

THE PILGRIM HERALD

July 2016

PILGRIM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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JULY: GOD LOVES THE CHEERFUL GIVER

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” [2nd Cor. 9:6-7]

This past Sunday we had our June voter’s meeting. It was a relatively short meeting. However, we spent a majority of the time discussing the finances of our church and it was apparent that while we are doing ok, we are in need of a more fruitful donation. I must admit the meeting left me anxious even as I know that the Lord will provide for all our needs, both of body and soul.

I wondered, as I walked back to the parsonage, what is it about money? What is that little switch that is tripped deep within our being, right between the compassion and responsibility buttons, when money is involved. Money is a funny thing. It makes us crazy. Why does money so often render us only cheap and joyless, often under a masquerade of responsibility. In his book, *The Spirituality of Fund Raising*, Henry Noumen makes this insightful observation:

“Where is your security base? Is it in God or is it in money? It is very interesting and it’s very important to realize that money is one of the greatest taboos around. Greater than sex, greater than religion. A lot of people say, ‘Don’t talk about religion, that’s my private business. Don’t talk about sex.’ But talking about money is even harder. Money is one of the greatest taboos...And the reason for the taboo is that money obviously has something to do with that intimate little place in your heart where you need security, and you don’t want to give that away.”

The heart is the place that we reserve for the building and polishing of our idols, of our false gods. You know the text well, “No one can serve two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other... You cannot serve God and money” (Mat 6:24). Every one of our hearts is tainted and condemned by Jesus’ words here. Bear in mind, greed is not merely the idol of the rich, it is just as easily the idol of the poor as well. We beg of the Lord before we die, “Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the Lord?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God” (Prov 30:8-9). Whether in abundance or in famine we must realize that the problem is not money; the problem is our heart. Greed lives in the heart, not the wallet. So, greed is often one of those obvious sins, but it masquerades so devilishly, so sanctimoniously that we often fail to see it. We often fail to see that quickly and without warning our trust, security, and hope is toward this thing called money, toward these things we call, stuff.

Now the knee-jerk reaction to a lack of donations, to a lack of anything, whether it be in the church or in the world, is to resort to the Law. It is to attempt to forcibly confiscate what we need. When we think the Gospel has failed in its apparent lack of results, in not fulfilling our desires, we will often turn to the Law, or even seductively try and put teeth in the Gospel, which is no Gospel at all. Granted, we must make the need aware to all, so they have an opportunity to give, but we cannot force a person to be a cheerful giver, that comes only by way of the Gospel.

So the solution to our problem, to our dwindling donations, is never the Law. It's never to shame people as to the size of their gift. It's never to demand with the ultimatum that people give the church their pensions, life-savings, or bank account numbers, or it will have to close up shop. This only leads to stubbornness on the part of the giver. Ever try and force a teenager, a spouse, a friend, to do something they don't want to do? How'd that work out for you? Not well. Rather, the better way, the only way, is the Gospel, is to teach about Jesus, to give Jesus. For the ethical behavior and life of good works in the Christian flows precisely from the pulpit and the altar of God, from the body and blood of Christ, the gift of the forgiveness of sins. Whereas the Law, the iron rod, begets sin. The Gospel, the gift, begets gift.

St. Paul teaches us, "God loves a cheerful giver." He instructs the church at Corinth to be generous to the saints suffering poverty and famine in Jerusalem. There is a profound joy in giving, for one is not merely giving to a poor and needy neighbor, an empty common chest of the church, one is giving unto Christ who lives in the poor and needy, who is the body of the church. But we wonder, "How shall I find such joy in giving? I've got this little heart and a wee little Pharisee is pumping idolatrous blood into it?" Enter the narrative of Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was a rich man, a chief tax-collector. He sought a glimpse of Jesus. But he was too small to see over the large crowds that followed Jesus. So he climbed up a sycamore tree. Immediately, Jesus saw him up in the tree and requested that he get down for he wanted to dine with him in his house that day. Zacchaeus was giddy and overjoyed by the presence of Jesus in his house. The Pharisees not so much. They grumbled and groused with one another. Zacchaeus, being miserly most of his life, was

changed man after Jesus entered his house, forgiving him his sin. From that absolution came generosity, came a repentant heart that flowed with joy at not only giving back what he had taken, but giving fourfold what he had defrauded his fellow neighbor out of. "Jesus is the greatest joy the human heart can experience," quipped Luther. The joy over Jesus is the "real motive of ethical behavior" of giving alms.

