

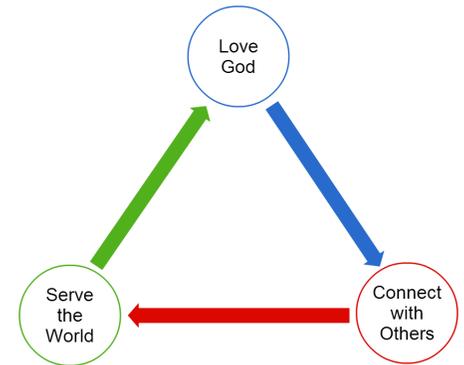
THE MESSENGER



December 2017

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

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Our Mission: Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by loving God, connecting with others, and serving the world.

*“Do no harm. Do Good. Stay in Love with God”
A Wesleyan Way of Living*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is an unusual quote for a December newsletter. Bear with me and see if these “Three Simple Rules” can in fact help us navigate the Advent/Christmas season. These three practices were written by John Wesley and made up the central focus of the small groups that made up the early Methodist movement and later denomination. These simple rules, based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, give structure and instruction for faithful living. You might say they are foundational practices of our Methodist practice of the Christian faith.

Let’s look at these three simple rules as we examine our choices of outreach this season.

Do no harm. The news these days is reeling with allegations of male sexual misconduct from all walks of life—political, entertainment, journalism, and medical. It seems this culture of sexual abuse has been an accepted part of the fabric of our society for a long time. But now, women are saying Enough! Hopefully, the actions our society takes to address these allegations will encourage victims of crime to speak up for themselves or others. How do our actions help or hurt others?

There was a notice in the November newsletter that our church will not ring bells for the Salvation Army (SA) this year. This came about because a member of our church family approached me. I was asked to reconsider ringing the bells due to the SA’s inconsistent and hurtful policies toward the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer) community. After researching the request, Karen Harter and I decided to not ring the bells. It takes courage to come forward and ask for support. As the pastor of this church, and a leader in this community, I support anyone who feels threatened by the attitudes and activities of our society or our church. What about you?

Do good. The Family 2 Family program (serving the 41 families at The Grove at Keith Creek) is looking for help to collect one clothing item and one toy for each child in The Grove. This drive is getting started late, but I hope you will join me in responding to the need. CVUMC has committed to purchasing 10 gifts. Can you forgo giving one more present to someone who has plenty in order to help a child in need? A “tree” on the bulletin board by the church sanctuary will hold 10 specific presents. If you are willing to do some extra good this Christmas, please take one gift request and return it to church (unwrapped) by December 10th.

Stay in love with God. As the days tick down to Christmas, make time to come to worship as we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth. We will meet some of the ancillary people who played a part in the events leading up to Jesus birth. **On December 10th, the youth and children Sunday school will put on a Christmas program that you will not want to miss.** Christmas Eve services are 9:45 am and 7:00 pm on Sunday, December 24. No telling who might show up this year...

May joy and blessing be your gift this Christmas,

Pastor Vickie

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Sharing God's Bounty—December

Gold, Incense, and Myrrh . . . and a Message to All

How much do babies appreciate the gifts they receive when they are born? Did Jesus, being the Son of God as well as the son of Mary, value the gifts the Magi brought? We would think those gifts impractical for a baby, but then this was not an ordinary baby. That gold bought food and lodging and everything that was needed by the holy family as they fled to Egypt and then got established in a new home. The incense was burned as their prayers ascended to the Father in Heaven, and the myrrh was used some thirty years later to anoint the body later of the Baby grown to be our Savior.

“The gifts are traditional gifts of the East,” the Concordia Commentary on Matthew 2:11 tells us. We can be sure that these gifts were appreciated by our Lord, for St. Paul writes, *“If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have”* (2 Corinthians 8:12).

