

News of Grace

Monthly Newsletter ♦ March 2017

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

"We share God's love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world."



Elsa Phillips, Gar Nicholls,
Bunny Lyon, Judy Kautz,
Debbie Anderson, Marilyn

Whitscell, Erv Simi, Jeanette
Grove, Elfie Jahnke, Lorraine
Leathead, Gloria Moore,

Dave Chroninger, Harold & Jean Kissau, Jim
Malaski, Karen & Walter Spigelmeyer, Dorothy
Gentry, Emma Nelson, Julie Troy, Mimi, Dick
Sanders, Herb Schiller, Trapp Truman, Kevin
Salesman, Jeff Lee, Conrad Addison, David
Schaedig, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Cody Gustin,
Eric Carlson, Martin Suszek, Larry Beaudoin,
Shirley Johnson, Mike Knoblett, Dennis
Diamond, and Richard G.

Crosses for Lent

During the Lenten season, the Discipleship
committee is asking that everyone in the



congregation bring in a cross to
display in the dining hall. We will have
tables along the wall to display them.
Just write your name and what kind of
cross it is. Let's see how many we can
display! Let us be drawn to these

symbols of Christ and enter the mystery of
Christ's suffering that the crosses represent.



Our **ANNUAL MEETING** will be held
Sunday, March 5
following 9:30 a.m. worship.

On the agenda:

Receive Annual Reports
Memorials & Gifts Policy

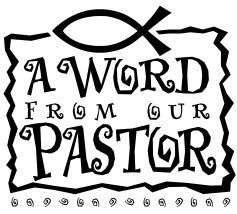
Please plan to attend!



Scholarship Applications

Applications for Grace
Lutheran scholarships will
be available in the
Narthex, beginning
March 1, for high school
graduates or anyone
wanting to pursue their
education. Applications
should be turned in to
the office by April 15, 2015. For further
information contact Donna Czarnecki
(354-8990).

LENT *Lent* LENT *Lent*



I have 2 stories to tell you, of pews and a car ride.

It was mentioned that the pews were a bit squeaky. A crew looked at the pews, thought of a few things to consider and discovered more and more issues that needed to be addressed. With a plan and then a test, they began the project. Well you should have seen the sanctuary. Pews unscrewed from the floor and pushed together for working space, tarps spread out, pews turned over on saw horses, new screws put into the seats along the bottom of the backs, repairs being done and braces being cut and glued and screwed in place. It was an absolute hive of activity. It was nearly 2 weeks of work getting this project done to reduce those squeaks and as a result stabilizing and strengthening the pews.

If you were in the church 1 of the two weekends we tested out the results, you were astounded at the how quiet it was standing up and sitting down.

Along the way a few labels were found, from the manufacturer of 128 years ago, Church Furniture Manufacturer of Findlay Ohio with a signature of ?? owner or foreman or carpenter. A bit of history. And a bit of history made for future generations too, when they do any repairs in another 128 years or so.

The really neat and gratifying thing for our church community was how a group came together with the time, talent and resources (including wood from Alpena) to tackle the problem and it was done. And judging from the conversations I heard during the process a good time was had by all.

On the car ride, I received a call needing help with a visit to Flint for a doctor's appointment. Just two days before the planned visit, the scheduled transportation did not work out due to a change with that driver's schedule. I called a number of you and with such short notice it wasn't possible for many **this time**. What was gratifying, was how many said keep them in mind for future needs. The trip was made and it was an extraordinary help. Thank you.

It was gratifying to see the response that came for the needs, in the building itself and for something outside. There are many more stories that could be told of working for building up God's Kingdom, these are just two in my mind right now.

Indeed THANK YOU ALL for the many ways, big and small, known and unknown, every week and once in a while that you give something for the work of the church. There are many ways to make a difference, welcome all and share God's love.

Thank you for being a blessing for God's Kingdom.

Pastor Tom

First Communion Workshop and Acolyte Boot Camp Saturday March 11

Both are being held on Saturday, March 11. A First Communion Workshop will be held at 10 a.m., followed by Acolyte Boot Camp at noon. Pizza will be served for lunch. If you have a child and are interested in either, or both, and have not been contacted please contact Pastor Tom for more information.

