


THE PULSE BEAT



Volume 49, Number 9

October 2024

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here's my question to all of you. What do you know about the EPIC Listening Team? I have a funny feeling that it's probably not as much as I would like you to know.

Let's start with the "EPIC" part. That stands for ELCA Partners in Christ, which consists of the local churches that we are in partnership with – Advent, Faith, Immanuel and Trinity. Representatives from the five churches joined together last year to form the EPIC Listening Team.

From the Team: "The purpose of the EPIC Listening Team is to listen to the broader community, learn more about what God is already up to in the lives of community members, and connect with those who are not already a part of our congregations.

The team will plan and engage others in participating in simple listening "experiments," mine the learning from those experiments, and share those learnings back with the participating congregations.

We will listen to and love our community first, and through doing so, learn how to make our congregational lives more relevant for those who are not already a part of our fellowship."

I'm sure many of you are thinking – we need to concentrate on *our* congregation, as we are currently in the midst of our own transition, and we need to spend our time in our own house. And while there is definitely truth to this, we still need to embrace our community as a whole, and reach out where we can.

And so, on behalf of the EPIC Listening Team, I am extending an invitation to all the members of our congregation to attend "Listening Over Lunch" at the free community meal provided monthly at the Ozaukee Food Alliance in Saukville. As long as you are a resident of Ozaukee County, you are welcome to attend.

As often happens while doing God's work, the EPIC Listening Team has learned through our listening experiments that we receive greater blessings from others than we could ever offer to them. This was certainly evident in our experiment at the Ozaukee Food Alliance. We met kind and loving people who were there for the sense of community just as much as they were there for the food. As congregations, our relationships with each other and the broader community are growing.

We are hoping to build on this energy by continuing to attend the community meals at the Food Alliance, with each congregation sending a couple of folks to do more listening and interacting with people in our community. Members of our EPIC Listening Team will be attending this once-a-month opportunity, and we'd like to invite a couple of people from each congregation as well!

The Listening Team will be doing this (11:30am-1:00pm) on September 28, October 12, November 9 and December 7, and each month, one or two other people from each congregation are invited to come along. If you have an interest in participating in this amazing experience, please let me know. I've participated, and I can attest that it is pretty amazing.

Parallel to the relationship-building work, we are also accepting donations of laundry soap, dish soap, spray cleaners & toiletries, which are items the director of the Food Alliance said were most needed.

I know there's a lot going on right now with our transition, but I hope that you will prayerfully consider this awesome outreach ministry opportunity we have available to us.

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9

Hugs and prayers to you all! *Sandy*

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Office Manager: Robin Fatla

Church office hours: Monday – Friday,
9:00 am – Noon
262-377-0410
E-mail: stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com

Congregation President – Sandy Allen

Vice President – Dennis Jaeger

Secretary – Judy McMullin

Treasurer – Peter Viesselmann

Church Council:

Dennis Jaeger – Worship

Sue Dowe – Education/ Youth

OPEN – Stewardship

Robin Fatla - Outreach

Roger Wendorf - Finance

Joe Porth – Property & Grounds

Mary Ellen Levra - Public Relations

Jane Turowski - Financial Secretary

Organist

Paula Juedes

St. John Choir Director

Sharlene Sandquist

Glory Ringers Director

Dale Allen

Flutist

Sandy Allen



Newsletter staff:

Robin Fatla & Sheila Kapke

Newspaper Deadline:

Articles due by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Church Phone Numbers:

Office: 262-377-0410

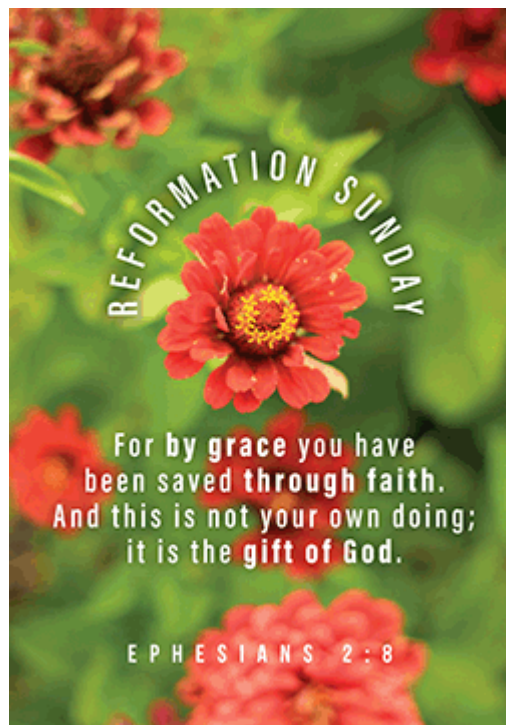
E-Mail: (office) stjohnsecretary@hotmail.com

