



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:30 Cookies and Conversation hosted by Katelyn	2 11:00 Funeral for Roger Hible @ Johnson's	3 OFFICE CLOSED Have a safe and Happy 4 th !	4 
5 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion	6	7 9:00 Quilters 3:30 Techy Tuesday	8 6:00 S'more of Jesus by the firepit	9	10	11 11:00 Bridal Shower For Alyssa Kasprick
Pastor Steph on vacation						
12	13	14 9:00 Quilters 3:30 Techy Tuesday	15 4:00 Bible Bingo	16 1:00 Nursing Home Visits & Communion	17 5:00 Brusesewitz Wedding Rehearsal	18 3:00 Brusesewitz Wedding
19 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion Pastor Steph - St. Olaf	20	21 9:00 Quilters 3:30 Techy Tuesday	22 7:00 2 nd Annual Hootenanny 	23 Pastor Steph Continuing Ed.	24	25 
26 9:30am Outdoor Worship	27 11:00 OPNH Communion	28 9:00 Quilters 3:30 Techy Tuesday	29 6:30 Floats and Fued (as in Family Fued)	30 1:00 Nursing Home Visits 5:30 SWEETS @ Dairy Queen	31 	Redeemer Lutheran Church 1300 E. Nora St. Thief River Falls, MN 56701 Phone: 218-681-3390 redeemer@gvtel.com Office Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm Tuesday - Thursday

All Together in One Place

JUNE 23, 2026

America at 250:
Holding gratitude & humility

Dear church,



As we look toward the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many of us will celebrate with fireworks, parades and barbecues. Independence Day often brings us together with family and friends. Yet there is more that connects us than our communal celebrations. We are also connected through a common vision.

Signed in 1776, the Declaration of Independence proclaims a vision of equality, for all people. While there were other nations pushing for equality at the time, the declaration was and is a monumental document in the way it names the aspiration so boldly. As we observe and celebrate the 250th anniversary of that signing, we also affirm the vision of freedom and equality it casts. We can be grateful.

And with contrition and humility, we acknowledge all the ways we have failed to embody that vision. As members of this church, we are called to "pray, participate in, and advocate for civic life in the United States that reflects God's activity and call, which seek both the well-being of all people and a creation marked by justice and peace" (ELCA social statement ***Faith and Civic Life***, p. 89).

As Lutherans, we know the importance of naming realities for what they are. As citizens, we confess the ways we have not yet realized the vision of the Declaration of Independence and, more importantly, as Christians we confess the ways we have participated in or been complicit in failures to live into the vision God provides. This vision is rooted in creation and redemption. God crafts each person in God's own Image and sends Jesus Christ to redeem us, setting us free to follow Christ's new commandment to love one another.

The history of the United States is complex, and all too often we have fallen short of our stated values. Indigenous peoples across this land have been forced to cede their ancestral homes and pushed to reservations. Women and men have been prevented from voting because of their sex and race and spat on and jailed when they demanded their rights. Japanese American families were interned during World War II. Queer and transgender people's lives are obstructed by federal and state orders.

There is a photograph of Elizabeth Eckford, one of the nine Black teenagers who integrated Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957. Books under her arm, she faces forward as angry white people crowd behind her. She was just trying to go to school.

Holding both the failures and the vision in our hearts and minds, I invite us to ask ourselves, "What does it mean to celebrate a promise that is real and yet still unfolding? What does it mean to be a people who always live in 'the already but not yet'?"

This is a central question for us not only as we mark the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence but also in our daily lives as people of faith. The prophets repeatedly remind us of the vision God casts for all creation, and they call us to account when, as God's own people, we fall short.

When we fall short, we remember we are rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We think, speak and live out faith through God's future. God's future is resurrection. As a church, we are turned not only to the past but to the future God is making possible right now through us as we love and serve others.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that God calls us to:

- Remember our connection to each other through baptism, as Scripture teaches us:

"We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" (Romans 12:5),

- , Name sin for what it really is and to repent of it, as the Augsburg Confession and the catechisms remind us.

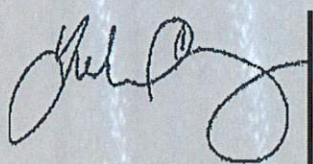
- , Serve the common good in society as "earthly measures toward God's intention" (***Faith and Civic Life***, p, 11).

