

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 688

68160 South George Street

Iron River, WI 54847

E-mail - osl@cheqnet.net Pastor

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2015

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results
- **MUCH MUCH MORE!!!!!!**

This issue is loaded with church information... We hope you enjoy it.

Present-Howard Lehman, Doug Thyberg, Peggy Hipsher, Cindy Knapp, Sandy Rau, Lynette Kesler and Pastor Kristina. Ken Tanula and Rozie Maki excused. Tammy Sipsas absent.

President Howard Lehman called the meeting to order.

Sandy shared an article from The Norwester on the significance of the Wiseman's gifts of Frankincense and Myrrh. They were both very important medicinal oils used for healing cuts, coughs, sore throats, ringworm, gum infections etc.

The Secretaries report of the December meeting was approved by Doug, seconded by Lynette, approved by all.

Treasurer's report was given by Doug and Peggy. The general fund has a balance of \$ 160.05. Lynette made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, pending the audit, seconded by Cindy, approved by all.

Presidents report- Howard stated that he hopes to lead the congregation with the mind set to Love One Another and with Forgiveness.

Pastors Report for December

Worship Services- 3 Sunday services and 2 Christmas Eve services

Pastoral visits-12 pastoral care and counseling, 5 communion visits= 10 hrs

Meetings-7

Education sessions-10

Events-2, cookie walk and community lunch

Mileage-374 miles

Time off for 2015= 12 sick days, 12 continuing ed, 26 vacation days

Things Pastor is working on include: Chili mixer will include new memberships.

Peggy made a motion to accept membership of Eileen Bentzen and associate membership of Margy Kesler, seconded by Doug, approved by all. Council will call members to encourage attendance at this relationship building event.

Pastor will be gone to the Lake Superior Conference meeting on January 15, to the Midwinter Theological Event on February 8&9, and will be taking vacation on February 12-16.

Pastor has new office hours, Mondays 9am-2pm, Tuesdays 2pm-4pm, and Thursdays 9am-11am.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee has not met

Memorial/Honorarium Committee has not met

Outreach and Evangelism Committee report by Cindy says they met on December 20.

The Nursery project is on hold, Sister church is stalled, They are working on the January 25 Chili Mixer and the February 17 Mari Gras "Chocolate Bonanza".

The mission for the month of January is Project KIND.

Mutual Ministry Committee has not met but are working with the Bridgebuilder Program.

Education Committee report was given by Peggy. She says changes are coming.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUETS-JANUARY 13, 2015

Property Committee has not met.

Stewardship Committee has not met but are working on the Bridgebuilder Program.

Worship Committee met on January 11. They Planned the hymns for January 18 through February 8. Communion will be by one serving station of intinction with one side of the congregation being served first, with the back row of the choir going first and the front row going last. Discussed the time of the service and decided to keep it the same. Our Savior's will participate in the Mid-week Lenten Soup n Bread suppers and services. We will host on February 25.

Food Shelf It is our turn to help at the distribution this month. Volunteers are needed.

Landscape - Sandy reported that the Outdoor Nativity set is getting battered and had trouble keeping it lit.

Cindy made a motion to approve the committee reports, seconded by Doug, approved by all.

OLD BUSINESS

The Action Team of Bridgebuilders continues to meet every Sunday after church. There are three sub groups, Finance, Communication and Staff Leadership. The Bridgebuilder team will be here on Tuesday, for training and reports, at 4:30pm, all are welcome to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Attendance is encouraged at the Midweek Lenten services

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:15.

Our next monthly meeting will be Wednesday, February 11, at 5:30 PM (note time and date change)