Website: stjohngraffton.org

FaceBook: St. John Lutheran Church-Grafton, WI

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

We keep in our prayers: Delaney Allen, Anna Bullio (great-granddaughter of Florence Van Cleave), Troy Burmesch (Dale & Sandy Allen nephew), Cathy Collins (Florence Van Cleave’s daughter), Amanda Combs (friend of Laura Christenson), Nan Donner (friend of Diane & Roger Wendorf), Henry Frier (Marian Witte’s son-in-law), Pat & Sandy Granrath, Merry Lou Green, Pastor Jerry Groth, Erma & Oswald Hegenbarth (Peter McClelland’s in-laws), Cheryl Isotalo (Robin Fatla’s cousin), Sharon Kaddatz (friend of Bob & Carol Butt), Sheila Kapke, Joanne Levenick, Anita Lucht, Scott Maronde (nephew of Gary & Sue Haas), Ken Matthews (Kayla Matthews’ father-in-law), Borgne McClelland, Chuck & Cary Mueller (friends of Glenn Sievers), Alice Murphy (family of MerryLou Green), Duane O’Reilly (Debbi O’Reilly-Christensen’s brother), Sugeily Pineiro-Garcia, Joe Porth, Karen Rautenberg (Sue Dowe’s mother), Becka Rogahn (Tom & Jackie’s daughter), Tom & Jackie Rogahn, Glenn Sievers, Melanie Smith (MerryLou Green’s daughter), Wendy Tomter, Virginia (friend of Fritz & Sue Dowe), Wendy Werner (Sandy Allen’s sister-in-law), **Military personnel:** Kyle Christenson **“Home away from home” members:** Jeanine Burhop (sister of the late Marilyn Speranza) – Lasata; Tim McClosky – at home with sister Merry Lou Green



REFORMATION



Martin Luther's Seal

THE first thing expressed in my seal is a cross, black, within the heart, to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saves us. 'For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.' ♦♦♦ Now, although the cross is black, mortified, and intended to cause pain, yet it does not change the colour of the heart, does not destroy nature — i.e., does not kill, but keeps alive. 'For the just shall live by faith,' — by faith in the Saviour. ♦♦♦ But this heart is fixed upon the centre of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal colour of all angels and blessed spirits. ♦♦♦ This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky — coloured ground, to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is but an earnest and beginning of heavenly joy to come, as anticipated and held by hope, though not yet revealed. ♦♦♦ And around this groundbase is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and treasures, since gold is the best and most precious metal. Christ, our dear Lord, He will give grace unto eternal life.

Amen

Martin Luther

While a professor at Wittenberg, Luther devised this seal which he declared was meant to be "expressive of his theology." This explanation is the gist of a letter written to his friend, Herr Spengler, town clerk of Nuremberg.

Education and Youth News

I'd like to schedule a class on October 27th and will be reaching out to families to make them aware. Families can also contact me at sadowel1966@gmail.com with questions.

Confirmation Kick Off and October Schedule:

EPIC Confirmation Program 2023-24

The EPIC confirmation program is a shared ministry of Advent, Faith, Immanuel, St. John, and Trinity Lutheran Churches. The program is directed by Lisa Wegner (lisa@adventchurch.org/414-315-3104).

Confirmation prep is for youth in grades 6-8. Topics are in a three year rotation. The classes are taught by the pastors and Lisa on a rotating basis. When youth have completed confirmation prep, they are confirmed in their home church according to the tradition of the congregation.

The program is from 5:15 PM-7:15 PM with classes held at Trinity Lutheran Church, N60W6047 Columbia Rd, Cedarburg. We begin with dinner, followed by a time for fun, before beginning class at 6:00 PM. Class is a lively combination of videos, discussion, and activities. Additionally, we have some field trips and celebrations that take place elsewhere.

During Lent we suspend regular classes so the youth can participate in Wednesday night services. During this season the youth will also participate in a service project.

NEW THIS YEAR: Youth will participate in a confirmation retreat the weekend of Mar. 7-9 at Camp Lutherdale. We are very excited to have this opportunity for the youth. **Mark the date on your calendar.** Also new this year is that service opportunities will be offered throughout the year, not just Lent.