First Communion will be celebrated on March 12 at our 9:30 a.m. service.

Ecumenical Lenten Series 2017

Moving Toward the Cross

Join us at our ecumenical series on Wednesday evenings. Soup suppers at 6:00 p.m., services at 7:00 p.m.

Moving Toward the Cross is the theme of our Ecumenical Lenten Series based on thought provoking quotes from the work of Presbyterian theologian Frederick Buechner paired with insightful reflections from Lutheran religious commentator and Biblical scholar Martin E. Marty.

Offerings will be divided equally between Call Us For Help, St. Bernard's Friendship Room and Trinity Episcopal's Sunday Supper.

Date	Location	Theme	Preacher
Ash Wednesday March 1	Grace Lutheran	Take Up the Cross	Rev Shirley Ross-Jones
March 8	First United Methodist	Moving in Faith	Pastor Tom Orth
March 15	St Paul Lutheran	Moving in Strength	Sr Mary Hughes
March 22	First Congregational UCC	Moving in Love	Rev. Bill McClure
March 29	St Bernard Roman Catholic	Moving in Peace	Rev Sue Platt
April 5	First Presbyterian	Moving in Suffering	Rev. Paul Lance
Maundy Thursday April 13	Trinity Episcopal	Moving Through Death	Rev. Bob Case



Has God graced you with musical talent? Would you be willing to share it with the congregation? If you would be willing to provide special music for our worship services, please let a member of our Worship Work Group know. Thanks!

Sharon Engstrom
Dawn Gentry
Carolynne Wegmeyer

Dorothy Hansen
Ruby Haske

I cannot express how thankful I am for all the love, support and the abundant prayers raised for me. I felt every one of them!!! So for Pastor Tom and my entire Church Family, THANKS BE TO GOD.



Love,

Jeanne Pankey

~~~~~

Thank you for the many birthday cards and wishes, your kindness is appreciated and made my day even more special. Also, thanks to the Discipleship Work Group for the Valentine goody bag, it was wonderful and very tasty! Last, but not least, thanks to the terrific Youth Group for a thoughtful Sunday afternoon visit, a lovely gift and inspiring music enjoyed by all.

God bless you,

Dave Chroninger

~~~~~

Thank you to the crew (listed below) that took on the big project of removing the "squeaks" from the pews.

Bill Platt
Dale Schultz
Ray Reynolds
Joel Suszek
Bonnie & Tuffy Cross

Jack Tucker
Rick Engstrom
Mick Zinsli
Wayne Lewis

I estimate that 200 to 250 volunteer hours were invested in this repair project. Approximately 95% of the "squeaks" were removed from the pews. The effort was in the spirit of God with a huge sense of pride of ownership by all of the members.

Jeff Welch, Property Chair

Save the Date The Sixth Community Celebrating and Sharing Dinner

When: April 23, 2017

Where: The APlex

**Doors open at 11:30 with the meal served at
12:30pm**

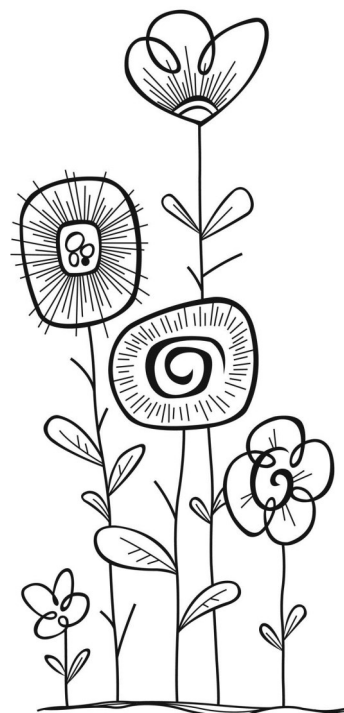
Tickets \$12

Children 12 and under Free

Menu: Baked
Chicken, Sausage and
Sauerkraut, Garlic
Redskin Mashed
Potatoes and Gravy,
Glazed Carrots, Green
Beans, Coleslaw, Rolls/
Butter, Pies and Cakes,
Coffee and Water

Silent Auction/Chinese
Raffle With a Pie
Auction

50/50 Drawing



St. Rose of Lima

3433 Herron Rd., 379-4316

Fry-Day Night Lenten Fish Fry

Come enjoy good food and fellowship, beginning March 3, every Friday during Lent, except Good Friday. Dinners are served between 4:30-7:00 p.m. Take-outs available - call 379-4316.