Were the gifts of the shepherds that first Christmas night acceptable as well? What did the shepherds bring? The Bible does not record their bringing any gift at all – except, that is, the gift of their running to the stable with anticipation, the gift of their humble worship as their anticipation turned to realization, and the gift of their *“spread[ing] the word concerning what had been told them”* as they returned to their flocks, *“glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen”* (Luke 2:17, 20). It is obvious the willingness was there as the shepherds brought gifts according to what they had. Therefore, according to Scripture, their gifts were acceptable.

We, too, can be sure that our gifts are appreciated by our Lord – the gifts of our treasures – our gold and silver and the gifts of our praise and adoration as we witness to what we have heard and seen. Like the Magi and the shepherds, we are drawn to the manger bed. Like them, we kneel in awe and adoration. Like them, we use the gifts God gives us, wherever we are, wherever God places us, to *“spread the word concerning what [has] been told [us].”*

“If you want to live longer give the other driver the right of way.”

“There will always be roses, but someone has to take care of them.”

“People who spend their time finding fault usually have little else to do.”

“A church member who feels no responsibility for his Church does not really belong.”



Members & Friends

Shirley Cardani
Jim Coulter, Sr.
Janet Davis
Tom DeWitt
Sally Hollembeak
Mandy Kloepfer
Kirk Roecker
Mike Seno
Barb Spalding
Leigh Sterrenberg
Roberta Sterrenberg
Lola Zengler

Military Personnel

Matt Benson
Sean Conderman
Ramon Duarte
Tamara Duke
Dan Harter
Mark Kincaide
Mike Oldham

Those Who Mourn

Flood/Banks/Yuneck Families
Police Officer Cox Family
Patterson Family
Leaf River Fire Department

PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have prayer concerns that you wish to express, please fill out a prayer request card located in the Prayer Chapel. Please indicate how you would like your request shared via the check boxes at the bottom of the card and then place the concerns in the request box.

Thank You

Hanging of the Greens for the Advent and Christmas season always adds to the joyous mood of the worship during this time of the year. Thanks to all who helped!



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry.

We filled 44 boxes and received donations for shipping for all of the boxes! Thank you all so very much for helping to make Christmas special for children all over the world.

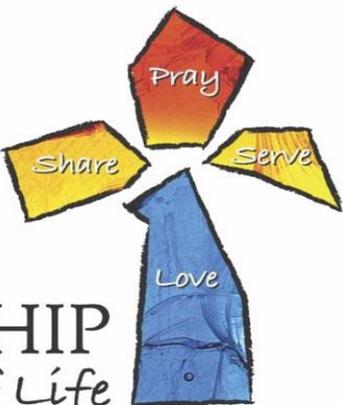
VBS Planning Meeting



It's time to start planning for Vacation Bible School. Our new VBS Coordinator, Deb Gross will have a meeting on December 3rd, following worship to form plans and discuss the curriculum. All those interested in making our VBS a meaningful and fun time for the kids, should attend this meeting.

If you have any questions, please speak with Deb at church or call her at 815-544-4026 or email at warren.gross@comcast.net

Thank you to all who have sent in or dropped off your stewardship pledge cards. We are still receiving cards and there is still time to send in your pledge. We will have a final update in the January *Messenger*.



STEWARDSHIP

A way of Life

Rockford Urban Ministries



Rockford WorkCamp

The Rockford Work Camps project, launched in 1992, attracted 310 volunteers this summer from around the nation. They labored lovingly, sprinkled hope (and new porches and stairs!) and other badly needed repairs in 20 homes. The owners had serious health conditions, advanced age, and very limited financial resources to tackle.

Due to Illinois budget crisis the last few years, many of our area non-profit organizations have been operating in crisis mode and have not been able to keep up programs or facilities. Work Camps provided volunteers to some of them to name a few:

Shelter Care Ministries, Patriots Gateway Center, Belvidere/Boone County Food Pantry, Rockford Rescue Mission, and the Rockford Park District where volunteers roofed shelter houses at leavings park.

