

# Faith Loops

Faith Loops are PowerPoint presentations with images and information that will help us grow in the understanding of our Catholic faith. They will be projected on the screens during the twenty minutes prior to each weekend mass.

During that time, the slides will loop, or repeat, themselves. Thus, the name: Faith Loops.



# Word of the Week: Miracle

The word *miracle* is based on *miraculum*, a Latin word meaning 'object of wonder'. It can be traced further back to the word *miror*, which means 'to wonder at'. A miracle is an observable event that cannot be explained by the laws of nature and, consequently, is considered to be supernatural in origin.

In other words, a miracle is a wondrous work of God.





## Word of the Week: Miracle

Such an inexplicable event reveals God's intervention and concern in our human lives, all for the sake of our salvation.

Jesus' Resurrection from the dead is the greatest miracle of all.

# Word of the Week: Miracle

While there are many accounts of miracles in the Old Testament, we read about the miracles of Jesus in the gospels. They can be categorized as follows:

- **exorcisms** (casting out demons and unclean spirits);
- **healing miracles** (healing physical illnesses and impairments);
- **restoration miracles** (raising the dead; restoring to life); and
- **nature miracles** (feeding multitudes, calming storms, etc.).





## Word of the Week: Miracle

Some miracle stories are found in two or more gospels, but others are unique to a particular gospel. For example, the account of the miraculous turning of water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana is found only in John's gospel.



Not all Jesus' miracles are recorded in the four gospels. John the Evangelist writes: "But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" (John 21: 25).

# The Year of St. Luke

The Church has carefully selected various scripture passages so that, with regular church attendance, we become familiar with most of the bible. In our book of readings, called the *lectionary*, the Sunday readings follow a three-year cycle: Years A, B, and C.

In Year A, we read primarily from the Gospel of Matthew; in Year B, Mark; and in Year C, Luke. Each Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. As it is Year C, Luke's gospel will be proclaimed over the next twelve months.