Dinners include:

Fried and Baked Fish
Baked Potatoes & French Fries
Cole Slaw, Fresh Baked Bread, Jello
Coffee, Punch and Milk

Adults \$10.00 ~ Children 5-12 \$5.00
4 and under are free

Pie and pop will be sold by
the St. Rose Youth Group

Outreach and Mission - Local

Discipleship



Items Needed:

- * Tuna & Tuna Helper
- * Peanut Butter & Jelly
- * Pancake Mix & Syrup
(Just add water kind)
- * Elbow Macaroni

The collection basket is located outside the church office. All items collected will be donated to Trinity Episcopal's food pantry.

Thanks to all who helped with our Valentine Goodie Bag project for the Loving Care Members. Also to those who participated in the Flurry of Cards!!



Foster Care Closet

Located at the bowling alley

They are always accepting:
children's clothing, furniture and toys.



Lutheran World Relief Current project for Jan-March is Personal Kits. When emergencies like natural disasters or conflict arise, many families must flee their homes, leaving their belongings behind. When they arrive in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit allow them to wash away the dirt and sweat, with the fresh scent of soap and the softness of a towel as reminders of someone's care and concern for them in their plight. **Needed items are listed on the bulletin board by the entrance with items to go in the big wicker basket.**

Bread Weekend resumed the weekend of February 18 & 19. \$215.50 was collected for the ELCA Hunger Relief Fund. Thank you to the bakers and buyers, trusting that you both enjoyed your contribution. Our next Bread Weekend will be Saturday/Sunday, March 18 & 19. All members are encouraged to bake and buy bread. Thanks for your support of this ministry!

Noisy Offering continues to be the 4th weekend of the month. One of our projects we support with this money is our World Vision sponsored child, Ishimwe. See the letter we received from Ishimwe in this newsletter, as well as the picture of her with her mother and the 4 goats they were able to purchase with the money we sent for Christmas (located on the bulletin board).



ACTIVITY BAGS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

There are now colorful activity bags with paper, crayons and picture books for younger children available for them in worship. Ask the ushers for one.

THANK YOU

A big "Thank You" to Chris Christopherson for sewing the bags and filling them with crayons, paper, and coloring books for the children to use during worship.



Altar Flowers

The 2017 Flower Chart has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign the chart and fill out an Altar Flowers form (located on the table in the Narthex). Completing this form lets the office know what you would like listed in the bulletin. Forms may be placed in the offering plate or turned in to the office.



Time to
Spring Ahead
Daylight Saving Time
Begins at 2 a.m.
Sunday, March 12

The 2017 Flower Chart has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign the chart and fill out an Altar Flowers form

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Staff & Leadership Telephone Numbers

CHURCH OFFICE	354-2640
Rev. Tom Orth.....Home	356-8729
.....Cell	916-8759
Office Manager....Peggy Tomaszewski.....	255-8850
Music DirectorBerniece Lyon	464-7064

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

President.....Tom Lappan.....	356-3718
Vice-President.....Rick Engstrom	916-5963
Exec. Secretary....Sandy Malaski.....	356-6248
TreasurerDon Barnard.....	340-1055

WORK GROUP LEADERS/COUNCIL

Education.....Elsa Phillips	884-1809
WorshipSharon Engstrom	354-5133
DiscipleshipJoelyn Rich	340-0592
PropertyJeff Welch.....	595-2195
Fellowship.....Jeanne Pankey	354-2416
.....Pat Schultz	356-2781
Finance.....Dennis Werblow.....	354-5560