We thank you for your support, prayers, money, care, work, love and resources. We need your help to carry on this work.

Our Advent and Christmas schedule is as follows:

Advent 1—November 26

Advent 2—December 3

Advent 3—December 10

Advent 4—December 17

Christmas Eve—December 24

We will have 2 services on Christmas Eve; both will be candlelight services. The 9:45 am worship will feature the choir and 7 pm service will have different music.

The Methodist Women met on November 12th following worship. The orders for cookie dough were turned in and delivery date will be December 5th.

With December fast approaching, we are making plans for the Annual Cookie Walk. We are really “into” cookies! The Cookie Walk this year is on **December 17th** so mark your calendars!



Not only do we ask that you donate 4 dozen cookies, we hope that you will come and purchase cookies. The cookie exchange is a tradition within the church. Not only is it a fundraiser, but it is a time to share our favorite cookies and candies.

The stockings for the Rock House kids will be delivered on December 1st. Thank you so much for your contributions to this project. We could not do it without the support of the congregation. There will be a group of us who will deliver the stockings. At that time, we will be given a tour of their facility. They have done some major remodeling in the past year to accommodate more youngsters.

Our Christmas party will be held at Kathleen Sundberg’s home on December 3rd after worship. All women of the church are invited to attend. There will be a \$10 gift exchange, but participation is not mandatory. You may come and enjoy the event. We always have a good time.

Striving to serve,
Donna Layng



Offering envelopes for 2018 are available in the foyer. Since we are recycling envelopes please put your name and envelope number on the sheet provided. When you bring your offering, please be sure that you put your name on EACH envelope.

Spiritual Insights

Jeremiah 9:23,24

The Lord said, "Let not the wise glory in his wisdom, neither let the might man glory in his might; nor the rich glory in his riches.

But let him glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, that gives loving kindness, justice, and righteousness in the earth.

Paul says "The world does not come to know God by worldly wisdom, but by the preaching of the Gospel, Jesus' crucifixion on the cross and by His resurrection.

Paul makes a great effort to show that God is revealed to the world only by the crucifixion of Christ on the Cross. Paul feels so strongly about this truth that he states in Galatians 1:9, "If any person preach any other gospel to you than what we have received, let that person be accused.

Jim Whitlock



December Birthdays & Anniversaries



18 Keith Krueger
19 Karen Harter
22 Lynn Brown
26 Ann Harned
Janelle Richards
29 Ida Mae Fox

5 Nicholas Mungor
6 Delilah Herold
10 Carolyn Kloss
12 Pat Cowan
13 Lynn Berg
14 Bill Harned
Pearl Robbins
15 Louie Cowan
16 Craig Wilt
17 Lela Lameyer



3 Lyons & Marlene Meyers
29 Ryan & Jamie Spears

Winter Coats Needed!



Rockford Rescue Mission is seeking coat donations for men, women and children in its care and to those seeking emergency shelter as the weather turns colder.



The Mission generally gives away more than 200 coats between the months of November through February. The greatest need is for coats for men and women, particularly in larger sizes. Other items of winter wear will be accepted as well.

We have a basket in the entry of the church for you to place your donations until December 10. Please look through your closets and see if you have serviceable items you can donate.

December Worship Leader Schedule	Sunday December 3	Sunday December 10	Sunday December 17	Sunday December 24 Morning	Sunday December 24 Evening	Sunday December 31
<i>Liturgist</i>	Flood Family	Youth	Burritt Family	Charles Schnuckel	Donna Layng	Janet Davis
<i>Greeter Team</i>	Kathleen Sundberg Mary Wilson	Charles Schnuckel Judy Krunfus	Grace Harter Mandy Kloepfer	Sandra Baxter Kathleen Sundberg		Mandy Kloepfer Jim Bryant
<i>Usher Captain</i>	Warren Gross	Dave Ward	Dave Ward	Keith Burritt		Chris Flood
<i>Children's Message</i>	Carolyn Kloss	Hannah Flood	Pastor Vickie Hadaway	Deb Seno	Jenny Maragia	Pastor Vickie Hadaway
<i>Media</i>	Zane Clevenger	Andrew Schwartz	Matt Gross	Tjaden Keip		Matt Gross
<i>Fellowship</i>	Choir	Emmaus Group	Mission Team	N/A	N/A	Youth Group

Items for the January Messenger are due to the secretary by December 15.