For Parents: You are an important part of our program. You can help by

- Having your child participate regularly
- Providing dinner at least once during the year. Click here for more info or to sign up: [Confirmation Dinner Sign Up](#)

- Help with dishes after dinner
- Volunteer to supervise the game room before class
- Supervise a craft or game before dinner

Share a service opportunity

During October, there will be an adult class at the same time as confirmation so you can grow in your faith, too.

Scholarships Awarded

Thanks to a gift from the St John Trust Fund to the scholarship fund, the St John Church Council was able to award higher education scholarships of \$500 each to the following young adults on behalf of the Congregation:

Shamir Garcia-Pineiro (Studying cyber security at UW – Milwaukee.)

Jesse Schauer (Studying business management at Fox Valley Tech.)

Rebecca Schauer (Studying health promotion at UW-Madison, leading to a Doctor of Chiropractic degree.)

We pray for God's blessings and guidance as they pursue their education and career goals.

OCTOBER

10/1	Jeanine Burhop
10/4	Ivan Garcia
10/6	Dale Allen
10/8	Sue Dowe
10/12	Dale Reindl
10/15	Eric Liebergen
10/15	Matt Defendi
10/20	Penny Porth
10/21	Sam Christensen
10/22	Jeri Liebergen
10/27	Sandy Allen
10/29	Glenn Sievers
10/6/2012	James & Liz Allen
10/7/1961	Roger & Diane Wendorf
10/9/1993	Eric & Jeri Liebergen
10/12/1985	Bob & Carol Butt
10/14/1967	Jim & Carole Litvinoff
10/15/1977	Dennis & Mary Jaeger
10/20/1984	Dale & Sandy Allen
10/20/2012	Andy & BreAnna Porth
10/31/1981	Peter & Kathie Viesselmann

Please notify Church Office if we have missed someone. Thank you!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**Assisting Minister:**

October 6 - Robin Fatla
 13 - Dennis Jaeger
 20 - Bob Butt
 27 - Dennis Jaeger

Lector:

October 6 - Carol Butt
 13 - Sue Dowe
 20 - Robin Fatla
 27 - **OPEN**

Usher:

October 6 - Fritz Dowe
 13 - Sue Dowe
 20 - Monica Faretra
 27 - Bob Eichmann

Altar bouquets:

October 6 - **OPEN/ OPEN**
 13 - Dennis Jaeger's/ Bob Butt's
 20 - Dale Allen's/ Joan Salger
 27 - **OPEN/ OPEN**

Fellowship:

October 6 - **OPEN**
 13 - **OPEN**
 20 - **OPEN**
 27 - Judy McMullin


Counting Team:

October 6 - Peter Viesselmann Team
 13 - Borgne McClelland Team
 20 - Dennis Jaeger Team
 27 - Jim Litvinoff Team

Pastor Dave Patterson, who will be serving as our Interim Pastor beginning November 1st, will be here to lead worship on Sundays, October 6 and 27. Preliminary plans are being made for a PotLuck welcome lunch on November 3.



OCTOBER

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
			5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	10:30 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club		4:00 pm - Polka worship service - Christ the King. Port Washington
<i>6</i> 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Choir rehearsal	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe with Pastor Jim	<i>9</i> 10:30 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> Robin on vacation through the 18th
<i>13</i> 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Choir rehearsal Robin gone →	<i>14</i> 9:00 am - Quilting 1:00 pm - Women's Bible study →	<i>15</i> →	<i>16</i> 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity →	<i>17</i> 10:30 am - Prime Horizon Cooking Club →	<i>18</i> →	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Choir rehearsal 11:00 am - Church Council 2:00 pm - Carol and The Keynotes	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 10:00 am - Bible study at Village Pointe with Pastor Jim	<i>23</i> 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> 8:30 am - 12:30 pm - Blood drive at Trinity, Cedarburg
27 Reformation Sunday 9:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship hour 11:00 am - Choir rehearsal	<i>28</i> 9:00 am - Quilting	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 5:15 pm - Confirmation class at Trinity	<i>31</i>  Reformation Day		

