

CHURCH CHAT



A Strong Faith Community

Missed the Best Part

Evangelism Moment

Book Club

Stewardship

Music Notes

Lights Everywhere

Advent

Dash of S.A.L.T.

Wool Gatherers

F.A.C.C.

Staycation

12 Days fo Christmas

Funnies

Crossword

Sponsors

All Saints' - A Strong Faith Community!

A couple of weeks ago we held a workshop with some long-time members of the All Saints' community. With about a dozen people attending with years of faithful service varying between 27 and 49 years, we asked one simple question:

When you think about All Saints', what is important to you and valued?

The question was explored from 4 perspectives: Worship, Fellowship, Outreach and Formation. With thanksgiving to God, the conversation was rich and informed why All Saints' has such a strong foundation as we look to the future and our ability to do more to build God's kingdom!

Below is a "pictorial summary of our discussion" drafted by Janet Holmes who helped facilitate the workshop. We are thankful for her gifts to capture the culture and values of our faith community.

The overall view from the group raised 5-6 themes that describe All Saints' as a faith community.

First, we are a welcoming community that enjoys spending time together in worship, fellowship, outreach and formation. While we vary in age, our love of God brings us together to form lasting friendships.

We are a spirit-led community and trust in God to lead us individually and corporately. We believe in prayer and it is common to have a need emerge during times together that is prayerfully raised to our Lord for help. In fact, we finished our workshop that day praying for a new mother who is dealing with a medical issue. That prayer was answered and she is now comfortably at home taking care of her newborn.

Our worship is inclusive and flexible. While we honour the formality of our worship, our family orientation breaks down barriers between traditional and contemporary worship.

We value connection both formally and informally – this is a very important part of who we are as a community. We celebrate our friendships regularly through coffee hours and many different events. And it usually revolves around food!

We serve God in different ways based on the needs “of the day”. Whether it is sponsoring new refugees, PWRDF, St. John's Kitchen, Food Pantry, or Carizon. The list is long as we outwardly focus on the needs of others to help share God's grace with them. And for most involved, the experience is as enriching for them as it is for those we help. Thanks be to God!

And we are thirsty for knowledge and find ways to celebrate and learn from the word of God; whether it is Alpha, Bible Studies, or other formation groups (e.g., Wool Gatherers).

As you can see, we have a strong and vibrant community at All Saints' Waterloo. And a strong foundation on which to build the future. In many ways as we contemplate a new building on which to do more mission and ministry work, the best is yet to come!

~Pastor Marty, Janet and Mike

Missed the Best Part!

In the service for the 20th Sunday of Pentecost, the readings included Psalm 22 (verses 1-15). This is a famous one, the opening lines being quoted by Jesus during His crucifixion. Here is the reading (from the BAS):

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress? 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; by night as well, but I find no rest. 3 Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned upon the praises of Israel 4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; they trusted, and you delivered them. 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame. 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, scorned by all and despised by the people. 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying, 8 "He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, if he delights in him." 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, and kept me safe upon my mother's breast. 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb. 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help. 12 Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me. 13 They open wide their jaws at me, like a ravening and a roaring lion. 14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax. 15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

This reading provides a list of indignities and sufferings heaped upon the psalmist. There are a few more verses not in the reading that continue on this theme and foreshadow Jesus' treatment:



16 Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones. 17 They stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing. 18 Be not far away, O Lord; you are my strength; hasten to help me. 19 Save me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog. 20 Save me from the lion's mouth, my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

It is sombre, and even somewhat depressing when the reading ends

there at verse 15 and even continuing to verse 20. However, those who read on further, or who know this psalm, will realize that the reading misses the best part! Here is the rest:

21 I will declare your name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. 22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory. 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; but when they cry to him he hears them. 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him. 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who

seek the Lord shall praise him: “May your heart live for ever!” 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. 27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations. 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him. 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever. 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

The rest of the psalm is a reminder that even under the worst of circumstances we should turn to, give thanks, and praise, the Lord. It’s always easy to give thanks and praise for the good things in life, but this psalm is a reminder that we should also give thanks and praise for the things we don’t like too. They are a part of God’s unknowable plan that we can’t really question (Isa 45:9), although it sure would be nice to know. So, looking back over the past years let’s give thanks and praise for everything, and prepare ourselves to give thanks and praise for whatever comes in the year ahead.