As we celebrate 250 years of the Declaration of Independence, we can hold gratitude and humility, possibilities and shortcomings. We continue to live in the already and the not-yet.

And we hold fast to the most important promise of all: the presence of God with us, the power of the resurrection of Christ, the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit and the ever-unfolding grace of God.

We celebrate this occasion neither as a perfect nation nor as a perfect church but as a people held in God's grace and called into community in service to all neighbors and for the sake of the world God so loves.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yeheil Curry', followed by a vertical line.

The Rev. Yeheil Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



July Birthdays

July Birthdays –

1 – Marlo Lofberg 2 – Jason Schuster, Virginia Stensrud, Roger Forsberg, Francis Martell 3 Linda Ulrich, Olivia Maas, Cheri Benter 4 – United States of America 5 – Kristina Thompson, Diane Johnson 6 - 7 – Ryker Beito, Kaitlyn Norlin 8 – Casey Heimstras 9 – Madisyn Olson 10 – Erik Brateng, Rylin Nessen 11 – Marah Froiland, Chloe Lund, Jason Dennis, Liza Bjerklie 12 – Elsie Lofberg 13 – 14 – Tanya Harbott, Andrew McClenahan 15 – 16 – Chad Davidson 17 – David Mugaas 18 – Parker Milender, Abbie Houske 19 – Allen Melbye 20 – Matthew Wilson, Claire Schuster 21 – 22 – Awbree Lunsetter, Clay Nelson, Tyler Miller, Whitney Jacobson 23 – Jeff Davidson, Joe Cornelius, Jarin Newland 24 – Barb Forsberg, Rocky Ammerman 25 – Alan Johnson, Barry Froiland 26 – Oskar Anderson, Stevie Nordby, Sharon Fugelberg, Diane Schoon 27 – George Norlin 28 – Carol Gustafson, Joseph Ihle 29 – Hailey Rogalla, Lynda Raymond 30 – Taelyn Pray, Myron Peterson, 31 – Tegan Pray, Ron Rondorf

Memorials

In Memory of From Fund

Shirley Nelson Larura Nelson Undesignated

Shirley Nelson Jeanne McBride Undesignated





Welcome to Rainforest Falls! Please complete and return this form to the parish office as soon as possible. One form is needed per family. Children Pre-School Age 4 - Grade 6 are welcome. This estimated cost per student is \$10. There is no registration fee, but donations are welcome. **PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 19** to your church office.

HOME CHURCH: Redeemer Trinity Zion OTHER _____ NO CHURCH HOME _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone _____

Alt Email: _____ Phone _____

List all children and youth attending: *(Please Print clearly)*

Name	Grade/Age	Any Known Allergies

Please complete the other side.

Emergency Contact (other than Parent/Guardian):

Name _____ Phone: _____ Relationship _____

Volunteer Information

Parents, Grandparents, and siblings – we need your help too! Please indicate who and which areas you can help with!

_____ Group Leader	_____ Kitchen	_____ Games
_____ Helper	_____ Crafts	_____ Music
_____ REGISTRATION	_____ Parish Nurse	_____ Decorating
_____ Clean-Up (Daily)	_____ Clean-Up (weekend)	_____ As Needed
Other (Specify) _____		