FINANCIAL REPORT

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Summary For August 2024**

	August 2024			Year To Date 2024		
	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual Over (under) Budget
Unified Income	\$ 11,584	\$ 12,000	\$ (416)	\$ 77,201	\$ 98,000	\$ (20,799)
Expense Summary:						
Education	\$ 53	\$ 75	\$ (22)	\$ 53	\$ 175	\$ (122)
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ (50)	\$ 66	\$ 350	\$ (284)
Worship	\$ 1,568	\$ 765	\$ 803	\$ 7,233	\$ 6,545	\$ 689
Youth	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ (125)	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 500
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 191	\$ 225	\$ (34)
Public Relations	\$ 12	\$ 83	\$ (71)	\$ 468	\$ 664	\$ (196)
Property	\$ 486	\$ 1,666	\$ (1,180)	\$ 17,705	\$ 17,722	\$ (17)
Finance (incl.Mission Support)	\$ 2,817	\$ 9,244	\$ (6,427)	\$ 72,627	\$ 84,177	\$ (11,551)
Total Expenses	\$ 4,937	\$ 12,008	\$ (7,071)	\$ 99,844	\$ 110,858	\$ (11,014)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ 6,647	\$ (8)	\$ 6,655	\$ (22,643)	\$ (12,858)	\$ (9,785)

Comparative 2023 Figures:

	<u>@ 8/31/2023</u>
Unified Income	\$ 75,805
Total Expenses	\$ (111,539)
Net Income (Deficit)	<u>\$ (35,733)</u>

Major Differences 2024 vs. 2023: Income for year-to-date 2024 is \$1,400 more than last year.
Expenses for year-to-date 2024 are \$11,700 less than last year.
Major year-to-date expense item differences:
-- Gas Utility expense \$1,100 less than last year.
-- Wages and benefits net expense \$10,600 less than last year.
-- Property maintenance expense \$900 more than last year.
-- Mission support payments \$2,240 less than last year.

Thrivent Choice Gifts Rec. 2024: \$1,472
Memorial Gifts Received 2024: \$1,100 (John Clasen Memorial+Harvey Salger Memorial+Gift in Honor of Anita Lucht's 100th birthday+Pat Beidenbender Memorial)
Budgeted Mission Support 2024: \$10,680 (All paid in February 2024)
Added Mission Support 2024: \$0

	<u>@ 8/31/2024</u>	Comparative	<u>@ 8/31/2023</u>
Assets At End Of Month	\$ 138,671		\$ 147,037

Assets Are Needed to Support The Following Funds:

Audio Fund (formerly Cassette)	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 8,388	\$ 24,951
Family Promise Fund	\$ 484	\$ 484
Fully Funded	\$ 258	\$ 1
Library Fund	\$ 505	\$ 505
Memorial Fund	\$ 135,986 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted)	\$ 134,886 <(incl. \$6,761 restricted);
Mercy Fund	\$ (52)	\$ 2,760
Music Fund	\$ 114	\$ 162
Organ Repair Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach Fund	\$ 509	\$ 592
Pastoral Education Fund	\$ 2,176	\$ 2,150
Property Fund	\$ 10,483	\$ 12,586
Scholarship Fund	\$ 539	\$ 1,839
Youth Fund	\$ 1,925	\$ 1,857
Total Fund Requirements	\$ 161,314	\$ 182,771
= Asset Excess (Shortage)	\$ (22,643)	\$ (35,733)

(Excess = budget surplus; Shortage = budget deficit)

Photos from Carol and The Keynotes Community Get Together September 22

Please plan to join us again on Sunday, October 20th when Carol and the group
will be back for another afternoon of “Gemutlichkeit”
from 2:00 - 5:00 pm
Refreshments will be sold and a tithe will be sent to
Family Promise Port Light Shelter



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Do you ever wonder how your gifts to the wider church are used?

Does it do any good to give to, for example, ELCA World Hunger? Who receives this money? In the Summer 2024 issue of *Boundless*, that I recently received, the centerfold was “Your Gifts in Action: 2023 in Review.” The following information is taken from that article.

Last year ELCA World Hunger awarded 198 grants to partners in 66 countries and 149 domestic grants to partners in 56 ELCA synods.

The Fund for Leaders provided nearly \$2.2 million in scholarship assistance to 345 ELCA seminary students during the 2023-2024 academic year.

The International Leaders Program provided scholarships for 185 students from 66 global companion churches; 65% of scholarship holders identify as women and 77% are young adults.

In 2023, 101 long-term missionaries were at work in 41 countries around the world, and 25 YAGM volunteers served in five country programs.

New ELCA congregations are taking shape throughout the United States and the Caribbean and in nearly every synod, with 292 “new starts” currently in development and 39 proposed during 2023. More than 70% of total new starts are in nonwhite ethnic communities and reflect growing diversity in their LGBTQIA+ leadership as well as their younger leaders and participants.

Lutheran Disaster Response was at work in 51 countries around the world and 34 states and territories in the United States and the Caribbean, responding to hurricanes, tornadoes, conflict and migration.