Good cheer and generosity are the products of a heart set free from its gods. In all things, in all times of this temporal life, in every chance we have, every person we meet, every gift we give, we do so with a cheerful heart, with a heart forgiven and set free to give. And it's not the size of the gift that matters, but the gift given from a heart set free. "Truly, truly I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on" (Mark 12:43-44). "Once when Luther was traveling to Jessen (a little town on the Black Elster River) to recuperate, along with Dr. Jonas, Veit Dietrich, and other table companions, though he himself did not have all that much, he gave alms to the poor there. Dr. Jonas followed his example, with the explanation: Who knows where God will provide the same for me another time! To which Luther replied with a laugh: As if your God has not provided it for you already."

I leave you with these Gospel thoughts, and the prayer that I closed with at the voter's meeting. "O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst once sit over against the treasury to observe how Thy people gave, and hast caused Thy presence there in the Temple to be recorded that we may know that Thou art sill concerned, grant Thy people the willingness and love which the Poor Widow did manifest, who gave all that she had; and grant

unto us, to whom the care of Thy treasury is given, a seemly concern like unto Thine own, that Thy children give as Thou has prospered them, and that Thy coffers may be filled with the means to spread the Gospel in the world and maintain the ordinances of Thy house among us, and to provide the means whereby the suffering of the sick, the poor, and the aged may be alleviated; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.” Amen.

In the peace and joy of Christ,
Pastor Raffa

Little Book on Joy will resume on September 26, 2016 at 9:00 am.

Board of Elders Meeting Minutes, Pilgrim Ev.
Lutheran Church
6/6/2016

The meeting began with prayer by Pr. Fisher at 6:45. Present at the meeting were Gary, Howard, Ken, Tanner, Brian, and Allen. Absent were Dave and Ron.

Schedules were made through Thurs, Sept. 8.

Pastor Fisher will be unavailable June 18-19th due to helping St. John’s Mayville. He will be unavailable from June 20-27 due to vacation. Pastor Raffa will be unavailable on June 8, 11, and 12 due to helping St. John’s Mayville.

The next meeting will be on Sept 6, since the 5th is labor day.

Pr. Fisher noted that a new member, having experience with working with handicapped persons, would be interested in a one day VBS for the same. The elders consented with no opposition.

Pr. Fisher notes that the synodical convention is drawing near (July 9-14).

The elders note joy for the support in the debt reduction effort, though we hope to see the effort carry through to completion.

The possibility of acquiring a processional cross for use in Feastday and High Holy day services was considered. The pastors and elders are in favor of the idea. Pr. Raffa noted that it is necessary to educate the congregation of the historic use of such in the Church catholic before introducing anything new. Pr. Raffa also notes that a crucifer will be needed for services in which it is to be used. At present, the cost of such remains the primary obstacle, though perhaps cheap and appropriately crafted options are available. This matter will be brought to the Church Council for further discussion.

The elders note that the website remains in need of work.

Allen will be moving to CA in early August. Pr. plans to have a farewell and Godspeed rubric on the July 31 services. Hopefully his replacement frequents the 10:30 service!

The elders note infrequent lapses among the ushers, a matter to be brought to the head usher.

Pr. Fisher notes that there is no synod-wide standard for the age at which a youth receives the Sacrament. This issue leads to some confusion. This is, however, the reason that a few select children receive the Supper despite being abnormally young.

We opted to postpone our study given lateness. We will resume in study with the video for Ch. 3, proceeding to the text for Ch. 4 when next we meet.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Pastor Raffa at 7:54.

Respectfully submitted,
Tanner Schmidt

WEDDING

We wish the best to Beth Fisher and Austin Meier who were joined in Holy Matrimony on June 25, 2016.