Vacation Bible School Limited Liability Statement for Children and Youth

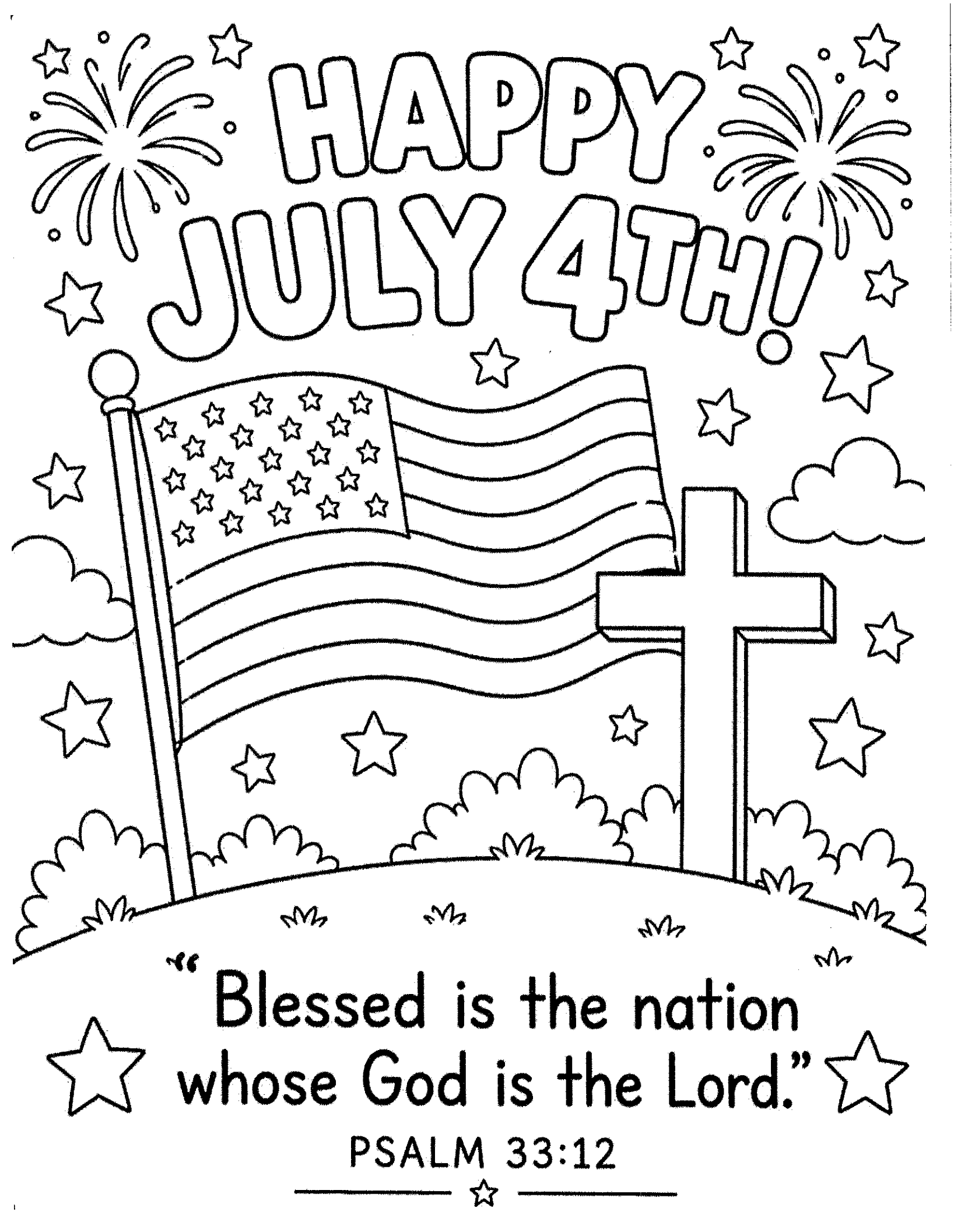
In case of an emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact the parent/guardian(s) of the children and youth listed in this document. In the event I cannot be reached, I consent to have Vacation Bible School staff and/or program volunteer's permission to secure proper and necessary medical treatment.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Physician's name: _____ Clinic: _____

I understand pictures and videos may be taken of my children and youth listed in the document. I consent for my images of my children and youth to be used in church publications, such as but not limited to: the church newsletter, Zion Lutheran Church/ Redeemer Lutheran Church/ Trinity Lutheran Church website, & Zion's/Redeemer's/Trinity's Facebook pages.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