Pastor Vickie's Schedule—November

(Unless otherwise noted, Friday will be my day off.)

Saturday December 2 9 to 1
 Monday December 4 8 to Noon
 Saturday December 9 9 to 1
 Monday December 11 9 to 4
 Wednesday December 13 9 to 5
 Saturday December 16 9 to 1
 Monday December 18 9 to 4
 Wednesday December 20 9 to 5
 Saturday December 23 9 to 1
 Wednesday December 27 9 to 3

If you need me, please call my cell: (708) 494-1877

Rock River Valley Food Pantry



Dear Pastor Hadaway and Congregation,

Thank you for your contribution of 132 pounds of food to support our mission of feeding those at risk of going hungry.

We are so grateful for your partnership. Your gift makes a real difference in the lives of hungry families and individuals and helps them gather around their tables for a wholesome meal.

Sincerely,
 Kim Adams-Bakke

Rock River Valley Blood Center

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
 Blood Drive

Monday, December 4
 2:30pm—6:30 pm

RRVBC bus will be parked at
 112 S. Cherry Street
 Cherry Valley, IL

To schedule an appointment call
 Barb Anderson @ 815-332-5226
 Sandra Baxter @ 815-332-5497
 Kathleen Sundberg @ 815-988-4536
 Jane Neff @ 815-332-2321
 Judy Long @ 815-229-8637

All Blood is Needed!
 Walk-in Welcome!

Please bring a photo ID
 Be sure to have plenty to eat & drink
 before donating.



Rock River Valley
BLOOD CENTER
Straight From the Heart

Yankee Candle Fundraiser



Our Yankee Candle Fundraiser did not do as well as we had hoped. There were many other fundraisers running at the same time which may have impacted our outcome. All our sales were online which tells us that you prefer that method of purchasing, therefore, we have asked that our online purchase date be extended until **January 10, 2018**.

Shop at yankeecandlefundraising.com and enter our group code **999974149**. You can still invite your friends and relatives to support us by sending them the link! Orders through the web site will be sent directly to your home.

Remember, all profits go toward our apportionments.

Disciples in Action

On November 16, the Disciples in Action met for their final study. We have shared illness, death, tears, secrets, and laughter. Mostly we have share the love of Jesus. To the study partners: remember to knock down the doors of heaven with your prayers!

Mary Lou Clevenger



*Answer key to
 November puzzle
 From Ecclesiastes*





During our Native American Indian unit some of the kids thought of these original names for their headbands: Fluffy Fox, Neighing Brown Horsey, Smiling Bow Hunter, Pretty Duck Feathers, Stormy Thunderbird and Sharp Eye Eagle.



They also said what they were thankful for and here are some of their cute responses:

- ◆ for giraffes that reach for leaves to eat
- ◆ for food like steak that Daddy and Mommy fix for me
- ◆ for my family that likes to cuddle me
- ◆ for zebras cause I like it when they run
- ◆ for broccoli because it's crunchy

Our class sizes are again smaller this year but we are thankful for the hard work our families invested during our Butter Braid Fundraiser. We also appreciate all of those who purchased Butter Braids to support our preschool program.



The kids always anticipate the magic of Christmas and the birth of the baby Jesus with excitement! If you want to be blessed, come when the children present their Christmas Programs at 11:15 am on Wednesday, December. 20th or Thursday, December. 21st. You will see Christmas joy through their eyes!

May the love, joy and peace of the Lord be with you this holiday season.