OTHER V.I.P.s

Stewardship... ..Wayne Christopherson	356-0430
Youth DirectorVicki Denstaedt	916-9258
WELCADarleen Freel.....	354-8866
.....Dorothy Hansen.....	354-3563
SamaritasKay Grove	727-2054
Quilters.....Caroline Weise.....	354-8060
.....Dorothy Hansen.....	354-3563
LARCCEleanor Coddington.....	354-8766

February 2017

Finances

GENERAL FUND.....	\$ 18,411.00
BUILDING FUND.....	1,486.67
CHRISTIAN GROWTH	12.00
OTHER	5,370.07
TOTAL.....	\$ 25,279.74

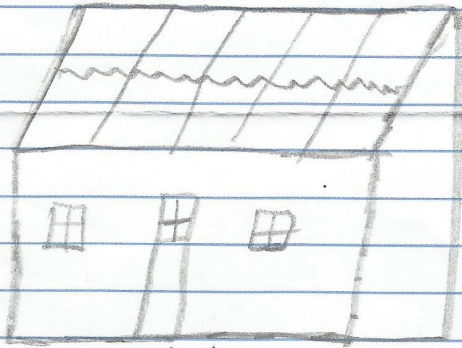
Attendance

SATURDAY WORSHIP (4)	160
SUNDAY WORSHIP (4)	327
TOTAL	487

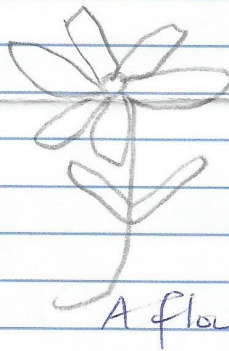
Letter from our sponsored child, Ishimwe



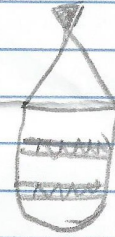
UMURISA ISHIMWE Kevin
RWA 173093 - 5491



A house



A flower



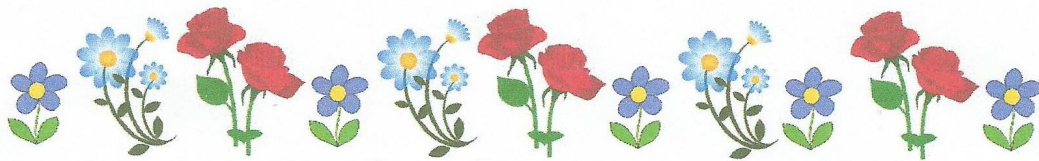
A peace basket

Kumushingizi wange nkunda cyane!!!!
Mbanje kubaramuba murako murakomeje?
Impamo muanyohereje yagerako maguzemo
Ihene enye imana ibaho umugisha, wange
ndako ndiga mu mwaka 4 yari
umuryango wange urabashukira kandi wishimye
impamo muanyohereje. Ndagije nibifuriza
Nohurizira mu mwaka mubaza wa 2017 yari
umwana wanyu ubakunda kandi ubakozza ku
mutima. Murakome. UMURISA ISHIMWE Kevin
RWA 173093 - 5491

Dear GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH,
First of all, receive my warm greetings. How are you doing?

I am so glad to get this opportunity in order to
kindly thank you for your monetary gift of 100 US
Dollars equivalent to 82,500 Rwandan Francs received.





Through it, my family and I were able to buy four goats that will reproduce and be source of manure for agriculture purpose therefore improve our family welfare through increase of our field productivity. May God bless you.

Right now, I am doing well and am studying in grade four, primary level. My whole family greet you warmly and kindly appreciated your gift too.

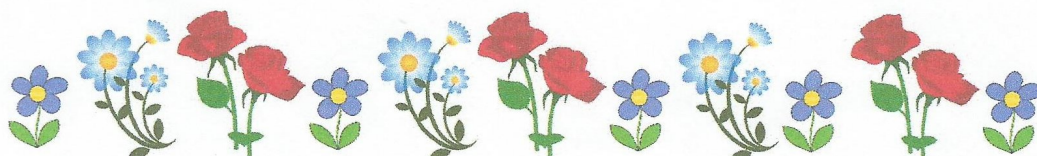
I would like to close this letter wishing you Happy New Year 2017. Thank you.