P.S.: for those who like traditional Anglican chant, there is a 1559 Book of Common Prayer version on Youtube (<https://youtu.be/Whj3peHkYGY>) that has a nice musical transition from the sombre verse 20 to the confident and praiseful verse 21.

~Bill Anderson

Evangelism Moment

Short-form video content is predicted to rule social media in 2022. This is already evident in the rise of TikTok as the place to be and connect. But many other places are perfect for short-form video content. These platforms include YouTube, Instagram Reels, and Snapchat.

As church, if we want to reach a high volume of seekers, then creating short-form video content is the way to go. The rise of short-form video allows individuals to be informed, educated, and entertained all in literally a few seconds or minutes. This is especially true when it comes to church specific content.

To help fill this space, All Saints’ Anglican Church in Waterloo has recently launched Soul Savours, a monthly short-



form video. You can find the first couple of episodes of the parish' YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq3JPIL7qpL7H911EFg9XTg>) Each episode features the Pastor Marty and Pastor Dan making a recipe from an old church cookbook.

The idea is pretty simple. Have a little fun, celebrate our past and all the potlucks and bake sales that have helped sustain the church over the years (and the weird recipes we used to love) and engage a new demographic in the life of the church.

~Pastor Marty

Book Club

Last meeting of book club for this year held on 29th. November via Zoom. We discussed “Anna’s Son” by Hart Wiens and we were fortunate enough to have the author join our group, very exciting.

We will be taking the month of December off and will re-zoom in January, the last Monday of the month which is January 31.

The book for discussion is called “The Four Winds” by Kristin Hannah. It is set in the 1930’s in Texas during the Dust Bowl, should be an interesting and in site-full look at a period in history like so many others, revealing the hard times that folks had to endure.

Our book for February 28, 2022 will be “From Scratch” by Tembi Locke which I can only assume will be about baking. We shall see.

We always welcome new members, and ideas for titles to read.

Book club is a great way to get to know and have fellowship with other like- minded book lovers.

Looking forward to see everyone back in January.

“Compassion is by nature gentle, peaceful and soft, but it is very powerful” Dalai Lama

~Joyce Harry



Stewardship Moment

As we come to the end of another year, you might be turning your mind to tax planning. While Christmas is first and foremost on our minds at this time of the year, year end is also the time we make sure to maximize our RRSP contributions, RESP contributions for our children's education and Tax Free Saving Accounts contributions.



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We may not think of tax planning as part of stewardship, but it can help us when discerning any final year end contributions to the parish and the new building, especially if we are still looking too add to our offering in order too tithe.

I have found a great tool that is easy to use and helpful in making short-term and long-term financial plans. <https://rcforward.org/tax-credit-calculator/> is a simple tool to use and can help provide you necessary information in making a gift to the parish.

For instance, I contribute a tithe to the parish each year. Each month through PAG I give to the parish \$350 for a yearly total of \$4 200. Using the tax planning tool I am able to ascertain that I will receive a Federal Tax credit of \$1190 and a Provincial Tax credit of \$456.50 for a total of \$1 646.50.

Knowing how much I will approximately receive back when I file my 2021 taxes, I am able to plan RRSP contributions, and also a Christmas offering of thanksgiving to the church for the great gift of Jesus in my life and to the world.

~Pastor Marty

Music Notes



What a joy to once again "enter His courts with (every one) singing"! Hallelujah! As services gradually return to normal with in-person worship, we must still work within covid restrictions. Carrie continues to be our lead vocalist each Sunday to accommodate those watching at home. I have begun playing the organ again, where appropriate, and apologize to you at home since I know it can't be properly mic'ed for streaming. Hymns are still abbreviated since the Bishop wishes services be as brief as possible.