Joyfully Teaching,
Carol Palmer



Thank you to the youth and their leaders for all the work they did putting together our scarecrow for the Cherry Valley Library's Scarecrow Project. Our scarecrow was displayed outside the post office and I hope you all had a chance to see it and vote on it. We had such fun!

A record number of 53 scarecrows were adopted this year. They perched up and down Mill Road and E. State Street. All were impressive!

The winners were:

1st prize in the business category was "Homebuilder" - Cook Construction

1st prize in the individual category was "Lumberjack" - Kari Eskew

Library staff pick was "Michael Jackson" - Karr Farms Homeschool Organization

Best scarecrow from new adopter was "Haunted House" - Rebecca LeClaire - Century 21

Best use of a theme was "CVS Pharmacist" - Tawnie Decorie



Thank you to all who bought or made Christmas stockings for the Rock House Kids. We will be taking the stockings to the Rock House on December 1 and will get a tour of the facility. Your support of this program each year is greatly appreciated by the administration of the facility but most especially by the kids who receive the gift!



Sunday, December 17, 2017
Before & After Worship

Come and shop a huge assortment of DELICIOUS Christmas treats baked with LOVE

Our bakers make only their best for this fantastic fundraiser, a favorite for many years! Arrive early for a great selection.

Cookies will be sold before and after worship time, so get here early and have first choice!



December 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous
3 8:00 am UMM @ CV Café 8:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship <i>Methodist Women's Christmas Party @ Kathy Sundberg's home (after worship)</i>	4 6:00 pm Girl Scouts <i>3-7 pm Rock River Valley Blood Drive</i>	5 12:00 pm Preschool Board Meeting 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	6 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	7 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:45 pm Thursday Night Disciple Group	8	9 9:00 am GA
10 8:45 am Sunday School for All Ages <i>9:45 am Worship/ Youth & Children's Christmas Program</i> 11:00 am Fellowship	11 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	12 6:00 pm Finance 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Church Council	13 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	14 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:45 pm Thursday Night Disciple Group	15 <i>Newsletter items due</i>	16 9:00 am GA
17 8:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	18 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	19 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	20 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	21 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:45 pm Thursday Night Disciple Group	22	23 9:00 am GA
24 8:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 9:45 am Christmas Eve Worship 11:00 am Fellowship <i>7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day Church Office Closed</i> 	26 6:30 pm Boy Scouts <i>Church Office Closed</i> 	27 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	28 <i>10:00 am Newsletter Party</i> 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:45 pm Thursday Night Disciple Group	29	30 9:00 am GA
31 						

 Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235
Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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CHERRY VALLEY
IL 61016



Blessed Christmas



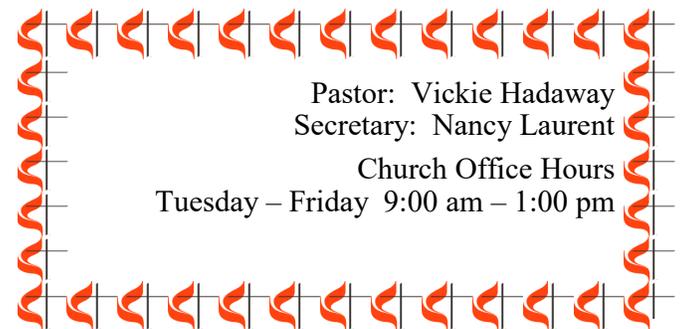
 GROWING through
GOD's Blessings

Sunday @ 8:45 am—
Sunday School for all ages
September—May

Sunday@ 9:45 am—Worship

Sunday@ 11:00 am—
Fellowship

All are welcome!