Your sponsored child who loves and thinks about you anytime

UMULISA Ishimwe Kevine

RWA 173093-5491

Translation done by a community volunteer.



Open Hearts, Open Church



Caring Conversation Questions on Human Sexuality & LGBTQ Concerns (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer)

**Monday, March 20th
5:30 Potluck, Conversation Follows**

**From North/ West Lower Michigan Synod
Task Force On: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

**Led by Co-Chairs of the Open Hearts, Open Church task force
Rev. Jessica Rivera-Walker and Diane Madej**

Grace Lutheran Church invites you to an evening of Caring Conversation centered around LGBTQ concerns. Please join us for a good “Lutheran” potluck at 5:30 with conversation to follow. We welcome all questions and all voices and encourage you to join us as we - with hearts and minds filled with the love of Christ- seek to do God’s work in the world.

North/ West Lower Michigan Synod Task Force On: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Vision Statement: As Jesus draws all people to himself¹, we are freed to transcend societal divisions and embody the radical grace, forgiveness, and inclusion modeled by Christ. 1 John 12:32 2 Galatians 3:26-28

Purpose Statement: Recognizing that congregations and individuals in our Synod are at different points on their spiritual journey toward reflecting the full welcome and inclusion that Jesus shows toward all of God’s children, the Mitten Synod offers Open Hearts, Open Church as a resource team to provide guidance, support, and companionship as we journey with regard, to full inclusion of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Recycling Update

Items being recycled now



Baby food pouches



Plastic Drinking Cups



Toothbrushes/
Toothpaste



Plastic Personal Care
Items (soap bottles,
shampoo, deodorant,
make-up cases, gel,
lotion)



Drink Pouches



Granola/Energy
Bar Wrappers



Salty Snack Bags



Cereal Bags



Tape Rolls



Betty Crocker Box Tops



School Spirit



Cancelled Postage
Stamp (trim 1/4"
around)

**Unfortunately the Humane Society is no longer collecting Spartan UPC's.

Thank you to all who have supported and continue to support our efforts to help keep Mother Earth clean. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Also, the sleeping mat project for the homeless is moving right along.
Statistics to date are as follows:**

Estimated number of bags per mat	700	Number of bags used	1,470
Number of strips/knots per mat	5,600	Number strips/knots made	117,600
Length of each mat	6 feet	Number of feet in length	126
Number of mats made in Alpena	21	% of the mile of the goal	4.4

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD

MARCH 2017

ACOLYTES

05
12
19
26

HOSPITAL

JANET CHRONINGER

LECTORS

05 PATTI TUCKER
12 ANNA LEWIS
19 JOE GENTRY
26 BOB GREENE

USHERS

ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY
DON FURZE
SANDRA CHRISTOPHERSON
MATT, EVERETT & OLIVIA HASKE

GREETERS

05 JOELYN RICH, PHRAN LUDINGTON
12 MARY ROWADER
19 DAWN ANDERSON, JO ANN SMITH
26 CAROLINE WEISE,
SANDRA CHRISTOPHERSON

COUNTERS

GARY & KAY GROVE

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY

ALTAR GUILD

SANDY WELCH
JOELYN RICH
MARY ROWADER
KELLI LISKE

FLOWERS

05
12
19
26

COFFEE HOUR

05 WAYNE & CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON
12 WAYNE & ANNA LEWIS
19 CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS
26 PAM KIRCHOFF, CHARLOTTE WERTH,
JO ANN SMITH

***PLEASE, please, please try to find a replacement or someone
to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your Sunday
scheduled duty AND share the change with Peggy. Thank you!***

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD

APRIL 2017

ACOLYTES

02
09
16 Early
Late
23
30

HOSPITAL

JANET CHRONINGER

LECTORS

02 VICKI DENSTAEDT
09
16 Early DAWN ANDERSON
Late VERA FURZE
23 DONNA CZARNECKI
30 MIKE URLAUB

USHERS

MICK & KAY ZINSLI (Saturdays)
WAYNE & ANNA LEWIS
CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS

