

WELCOME

ELC of MOUNT HOREB

We welcome all to ELC. Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit we will work to extend God's grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ's love, we welcome you.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT ELC

Holy Communion Celebrated 1st & 3rd Sundays at all services.

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm- (in Chapel) Modified Traditional Worship

SUNDAY 9:00 am Blended Service

Pre-recorded online worship available:

www.elcmthoreb.org/home/worship/sermon-archive/

MORNING DEVOTIONS by Pastor John on the ELC Facebook page at 8am Monday through Saturday

ELC'S STAFF

Pastor John Twiton

Accompanists: Ruth Heinecke, Barb Underwood

Agape Preschool Director: Amy Kellesvig

Bell Choir Director: Kristin Willcutt

Custodian: Jeremy Kahl

Junior Choir Director: Barb Underwood

Music Team Leader: Barb and Chris Underwood

Office Manager: Nancy Voss

Organist/Senior Choir Director: Diane Dangerfield

Youth Director: Brenda Martin

Starting Over at the Beginning

Each year we begin retelling the story of Jesus ministry beginning with his Baptism until the final journey to Jerusalem in Lent. This year, because Easter comes quite late (April 20th), we have time to reflect again on the foundational stories about God and humanity.

So, in addition to our Sunday worship readings, you're invited to take a look at the first stories of the Bible in Genesis for our after-worship Bible Study in the fellowship hall. Grab a cup of coffee and join us!

You don't need to commit to every week as each lesson is an independent unit. These early stories set the stage for the great narratives of faith and life that expand through the rest of the Bible

Bible Study - Old & New - Genesis: Belonging to God's Good

Sundays after worship in fellowship hall.

February 2: The Breath of God (Genesis 4:1-16)

The story of Cain and Abel.

February 9: The Water of Life (Genesis 6-9)

The story of Noah and the Flood.

February 16: Trusting God's Provision (Genesis 12: 1-9)

God calls Abraham and Sarah to leave their home and all that they have behind.

February 23: Book Club – Discussion of “Everything Happens for a Reason” by Kate Bowler

March 2: See & Be Seen (Genesis 16 and 21:8-21)

Did you know that Hagar's name in Hebrew means 'Other'?

March 9: Jacob's Blessing (Genesis 32:22-32)

In this lesson, we will consider family relationships.

March 16: Dreams for Healing (Genesis 37, 45)

Joseph could have used the power of his elevated position to seek revenge but reaches out in mercy.

God's Peace,



CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 am - 11 am – Youth, 3 years old - 8th grade, are invited to participate each week. Join us to experience the Bible stories through various engaging activities. We will begin weekly in the chapel.

7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION 7 pm - 8:30 pm

- Feb 5th - Family Service Night
- Feb 12th, 19th, 26th - Class time

ELC FAMILY SERVICE NIGHT - Everyone is welcome to join us on **February 5th, 7 pm - 8:30 pm**. We will work together preparing materials to make 'Plarns'. Plarns are sleeping mats made of recycled plastic bags. There will be 2 looms so we can weave them as well. A great opportunity to help others. **Please bring your recycled bags.**

PARENTS NIGHT OUT/GAMES & CRAFTS AT ELC - February 7th, 5:30 pm -8:00 pm at ELC:

Our experienced high school youth will be offering a night of games, crafts, and treats for youth ages 3 years through 5th grade at ELC.

Donation: \$10 per child and \$5 for additional children
Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend. Sign up with the link/QR code.

<https://forms.gle/F7jkC8WZegNY6Aqe9>

February
Parent's Night Out/
Kids Night Out
Register here



EARLY RELEASE CHILDCARE - February 10th, 12:30

pm - 3:30 pm We are offering a new opportunity for children to hang out at ELC during the school's Early Release Day (Children 3 yrs - 8th graders) We will have various opportunities: games, homework help, quiet area, outdoor time, crafts and snacks. High school students can help and earn silver cord hours.

Donation: \$10 per child and \$5 for additional children
Sign up with the link/QR code

<https://forms.gle/f7hawVFHW5EdB4d2A>



Early Release Childcare

FUSE NIGHT - 8th - 12th graders are welcome to join us on **February 16th, 7pm - 8:30 pm**. Join us for BINGO night as we focus on the words and images of God. Invite your friends.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS Cont.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY - We will have a Children and Youth Ministry meeting at ELC on Tuesday, February 4th, at 7:00 PM. Anyone interested in planning for our youth activities, join us!

