



Faith Country  
Shared Ministry

# Faith Country Chronicle

February 2020



## Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

Since being called to serve as your bishop, October 2012, my prayer has often been the following: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go forward with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

One of the reasons I love this prayer is because it is realistic but encouraging, honest but hopeful. It doesn't deny difficult truths, but neither does it succumb to sterile pessimism. It was written in the first part of the twentieth century by a Church of England priest named Eric Milner-White. Like many good prayers from another time and place, it sounds like it was tailor made for us here and now.

O God, you have called your servants.... I have seen so many signs of hope in these few years of serving as your bishop, not just in projects and initiatives and ideas, but in our people:

- in the faithful and dedicated rostered ministers, who are a gift to us all;
- in the diligent and committed staff and officers of the Synod, who it is a joy to work with on a daily and weekly basis, who love the Synod and serving it;
- in the lay leaders of this Synod, serving in various and multitude capacities;
- in the faithful people who hold no particular office or position, but who form the faithful backbone, week after week, that is the body of Christ in the ABT Synod.

You are all not only living, breathing signs of hope, but you also have my profound thanks for all that you do, and it is my privilege to serve with and among you.

A complete two-page report for Congregational Annual General Meetings, together with our Synod's 2020 Narrative Budget is available at: <https://albertasynod.ca/2019/12/2020-abtsynod-agm-letter-and-narrative-budget/>

In Christ Jesus –  
Shalom,  
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

“The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)



## FAITH COUNTRY SHARED MINISTRY

~ March 2020 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 St. David's Day Zero Discrimination Day 10:00 Trinity Communion Service 11:00 Trinity Annual Meeting	2	3	4	5 Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence	6 World Day of Prayer	7
8 International Women's Day International Women's Day 9:00 St. John's Eucharist Service 11:15 Hope Communion Service 12:30 Hope Council Meeting	9 Commonwealth Day	10 1:30 Hope Worship Committee	11	12 Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence	13	14
15 10:00 Trinity Song Service 11:30 St. John's Annual Meeting	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence	20	21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Week of Solidarity with Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination
22 Week of Solidarity with Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination World Water Day 9:00 St. John's Morning Prayer Service 11:15 Hope Communion Service	23 Week of Solidarity with Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination	24 Day of Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land Week of Solidarity with Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination	25 Week of Solidarity with Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination	26 Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence Week of Solidarity with Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination	27 Week of Solidarity with Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination	28 8:30 Earth Hour - 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. local time.
29 No Services This Sunday	30	31	Notes:			

## LESS PLASTIC FOR LENT

We are often encouraged to give up something for Lent. I remember as a child, my dad always insisted that we give up candy for Lent. I'm not sure it always was totally successful (I'm sure my brothers cheated just like I did) but my dad's insistence planted a seed. To this day I still try to give up something each Lenten season.

Interestingly, people are extending that notion and not only giving up something for Lent but making it meaningful at the same time.

One idea I have come across recently is "Less Plastic For Lent". The proliferation of plastic has reached epidemic proportions and sadly our county is doing little to help this situation. It's time for us to at least begin taking this seriously.

Here are some ideas that we can implement during the Lenten season as individuals:

- Use your own water bottle
- Refuse plastic lids
- No foam takeaways - bring your own lunch box
- Refuse plastic straws
- Don't use single use plastic shopping bags
- Avoid buying fruits and vegetables in plastic packaging
- Avoid liquid soap in plastic dispensers - use soap in bar form where possible
- Avoid products that include micro beads
- Look out for boxed packaging instead of plastic
- Go for large sizes of shampoos, conditioner, etc.
- Buy glass or stainless steel food containers
- Loose the cling film and zip lock bags
- Choose natural fibres when purchasing new clothing
- Avoid bargain plastic items
- Purchase used clothing
- Bake goods for children's lunch boxes instead of buying plastic packaged snacks.
- Arrange a toy swap
- Don't use wet wipes - make your own
- Use newspaper to line your kitchen shelves and drawers.

**Pray:** Giver of life, in the midst of poisoned water, I weep with creation. In the midst of polluted air, I weep with creation. In the midst of the mountains of waste, I weep with creation. Amen



The **Faith Country Chronicle** is published monthly from September through May by the partners in the Faith Country Shared Ministry:

Hope Lutheran, Forestburg  
St. John's Anglican - Sedgewick  
Trinity Lutheran - Lougheed

Web: [www.fcsm.ca](http://www.fcsm.ca)  
Email: [pastor@fcsm.ca](mailto:pastor@fcsm.ca)  
Tel: (780)582-2140



## FAITH COUNTRY SHARED MINISTRY

~ February 2020 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Global Mission Sunday 10:00 Trinity Communion Service	3	4	5	6 Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence	7	8
9 9:00 St. John's Eucharist Service 11:15 Hope Communion Service	10	11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science	12	13 Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence	14 Valentine's Day	15 National Flag of Canada Day
16 10:00 Trinity Song Service	17 Family Day	18	19	20 Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence World Day of Social Justice	21	22
23 Diaconal Sunday 9:00 St. John's Morning Prayer Service 11:15 Hope Communion Service 12:30 Hope Annual Meeting	24 Day of Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land	25 Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras 5:00 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Hope	26 Ash Wednesday 12:00 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Hope	27 Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence	28	29

