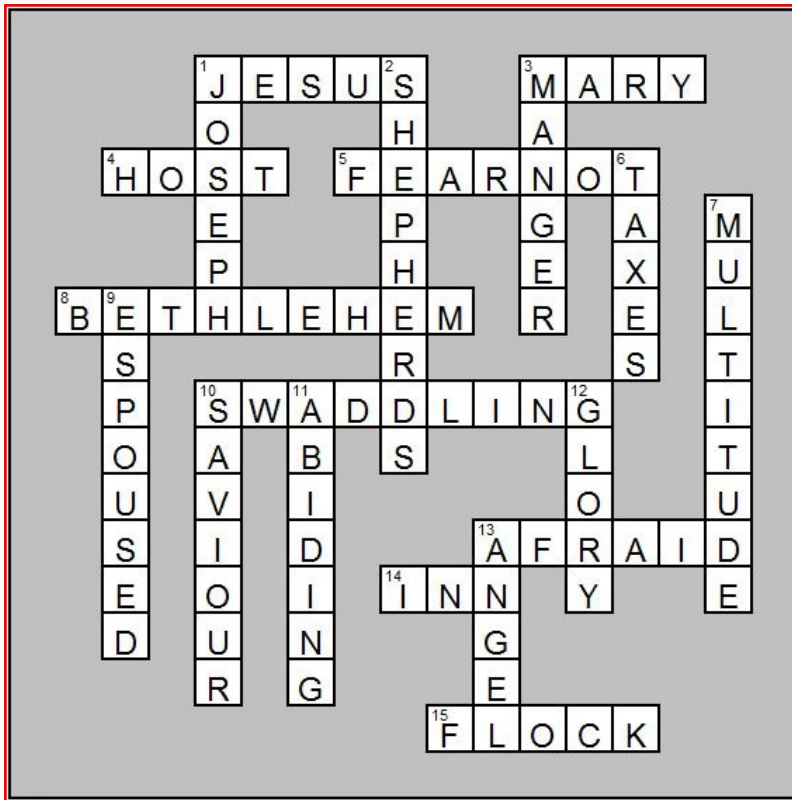
_____ , _____

_____ :

_____ , _____

_____ ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV



Answers for
Crossword on Page 15

Lessons from a Snowman



- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- We're all made mostly of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!



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