BABY KIT DONATIONS NEEDED:

Our youth and members of Rebecca Circle are teaming together to collect and assemble the baby kits which will be sent to Lutheran World Relief this fall. Everyone is welcome to donate items. Items should be in good condition, clean and in infant sizes no larger than 36 months. Each month, we will focus on items to donate. We will assemble the kits on **July 15th**. There is a bin in Narthex for your donations.

FEBRUARY - *Receiving blankets, medium weight (36" - 52" square)*

MARCH - *Long or Short Sleeved gowns or sleepers and Baby Socks*

APRIL - *Jackets or Sweaters with or without hoods*

MAY - *Cotton, lightweight T-shirts and cloth diapers, flat fold preferred*

JUNE - *Baby Caps & Bath-size bars of gentle soap (individually wrapped)*

JULY - *Hand towels (dark colors)*

T-SHIRTS NEEDED: Each Baby Care Kit assembled for Lutheran World Relief contains four diapers. To help recycle and keep costs down, we utilize T-shirts and sew them to make diapers. If you have T-shirts adult size Large or larger, we can recycle them. Please drop them in the church office. Thank you for your contribution.

And these words...
shall be in thine heart:
And thou shalt teach
them diligently
unto thy children



CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS Cont.

2025 YOUTH SUMMER SCHEDULE (SAVE DATES)

DAY CAMP/VBS WEEK AT ELC - June 23-26

- VBS - (9 am- 11:30 am) 3 yr. - Kindergarten
- DAY CAMP - (1pm-4:30 pm) 1st - 5th grade in fall

Registration information coming soon!

CONFIRMATION CAMP - June 15th or July 20th week, 7th & 8th graders will attend Confirmation Camp at Sugar Creek Bible Camp.

Register online: <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/>

ELC is paying \$300 towards the registration fee for campers.

GIVE/LOVE/SERVE (Local Service Week) - July 14 - 16th

Middle - High school youth are invited to our local service week. Many opportunities for youth to provide service in our community. Silver Cord hours will be given to our high school students. Sign up soon!



SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP - Online Registration is open for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs listed on their website, for youth and families. **ELC of Mt Horeb will help with camp costs, by giving each camper \$300 towards their camping week.**

Please let Sugar Creek know that you are registering with ELC. If additional scholarships are needed, please contact Brenda or Pastor John. Come and see in 2025!

<https://www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/enroll-now/>

Brenda Martin, Youth Ministries Director

brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org

AGAPE

Hello from Agape Christian Preschool,

Wow, what a cold start to the new year... We are all hoping that February brings warmer temperatures or at least above zero!

A big thank you to the Mount Horeb Community Foundation for their approval of our grant request for \$5000 for new exterior security cameras. These funds will provide a safe environment for the students, teachers, and church families. Andy and Bruce are working hard to install the new cameras. A big thank you to them for their time and talents!

Our 4K program in collaboration with MHASD began enrollment in January for children who will be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2025. Registration can be completed online via the MHASD website at www.mounthorebschools.org/schools/mh4k/

Registration for the 3K program begins on Monday, March 3, 2025. Enrollment packets can be picked up at the preschool office during school hours or can be downloaded from our website at www.agapechristianpreschool.com.

Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis with legacy families given initial priority placement if submitted on or before April 1, 2025. A legacy family is a current or past ACP family or an active ELC church member. If you have questions about enrollment or would like a tour of our classrooms, you may reach me at 608-437-7100 or agapekids@mhtc.net.

We will be selling delicious Frozen Butter Braid Pastries again this year from January 27 through February 14, 2025. If you would like to place an order, you can do so by leaving a message on the preschool phone or sending an email. This is always a successful fundraiser for the school, and we thank you for your support in advance!

Blessings,
Amy Kellesvig

AGAPE Cont.