GREETERS

02 TIMMRECK FAMILY
09 SHELLY OLSEN FAMILY
16 Early JEFF & CAREY SCHILLER FAMILY
Late GORDON & DOROTHY HANSEN
23 DALE & PAT SCHULTZ
30 JOEL & CINDY SUSZEK

COUNTERS

CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS

ALTAR GUILD

JEANNE PANKEY
CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON

FLOWERS

02 FURZE
09 PLATT
16 EASTER FLOWERS
23 FRALEY
30

COFFEE HOUR

02 POLLY COOK, ELSA PHILLIPS,
SANDRA CHRISTOPHERSON
09 JEFF & SANDY WELCH
16 EASTER BREAKFAST
23 RICH & SHERIE MCTAGGART
30 BARB WERLE, ANGIE CRITTENDEN,
ELLIE WALKER

***PLEASE, please, please try to find a replacement or someone
to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your Sunday
scheduled duty AND share the change with Peggy. Thank you!***



Anniversaries of Baptism



March 3
Arnold Jahnke

March 23
Robert Greene

March 5
Amy Townsend

March 24
Mark Suszek

March 6
Ben Jordan

March 26
John Kuligowski

March 13
Sharlene Kennedy

March 27
Eleanor Coddington

March 17
Patricia Schultz
Adam Urlaub
Brody Yuchasz

March 28
Allison Urlaub

March 29
Stephanie Ihnat

March 19
Joel Suszek

March 31
Nate Jordan



Birthdays



March 1
Anna Greene

March 2
Alisha Poirier

March 3
Mark Suszek

March 4
Beverly Attwell
Alexis Crittenden

March 6
Tiffany LaFave
Patrick McCourt

March 8
Dorene Schultz

March 9
Matthew Gillard

March 10
Lois Westergard

March 11
Norm Timm

March 12
Thelma Stevens
Donice Ziberna

March 14
Barbara Mudge

March 15
Kathy Piontkowski

March 17
Joan Brennan

March 18
Kayla Bertrand
Vicki Cripps

March 19
Bonnie Cross
Kelly Poirier
Tyler Suszek

March 21
Anna Lewis

March 22
Gerald Lancaster
Karen Spigelmyre
Erica Wilson

March 23
Brent Barrow

March 24
Tracie Granata

March 25
Kristin Rich
Sheri Smith

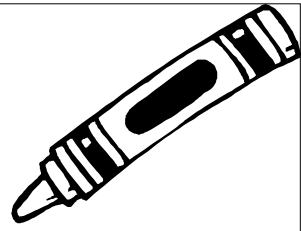
March 28
Shane Adamski

March 29
Janet Chroninger

March 30
Charles Snyder

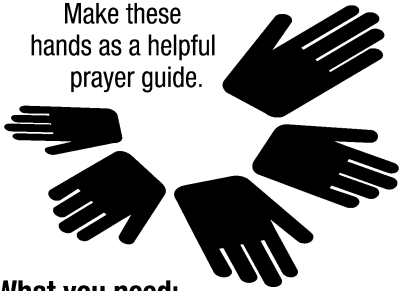
March 31
Emma Barber

Kid's Page



PRAYER HANDS

Make these hands as a helpful prayer guide.



What you need:

- 7 pieces of construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Colored pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. Trace your hand (the same one) on each piece of paper.
2. Cut out and stack the hands. Staple together atop the pinky.
3. On the top hand (the front cover), write "Prayer Hands." Decorate with stickers.
4. On the second hand, write "Praise God." On the third, write "Ask for forgiveness." On the fourth, write "Thank God." On the fifth, write "Pray for others." On the sixth, write "Pray for me."
5. Use your book to remember what to pray for every day.



The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below.

Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

A	B	C	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____

A	B	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____

B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____

When I am in _____, I _____ to you,
because you _____ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Psalm 86:7, NIV