# The Year of St. Luke

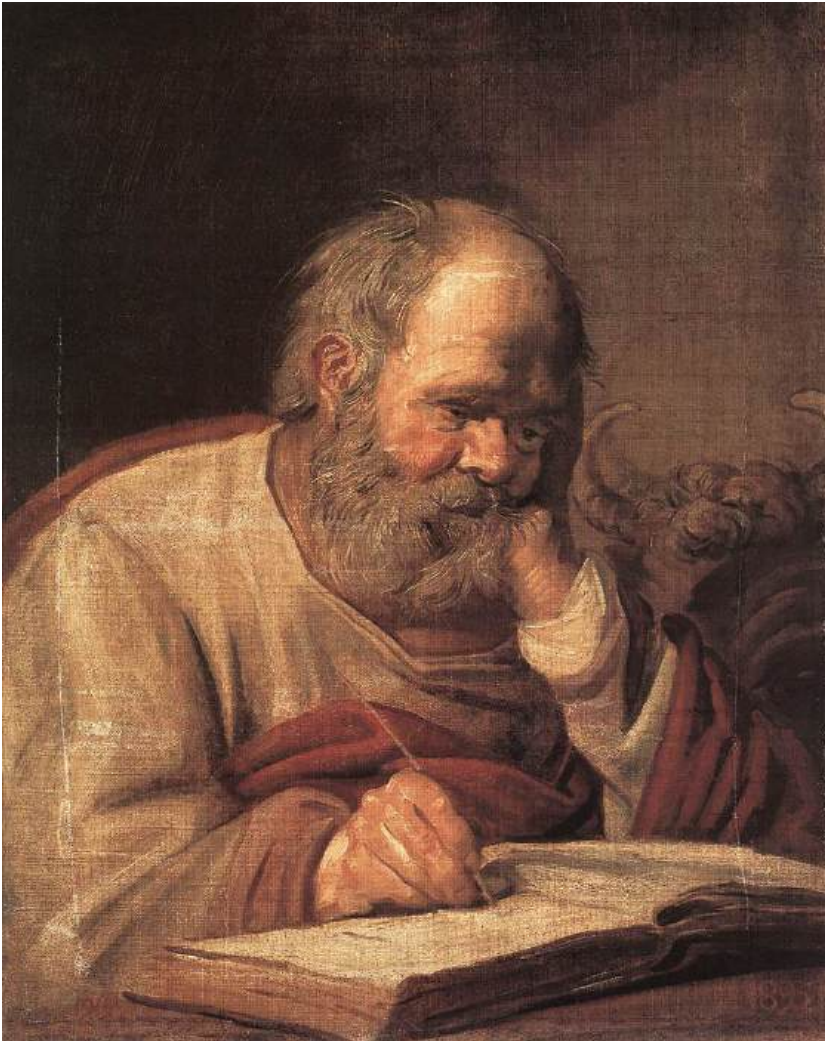


Interesting facts about Luke's gospel include:

- Luke's is the longest and most comprehensive gospel in that it documents the story of Jesus all the way from the birth of John the Baptist foretold to the Ascension of Jesus. It is the only gospel with an account of the Ascension of Jesus.



# The Year of St. Luke

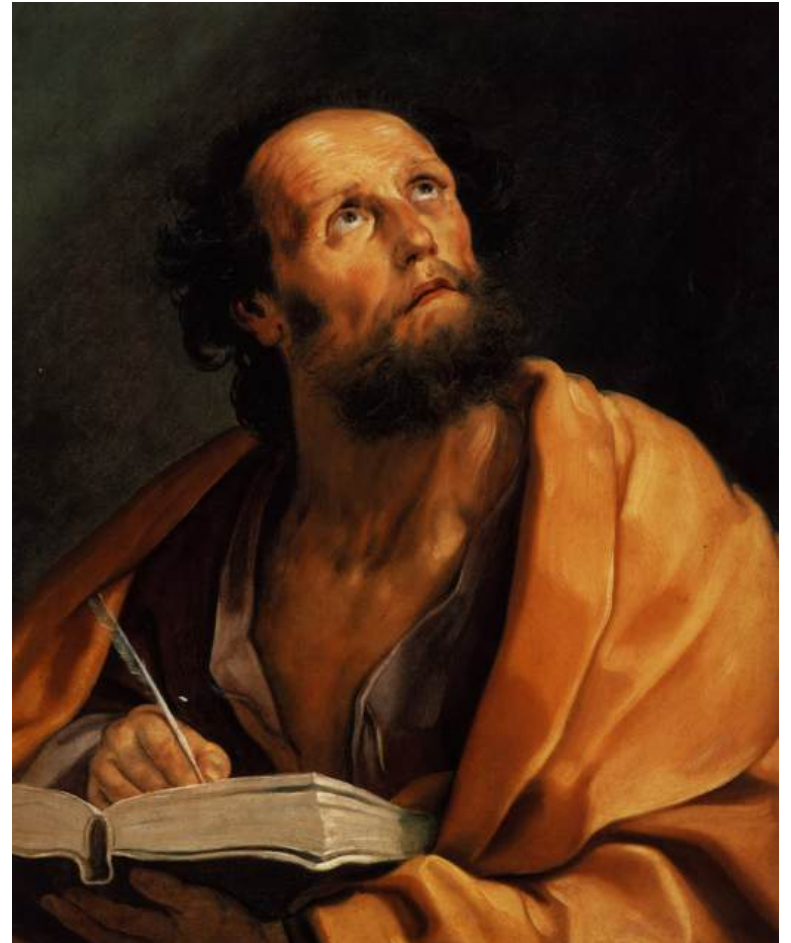


- Like all the gospels, it was written in Greek, which was the language of the educated at that time.
- This gospel, written by a believer to encourage belief, is written as a narrative. It was intended especially for a Gentile, that is, non-Jewish audience.