BAPTISM

We welcome West James Hausmann, son of Ross and Kendal to the family of Christ. West was born April 2, 2016 and baptized on June 4, 2016.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We welcome Mr. David Grandin to Pilgrim by Affirmation of Faith.



HELP WANTED

We are looking for a High school/college age person who is computer savvy. We need someone who can work on the Pilgrim website to keep it relevant and updated. If you are interested please contact Pastor Fisher.

LUTHERAN DIFFERENCE BIBLE

CLASS will start up again the Wednesday, after Labor Day. Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

COLOSSIANS BIBLE CLASS will start on Thursday, July 7 at 9:00 am and on Sunday July, 10 at 12:30 pm.

PILGRIM DIRECTORY

The dates for the Pilgrim Directory Photo shoot are, December 30, 31 If those dates do not work for you, please contact Jeff Barger at 262-338-9822 to set up a time to do your photo shoot. We are looking to have 100% of the Pilgrim members involved in this so our Directory is complete. Sign up sheets and forms will be available soon.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL for the physically and mentally handicapped. Pastor Fisher is looking for volunteers to work a one night V.B.S. for physically and mentally handicap individuals. If you are interested in working this one night event, please attend the meeting on Saturday, July 16th at 11:00 pm.

GODSPEED AND FAREWELL SERVICE

for Allen and Margie Latall will be held on Sunday, July 31st at the 10:30 am. service. Allen and Margie will be truly missed by all of us when they move to California.



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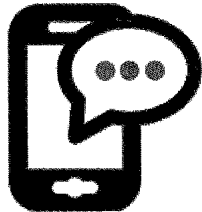
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Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church, Council Meeting
Minutes, June 13, 2016

Meeting was called to order by President Jerry Sommer at 7:00 pm.

Present were Pastor Fisher, Pastor Raffa, Jerry Sommer, Scott Densow, Fred Leffin, David Boehlke, Carolyn McAfee, Mary Schwittau, Judy Frank. (Absent were Allen Latall, Susan Stadler-mayer).

Pastor Fisher opened with prayer.

President Jerry Sommer asked for any corrections to the last minutes of May 9, 2016.

They were approved as printed.

Elders Report: Pastor Fisher stated that Allen Latall will be leaving on July 31, 2016. WE might be finishing the year with one Elder short. Pastor Fisher reported that we have a lady from Random lake joining our congregation that has experience with physical and mental handicapped people and could possibly start a VBS type class here for younger and older children.

Trustees Report: David Boehlke stated that there will be an expenditure of approximately \$2,300 for new computers, software and training for the office. There are sidewalks that need mud jacking but not funds available.

Photos for the church directory will begin in late December and early January.

Board of Education Report: Carolyn McAfee reported that the Youth Group and people who have signed up are going to the Chinooks game at Concordia in Mequon on July 17. The Youth had a great time at the last gathering and would like to do it again.

Pastors Report: Pastor Fisher will be preaching in Mayville next Sunday. St. Andrews is working on the vacancy that will occur when their pastor retires. Synod is asking for a free will offering for the Convention in July. We are assessed \$2 per communicant member.

Pastor Raffa stated that Sunday School has been extended into the summer, only 3 children are presently attending.

Pastor Raffa will be performing the wedding service for Beth Fisher and Austin Meier on June 25th. On June 27th, Elder Tanner Schmidt will be driving 2 students to the youth convention, Higher Things, in Nashville.

President Jerry Sommer stated that our Constitution states that we need to set up the Nomination Committee for the fall Voter's meeting for the election of officers. The offices that are open are Vice-President, Secretary, Elder, Trustee, Council-at-Large. Please call Jerry Sommer if you would like your name to be placed on the ballot.

June 26th in the next Voter's Meeting.

Pastor Raffa closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Frank

JF/ss

PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Voters Meeting June 26, 2016

Voters meeting was called to order by our President Jerome Sommer at 11:53 am, Sunday June 26, 2016. Roll call was signed by 22 in attendance. Pastor Raffa opened with Prayer. No new voters.

REPORTS

Elders report by Dave Fellenz, they are studying a book on elders duties and a video. Working on setting up the schedule for summer. Main door locks need to be looked at and discussed about repairing. Sidewalk in front of Church has a lot of unevenness to it, making it a bit unsafe—repairing it will cost about \$26 00 or \$2700 to fix it. Also we need to replace our computer system – cost of that \$2500.