Remember that all of our meetings are open for all to attend

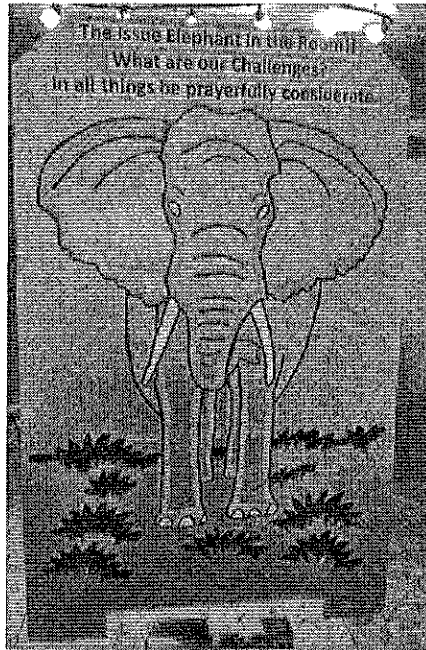
Sandy Rau, Secretary

The Elephant in the Room

If you have been to church in the last week or so, you will notice a new addition to our community. This addition stares at me when I lead worship, and I have to say – the omission of pupils make it's blank, white stare a bit creepy. The addition is the new arrival of an elephant, painted in various tones of grey on a large, pink foam board. We need your help to name it. Now, this collective naming is not like 'naming contests' to name the cute and adoptable puppy at the animal shelter who needs a home. This elephant is not a pet whom we want to keep around. The elephant that now resides in our fellowship hall is a recognition that there are many issues in our congregation we need to identify and name. The size of our beast is not the fault of any individual, council or pastor. It has happened gradually over a long period of time. The good news is that the elephant's days are numbered. The elephant has to go, because God wants us to heal and has work for us to do. As we take this elephant apart, God himself will cheer us on. The saints who have gone before us will cheer us on. We will cheer each other on.

How do we do this? One piece at a planning team invites each of us to that we see as a challenge, and post church's facebook page, or by email. about this to Dick Rewalt's few pastoral observations on the

There is biblical power in naming someone's name – or the name of them. That is why God did *not* to his query with YHWH, or "I AM". *us by name* (Isaiah 43). In chapter 5 plagued with a very scary demon. man, Jesus enters into a thing that Jesus does? He asks its For we are many." And then Jesus might add, much consternation to herd of pigs).



time. The OSLC Bridgebuilder action take a sticky note, write one issue down it on the Elephant, either in person, on our While I will leave the rest of the details bridgebuilder update, let me put forth a power of names.

things. In Biblical times, knowing someone's God - gave you power over reveal his name to Moses, but responded This is also the *very* reason that God *knows* of Mark's Gospel, Jesus heals a man After commanding the demon to leave the conversation with it. And what is the first name. The demon replies "I am Legion. casts it out and heals the man (causing I the entire community and an unfortunate

Friends in Christ, it is no fun to read a newsletter article, lead a worship service, or minister as a community of faith with an eerie elephant staring at us. Let us name that elephant. It can be a freeing experience to name that which has plagued us – be it in our own lives, our families, or our communities of faith. The process of change and naming things can be uncomfortable, but it is what Christ calls us to do – we confess our sin, our grief and our pain – so that he can set us free from the power they wield over us. As we do this in our own lives and as a community of faith, we put our guard down. So, it is imperative that we care for each other as we do: **Let us serve one another in love and pray for each other with humility.** [Might I also add: let us accept God's healing as it comes.] This is what the Action Planning Team of the Bridgebuilder's process seeks to facilitate. Thank you APT members for your faithful leadership and good work.

As we name this elephant, piece by piece, Christ himself will cast it out. It will no longer have power over us, because the name of CHRIST has authority over us. In chapter 10 of John's Gospel, Jesus says "Nothing and No One can snatch them from my Father's hand." In Christ, there is only room for life – so the elephant has to go. It has to die. **Christ** is our hope, and that is our promise. As we name our Elephant, and thus chip away at its presence, we rediscover and reveal in a new way what has always been and always will be at the center of our life together as the body of Christ: the Holy and Precious Lamb of God. Forever and ever will he reign. Amen.

In peace,

Pastor Kristina

The Bridge Builders Information Corner

The Bridge Builder Action Planning Team has been working hard through the month of January. To date, each of the three subcommittees (Communications, Stewardship/Finances/Budget and Staff Guidance) have met multiple times and the full Bridge Builder Action Planning Team has met 4 times and is scheduled to meet once more before this newsletter publishes. These meetings have been a combination of training and work. The Team's task is to produce an Action Plan that will lay out actionable solutions to the variety of issues that beset us as a congregation. This plan will be provided to the Council, the Committees, the Church Staff and the Congregation for implementation. It is a goal to have the plan ready before the Spring Annual Meeting.