# The Year of St. Luke

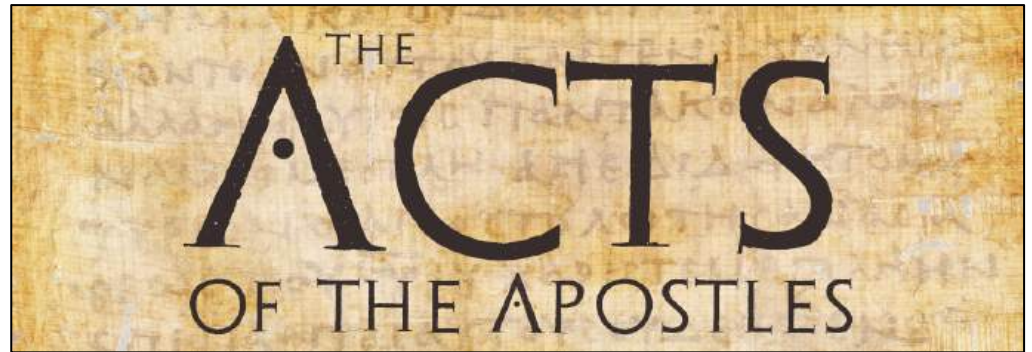
- Luke was a Gentile (non-Jew), a physician by profession, and a historian by hobby. He was not one of the twelve apostles, nor an eyewitness of all that Jesus said and did. However, he carefully researched historical records and interviewed the disciples and others who were eyewitnesses to the life of Christ.



# The Year of St. Luke

- Luke addressed his gospel to Theophilus, which, in Greek, means ‘friend of God’. Therefore, it is intended for anyone who wishes to be a friend of God, including each one of us.

- Luke’s gospel is also unique in that it has a sequel ... the Acts of



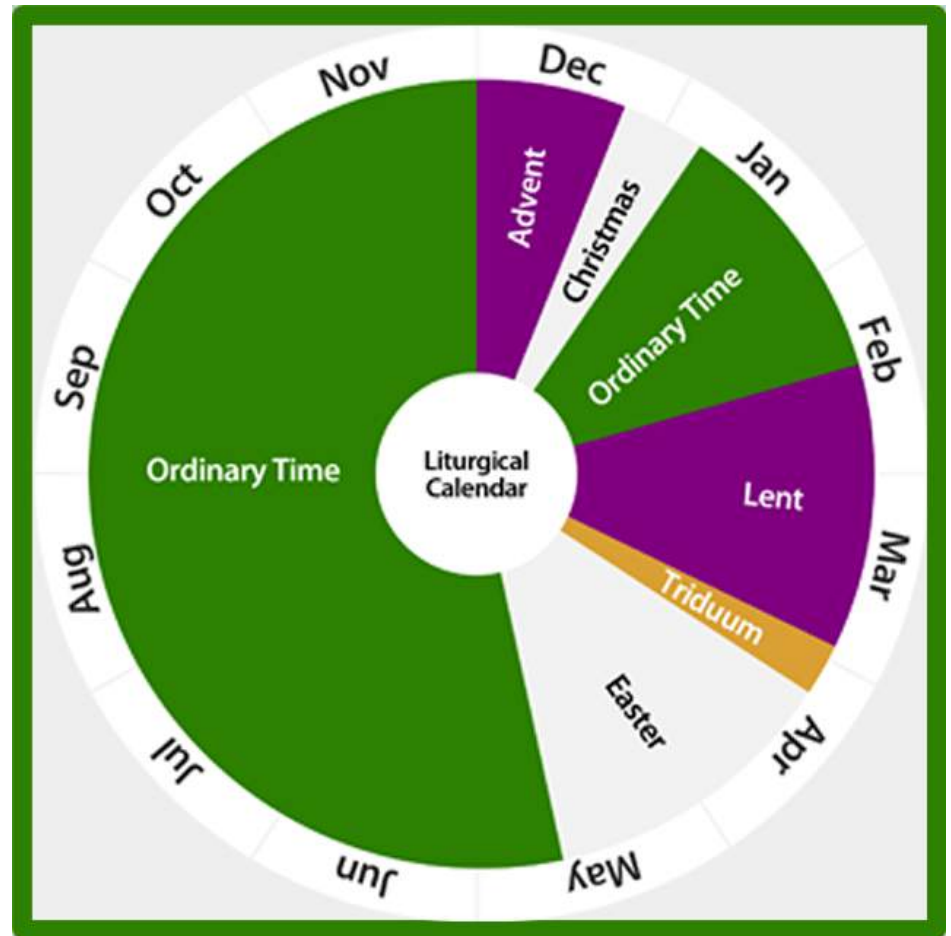
the Apostles. The two books are strongly unified. The gospel of Luke presents an account of the deeds and teachings of Jesus. The Book of Acts presents the work of the Church after Jesus ascended into heaven.