Upcoming Dates:

January 27 – February 14:	Frozen Butter Braid Pastry Fundraiser
Monday, February 24	4K Monday – AM & PM classes in session
Friday, February 28:	No preschool classes (3K & 4K) make up snow day if needed
Monday, March 3:	3K enrollment begins for 2025-2026 school year
Friday, March 7:	Butter Braid Orders Delivered



Agape
Christian Preschool

TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE SHEET	12/31/2024	11/30/2024	12/31/23
General Fund	35,757	5,573	9,486
Building Capital Fund	26,603	17,568	10,271
Designated Funds	78,674	76,378	109,292
TOTAL	141,034	99,519	129,049

CASH FLOW	December 2024	2024
General Fund Income	62,160	409,770
General Fund Expenses		
Mission and Outreach	3,846	26,105
Personnel	19,724	258,926
Congregational Life	2,055	16,242
Facilities and Administration	6,351	82,226
Total General Fund Expenses	31,976	383,499
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)	30,184	26,271
Other Income		
Building Capital Fund	14,262	56,925
Benevolence	789	12,822
Designated Funds	4,758	17,906
Total Other Income	19,809	87,653
Other Expenses		
Building Capital Fund	5,226	40,788
Benevolence	2,288	13,257
Designated Funds	964	48,088
Total Other Expenses	8,478	102,133
Net Gain (Loss) from Other Expenses	11,331	(14,480)
NET GAIN (LOSS)	41,515	11,791

TREASURER'S REPORT Cont.

Thank you to everyone whose generous contributions in December allowed us to finish the year on a high note. General fund giving of \$62,160 was the highest amount on record. This outpouring of support was much needed and is much appreciated, and means a firmer financial foundation to support for our ministry in the coming year.

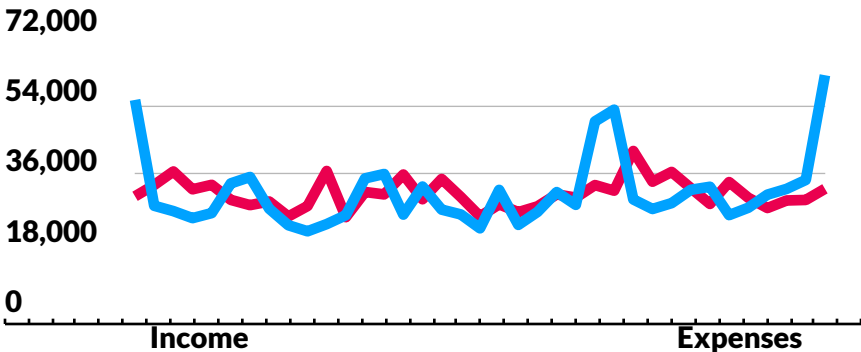
General fund income for 2024 was \$17,839 more than budgeted, and \$48,956 more than in 2023. Last year's expenses were \$2,890 higher than projected, meaning that the general fund ended the year up \$15,271. That number doesn't include the \$11,000 transferred from the designated fund.

Generous giving also resulted in December income of \$14,262 to the building capital fund, which will be used for roof repair, water mitigation in the basement, and A/C repair in the fellowship hall. Building expenses last month include \$2,071 to Alpha Controls, \$1,715 to Oimoen Electric, and \$1,440 to Stram Stone.

Designated fund income included \$450 for the kitchen, \$125 for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, \$187 for youth, and \$3,996 unspecified Designated fund expenses for December included \$875 as a token of appreciation for Brian Johnson's 35 years of service, and \$88 for the kitchen.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Brothers, January 12, 2025.

General Fund Income and Expense, Last 36 Months



BENEVOLENCE

Supporting Our Compassion Kids: Arianna and Simon

Ever since we started the Benevolence Program, we've supported a pair of kids from different countries through Compassion International. This program provides them support in many aspects of their life that they wouldn't receive otherwise – everything from academic tutoring to health screening to field trips, and of course spiritual guidance.

We've been able to maintain connections with kids for several years at a time before they either move to other communities or age out of the program. Jen Mullendore, who was an advocate for starting our work with Compassion, has faithfully managed our relationship with these kids for more than a decade, exchanging letters several times through the course of a year. She'll deliver an update about Arianna and Simon at church on Feb. 9.