I am pleased to welcome Bronwen Lewis to the service from time to time on piano and violin, and Shari Maclaren, trumpet. Thank you, Shari, for playing 'The Last Post' and 'Reveille' outside for our Remembrance Day service, thus following covid rules. Any one who feels called to share their musical gifts is most welcome, within covid protocol, of course.

I know everyone is looking forward to the return of the "real" choir, but until children are vaxxed, adults have had their booster shots, and we are able to stand side by side, I don't believe this is viable or safe. Hopefully, covid numbers will soon decline, variants will behave, and we will be able to return to weekly Thursday evening rehearsals, "making a joyful noise unto the Lord".

~Maryl Sinkins

Lights Everywhere!

One of the things I like about this season are the lights – not just the strings of lights but candles and lights of all kinds. It makes no difference if a candle burns with an actual flame or is a battery-operated one. I also have a pottery replica of an ancient middle eastern oil lamp and a couple of old coal oil lamps which came in very handy during power outages! There is just something about the flickering flame that sends me back in time to childhood Christmases.

Advent comes and we Anglicans light an additional candle each week leading up to Christmas but did you know that tradition only came to us in the nineteenth century?

The Norse, who celebrated the winter solstice with bonfires meant to scare off evil spirits and alter the course of the sun, converted to Christianity circa 1000 and incorporated the St. Lucia

legend into their celebration. There are many legends concerning her but the most popular is that she was the martyr Lucia of Syracuse, who brought food to Christians hiding in Roman Catacombs and lighted her way with a candlelit wreath on her head.

St. Lucia first appeared in a Swedish rural home in 1764 but really established itself in the early 20th century. December 13th was the shortest day in the Julian calendar and, according to Swedish folklore, the longest night was dangerous, with dark spirits out in force. Staying awake was absolutely necessary and eating helped!



Today, the people of Sweden, Norway, and the Swedish-speaking areas of Finland honour St. Lucia, with the festival of lights marking not only the start of the Christmas season but bringing hope and light in the darkest time of the year.

Our Jewish brethren are celebrating Hanukkah (Festival of Re-dedication) which commemorates the Maccabean uprising against the Seleucid Greeks in the second century BCE. In a nutshell, King Antiochus Epiphanes outlawed the observance

of the Jewish religion in Judea. The Hasmoneans, a priestly family, led a successful revolt against overwhelming odds, crushing Antiochus' armies, gaining control of Jerusalem and the holy Temple. Hanukkah celebrates not only their military victories but the re-dedication of the Temple. One of the daily rituals of the Temple was the kindling of the giant menorah faithfully carried out by the high priest each afternoon just before evening. The flames would burn all through the night, symbolizing the radiance of God's glory.

When the Maccabees entered the Temple they found the Greeks had sacked it and defiled all the olive oil, making it unfit for the ritual. They sent messengers to Galilee to obtain freshly pressed olive oil, realizing it would be at least eight days before they returned. Then someone found a small jar of pure olive oil in the Temple compound bearing the holy seal of the high priest, enough to fuel the menorah for only one night. Miraculously it burned for eight days until the messengers returned from Galilee with a supply of fresh oil. Our Jewish brethren kindle a single flame on the eight-branched menorah (aka a 'hanukiah') on the first night of Hanukkah and add one more flame on each consecutive night so that by the last night of the festival all eight flames are lit. Some prefer to use olive oil rather than candles, which is more reminiscent of the miracle.

If you go running to your Bible to check out the Books of Maccabees in the Apocrypha...you won't find this tale there. It is, however, in the Talmud.

We do have our own story of a miracle involving oil. 2 Kings, Chapter 4, “Elisha and the Widow’s Oil”. She doesn’t light it though. You may recall this nameless widow (!) ‘wife of a member of the company of prophets’ has but a jar of oil in her house when she is threatened by a creditor that he will take her two children as slaves if she cannot repay her debt ...her debt?...her deceased husband’s debt? Elisha tells her to borrow as many containers from her neighbours as she can, shut herself and her children in her house and keep pouring oil from her jar until there are no more containers to be filled. Elisha then tells her to sell the oil, pay the debt and she and her children are to live on the rest. That oil provided the ‘light’ of tremendous relief!