My goal as Leader of the team has been to forge the members into an effective body that has a good understanding of what it is that we are to accomplish. We keep in front of us that we are but representatives of the whole Congregation. I urge you to converse with the Team members. Our meetings are always open and run better when we have congregational extras as part of our forum. We have established our Team's underlying consideration to be "Love". To be sure that we can do this, the Team and subcommittees are beginning and ending any and all deliberation with "Prayer" and in the prayer we encourage "Humbleness". The result of what we do, above all else is "Healing and Forgiveness".

In our congregation good communication is a major consideration. To that end I am interested in having our Team be very clear with respect to what is included in the plan. This means that we must be honest brokers and thorough documenters. Everyone in the Congregation is a candidate contributor. With a variety issues in front of us, we are considering OLSC as having an elephant in our midst. We have made that Elephant visible and have placed it in the Church Social Hall. Its purpose is to be a place that all members of the Congregation can communicate their opinions of the issues, point out holes in how the Church operates and suggest alterations. This is done by putting your comments on a Sticky and then putting it on the Elephant. Sticky and instructions are on the table next to the Elephant. The Action Planning Team will turn these inputs into Action Statements. To date we have generated more than 60 Action Statements – there are more to create and we need everyone's help to make sure all issues are covered. Keep talking to us and above all else – Pray for your Action Planning Team.

Dick Rewalt
Planning Action Team Lead
715 372-6428



Volunteer Schedule February 2015

Prayer for Families

We will continue this year to include three families or individuals in our Sunday morning prayers. I know there are many of you that pray for individuals and the needs that we know of, but there are many times we don't know when someone is in need of a prayer. This is one more way for us to care for each other placing them in God's hands.

February 1

Mark & Himma Santikko
Desi & Tammy Sipsas
John Schrock & Mary
Berube

February 8

Wayne & Lynette Smith
John & Doreen Swanson
Greg & Kathleen
Skoraczewski

February 15

Jerry & Tricia Talso
Ken & Lois Tanula
Dianna Teppo

February 25

Sue Thibedeau
Doug & Nancy Thyberg
Tom & Donna Trautt

Date	Coffee	Lector
February 1	Karen Wicklund & Sherry Tanula	Jonathan Jensen
February 8	Doug & Nancy Thyberg	Cindy Knapp
February 15	WELCA	John Schrock
February 25	Tammy Sipsas & Doreen Swanson	Lynette Kesler

Monthly

Ushers: Dick & Kathy Rewalt
Greeters: Mark & Melinda Santikko
Altar Guild: Laurel LaBelle & Shirley Saker



BIRTHDAYS this month

Melissa Paulson 3rd
Cindy Knapp 4th
Bridget Sand 5th
Sophia Jensen 14th
Archie Lahti 21st
Ken Tanula 22nd
Jane Bragiel 23rd
John Schrock 26th
Howard Fuhrmann 26th
Shane Sipsas 27th



Archie and Kathy Lahti 14th
Terry and Shirley Welty 24th
Terry & Maureen Johnson 26th

***NOTE:** The nursery is available for all adults with young children to use. We do not have caregivers available, however, we do have a room in the fellowship area that is available, comfortable, and will soon be equipped with a sound speaker so that listening to the service is an option. Please feel free to access this if the need occurs.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

February 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p style="text-align: center;">9:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Commissioning of Action Planning Team~ Bridgebuilders</p> <p>Food Shelf Item — Canned Fruit</p>	<p>9:00 Community Quilting Group</p> <p>5:00 Worship Committee</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>9:00 TOPS</p> <p>5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>3:45 Wednesday Bible School</p>	<p>6:30 Choir</p>		<p>12:00 Yoga</p>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p style="text-align: center;">9:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Church Blessing</p> <p>5:00 WELCA Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday afternoon though Monday— Pastor at Synod Event</p> <p>Food Shelf Item — Canned Fruit</p>	<p>9:00 Community Quilting Group</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>9:00 TOPS</p> <p>5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>3:45 Wednesday Bible School</p> <p>5:30 Council</p>	<p>6:30 Choir</p> <p>Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p>12th -16th →</p>	<p>12:00 Yoga</p>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p style="text-align: center;">9:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Transfiguration Sunday</p> <p>Lenten Prayer Partner (see newsletter article for more information)</p> <p>Pastor on Vacation 12th -16th</p> <p>Food Shelf Item — Canned Peas</p>	<p>9:00 Community Quilting Group</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>9:00 TOPS</p> <p>5:30 Yoga</p> <p>6:30 Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday Decedent Dessert Celebration</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ash Wednesday</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 Ash Wednesday Service @ OSLC</p>	<p>Pastor at Conference meeting</p> <p>5:00 WELCA</p> <p>7:00 Choir</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Food Shelf 9:00-11:00</p> <p>12:00 Yoga</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p style="text-align: center;">9:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Food Shelf Item — Canned Tomato or Chicken Soup</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>9:00 Community Quilting Group</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>9:00 TOPS</p> <p>5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>6:15 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Service @ OSLC</p>	<p>10:30 Food Shelf Produce Distribution</p> <p>6:30 Choir</p>	<p>**Church Secretary leaving early for vacation.</p>	<p>12:00 Yoga</p>

