

# Westgate Witness



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*Greetings in the Name of our Lord!*

My friends in Christ, have you ever marveled over how two or three people can hear or witness something and have completely different recollections of what in truth took place. Have you ever wanted to shake the living daylights out of a friend or spouse or relative and say...” ***Are you kidding me, that’s not at all what happened.***” I am reminded of how stark people’s perspectives are when I switch from one news outlet to another. Sometimes I wonder if people in the media even live on the same planet because the worldviews and perspectives on reality are so completely at odds. It’s taken some time, but I have gotten to a place in my life where I fully expect a variety of perspectives.

How sad it was to witness (post-election) on one popular daytime TV Show, watched by millions, that a host was advising people to boycott holiday dinners with family members who voted for the “other side” as a way to protest. The comments were accompanied with vigorous applause. My family encompasses a political diversity, and I will never choose to allow the voting ballot to stop breaking bread together. And of course, there are the celebrities who say after an election if the “other side” wins they will be leaving the country. This sort of rigid and unhinged response seems rather Un-American and polarizing to me.

It is not uncommon to see the world differently—what grieves my heart is the willingness to either amputate or isolate from people of differing mindsets. Furthermore, if I choose to cut off those who are of differing mindsets how can I allow my deepest convictions to have any influence. The idealist in me still thinks that when wisdom loving—God loving people—collectively seek truth; that their different perspectives on reality will inform, sometimes soften and eventually enrich one another. Unfortunately, this is not what I observe to be happening in our divided world.

A parent described how her three children would respond to a spider web in the garden. The first child would examine the web and wonder how the spider wove it. The second would worry a great deal about where the spider was. And the third would exclaim, “***Oh, look! A trampoline!***” (The third child reminds me

of myself.) There was only one spider in the garden, only one reality. But it was perceived differently by three very different children.

When it comes to our worship attitudes and habits, there are many different perspectives. Regardless of our individual attitudes and habits regarding worship, the Scripture continually addresses the importance of meeting together for praise, fellowship, instruction, and the support of one another in Christian love. Whether in a cathedral or a cottage, how wonderful it is to join together with brothers and sisters who are seeking God. Coming together for worship can provide healing and restoration of spirit, mind, and focus. Perspective often changes as gathered Christians seek God together. No wonder the Scripture commands and commends us to **“not forsake the assembly.”**

What is it about being among heartfelt believers that is so helpful and encouraging? For one thing, it reinforces the strength of our faith. Left alone, we may drift away from a passionate pursuit of loving God. But when we enter into the Lord’s house and see our fellow believers coming together, often our doubts disappear, and an interest is restored. We say to ourselves: **“Here are people who think the Christian life is worth continuing with. Here are people striving to live in communion with their Maker. Maybe I should release some of my doubts and hesitations and get on board—there must be something in it after all.”**

The mere existence of the Church is a decisive affirmation that the living Christ is in our midst. Think of the tempest the Church has weathered through many centuries. Think of the persecutions through which it has victoriously come and think about the fact that every generation has had those who work to bring its downfall—yet the church still stands in all its various forms—and with all its various **perspectives.**

By Pastor Robert Zimmerman



Please enjoy some pictures of our Christmas Eve Candlelight service throughout the newsletter. More photos and videos will be available to view on our Facebook page and website soon!

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## Short Quiz

The following short quiz consists of 4 questions and tells whether you are qualified to be a "professional." According to Andersen Consulting Worldwide, around 90% of the professionals they tested got all questions wrong. But many preschoolers got several correct answers!

1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?

**Correct Answer:** Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe and close the door. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?

**Wrong Answer:** Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant and close the door.

**Correct Answer:** Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door. This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your actions.

3. The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend?

**Correct Answer:** The elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. This tests your memory.

OK, even if you didn't answer the first three questions correctly, you still have one more chance to show your abilities.

4. There is a river you must cross. But it is inhabited by crocodiles. How do you manage it?

**Correct Answer:** You swim across. All the crocodiles are attending the Animal Conference. This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

- Author Unknown -

A special thanks to Tammi Hessen (Steel Drums) & Jami Karr (Dununs)



## *Top headline events of 2024! Let's take a look back!*



### *January*

- A Boeing jet made an emergency landing after a panel known as a "door plug" blew out mid-flight. The incident triggered a temporary grounding of Boeing's 737-9 MAX fleet ... and an ongoing search for accountability.

### *February*

- The Kansas City Chiefs were victorious in overtime at Super Bowl LVIII, making that team the first back-to-back NFL champs in 20 years.

### *March*

- A container ship struck Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge, causing a partial collapse, six deaths, and the temporary re-routing of trade ships.

### *April*

- A rare total solar eclipse was witnessed across North America, including in 15 U.S. states. Terrestrial business ground to a halt as dazzled earthlings gazed upward.