Let me share a little bit about these two children we support now through your contributions:



Arianna is a 7-year-old who lives in Tulancingo, Mexico, with her maternal grandparents because her parents are separated. We've been sponsoring her for four years. Arianna loves art, drawing, playing games, playing house, learning about God and snacking! Arianna is living with her maternal grandparents because her parents are separated. Several times, she has mentioned her best friend, Monse, whom she met at the Compassion International Center.

In Arianna's home on the plains of Santa Ana Hueytlalpan, home to approximately 12,000 residents, typical houses are constructed of dirt floors, brick walls and tin roofs. The primary ethnic group is Otomí and the most commonly spoken language is Spanish. She helps her family by taking care of animals, cleaning, and making beds. Her favorite school subject is art. Arianna's birthday is March 11.

Simon is a 12-year-old who lives in Tanzania with his mother. We have been sponsoring him for seven years now! Simon has always been active, both working and playing hard. He likes jumping rope and playing about



BENEVOLENCE Cont.

any sport involving a ball getting bounced, kicked, or thrown. He is now a seventh grader, and his favorite classes are math and reading. He recently talked about helping his family during the cultivation season for growing maize and cassava.

Simon lives in the rural community of Kasota, home to about 11,000 people. The primary ethnic group is Sukuma, and the common language is Swahili. Typical houses are constructed of dirt floors, mud-brick walls and tin roofs. The regional diet consists of beans, cassava, cereal, maize and millet. Simon's birthday is March 25.

Your Benevolence donations throughout February will go toward the cost to support both children, which costs less than \$1,000 annually. You can contribute by:

- **Mail:** Send a check to ELC and note "Benevolence" in the memo
- **Online:** Visit the ELC website and click "Give"
- **Digitally:** Download the **VANCO MOBIL FAITH ENGAGEMENT APP**, or text "Benevolence" to 608-400-0183 with the amount you wish to give.

BENEVOLENCE 2025 Missions

January: Divine Savior, our sister church in Puerto Rico -

February: Compassion International

March: ELC youth programming

April: Reconciliation in Christ (RIC)

May: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

June: Madison Area Jail Ministry

July: Literacy Network

August: Habitat for Humanity

September: Saba, International -

October: Lutheran Campus Ministry

November: Accessible local health care: Our Lady of Hope and
Community Connections

December: Young Adults in Global Mission

Thank you for your support of Benevolence!

Adam Mertz - adammertz2@gmail.com

COUNCIL

We can change the world!

In early January, Pastor John shared a quote with us during one of his sermons. The quote was:

***“I am God’s child, deserving of love and respect,
and God will use me to change the world.”***

Let’s explore this quote on how it relates to our youth. How does God use our youth to change the world? When we hear the phrase change the world, we often think of some major event. In reality, everyday activities, seemingly insignificant, change the world. When the youth help in the church service by acolyting, participating in music, teaching Sunday school, or assisting with the sound system, they’re changing the world. When the youth serve on church council, help with local service projects, fundraising activities, Bible school, go on mission trips or attend the Youth Gathering they’re changing the world. When our youth attend camp or work as counselors they’re changing the world. When our youth choose a vocation, they’re changing the world. Each day our youth are touching people’s lives through acts of kindness, service, and care. Little by little. Day after day. With actions that may be nearly imperceptible, they are changing the world!

Our youth come to us from different races, ethnicities, gender identities, sexual orientations, family status, and personal struggles. Each person is God’s child. Each person deserves our love and respect. Each person through the spirit of Jesus Christ is changing the world!

Carl Sieg

PRAYER list

PLEASE PRAY FOR Bryan Greve, Dani Sue Schroeder, Siobhan Mertz, Greg Mueller (Steve's Brother), Jon Larson, Pauline Blum (Mary Meister's Aunt), Vern Schuetz (dear friend of Steve & Diane Mueller), Ruth Ann Nemet, Margaret Twiton, Paul & Lois Kerscher (Amy Thompson's parents), Paul Baum, Dolores Kahl, Sara Kittleson, Terri Naylor (Dennis & Mary Lokken's daughter), John Scheele & family (Char Smith's Brother in Law) Linda Stoenner, Ken Rabideau (Helen Ladwig's Brother in Law), Steve Mueller, Joyce Fargo, Alycen McKinney, Cara Mavis, Joan Schraepfer (Rita Schraepfer-Derke's Sister in Law), Norm Hefty, Lincoln Kuhn, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Brock Howe, Jeannie U'Ren, Mike Olson, Carol Johnson

Our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño,

MEMORIALS

Given in honor of:

Nancy Rand

Given By:

*Diane Bartz
Helen Kahl
Mark & Becky Mostrom
Kathy O'Donnell
Bob & Sharon Schiefelbein*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY Sundays after worship in fellowship hall.