So many different kinds of ‘light’...the ‘light’ of a smile, the ‘light’ of the sun, the moon and the twinkling of stars, the ‘light’ of an open mind, the ‘light’ brought by shared laughter or even shared tears. The ‘light’ shed and shared by good friends and neighbours and often by a stranger who shares a smile or opens a door. The ‘light’ my heart feels when my fur-person Tähti purrs or Muffin, my friend’s delightful little dog comes bounding in my door ears flapping and tail wagging...

And to each of you, thank you for being another light in my life. May we all strive to recognize and share in the light of Jesus Christ as we joyfully await His coming.

~Twila Niemi

Advent

Dear Friends,

As I write, we have just entered into the Season of Advent and started a new church year. Advent is absolutely my favourite time in the church year. It is a time of preparation. Our preparations are twofold. As Advent calendars remind us, we are preparing for the birth of Jesus which we celebrate on Christmas. However, during Advent we are also preparing for Christ’s promised return. As scripture reminds us, no-one knows the exact time that this will take place, yet during Advent we prepare.

My absolute favourite Advent hymn speaks of Christ’s return in a most beautiful way. “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”, Hymn 114 in the Common Praise hymnal says this:

Lo, He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
God appears on earth to reign.

Note the last line of the verse: God appears on earth to reign. Not God appears to take everyone who has been 'good' and has 'followed the rules' off to float around on a cloud in some disembodied form in a place called 'heaven'. I don't know about you, but this was the kind of thing that Sunday School taught me in the 1980s. It went something like this: "Be good, follow the rules and if you do that, Jesus will take you off to a place called 'heaven' after your life on earth." I would not be surprised if many of us have had similar experiences at Sunday School over numerous decades.

Yet the Christian hope around the second coming of Jesus, Christ's promised return which we anticipate and prepare for in Advent is actually centred around heaven and earth coming together. The old creation will pass away and the new creation will be inaugurated as heaven and earth come together at Christ's return. As NT Wright, the accomplished biblical scholar and retired Bishop of Durham in the Church of England reminds us "heaven is important, but it is not the end of the world."

This is consistent with the faith we proclaim week after week as we profess that 'we believe in the resurrection of the body'. This is what resurrection life with Jesus looks like. It is bodily. In the resurrection there will be things to do! This is what we watch and wait for in Advent in addition to preparing for our Lord's coming in the stable at Bethlehem on Christmas.

In Advent, we are waiting for Christ to return to set things right. To make whole all of the brokenness in the world, and all of the brokenness, the sin, in us, frail humans as we are. This is what we mean when we confess that '(Christ) will come again to judge the living and the dead'. At times in the course of my ordained ministry, people have expressed concern that they "won't measure up", that they won't be "good enough" for Jesus when He returns. The fact is that our Lord for whom we wait is full of grace, mercy and forgiveness. None of us can ever make ourselves "good enough". Yet our Lord will come again to bring about forgiveness of sins and wholeness to our broken world and our broken selves. Heaven and earth will come together, and Jesus will put things right. This makes our waiting so very exciting and life-giving. May you know God's presence and peace as we watch and wait this Advent.

~Pastor Dan



A Dash of S.A.L.T.

In September as the new school year started, our youth group have also started meeting in person after long months of virtual meetings and summer break. From the usual six young people only two came back since some of them went to the university and their family also moved out from town. However, another two young people from the Filipino Community have started joining the group which makes it a total of four young people that meets every Saturday evening at church.

Having a new group again of young people, the youth group focused on getting to know each other by doing some games and bible studies about Friendship and being followers of Jesus.

One of the things that the youth group have also focused during the Fall was to go out and do some leisure activities while the lockdown is lifted. Thus, they had the opportunity to play bowling in one of the bowling alleys in Kitchener.