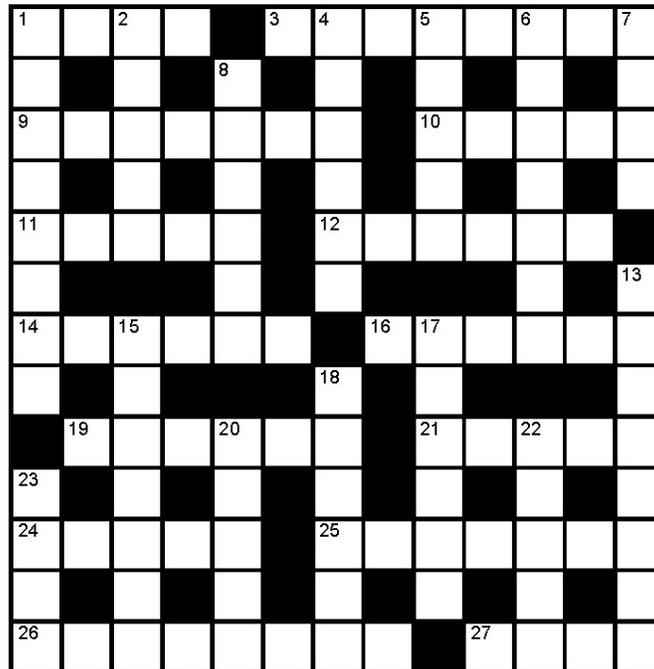
Pastor: Vickie Hadaway
Secretary: Nancy Laurent

Church Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Matthew

Across

- 1 Fear Him who is able to destroy _____ soul and body in hell. Matt 10:28 (4)
- 3 "By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not _____." Matt 13:14 (8)
- 9 Jesus calls Peter this after he proclaims Jesus the "Christ, Son of the living God." It means "Son of Jonah." Matt 16:17 (7)
- 10 Along with clothing of sackcloth, this was a physical display of repentance. Matt 11:21 (5)
- 11 Means a "flowing of blood" and describes the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment. Matt 9:20 (5)
- 12 One sheep may "go _____" and the Shepherd will leave his ninety-nine to find it and rejoice. Matt 18:12 (6)
- 14 The Pharisees sought to do this to Jesus when he healed a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath. Matt 12:10 (6)
- 16 One of the twelve apostles. Matt 10:2-4 (6)
- 19 Synonym for "young woman." Matt 26:69 (6)
- 21 The Heavenly Father feeds the fowls of the air, although they do not sow, reap or gather into these. Matt 6:26 (5)
- 24 "And ye shall be _____ of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." Matt 10:22 (5)



- 25 What mingled with fire in Exodus 9:24 during the plagues? (3, 4)
- 26 These were what Christ performed when he went from town to town. (8)
- 27 Jesus opened these when two men answered that they believed that he was able to heal them. Matt 9:29 (4)

Down

- 1 Adjective form of "Bible." (8)
- 2 These are sown by an enemy with the good seed. They will grow together until the harvest and then be gathered first and burned. Matt 13:25-32 (5)
- 4 The Old Testament prophet who said "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Matt 3:3 (6)
- 5 Jesus left Nazareth and dwelt in Capernaum, which is on the _____ of the Sea of Galilee. Matt 4:13 (5)

6 This son of Abraham is not in the genealogy of Christ. Matt 1:2 (7)

7 This was where the wise men were from when they came to worship Jesus. Matt 2:1 (4)

8 "The sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the _____ of the heavens shall be shaken." Matt 24:29 (6)

13 The Greek definition of this word (apostolos) means "messengers." Matt 10:2 (8)

15 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew _____ 6, verse 13. (7)

17 Although Matthew was a Jew, he wrote this gospel in Greek. Other New Testament texts were written in Aramaic. What language was the Old Testament written in? (6)

18 "Wherefore, if God so _____ the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more _____ you, O ye of little faith?" Matt 6:30 (6)

20 Begat by Azor and begat Achim. Matt 1:1-16 (5)

22 "Therefore be ye also _____: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt 24:44 (5)

23 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless _____ that curse you, do good to _____ that hate you, and pray for _____ which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Matt 5:44 (4)