BABY CAP MAKERS Baby cap makers will meet **Tuesday, Feb 4th and 18th**, 9:30am in the Faith Room. ruthheinecke@gmail.com

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on **Monday, February 10th at 7pm** in the Matthew room.

SARAH CIRCLE will meet **Tuesday, February 18th at 7 pm** in the Matthew Room. We will do the Session 1 Bible study ("Faith Where You Are - Ruth & Naomi") from the January/February "Gather" magazine (p.16). Contact Karen Erickson (cperickson@mhtc.net) with any questions about the study materials or meeting details. Always welcoming new participants as well as those we haven't seen recently.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at Homestead at **10am on February 19th**. We will be watching and discussing Facebook devotions that were done by author Liz Curtis Higgs on **Monday, February 17th**. Helen K. will bring treats and Diane M. will bring beverage.



ELC Book Club will be discussing "Everything Happens for a Reason" by Kate Bowler - February 23rd after worship in Fellowship Hall.

Kate Bowler is a professor at Duke Divinity School with a modest Christian upbringing, but she specializes in the study of the prosperity gospel, a creed that sees fortune as a blessing from God and misfortune as a mark of God's disapproval. At thirty-five, everything in her life seems to point toward "blessing." She is thriving in her job, married to her high school sweetheart, and loves life with her newborn son. Then she is diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer. *Everything Happens for a Reason* tells her story, offering up her irreverent, hard-won observations on dying and the ways it has taught her to live.

For more information contact Amy Sinner: amysinner@gmail.com

ELC SEWING GROUP We meet every **Thursday morning from 9:00 am to Noon** in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to see how those beautiful quilts are made, please stop by. We'll be happy to show you how it's done. We also invite anyone interested in joining our group for the fun of fellowship and working on this stewardship project. All equipment and supplies are provided so come as you are.



1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:00 a.m. at Sjolind's Chocolate House, 219 E Main



Monday -Thursday 9am to Noon and 1pm t 4pm
Friday 9am to Noon

Nancy will be on vacation

Wednesday February 12th through Monday February 17th

STEEPLE ECHOES ARTICLES DUE BY Thursday, February 20th for the March issue.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on Tuesday, February 25th at 9am to assemble the March newsletter. **Newcomers are welcome.** The assembly process usually takes about 2 hours. Please, come and enjoy the fellowship!

CHURCH E-MAIL LIST

If you would like to be added to our email list and receive weekly updates and other special announcements, please sent us your email address to elc@mhtc.net You can you unsubscribe at any time.

PLEASE BRING YOUR USED INK CARTRIDGES TO THE CHURCH OFFICE! Betsy Baguhn does a fabulous job of turning them in for ELC credit. This is a great way to help offset the cost of printing our bulletin and newsletter.



CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES are ready for pick-up in the Narthex. If you are unable to pick-up your envelopes please reach out to Nancy in the church office, thank you.