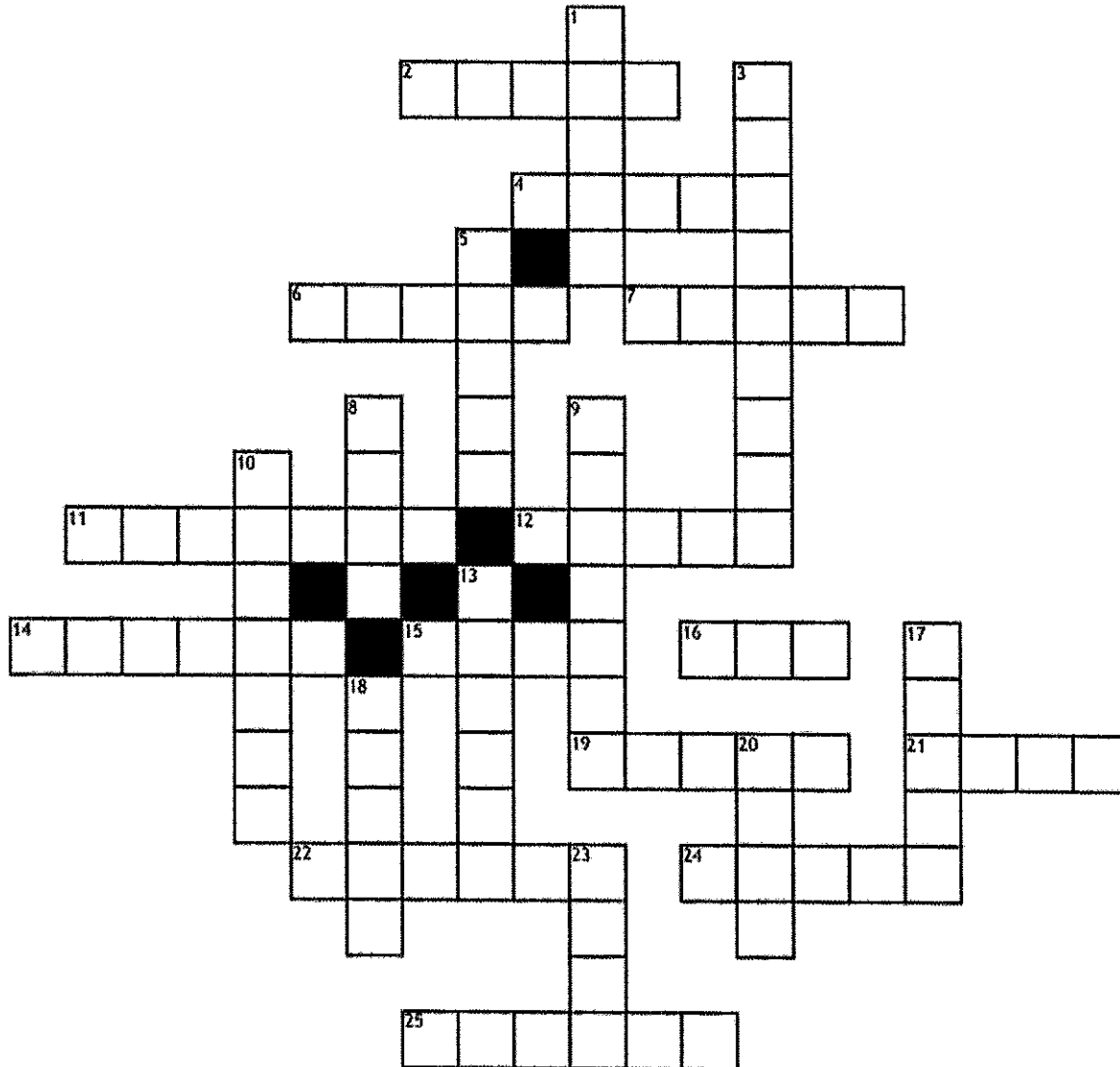


HAPPY JULY 4TH!

“Blessed is the nation
whose God is the Lord.”

PSALM 33:12

Genesis #1



Across

2. He asked: "Where is the sheep for the burnt offering?"

4. Lot's father

6. Jehovah plagued Pharaoh because of her

7. First high priest in Israel

11. It was said to her: "The older will be the slave of the younger"

12. Second of ten plagues

14. Watched as her brother lay in an ark among the reeds in the Nile river

15. Peter called him a "preacher of righteousness"

16. Jesus told Christians to remember this man's wife

19. He was by far the meekest of all men

21. He took up residence in the land of Exile

22. Stole her father's teraphim statues

24. He dreamed about a ladder reaching up to heaven

25. She was a very attractive and beautiful woman

Down

1. She wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba

3. Leah sold these, belonging to her son, to Rachel

5. Wanted to make a marriage alliance with Jacob

8. He was not deceived

9. Jehovah made a covenant with him to multiply his offspring "like the stars of the heavens"

10. A craftsman filled with God's spirit

13. He left his garment in the hand of Potiphar's wife

17. Worked 14 years for his father-in-law to marry his wife Rachel

18. He had three sons by Shua: Er, Onan and Shelah

20. Also known as Edom

23. Her eyes had no luster