** The Church Secretary will not be in the office on Monday, March 2 or Wednesday, March 4.

Greeters and Ushers- A new 6 month list for Greeter and Usher volunteers is in the February newsletter and also hanging on the bulletin board in the church. Again, thank you to all the volunteers it is a large commitment and we are grateful for you.

Cleaning the Church- Every month there is a council member in charge of cleaning the church (among other duties). That council member would like some help. It is a big job that could be made smaller with many hands. Even if you would just like to do a portion of the job, your help is most appreciated. It is God's house and even God's house needs a bit of tender loving care. Please stop by the bulletin board across from the kitchen door to sign up to give us a hand.

Luke 11:25 And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order.

February Mission of the Month Let's Help Our Malawi Sisters Learn to Read

This is a new initiative the Women of the ELCA of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin are undertaking to help our sisters in Malawi read their Bibles. They are collecting donations that will be sent to Malawi.

Cookie, Lefse, and Craft Sale 2014

Once again this year our congregation has answered the call for volunteers and a chance to use their many talents from the kitchen to the craft room as well as finding those special treasures for our white elephant table. Thank you to everyone who baked, cooked potatoes and made lefse, crafted, and hunted those white elephants. We had a great crew that came in to set up and clean up. You are all wonderful. Thank you for making this year's sale a great success. The break-down of the sale is:

Cookies/Baked Goods/Fudge, etc.
\$1,196.10

Lefse
\$238.00

Crafts
\$369.00

White Elephant
\$225.00

Silent Auction
Purse - \$51
Gift Basket - \$25
Basket - \$35

Total Sale : \$2,139.10

Fund Sales
Coffee- \$23.20
Rada- \$27.25
Cards/Napkins- \$11.00
Fund Total: \$61.45

Special donation:
\$200 to Quilting Fund
for a lap quilt

Quilt Raffle by Quilters:
\$270 which was given Gift
to New Day Shelter



Please keep the following men and women serving our country in your prayers: Continue to watch over Mike Hope, Tiegen Brickson, David Doherty, Kyle Thyberg, Ryan Glau, Peter Bracket, D.J. Bourassa, David Fierner, Darek and Charlotte Reijo, Craig Danula.

Be with their families and those who have returned. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Please pray for the following in need of God's care: Amy Frostman and family, Robby Maron, Jerry Tapani, Leroy Lahti, Scott Rickaby, Ken Watters, Vanessa Lawson, Bonnie Mahocker, Mason Weber, Jonathan Jensen, Shirley Welty, Jennifer Anderson, Connie Sorenson, Ginger Weyandt, Marge Johnson, Pam Hawk family, Jeri Ogren, Myron Knapp, John Hoffman, Doris Perala, Jason Moreau, Al Buhler, Cheryl Clark, Jean Sucha, Herb Buran, Darren Forsythe, and Darrel Ciskie.

Email Evelyn if you would like to add or (joyfully) remove someone from our prayers.