### *May*

- Iran's hardline president Ebrahim Raisi was killed in a helicopter crash. His more moderate successor, Masoud Pezeshkian, has advocated reforms ... and has spoken out against the country's mandatory hijab law

### *June*

- Climate scientist Claudia Sheinbaum won Mexico's presidential election in a landslide, becoming the first female president in that nation's 200-year history.

### *July*

- An assassination attempt on Donald Trump left the former president bloodied but alive. One week later, President Joe Biden announced he was abandoning his bid for re-election ... and Vice President Kamala Harris soon replaced him at the top of the ticket.

### *August*

- The largest and most complex prisoner swap since the Cold War saw three Americans (including Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich) return home after being wrongfully detained in Russia.

### *September*

- Hurricane Helene battered the southeastern U.S., killing more than 230 people and causing tens of billions of dollars in property damage.

### *October*

- Former President Jimmy Carter marked a major milestone, becoming the first U.S. president to reach his 100th birthday. Unfortunately, he passed just 2 months later in December.

### *November*

- Former President Donald Trump won re-election, decisively defeating opponent Kamala Harris, and becoming only the second president ever elected to serve non-consecutive terms.

### *December*

- UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson was fatally shot in New York by a gunman out for revenge on the healthcare system

## *Some of the people lost in 2024*

*In Loving  
Memory*

**John Amos** — Emmy-winning “Good Times,” “Roots” actor died Aug. 21 at 84.

**Wallace “Wally” Amos** — Famous Amos cookie creator and children’s literacy advocate died Aug. 13 at 88.

**John Aprea** — “The Godfather Part II,” “Full House” actor died Aug. 7 at age 83.

**John Ashton** — “Beverly Hills Cop” known for playing police detective John Taggart, died Sept. 26 at 76.

**Former President Jimmy Carter**

**Dabney Coleman** — The mustachioed actor known for roles in “9 to 5” and “Tootsie” died May 16 at 92.

**Lou Dobbs** — The conservative TV host who was a founding anchor on CNN and longtime presence on the Fox Business Network died July 18 at 78.

**Shannen Doherty** — The “Beverly Hills, 90210” and “Charmed” actress died July 13 at 53.

**Phil Donahue** — The daytime talk show host died Aug. 18 at 88.

**Shelley Duvall** — “The Shining” actress, also known for her work in Robert Altman films and “Fairy Tale Theater,” died July 11 at 75.

**Teri Garr** — Comedy actress known for roles in “Young Frankenstein” and “Tootsie” died Oct. 29 at 79.

**Louis Gossett Jr.** — Emmy-winning “Roots,” “Iron Eagle” actor who was the first Black man to win a supporting actor Oscar died March 28 at 87.

**Tito Jackson** — Singer and the Jackson 5 member died Sept. 15 at 70. **ernard Hill** — “The Lord of the Rings” and “Titanic” actor died May 5 at 79.

**Jacoby Jones** — The NFL wide receiver whose 108-yard kickoff return in 2013 remains the longest touchdown in Super Bowl history died July 14 at 40.

**James Earl Jones** — The deep-voiced actor known for “Field of Dreams,” “The Lion King,” “The Sandlot” and as Darth Vader in “Star Wars” died Sept. 9 at 93.

**Quincy Jones** — Legendary musician and producer who worked with Michael Jackson, Frank Sinatra and hundreds of others died Nov. 3 at 91.

**Toby Keith** — Country music legend known for patriotic anthems and Toby Keith’s I Love This Bar & Grill restaurants died Feb. 5 at 62 after a battle with stomach cancer.

**Kris Kristofferson** — Country music legend and actor died Sept. 28 at 88.

**Richard Lewis** — Comedian and actor whose credits included “Curb Your Enthusiasm” and “Robin Hood: Men in Tights” died Feb. 27 at 76.

**Willie Mays** — Baseball legend known as “The Say Hey Kid” died June 18 at 93.

**Bob Newhart** — Comedian and actor known for “The Bob Newhart Short,” “The Big Bang Theory,” “Elf” and more, died July 18 at 94.

**Pete Rose** — Baseball’s career hits leader and fallen idol after gambling on the game he loved, died Sept. 30 at 83.

**Gena Rowlands** — “The Notebook” actress, wife of director John Cassavetes, died Aug. 14 at 94.

**Richard Simmons** — The fitness guru known for his hyperactive personality and trademark tank tops and short shorts died July 13 at 76.

**O.J. Simpson** — Buffalo Bills football legend and actor, who was acquitted of charges he killed his former wife and her friend but later found liable in a separate civil trial, died April 10 at 76.