Trustees Report—no one present to report.

Board of Education—Carolyn McAfee reported that 22 have signed up for the baseball game outing in July. All welcome.

Concordia—no one present to report.

Secretary's report was not reread since it is printed in the Church Herald. Minutes were accepted and moved.

Pastors report - Pastor Raffa announces that we had two weddings of our church who and their spouses will be staying with our church as mem-

bers. Hannah (Grosskreuz) Hand and Elizabeth (Fisher) Meier. council meeting has been discussing a photo directory date in September. Synodical Convention held in Milwaukee this year July 9—14. Higher Things Gathering, 2 Young men will be going to Nashville with a chaperone. Margie and Allen Latall will be relocating to Southern California {God Bless and best wishes for them}. St. Andrews our sister church will be calling for a new Pastor.

Unfinished Business—none

New Business

President Jerome Sommer mentioned that we should have 4 or 5 volunteers to be on a budget committee to help bring in nominees for elections in October. No volunteers, so if interested in an office of either, Vice President, Secretary, Elder, Trustee, Board of Ed, and or Council Please contact Scott Densow for further information.

Mary Schwittau made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Michael Schwittau seconded it, all agreed.

Pastor Raffa closed with prayer.

Sincerely submitted,

Nancy Rosenthal

Nancy Rosenthal, Secretary Voters Meeting.

DAILY LECTIONARY

This outline is a devotional reading plan that covers the entire Sacred Scriptures each year. The selections are based on ancient models and are generally in harmony with the liturgical church year. The average reading is three chapters daily. The lectionary is in accordance with Martin Luther's suggestions: "But let the entire Psalter, divided in parts, remain in use and the entire Scriptures, divided in lections, let this be 'Preserved in the ears of the church'. Also: 'after that another book should be selected, and so on, until the entire Bible has been read through, and where one does not understand it, pass that by and glorify God.'"

JULY'S READINGS

- | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------|
| July 1 | Deuteronomy 32:1-4
1 Samuel 28 - 31 | July 13 | Psalm 39
1 Kings 9 - 11 |
| July 2 | Psalm 28
2 Samuel 1 - 3 | July 14 | Psalm 40
1 Kings 12 - 14 |
| July 3 | Psalm 29
2 Samuel 4 - 6 | July 15 | Psalm 41
1 Kings 15 - 17 |
| July 4 | Psalm 30
2 Samuel 7 - 9 | July 16 | Psalm 42
1 Kings 18 - 20 |
| July 5 | Psalm 31
2 Samuel 10 - 12 | July 17 | Psalm 43
1 Kings 21 - 22 |
| July 6 | Psalm 32
2 Samuel 13 - 15 | July 18 | Psalm 44
2 Kings 1 - 3 |
| July 7 | Psalm 33
2 Samuel 16 - 18 | July 19 | Psalm 45
2 Kings 4 - 6 |
| July 8 | Psalm 34
2 Samuel 19 - 21 | July 20 | Psalm 4
2 Kings 7 - 9 |
| July 9 | Psalm 35
2 Samuel 22 - 24 | July 21 | Psalm 47
2 Kings 10 - 12 |
| July 9 | Psalm 35
2 Samuel 22 - 24 | July 25 | Psalm 51
2 Kings 23 - 25 |
| July 10 | Psalm 36
1 Kings 1 - 2 | July 26 | Psalm 52
1 Chronicles 1 - 5 |
| July 11 | Psalm 37
1 Kings 3 - 6 | July 27 | Psalm 53
1 Chronicles 6- 10 |
| July 12 | Psalm 38
1 Kings 7 - 8 | July 28 | Psalm 54
1 Chronicles 11-15 |
| | | July 29 | Psalm 55
1 Chronicles 16-20 |
| | | July 30 | Psalm 56
1 Chronicles 21-25 |
| | | July 31 | Deuteronomy 32:1-4
1 Chronicles 26-29 |