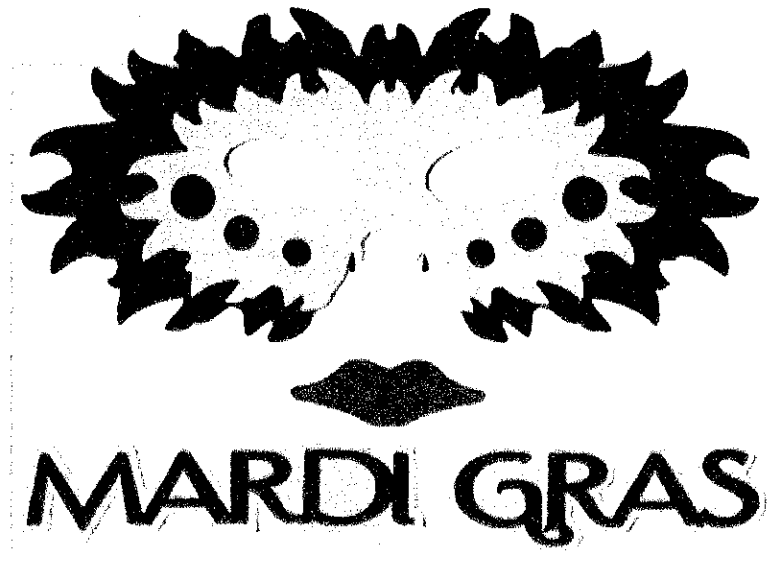
Thank you so very much for the beautiful cards, phone calls and your prayers. The hugs were very comforting as they help heal the broken heart. Jerry would say "Big Big Hugs". ~Love, Laurel

Many Thanks! Thank you to all of you at Our Savior's Lutheran church for the monetary gift during the Christmas Season. I have been playing Christmas Eve Services for over 50 years and each one remains special. The first one was at Zion Lutheran in Ashland when I was still in high school! Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Linda

Thank you for the gift of money during Christmas, I have tucked it away and plan on using it to buy myself something when I am on vacation in Florida. Evelyn



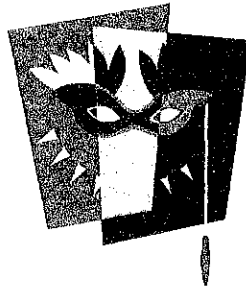
Free Community Event



**Fat Tuesday, February 17, 2015
6:30 pm**

Decadent Desserts

**Jazz Music, Beads, Chocolate,
And More**



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Iron River**

Ushers and Greeters- The volunteer list for the Ushers and Greeters has been set up 6 months in advance so that you have time to switch months with those listed here or find other replacements . The list will also be posted on the bulletin board. If you are unable to help during the time you have been assigned, please find your own replacement and let the church secretary know of the changes as soon as possible.

Greeters

January~ Shirley Saker
February~ Mark & Melinda Santikko
March~ Bonnie Rantala & Laurel
LaBelle
April~ Nan & Jim Olson
May~ Kent Getty & Jane Bragiel
June~ John & Jeanne Joseph

Ushers

January~ Karen Wicklund & Laurel
LaBelle
February~ Dick & Kathy Rewalt
March~ Ken & Linda Watters
April~ Doug & Nancy Thyberg
May~ Wayne & Lynette Smith
June~ Merv & Rozie Maki

The following people have volunteered to be greeters this year:

Ted & Donna Callahan, Kent Getty & Jane Bragiel, Laurel LaBelle, Merv & Rozie Maki, Jim & Nan Olson, Dick & Kathy Rewalt, Mark & Melinda Santikko, Ken & Linda Watters, John & Jeanne Joseph, Bonnie Rantala, Wayne & Lynette Smith, Doug & Nancy Thyberg, Shirley Saker, Karen Wicklund, Charlene Billingsley and Lori Anderson.

The following people have volunteered to be ushers this year:

Ted & Donna Callahan, Laurel LaBelle, Merv & Rozie Maki, Jim & Nan Olson, Dick & Kathy Rewalt, Mark & Melinda Santikko, Wayne & Lynette Smith, Doug & Nancy Thyberg, Ken & Linda Watters, Reen Modeen and Karen Wicklund.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING.

IT IS A LARGE COMMITMENT AND WE ARE GREATFUL FOR YOU.

You are Invited!!
To be a Lenten Prayer Partner (A secret until Easter Sunday)
Don't miss out, be part of this special prayer celebration.