Now, while Christmas Season is on its way, the youth group have started doing rehearsal for their puppet story telling for the Family Christmas Service.

With regard to the Sunday School Children Ministry, Church in a box continues to be dropped at kids houses. However, it is with fervent prayers that after the kids will get vaccinated, we will be seeing more of them in person at church and we could go back to a more active Sunday School classes.

~Pastor Rambie

Wool Gatherers

On Sunday December 5th Pastor Marty blessed 75 hats, and several other items. Not only do we have parishioners knitting but "outside" knitters too. We also have a small army of dedicated sewers who help with sewing on labels before each Blessing Sunday. The items all get delivered to Carizon, Lakeshore North and Lakeshore South Communities Thank you to all who contribute – your work is invaluable and greatly appreciated. If any of you know of any other communities who would like to receive these please let me know.

We could use some more yarn but we also have some for anyone who wishes to knit for us. We have had a recent donation of a tackle box (!) full of needles and a small case full of crochet hooks. We are desperate to give them away! So please ask.

~Rachel Prichard

It's a FACC

(Filipino All Saint's Community Church)

On October 24, 2021, a new ministry arises from All Saints. Amidst the ongoing pandemic, All Saints' have given birth and provided an opportunity to the Filipino Community in Waterloo to worship together every forth Sunday of the month.



During the first Sunday service, twenty-five people responded to the invitation and it went up to thirty-two people in November for the second service. It is with high hope that the coming Filipino Christmas Eve service will bring more of the Filipino Community to All Saints'.

Indeed, starting a new ministry comes with ups and downs but with the warm welcome and very positive support of All Saints' Family headed by Pastor Marty and Pastor Dan, the Filipino Community is not only grateful but have also been

given an inspiration to continue coming to All Saints' and making it their home where they can be with their community and worship God through their own culture.

From the Filipino Community, we are happy to say SALAMAT PO! (Thank you!) And MABUHAY! (live long!)

~Pastor Rambie

Staycation in Toronto

In September my husband and I had a mini staycation in Toronto. We had an agenda which included our usual haunts of the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Toronto Music Garden on Queens Quay West. We also did fun things like riding a streetcar to The Beaches, walking back along the beach and having lunch in a street cafe. One day we found Yarns Untangled which was on my list of "things to find". This tiny gem is tucked into the corner of Nassau and Bellevue in Kensington Market with beautiful yarns from Canadian hand dyers such as Trailhead Yarns, Feisty Fibres and Riverside Studios. It is a tiny store, can only accommodate 1 person at a time and only for 15 minutes during COVID, but is crammed full of beautiful, to drool over, yarns. I managed to exit with only 3(!) beautiful yarns from New Brunswick Indie Yarn Dyer Lichen and

Lace! It was hard with the shelves crammed with beautiful colours and textures; I longed to spend hours there but there was someone waiting outside - to say nothing of my husband - that ever-patient knitting widower!

One memory I carry away with me from that local yarn store (LYS - that's a thing!) visit is that the owner spotted my tiny flute pin and asked about it. It turns out she is Amelia Lyon, the Principal Flutist at the Kingston Symphony! We talked flutes for a while and I remarked on what a lovely career she had - playing her flute and owning a yarn store! She replied "fluting and knitting do go hand in hand and while I'll likely never own a house or a car of my own, I'm still pretty happy and that is mostly what matters."

So as we help to fulfill another of our baptismal promises to care for God's creation, the message I take away from this is please support all local stores - not just yarn stores - especially now. Life is hard enough and they are all struggling especially during COVID. As we support them, they support other Canadians, and so it goes on. And, talking of yarn stores, we have Shall We Knit in Kitchener, All Strung Out in Guelph and Galt House of Yarn in Cambridge to name just 3 of the closest. They stock many natural fibres - sheep, yak, alpaca, hemp, cotton, flax, support Canadian dyers and the benefits of buying these versus man-made fibres are countless - enough for another article on another day!