# Go Green!

We have now entered Ordinary Time, the time in between the season of Christmas and the season of Lent. The color for this liturgical time of year is **green**. Green is the color

of hope and of growth, in this case, spiritual growth.

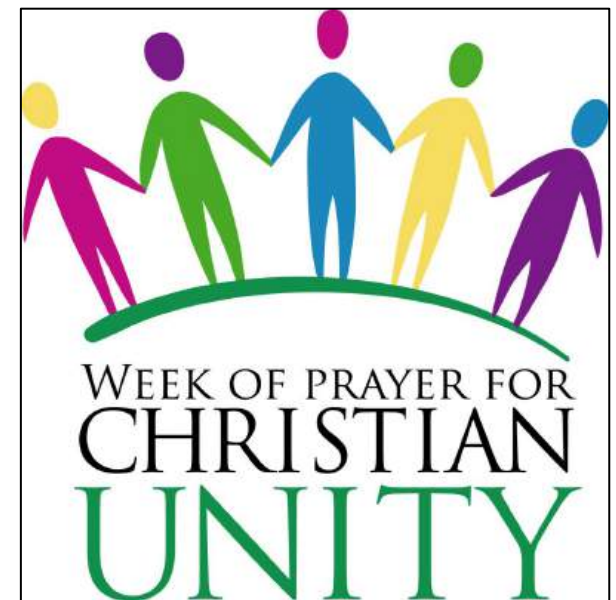
As of January 13, the banners in the church, the altar cloth, and the vestments worn by our clergy are green and will remain so until Lent begins on March 5.



# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

In Canada, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an annual event that takes place from January 18–25. During that week, Christians from around the world are invited to pray for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on a particular theme and scripture passage, to participate in ecumenical services, and to gather in fellowship.

This year's theme is ***Do You Believe BelieveThis?***, a question that Jesus poses to Martha in the context of the raising of Lazarus in John 11.





# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



In Edmonton and area, an ecumenical prayer service is hosted each year by a different Christian Church. This year, it is taking place at Providence Renewal Centre at 7 p.m. on Sunday, January 19.

At this prayer service we celebrate our common beliefs and recognize that we are all united to each other in the communion of Christ's body. We pray that, one day, the barriers that divide the Christian community may be broken down and that soon we may be one in Christ, as Jesus is one with the Father.

# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday,  
January 19  
at 7 p.m.

Providence  
Renewal  
Centre  
3005-119 St.

All are  
welcome.



*Ecumenical Prayer Service*

“Do you believe this?” (John 11:26)

# Saint of the Month

## St. Marguerite Bourgeoys



This month we feature a saint who lived 350 years ago. Her name was Marguerite Bourgeoys. She was born in France and was one of the adventurous people who travelled by boat across the cold Atlantic Ocean to what they called 'the New World'.



# St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

Marguerite taught the Indigenous children and the children of the French settlers in the area of Ville Marie, now known as Montreal. Other women joined Marguerite, and they formed a group of religious sisters.



They were inspired by the Virgin Mary and called themselves 'the Congrégation Notre-Dame', which is French for 'the Congregation of Our Lady'.





# St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

These women taught the children, helped couples prepare for marriage, and served others in many ways. In the year 1700, Marguerite died. The Congregation of Notre-Dame continues to serve God and others today on five continents. (North America, Central America, Africa, Europe, and Asia).

In 1982, Marguerite Bourgeoys was declared a saint by Pope John Paul II. Her feast day is on January 12.

# You Were Wondering ...

## What is a sacristan?

The sacristan plays a vital role in a parish. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal describes the role as follows:

“The sacristan diligently arranges the liturgical books, the vestments, and other things that are necessary for the celebration of Mass.”

The sacristan takes care of the sacristy, the room behind the sanctuary, where the sacred items used at Mass are stored. The chalice, ciboria, altar linens, unconsecrated hosts and wine, and more are stored in the sacristy.



# You Were Wondering ... about Sacristans

The sacristan launders all the linens, such as the corporal and purificators, that are used at Mass. Because there may be particles of the Body and Blood of Christ on these cloths, they are washed in a special way so that the wash water goes directly into the ground and not into the sewer system.