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2- Sandy Schultz
3- Jennifer Schreiner
4- June Fry
5-- Genna Zenda
Cheyanne Daley
6- Janey Heckendorf
Ronald Virchow Jr.
Timothy Grosskreuz
7- Ryan Kiviaho
Sarah Neuman
8- Rebecca Fisher
Kyle Hodge
Lynda Reetz
John Valles
Beth Guterman (Vickerman)
Matthew Schreiner
10- Michele Kiviaho
11- Merlin Waechter
12- John Heger
13- Pamela Zenda
14- Glen Schnabel
Nicole Neumann
Katie Hausmann
Molly Hausmann
Lori Schulz
15- Lisa Knuth
16- Bonnie Mowery
17- Darlyn Dalton
Nicole Schreiner
18- Carol Neuman
20- Samuel Johnson
21- Steven Chapman
Matthew Thames
Matthias Raffa
22- Amy Goetzke
Conrad Eifert
23- Warren O'Neill
24- Diane Swanson
Laurie Lotz
Jodi Selzler
Lindsey Veselka
25- Kristopher Kirkland

26- Brian Meinburg
Kathy Sullivan
Justin Basterash
Glen Schnabel Jr.
Samuel Boehlke
Samantha Veselka
Sean Theusch
28- Sondra Kirkland
Tammy Markowski
29- Sarah Swanson
Tammy Veselka
Lisa Jensen
Leighann Haas
30- Kenneth Frank, Jr.
Audrey Hilgendorf
Deborah Brathovde
31- Sarah Kosterman
Rachel Raffa
JoAnn Weaver

ANNIVERSARIES

12- Gary & Carol Jenovai
14- David & Rebecca Boehlke
17- Kevin & Laura Hoffman
18- David & Jane Rockrohr
24- Jeff & Darlyn Dalton
25- Michael & Michelle Krueger
27- Justin and Beth Gutermann
28- John & Betty Held

ON PRAYER

Be not afraid to pray; to pray is right;
Pray if thou canst with hope, but ever pray,
Though hope be weak or sick with long delay
Pray in the darkness if there be no light;
And if for any wish thou daren't pray
The pray to God to cast that wish away.
E.M Bounds

“The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of prayer is faith. The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service. The fruit of service is peace.” Mother Teresa

The importance of prayer.
Prayer is the Christians' life. Though every other ordinance be attended to, yet if this one be neglected, all is in vain. It is as impossible for the soul to be spiritually alive and active without a punctual course of fervent believing prayer, as for the body to be alive and active without breath.

Prayer has more influence on the sanctification of the soul than all other ordinances. It goes directly to God to receive the life-giving Spirit according to an absolute and often repeated promise: “Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.” Edward Griffin

All-around trust

A pitfall to trusting God, which we are prone to fall into, is to turn to God in trust in the greater [crises] of life while seeking to work through the minor difficulties ourselves. A disposition to trust ourselves is a part of our sinful nature. It sometimes takes a major crisis, or at least a moderate one, to turn us toward the Lord. A mark of Christian maturity is to continually trust the Lord in the minutiae of daily life. If we learn to trust God in the minor adversities, we will be better prepared to trust him in the major ones. Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*

How to pray

Pray where you are. God is present everywhere and ready to listen.

Pray, when possible, in a quiet place where you can be alone. It is good to fix your mind deliberately on God apart from confusing distractions.

Pray to God simply and naturally, as to a friend. Tell him what is on your mind. Get help from the prayers of others.

Pray, remembering the good things God has done for you. Give thanks for all your blessings. Pray for God's forgiveness for the unworthy things you may have done. He is near to a humble and contrite heart.

Pray especially for those things that will make your life more Christlike.

Pray for others, remembering that help they need for the situations they confront.

Pray for the world in its need, and for God to guide you toward the way you can help.

Pray that God's will be done in you. His purposes are deeper and wiser than our own.

Pray, then allow God to answer your prayer.

Temptation

“when we are troubled with temptation and evil thoughts, then we see clearly the great need we have of God, since without him we can do nothing good. No one is so good that he is immune to temptation; we will never be entirely free of it.” Thomas a Kempis

America the Beautiful”

Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929) wrote, edited and taught English in her native Massachusetts. Occasionally, she wrote hymns, too.

