

# Winns' Messenger

Published for Members and Friends of Winn's Baptist Church

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April 2025



Dear Church Family,

Though not many people would say that winter is their favorite season, there are some things that I love about it. Our celebration of the coming of our Savior takes place in the winter. That is something that most people look forward to. Even though the older I get, the colder I get, it is a joy to warm up with a cozy fire on a cold night. For someone like me, there is even something to be said for the shorter days. Let me explain. As an incurable outdoor person, I always feel like I should be working outdoors as long as the sun shines. It is sometimes frustrating to race to complete outdoor work before the daylight leaves me but, it does prompt me to start winding down a little earlier, which my aging body appreciates.

Many more people prefer spring than winter. But there are some challenges that come with it. Especially in our area, for a lot of folks, allergies go into full swing. There are also the “spring cleaning” chores, as we wash away the damaging effects of the harsh realities of winter. The biting bugs return to afflict us as we seek to enjoy the warmer weather.

As with seasons of the year, there is something to enjoy about the difficult seasons of life, and nothing is perfect in the happier seasons of it. Thus, it behooves us to join the Apostle Paul as he states in Philippians 4:11-13,

*“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things, I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

May God give us the grace to adapt to the seasons of life as we do the seasons of the year, taking the down with the up, and praising Him every step of the way!

Serving a good God,  
Pastor Jeff



**MONDAY, AUGUST 4TH - FRIDAY, AUGUST 8TH**  
**6:30 - 8:30 PM**

## **MAGNIFIED!**

**DISCOVERING THE BIGNESS OF GOD IN THE SMALLEST OF THINGS!**

God is not only the Creator of all things, but He also cares about His creation, right down to the tiniest detail. And the Bible tells us that people are the most significant part of that creation. God created you and knows every detail about you—right down to the design of your fingerprints and the number of hairs on your head. Magnified! VBS will encourage kids to look closely at the details of God's amazing world and magnify, or proclaim, the greatness of God. God made us, cares about us, loves us, forgives us, and is faithful to keep all His promises to us. We were made to magnify God!



## Missions Spotlight: Giving So That North American Missionaries Can Go

*Barbara Bowen, Missions Committee Chair*

The number three is highly significant for Christians, representing divine wholeness, completeness, and perfection. Easter not only marks the fulfillment of God's perfect plan to redeem a sin cursed world but also brings the Holy Trinity into sharp focus in a new and exciting way.

Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection (another three) set events in motion to open a direct path to the Father and his gift of the Holy Spirit, which gives us comfort and guidance as we play our part in fulfilling the Great Commission. Each of us is called to "bloom where we are planted" through our personal witness and to support those who have answered the call to serve in the mission field.

While it is important to go to the most remote regions of the globe, we cannot forget the 161 people groups and estimated 286 million lost in the United States and Canada. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering connects Christians to this important work in three ways:

1. Provides the funds missionaries need to train and serve all over North America.
2. Harnesses the power of prayer to strengthen and sustain them.
3. Makes us part of their stories by investing each of us in these ministries.

This year's focal scripture, 3 John 1:7-8, highlights the importance of giving so that they can go:

*"For they have gone out for the sake of the name. ... Therefore, we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth." (ESV)*

John shared a deep spiritual bond with Gaius who led a church in Asia Minor and praised his hospitality to traveling preachers who were sent on their way with adequate supplies. The clear application for us is that we should also support our "home" and foreign missionaries.

Over the next several weeks, we'll continue sharing how the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering helps make an impact for the Kingdom through ministries tailored to each community. You can step into the stories of our missionaries with a donation this year. Please give as you are led by using the special envelopes in the pew racks or designating a gift with your regular offering.





## Bible Hero Night Fun!



Mary AKA Ella



Cornelius AKA Colton



Moses AKA Wyatt



Mary AKA Sadie



Noah AKA Hamilton



John the Baptist  
AKA Leah



## Bible Hero Night Fun!



Jonah and the whale  
AKA Jackson



Jonah and the whale  
AKA John



Joseph AKA Mason



Jesus AKA Shane



Esther AKA Molly



Mary AKA Regan





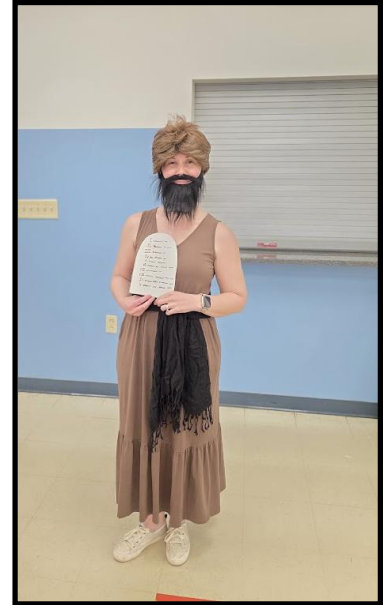
## Bible Hero Night Fun!