# You Were Wondering ... about Sacristans



Who is the sacristan in our parish?

At St. Vital we are blessed to have Marie MacDonald in this role. Marie prepares the vessels and linens for every weekday and weekend Mass and places them on a designated side table known as a credence table.

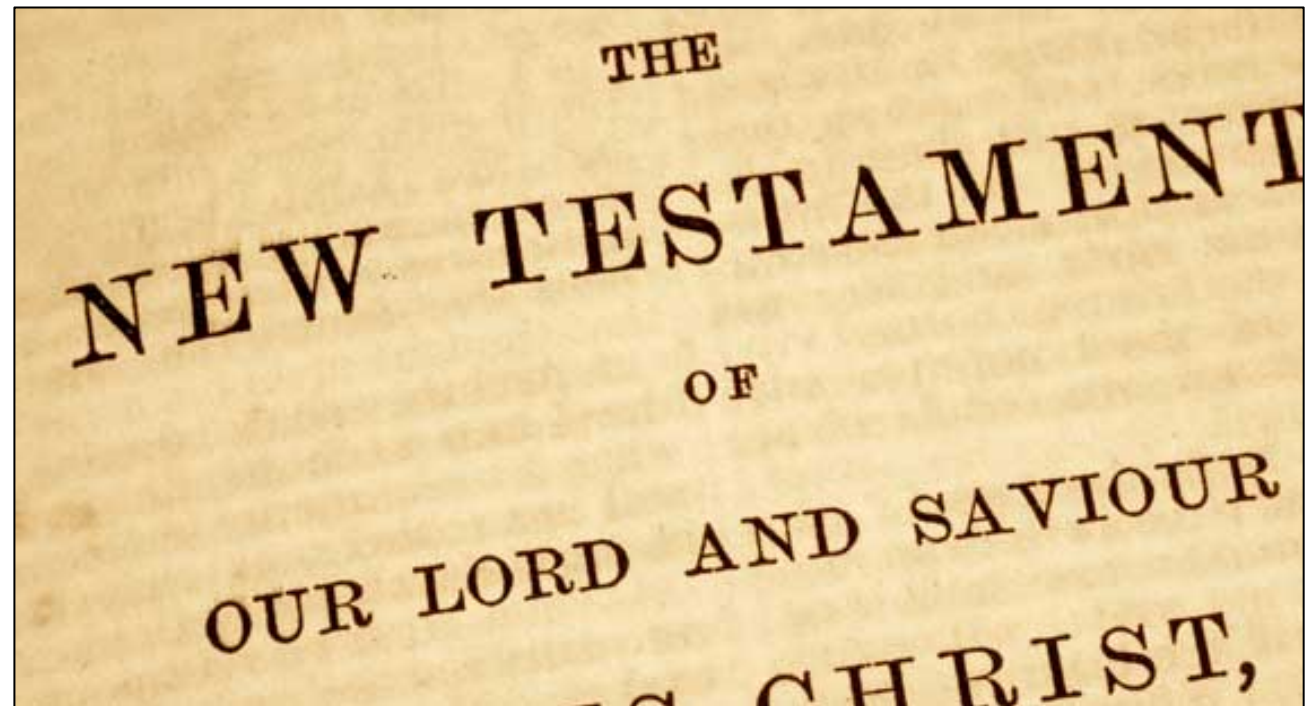
Maxine Ecker has also been helping Marie in the role of sacristan.



# Test Your Knowledge: The New Testament

The number of books in the New Testament *that are letters or epistles is ...*

- a. 21
- b. 27
- c. 35
- d. 42



# Test Your Knowledge: The New Testament

The number of books in the New Testament *that are letters or epistles* is ...

**a. 21**

There are 27 books in the New Testament. All are letters, except the four gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, and the Book of Revelation. The letters, also known as *epistles*, are attributed to apostles for Christ: Paul, John, Peter, James, and Jude.