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

1	Nancy Balbach	9	Beth Heiting	17	Grace Casey
	George Johnson		Scott Klassy		Joyce Fargo
	Zachary Peter		Declan Otis		Kanen Getz
	Dean Stange		Kristi Schulenberg		Mara Johnson
					Siri Martin
2	Rob Farnsworth	10	Adrienne Hogseth		Steve Mueller
	Sara John		Christina Kahl		Marc Powell
	Mary Kaboth		Margie Kahl		Joan Stensby
			Adam Sailor		
3	Jim Uptegraw			18	Cheryl Schlicht
		11	Lauren Albrecht		
4	Ben Brothers		Eva Larson	19	Jan Lukken
	Reece Watson		Colton Martin		Madison Lukken
			Sarah Strube		
5	Owen Aeschlimann			20	Jim Cook
	Jackson John	12	Kayla Bredeson		Mary Krantz
	Doug Nesheim		Paige Densmore		Molly Mason
	Stephanie Rollins		Meghan Mason		
	Sophia Sadler		Jonah Siebold	21	Anthony Truman
			Ryan Sinner		Craig Vesely
6	Scott Hall			23	Mary Ann Powell
	Ryan Soyring	13	Addison Anderson		Paul Yapp
	Mark Sutter		Quentin Rosborough	24	Elise Buol
			Dan Sherven		Sean LaBorde
7	Sawyer Kahl				Gerald Stamn
	Mark Peter	14	Ashley Thompson		Jenifer Stone
			Porter Hodgson	25	Mary Hastings
8	Charlie Miller				Jared Leuzinger
	Scott Underwood	15	Theresa M. Toniazzo		
	Carter Vesely			26	Bernette Allemann
	Cathy Woller	16	Taylor Freitag	27	Jennifer Ekenberg
			Kayson Haag-Little	28	Amanda Balbach
					Donald Field
				29	Craig Mortvedt
					Hannah Stapelmann

If we've missed you or a member of your family, or if we've listed your birthday incorrectly, please contact the church office.

WORSHIP ASSISTANCE

	FEB 1 st & 2 nd	FEB 8 th & 9 th	FEB 15 th & 16 th	FEB 22 nd & 23 rd
ACOLYTES	Hudson Kahl Oliver Kahl	Taylor Symons Ellie Woolard	Sarah Zelle John-Henry Lee	Leah or Logan Aeschlimann Eva Larson
COMM ASSIST	Sunday Diane Bartz Linda Wahlgren Kim Kelliher	No Communion	Sunday Available Available Available	No Communion
READERS	Saturday Kate Hook Sunday Chris Laabs	Saturday Bonny Kellogg Sunday Diane Bartz	Saturday Kate Hook Sunday Ben Brothers	Saturday Ann Baumgartner Sunday Jim Cook
USHERS	Sunday Doug Nesheim Gerald Stamm	Sunday Carol & John Nielsen	Sunday Betsy Baguhn Jody Morey	Sunday John Rosenbaum Matt Anderson
ALTAR GUILD	February -Deb Dangerfield, Shannon Hadac, Judy Steinhauer, Joan Stensby, Jessica Powell			
COUNCIL DUTIES	February - Carl Sieg			

*Love bears all things, believes, all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.*

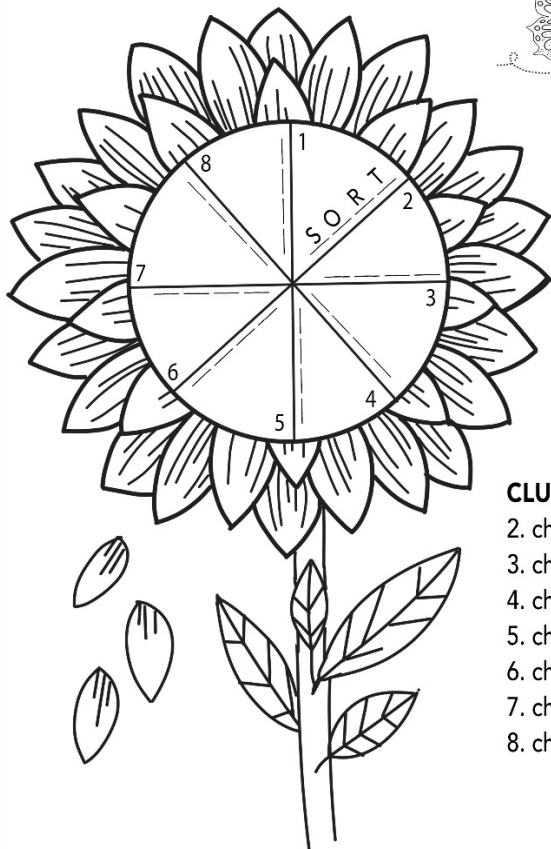
1 Corinthians 13:7



THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.



We _____
because [God] first
_____ d us.

1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
8. change 1 letter: God is this
(see 1 John 4:16).