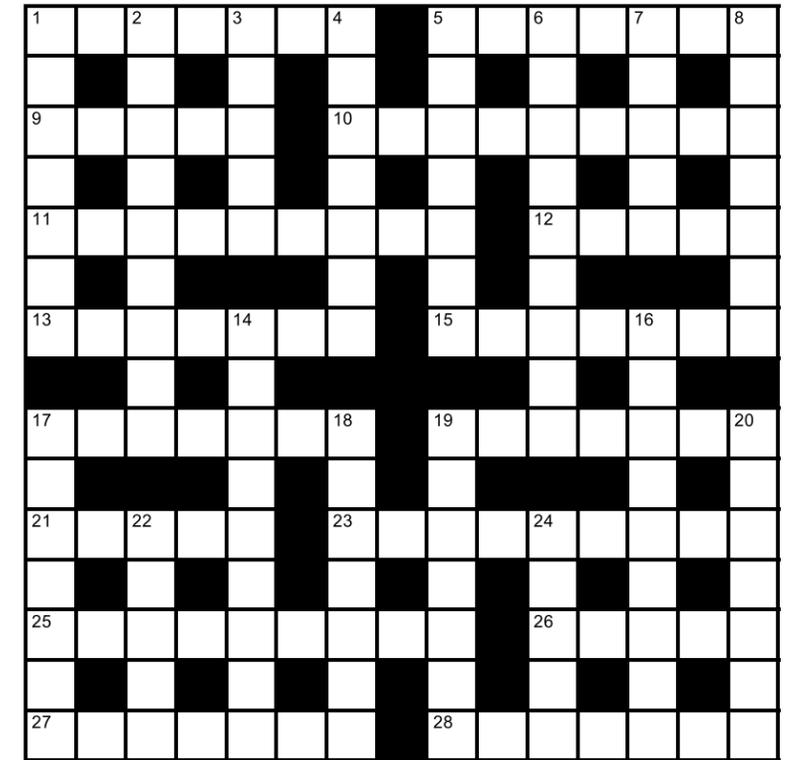
# BIBLE CROSSWORD VI

## Across

- 1 Purifies (7)
- 5 Tainted (7)
- 9 Forbidden objects of worship (5)
- 10 Abundant (9)
- 11 Wife of David (9)
- 12 Lift up (5)
- 13 Grapple (7)
- 15 Lack of rain (7)
- 17 Sennacherib's realm (7)
- 19 Domain (7)
- 21 Biblical clothing (5)
- 23 Supplant (9)
- 25 Announced (9)
- 26 Tamar's brother (5)
- 27 Person seeking redress for wrong (7)
- 28 Decorates (7)

## Down

- 1 Colourful arc seen after the flood (7)
- 2 Forehead ornaments (9)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 3 Bird homes (5)
- 4 Greatest in status (7)
- 5 Servant (7)
- 6 Time of day (9)
- 7 Ruth's mother in law (5)
- 8 Lineage (7)
- 14 Separating wheat from chaff (9)
- 16 Legion's people (9)
- 17 King who was almost persuaded to be a Christian (7)
- 18 One more (7)
- 19 Pummelled bread (7)
- 20 Grass clippings (7)
- 22 Holy book (5)
- 24 Barter (5)

Solution found on page 4

## BIBLE CROSSWORD VI - SOLUTION

Across: 1 Refines, 5 Stained, 9 Idols, 10 Plenteous, 11 Bathsheba, 12 Raise, 13 Wrestle, 15 Drought, 17 Assyria, 19 Kingdom, 21 Robes, 23 Overthrow, 25 Published, 26 Amnon, 27 Avenger, 28 Dresses.

Down: 1 Rainbow, 2 Frontlets, 3 Nests, 4 Supreme, 5 Steward, 6 Afternoon, 7 Naomi, 8 Descent, 14 Threshing, 16 Gadarenes, 17 Agrippa, 18 Another, 19 Kneaded, 20 Mowings, 22 Bible, 24 Trade.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

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

## Bringing Lent Home

By Brittany Beacham

I've never observed Lent before. Sure, I've thought about it, considered it, made movement towards it, but never actually done it.

I've often felt unsatisfied with the Easter season. As though my observance of it was lacking in something. Surely there can be no greater celebration for us than thanking Christ for His sacrifice and rejoicing in the salvation He offers us. And yet for some reason, the fullness of Easter never quite hits me in the way I want it to.

This year I wanted more. More of God. A deeper closeness. A deeper intentionality to the Easter season. So I decided I would finally observe the Lenten fast.

The season of Lent is one of waiting. One of anticipation. One of longing. In the season of Lent we remember the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and praying. While not a chronological event with the celebration of Easter, we partake in that fast with Him, remembering His time of waiting on His Father and enduring temptation, and preparing to observe the solemn remembrances of Good Friday and the joyful celebration of Easter Sunday.

The fast of Lent is observed during the 40 days leading up to Easter Sunday. Forty days of fasting has special Biblical significance regarding spiritual preparation. When Moses waited on Mount Sinai, preparing to receive the Ten Commandments, he stayed there with the Lord for 40 days and 40y nights, without eating any food or drinking any water (Exodus 34:28). Elijah walked 40 days and 40 nights to the mountain of the Lord, Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8). And most significantly, Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert before He began His public ministry (Matthew 4:2).

What is Lent about for us? Is it a begrudging tasking, something we do because we feel we should? Or is it an act of joyful surrender? When we partake in the Lenten fast, we give back to God something that is dear to us, something that is painful to be without. And in the moments of its absence, we turn our faces not to physical, carnal comforts but to the comfort of God. In the moment of its absence we turn our faces not to sustenance of our own provision, but the sustenance of the Lord.