~Rachel Prichard

12 Days of Christmas

A few years ago I stumbled across a children's book that paired the twelve verses of the 12 days of Christmas with twelve basics of Christianity (I wrote them down and forgot to write the title of the book). After digging around I learned that some people believe that the Twelve Days of Christmas was a way to teach children their religious catechism through symbolism and song.

Whether or not this story is true or modern folklore, the fact remains that you can easily pair each verse of this traditional Christmas tune with the most fundamental Christian teachings.

The pairings are as follows

- A partridge in a pear tree: Jesus on the cross
- Two turtle doves: The Old and New Testaments



- Three French hens: Faith, hope, and love
- Four calling birds: The Four Gospels
- Five gold rings: The Torah/Pentateuch, first five books of the Old Testament
- Six geese a-laying: The six days of Creation
- Seven swans a-swimming: Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Eight maids a-milking: Eight Beatitudes
- Nine ladies dancing: Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Ten lords a-leaping: The Ten Commandments
- Eleven pipers piping: The eleven faithful apostles
- Twelve drummers drumming: Twelve points of the Apostles Creed

~Pastor Marty

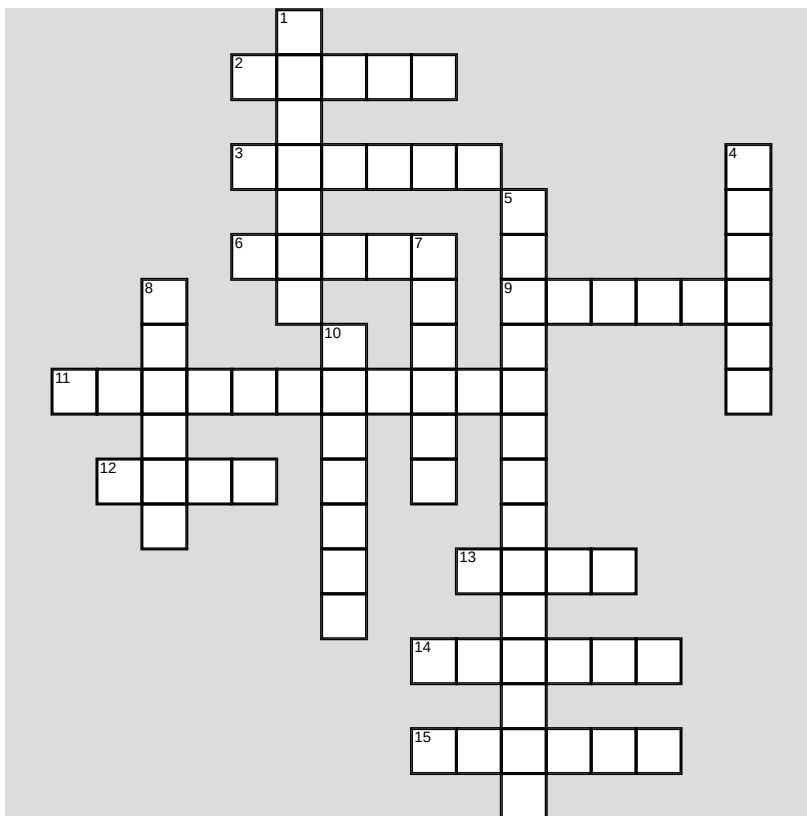
Funnies



Crossword

Characters in the Bible

Teacher: Sister Jackie



Across

- 2 DISCIPLE OF GOD - He liked to cut off ears
- 3 BECAME KING AT 8 YEARS OLD
- 6 KILLED GOLIATH
- 9 Type of Birth Christ had
- 11 Son of God
- 12 Helped to feed her Mother In Law
- 13 Was Blinded by God
- 14 Cousin of Mordecai
- 15 Sold into slavery

Down

- 1 SHE WAS A JUDGE - SHOWED WILLINGNESS
- 4 Went to War with 300 men
- 5 Baptized Jesus
- 7 Did not eat the King's food
- 8 Gave a good report
- 10 Would not let the people of God go free

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