**David Soul** — “Starsky & Hutch” actor and singer died Jan. 4 at 80.

**Donald Sutherland** — known for “M\*A\*S\*H,” “The Hunger Games,” “JFK” and more died June 20 at 88.

**Carl Weathers** — The former NFL linebacker and actor, best known for roles in “Rocky” (as boxer Apollo Creed), “Predator” and “Happy Gilmore,” died Feb. 1 at 76.

**Dr. Ruth Westheimer** — Sex therapist, media star and best-selling author died July 12 at 96.

**Chuck Woolery** — “Wheel of Fortune,” “Love Connection” and “Scrabble” show host died Nov. 23 at 83.



*Canaan Kachin Worship Team*



## *Happy New Year*

*Be someone who listens and you will be heard.*

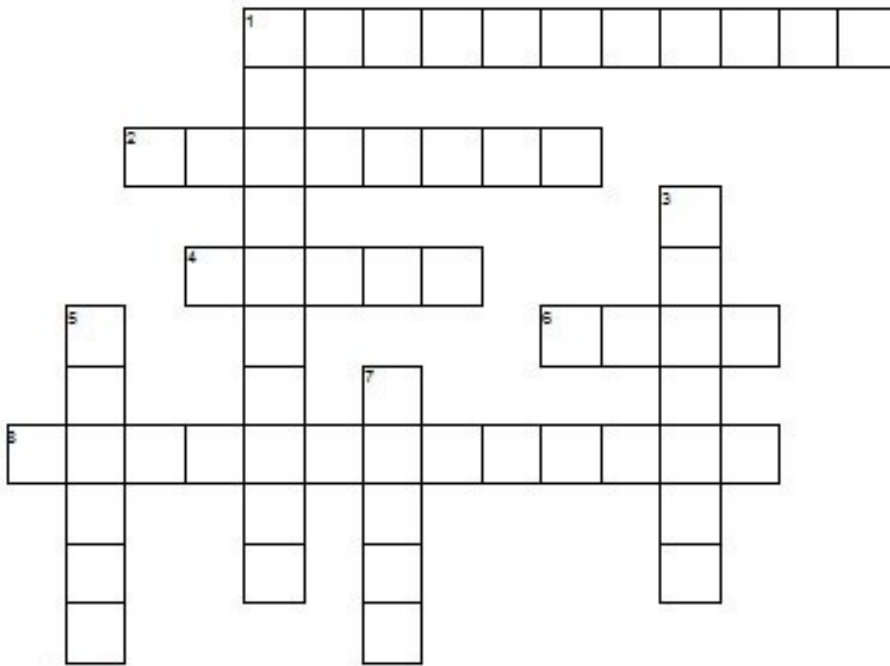
*Be someone who cares and you will be loved.*

*Be someone who gives and you will be blessed.*

*Be someone who comforts and you will know peace,*



# Beatitudes



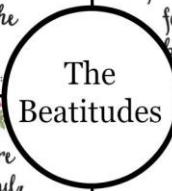
## ACROSS

- 1 Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall be called the children of God
- 2 Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall obtain mercy
- 4 Blessed are the pure in \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall see God
- 6 Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall inherit the earth
- 8 Blessed are those that hunger and thirst after \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall be filled

## DOWN

- 1 Blessed are they which are \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 5 Blessed are the poor in \_\_\_\_\_: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 7 Blessed are they that \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall be comforted

<p>Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p> <p><small>MATTHEW 5:3</small></p>	<p>Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.</p> <p><small>MATTHEW 5:4</small></p>
<p>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.</p> <p><small>MATTHEW 5:5</small></p>	<p>Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.</p> <p><small>MATTHEW 5:6</small></p>
<p>Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.</p> <p><small>MATTHEW 5:7</small></p>	<p>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.</p> <p><small>MATTHEW 5:8</small></p>
<p>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.</p> <p><small>MATTHEW 5:9</small></p>	<p>Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p> <p><small>MATTHEW 5:10</small></p>
<p>Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you because of me.</p> <p><small>MATTHEW 5:11</small></p>	<p>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.</p> <p><small>MATTHEW 5:12</small></p>



**Answers found on next page.....no peeking!**

# Birthdays of the Month



1/2 Pastor Robert Zimmerman  
 1/6 Joe Faith  
 1/8 Sarah Tebie  
 Dottie Jones  
 1/12 Shiloh Tebie  
 1/13 Margaret Rogers  
 1/14 Connie Appleby

1/15 Jennifer Ryan  
 1/17 Dick Papez  
 1/18 Stephen Appleby  
 1/20 Susan Miller  
 1/21 Nicklenson Vital  
 1/29 Caleb Pate  
 1/30 Timothy Ferris

## Treasurer's Report

December	<b>\$8,532.54</b>
Budget Income	<b>\$6,573.00</b>
Non-Budget Income	<b>\$1,959.54</b>

## Beatitudes