On January 22, 2023, Sally Azar, a Palestinian Christian, was the first woman ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. She currently serves as a pastor for Arabic and English-speaking congregations at the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem. Your generosity to ELCA Where Needed Most helps fund her work, which has become even more important in recent months, during the humanitarian crisis that has arisen in the Holy Land. Tensions have mounted in Jerusalem, where Sally lives among Israelis and Palestinians and an increased military presence has created a sense of unease for Sally and her fellow Palestinians, though she knows that this is nothing compared to what her neighbors in Gaza are experiencing. In all this turmoil Sally often sees her community of Palestinian Christians overlooked by the rest of the world.

Sally wants her ministries to thrive despite adversity and to endure in hope. She believes they can, with the support of the global community such as you. Keep on giving!

Sharlene Sandquist, Stewardship Committee Member



October Bible study:

Monday, October 14, 1:00 PM at church

QUILTING DATES

Monday
October 14 & 28
9:00 - noon

COMMUNITY NEWS



Donate Blood and Be a Hero!

The community is welcome and encouraged to give blood at a blood drive hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church in Cedarburg (N60 W6047 Columbia Road) on **Saturday, Oct. 26 from 8:30am-12:30pm.**

By donating just one pint of blood, you have the potential to save up to three lives. To sign up for your lifesaving appointment, call 1-877-BE-A-HERO, contact Jill Klitz (262-377-6074, djklitz@milwpc.com) or reserve a spot online at versiti.org (click on "Donate Blood" and then search by zip code). Thank you!



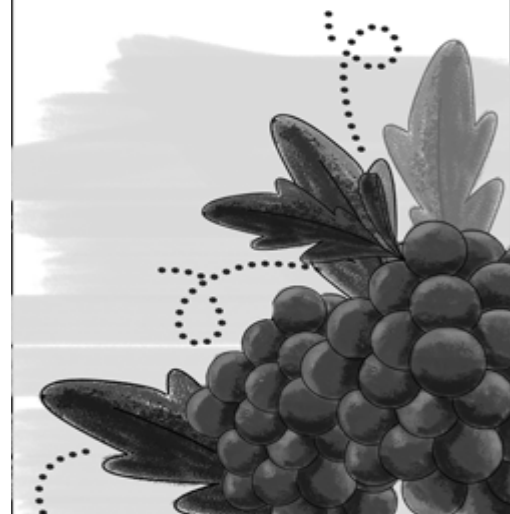
Try this chilly new take on a healthy snack.

What you need:

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!





OKTOBERFEST

OCTOBER 5, 2024

Join us!



**4PM POLKA WORSHIP SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY A GERMAN SUPPER**

Christ the King Lutheran Church
420 W. Whitefish Rd
Port Washington, WI
ctkport.org



*Free Will
Offering*

*No tickets or registration necessary.
All are welcome, bring a friend!*

October 2024 Pulse Beat



1193 Lakefield Road
Grafton, WI 53024

"In God's Word, Serving You and the World"

Worship Schedule

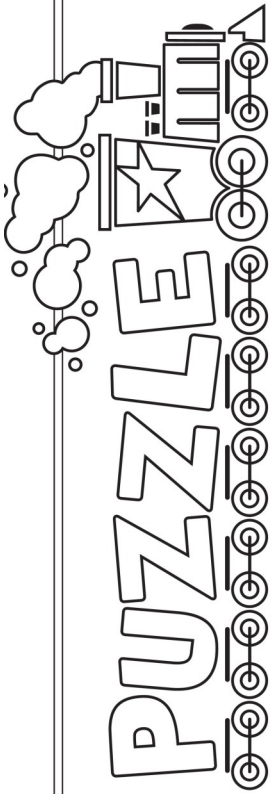
- Sunday Morning - 9:30 a.m.
- Education hour - 11:00 a.m.

IT IS OUR MISSION as people called by God into the Congregation of St. John Lutheran Church to:

- Proclaim the Gospel in worship and daily life.
- Study and teach God's Word.
- Fellowship among people of this congregation.
- Serve people in our surrounding community.

This is the **MISSION** and **MINISTRY** that we accept as fellow Christians at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lakefield.

"Faithfully Serving Christ Since 1866"



BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.

Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV

Psalms 145:8	SGAICURO	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Job 36:5	HGIYMT	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Psalms 90:2	LTAVREENISG	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
2 Peter 3:9	INETTPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
1 Thessalonians 5:24	FUFHIATL	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Isaiah 40:25	OYHL	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Help me, Lord my ___od;
save ___e ___ccording ___o
your un___ailing I___ve.

Psalm 109:26, NIV