On a trip to Colorado, Bates was greatly impressed by the amber waves of grain, fruited plains and purple mountain majesties. She believed that God had definitely shed his grace all across this land. A visit to the summit of Pikes Peak inspired Bates to write the most famous poem-hymn, “America the Beautiful.”

Bates also realized that patriotism was an important part of America. She was grateful for heroes “who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life.” She wanted all Americans to realize how God had shed his grace on them and crowned what was good “with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.”

Bates embodied the spirit of thankfulness to God for all she had experienced and been given.

“To fly the American flag, then to cheat another citizen—or anyone else—is to make a mockery of patriotism. A true patriot will be a person of integrity and honesty, a quite trustworthy American.” Charles Ferrell

“Virtue is doing good to mankind in obedience to the will of God, and for the sake of everlasting happiness.” William Paley

Choose the right half

An elderly clergyman chugging slowly along a sidewalk was hailed by a middle-aged workman as they neared each other.

“Hi, Jerry,” said the workman cheerily. “How are you?”

The old pastor replied, “Oh I’m about 50/50.”

“Well, replied the worker, “take the better half and forget the other half.”

“America”

Samuel Francis Smith, a Baptist pastor, wrote the hymn “America” in 1831. Smith was studying a tune he had never heard, although he knew the British used it for the hymn “God Save the King.” The British borrowed the tune from the Germans, who gave it patriotic lyrics.

Smith described what happened as he contemplated the tune: “I instantly felt the impulse to write a patriotic hymn of my own, adapted to the tune. Picking up a scrap of waste paper which lay near me, I wrote at once, probably within half an hour, the hymn ‘America’ as it is now known everywhere.”

Smith’s friend and classmate Oliver Wendell Holmes once told him, “Your name and fame will live when I and my works are forgotten.”

“I was not born to be free: I was born to adore and obey.” C.S. Lewis

If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under.” Ronald Regan

“Life is like a ten-speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use.” Charles M. Schulz.

“Little faith will bring your soul to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to your soul.”

Charles Spurgeon

SUMMER FRUIT PIZZA



Celebrate summer with this tasty dessert pizza, using your favorite summer fruits as the toppings.

What you need:

- 1 tube slice-and-bake sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Round pizza pan
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups sliced fruit
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Cut the dough into slices $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch thick. Place slices on the pan, overlapping them slightly.
2. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 minutes. Let cool.
3. Combine softened cream cheese, sugar and vanilla, mixing well. Spread this "frosting" over the baked-cookie "crust."
4. Arrange fruit on top of the pizza.
5. Slice and enjoy!

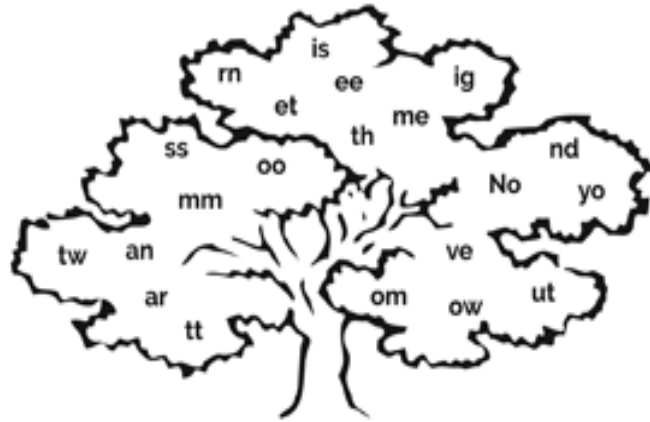
PUZZLE



Signs of summer

Jesus told his disciples that fig trees indicate when summer is approaching.

Directions: Complete the Bible verse below by placing the letter pairs from the tree into the correct blanks.



" ___ w lea ___ th ___ le ___ on
fr ___ the f ___ tr ___: As s ___ n
as its ___ igs g ___ te ___ er ___ d
its lea ___ s co ___ o ___, ___ u
kn ___ ___ at su ___ er is ne ___."

Ma ___ hew 24:32, NIV

Answer: "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near."
Matthew 24:32, NIV