# What Do You Know About Sacraments?

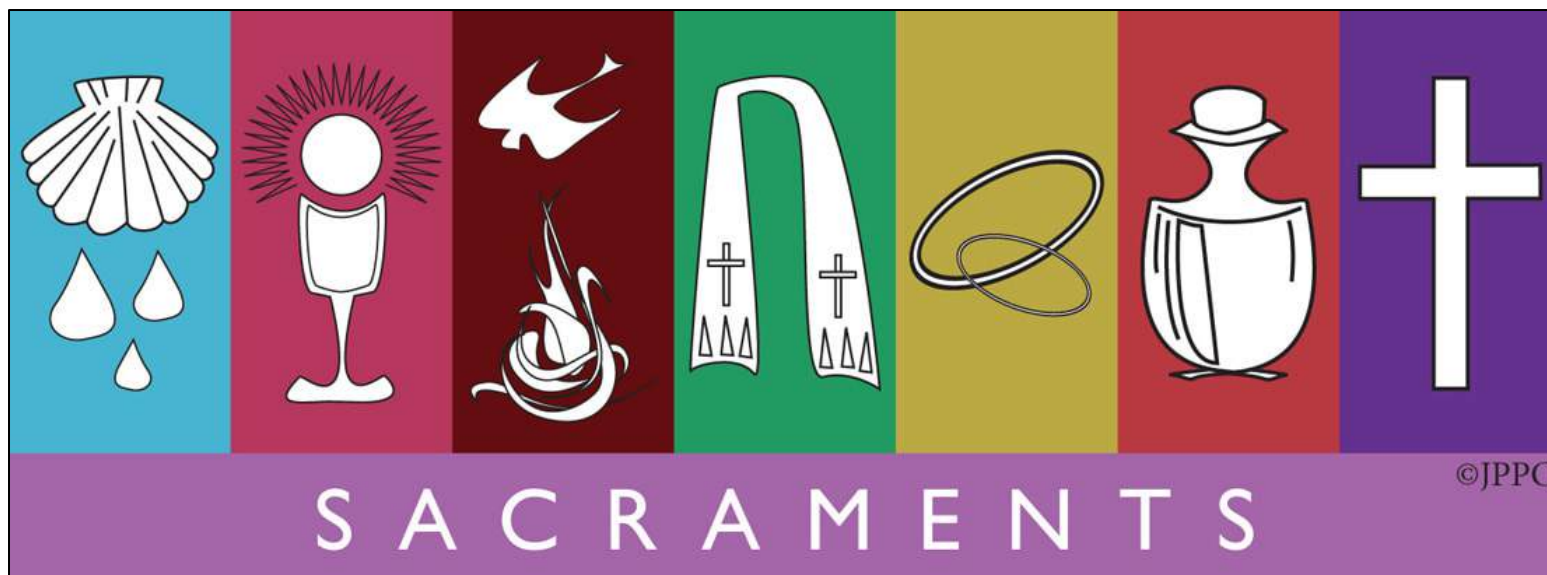
When we receive this Sacrament, we become members of the Church and members of Christ.

a) Baptism

c) Anointing of the Sick

b) Matrimony

d) Holy Orders



# What Do You Know About Sacraments?

## a) Baptism

When we are baptized, we are born into new life and become adopted children of the Father, members of Christ, and temples of the Holy Spirit.



At Baptism we are washed clean of original sin and receive sanctifying grace.



# What Do You Know About Sacraments?

The Sacrament that is the center of our lives as Catholics is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Reconciliation
- b) Baptism
- c) Eucharist
- d) Anointing of the Sick



**The Sacraments**

Signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit

# What Do You Know About Sacraments?

## c) Eucharist

“The Eucharist is ‘the source and summit of the Christian life.’ The other Sacraments, and indeed all church ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it” (CCC, n. 1324).



# Prayer Before Mass

Dear God, help me to be open to all that you want to  
give me at Mass today.

My heart is open.

I come empty and unsure and troubled.

I come in hope.

I come in need to be loved by you,  
united with this faith community,

strengthened by your word,  
and nourished by the Bread of Life.



Cleanse me. Refresh me.

Strengthen me for the journey ahead.

Lead me to heaven.

Thank you, God, for this time together.

Thank you, God, for everything. Amen.

# Questions???

Do you have a question about the Catholic faith or about the celebration of the Mass? If so, write it on a piece of paper and drop it into the marked shoebox on the table at the back of the church. We will try to answer it in a Faith Loop at a later date.

Thank you.