Lent is a time for reflection and prayer. As we enter this six week period, we want to uplift one another in prayer and love. On February 15th you are going to have the opportunity to do just that. We will have slips that we will fill out and put into a basket. At the end of the service, we will each draw out a name and this will be your secret prayer partner for the six weeks of Lent, the person you will pray for each day. Now don't tell anyone the name, it will be a secret until Easter morning.

At Easter breakfast we will all bring Easter cards for the person we have been praying for. (You could also add a chocolate bunny or egg as a special surprise!) At the breakfast find your partner and let them know you are the one who has been praying for them and give them the card. This is for everyone at the church and we want the children to participate as well in this event. Praying for one another brings strength to the whole. Please plan to get involved with our Secret prayer partners and join your church family in prayer. What a great way to start our Easter celebration of new life.

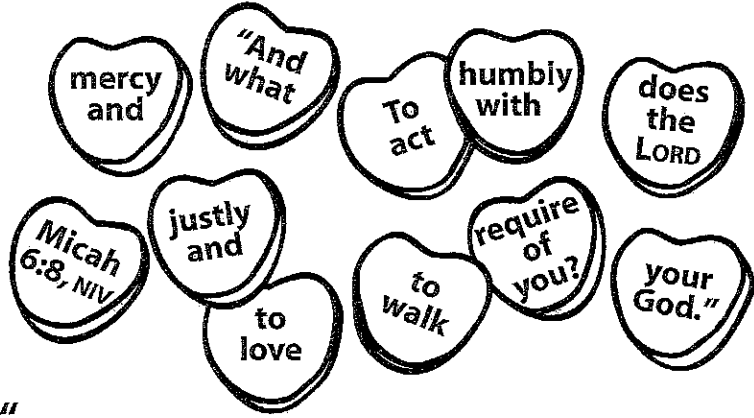
Note: If you cannot be at church on the 15th, we will have the slips available on February 1st and 8th so you could put them in the basket ahead of time. Please let Kathy Rewalt know that you need her to draw a name for you. The names will be mailed to you, so you will have your prayer partner's name for the first week.

PUZZLE

Conversation hearts

The world encourages people to look out for themselves and seek success, but in Micah 6:8, God tells us to live differently.

Directions: Put the conversation hearts in the correct order by writing the words on the lines below. Hint: Capitalization and quotation marks are included.



"

_____ ?

_____ "

_____ 6:8 , _____

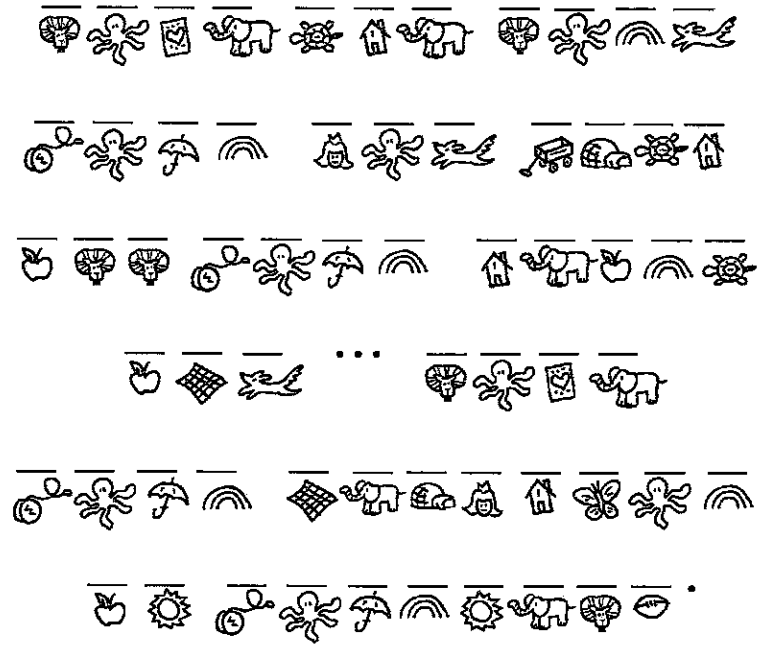
Answer: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, NIV

Just for KIDS

Love is the greatest commandment!

What did Jesus say when asked about the greatest commandment of God?

Write the first letter of each picture on the lines below.



Mark 12:30-31

Answer: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and ... Love your neighbor as yourself.