Gabriel AKA Emma



Fruit of the Spirit AKA Asher



Moses AKA Mrs. Jessica



Lydia AKA Mrs. Maggie



Mary of Bethany AKA Avonlea

Good Morning Church Family:

We just got back from The Ignite Men's conference, and it was a refreshing and strengthening event spiritually. Men, you should go next year – it's worth it! We took several of our Youth and College students to it and they thoroughly enjoyed it as well.

Our Spring Nerf War was a blast too! We had about 45 attend and several were visitors. The hope is that we can show them a great time and that they will attend Winns and trust in the Lord. Be praying that we reach the friends of our students.

Allergy season is back upon us, but so is more sunlight and warmer weather – I'll take it. As you see new life spring forth this Spring – be sure to thank God for it! His creativity is amazing and showing our thankfulness blesses Him.

The main point of this month's article is going to be on **Biblical Discernment**. I've been thinking lately that believers should be the most discerning people on the planet. We should be able to pick up on Truth vs. deception in the world today as well as in spiritual matters. A lot of Believers seem to lack deep discernment and some lack almost all discernment. Just take a look at social media and you'll see what I am referring to. I would like to challenge you to brush up on your discernment skills, so that when you meet falsehood you will know immediately instead of being susceptible to it. I was reading Scripture, which is the very basis of gaining true discernment and found this passage in Hebrews 5 that speaks directly to this:

**Hebrews 5:11-14 NKJV**

- (11) of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.
- (12) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.
- (13) For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.
- (14) But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is,* **those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

We must be in the Word of God consistently if we are going to be able to stand up to the great deceptions that are in our time. The enemy will out maneuver you if you aren't completely aware of his tactics. We can only do this by internalizing the Word of God daily. You may be thinking, but Pastor Doug, it's a lot of work to do that, can't I just accomplish that by coming to church on Sundays? The answer is "No." If you realized the gravity of the deadliness of the enemy you face, how he wants you destroyed, your testimony ruined, your family alienated from each other – that he doesn't sleep and is bearing a malicious grudge – you would avail yourself of our Greatest and only defense – God-given Scripture! You would soak it up like a sponge. And you better soak it up, because the enemy is seeking to get you to soak up the distractions and temptations of this world instead. Don't leave any room in your life for that.

Be assured of your Father's love for you! Learn of His promises and wait and watch for His faithful deliverance. Stick very close to Him:

**Psalms 57:1 NKJV**

- (1) Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until *these* calamities have passed by.

## **Psalms 91:1-16 NKJV**

- (1) He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- (2) I will say of the LORD, "*He is* my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."
- (3) Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *And* from the perilous pestilence.
- (4) He shall cover you with His feathers, **And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.**
- (5) You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, *Nor* of the arrow *that* flies by day,
- (6) *Nor* of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness, *Nor* of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday.
- (7) A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; *But* it shall not come near you.
- (8) Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked.
- (9) Because you have made the LORD, *who is* my refuge, *Even* the Most High, your dwelling place,
- (10) No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;
- (11) For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.
- (12) In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- (13) You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
- (14) "**Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;** I will set him on high, because he has known My name.
- (15) **He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.**
- (16) With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."

We need to know what God said and be confident in it. We need to live it out personally as well. Take refuge in the Lord and He will guide you and shield you. Do it for the Lord; Do it for yourself; do it for your family – just make sure that you do it! Stand in the gap for those you love while you trust fully in the Lord.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Doug





## Gratitude Sets You Apart

They say grateful people are better looking. No, don't go look in the mirror.. it has more to do with how grateful people are perceived by others. Those with a grateful attitude come across so much better than those who were seemingly weaned on a pickle. You know the pickle type. Perhaps some days we can all be that type. Our level of gratitude is often indicative of where we are spiritually. If we've been saved from death and given new life in Christ, how can we not live in gratitude? It's easy to let your heart grow dull. When I feel this way, I go back and recount the many ways Christ has worked in my life. Gratitude is an antidote to growing spiritually cold.

In Paul's exhortations to the Thessalonians, he reminds them (and us)

***"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thess. 5:18)***

You now know in part what God's will is for your life. On Sunday, March 23rd in the morning service, the Set Apart Student Worship Team helped lead worship, and then blessed us all with their special version of the song "Gratitude." How sweet to hear the young worshippers express their gratitude to God!

