

# The LADDER COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS

## Puzzle Competition Results

By Michelle Deuling

On March 2, The Ladder opened its doors to our community for its sixth annual jigsaw puzzle competition. Eleven four-person teams participated this year. We were excited to see that two of the winning teams were families that know how to work well together.

At the start of the competition, we had a moment with God—a devotional of how our lives are like a puzzle. God is our designer, and He knows where the puzzle pieces need to be to make the perfect picture. All of us are given the opportunity to do our part by obeying God when and how He directs.

Snacks were provided by Ken and Jane Prince, and The Ladder provided pizza from the Pizza Factory. Country Dairy and Pizza Factory gift certificates were some of the prizes given to the top three fastest teams. Each team that completed the puzzle in the allotted four-hour time period was also able to pick its own prize from those donated. We extend a huge thank you to the Princes and Sarah Huston for all the work they did in helping this year's competition be a success.

Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to all who participated!



*Taking first place (2 hours, 18 minutes) was Levi Visger, Katie Visger, Naomi Visger, and Logan Case.*

*Carol Towne, Diane Cole, Vickie Roberts, and Penny Burillo finished their puzzle in 3 hours, 10 minutes for second place.*



*Ten minutes later (at 3 hours, 20 minutes), third place went to Rachel Fekken and three of her kids, Nora Mitteer, Corina Mitteer, and Landon Mitteer.*

# LIVE WELL

Pursuing God's best in mind, body & spirit

## It is Finished!

By Sue Beckman

Have you ever experienced the relief when a debt or burden was paid in full? A burdensome mortgage now paid in full. A student loan finally paid off. Maybe you have had a debt owed to a friend that just hung heavy over your relationship with them. But then it was paid, and separation or estrangement with your friend was now gone. Paid in full. Set free. The burden is gone!

As Jesus was crucified on the Cross, His final word was *tetelestai*. This single Greek word is translated into three words in English: *It is finished*. What did Jesus mean when he proclaimed, "It is finished"? What is finished?

### John 19:30 (ESV)

When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit.

We were blessed to have Pastor Mike DeBlois unpack the meaning of this word in his message to all who attended our Good Friday Service at The Ladder on March 29.

While *tetelestai* is an unknown word to us, those in Jesus' day knew the significance of this word. Pastor Mike shared with us that *tetelestai* was often written on ancient receipts or debts with the meaning *paid in full*, or *the debt is finished*. So when Jesus cried out "Paid in full," his hearers likely knew that he was referring to the debt of sin that is owed to God, a debt that was now paid off through Jesus' sacrificial death on the Cross.

He paid the debt we owe.

### Romans 6:23 (ESV)

For the wages (penalty) of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There are no sweeter words than "It is finished." It is at the end of this sentence where the possibility of new life with Jesus begins. Forgiveness opens the door to a restored relationship. We can be set free not only from the penalty of sin (eternal suffering and separation from God), but also from the power of sin. Jesus has not only paid our debt, He has given us His Spirit so we can be victorious over sin and walk in freedom and new life with Him. WOW!

The message was powerful. The Holy Spirit was present. Pastor Mike gave the invitation to all who were present, young and old. "Bring your card and your longing to the Cross."

- 75 attended our Good Friday Service, including 6 local musicians who led us in worship.
- 68 brought their completed cards (shown below) to the Cross:
  - 14 surrendered an area of bondage, seeking to be set free.
  - 2 confessed their wandering and recommitted their life to following Jesus.
  - 41 gave thanks, having been set free from the penalty and power of sin.
  - 11 requested follow-up.

How about you? Jesus still invites people to come. There IS victory in Jesus. If you are burdened and seeking to be set free, come to the Cross. It is finished.

### COME TO THE CROSS—IT IS FINISHED!

- I have never surrendered my heart to Jesus and made the commitment to follow Him.  
**TODAY**, I give all of my heart to Jesus.
- I surrendered my heart to Jesus and know I am saved from my sin. However, I have drifted away and have not been following Him.  
**TODAY**, I recommit my life to following Him.
- I am following Jesus but there is sin that has a hold of me. **TODAY**, I bring it to the Cross to receive forgiveness and the power to overcome.
- I am walking with Jesus. **TODAY**, I give thanks for Jesus' sacrifice, love, and grace.



Above: Pastor Mike DeBlois spoke to a crowd of 75 people at our Good Friday Service March 29.

Left: Everyone in attendance filled out their "Come to the Cross" cards and attached them to the cross near the end of the service.