Some of the lyrics of "Gratitude" describe the praise that comes from a grateful heart:

"So, I throw up my hands  
And praise You again and again.  
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah,  
hallelujah.

And I know it's not much  
but I've nothing else fit for a King  
Except for a heart singing hallelujah,  
hallelujah."

I suspect God the Father finds it attractive to see gratitude in the hearts and on the lips of His children. By the way, I wanted to let you know that I'm grateful to worship with you each week. I pray that God will knit our hearts together in unity as we bring our sacrifices of praise.

Caleb Brauer, Director of Music Ministries

# EASTER WORD SEARCH

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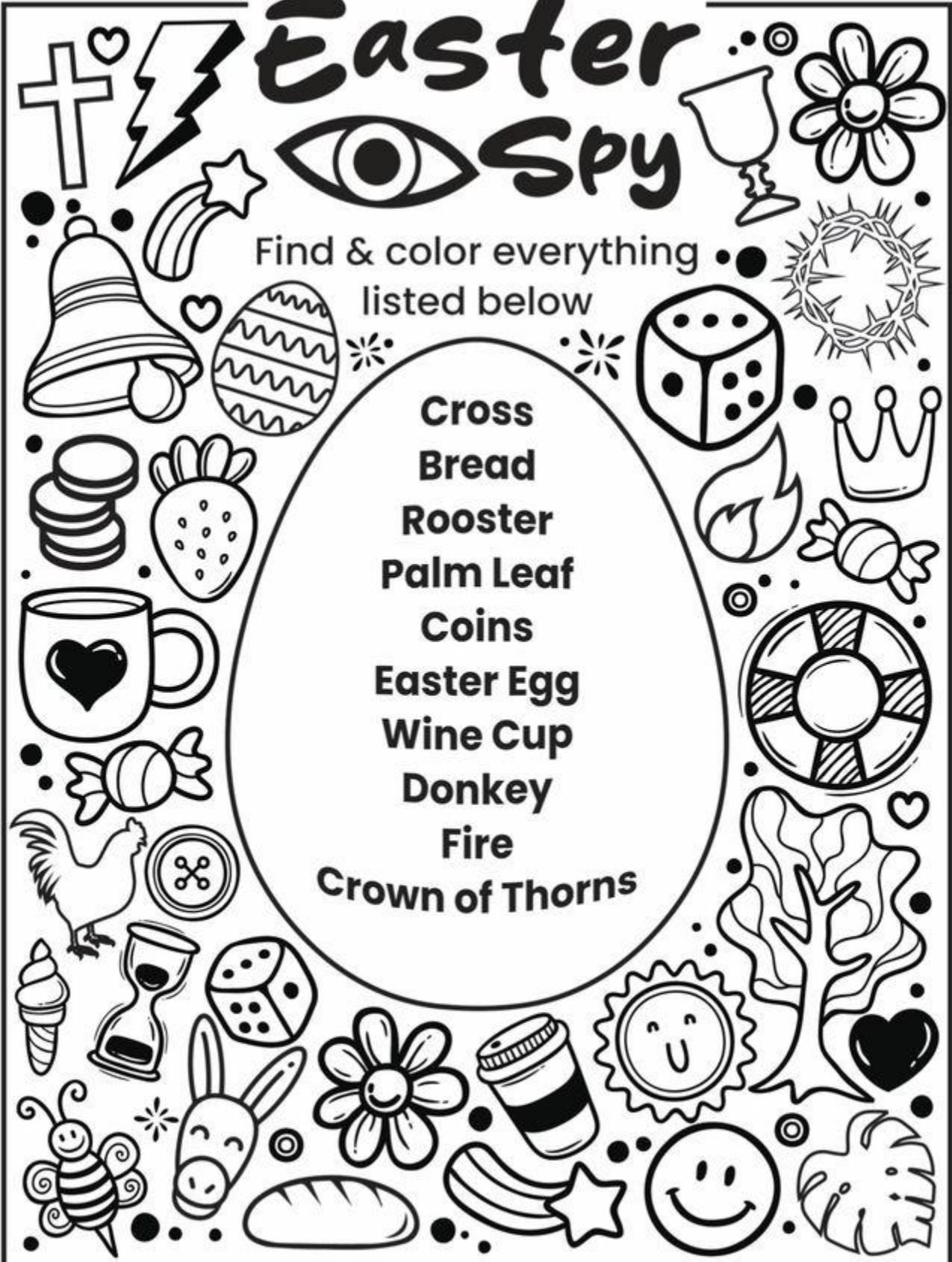
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 THREE DAYS  
 TOMB

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