

THE DEPTH FINDER

DEEP C'S & OWL'S NEWSLETTER

Exodus 3:14 – God said to Moses, “I Am who I Am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I Am has sent me to you.’”



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SPIRITUAL CORNER:

THE 10 “I AM” QUESTIONS

By Steve Cruikshank

WHY DO THEY CALL GOD I AM?

When Moses asked God what name he should provide to the Israelites if they should ask who sent him, the Lord gave Moses the name Ehyeh, a Hebrew verb that translates into English as I Am or I will be. The meaning of the simple name carries the full weight of God’s eternal, self-existing, self-sustaining nature.

IS I AM JESUS OR GOD?

“I am” is also used without a predicate nominative, which is not very common in Koine Greek. Thus, it is generally interpreted as a self-identification of Jesus with God.

DID JESUS EVER SAY I AM GOD?

“Jesus himself didn’t call himself God and didn’t consider himself God,” Ehrman says.

IS I AM THE TRUE NAME OF GOD?

Yahweh: I Am Who I Am. The most important name for God is Yahweh, which translates to “I Am Who I Am.” This name, which God called Himself, shows up with one of the most well-known Bible characters, Moses.

WHEN DID GOD FIRST CALL HIMSELF I AM?

According to the Hebrew Bible, in the encounter of the burning bush (Exodus 3:14), Moses asks what he is to say to the Israelites when they ask what gods (‘Elohiym) have sent him to them, and YHWH replies, “I am who I am,” adding, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

DOES GOD CALL HIMSELF I AM?

What shall I say unto them? “And God said unto Moses, I Am That I Am: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am hath sent me unto you” (Exodus 3:7–8, 13–14).

WHY IS JESUS CALLED I AM?

Jesus says in John 8:58 that, “before Abraham was born, I am.” In this statement, Jesus equates Himself with God. He goes on to share in the book of John the various areas in which He is the “I Am.” He is the bread of life (John 6:35), the provision and provider of eternal and abundant life.

IS YAHWEH THE SAME AS I AM?

In this case, the meaning of God’s name Yahweh is explained with the sound-alike ehyeh, a Hebrew being verb usually translated, “I am” or “I will be.” But the usage of being verbs such as hayah/ehyeh in Hebrew differs slightly but significantly from the way being verbs are used in most Western languages.

DOES YAHWEH MEAN I AM?

The “tetragrammaton” (YHWH - the four consonants of the Hebrew) that is translated as Yahweh or Jehovah probably means (there is much discussion/argument/debate) something like “I AM” or “I AM that I AM” = denoting “being” based on nothing outside of himself = the eternal “I AM.”

IS JEHOVAH THE SAME AS I AM?

Jesus was identifying Himself with the Jehovah of the Old Testament, the great “I AM,” the self-existent God, the only uncaused cause, the source of all life, the One who had always been and would always be. The Jewish leadership understood exactly who He was claiming to be.

CHAPTER NEWS

NORTH CHAPTER UPDATES

By Travis Busch

The Fall Retreat is over, but not really. One of the best parts of this event are the conversations that happen as we share memories with those who could not make it. Our monthly meetings have been the perfect opportunity for these conversations. Additionally, our Bible study leaders, Dan and Mike Pilla have been guiding us to a deeper understanding of what God expects of us and promises to us.

In October, Steve Cruikshank showed us the value of forward-facing sonar. This technology might be controversial, but there is no question that it is a powerful tool that can help make us better anglers. In November, Kody Hughes came to share the opportuni-



Aaron's Epic Alaskan Hunt

ties that are available at Wings North, a hunt club in Pine City. In January, Aaron shared the details of his epic Alaskan hunt.

North Deep C's meet at IB Insurance in Anoka. We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month, dinner starts at 6 pm. All men are welcome to join us. In February Tommy Parker will be speaking on how to be successful while bass fishing. Steve Cruikshank is speaking in March on the technique of trolling planar boards.

SOUTH CHAPTER UPDATES

By Dave Lindmark

Fishing For Life's annual Christmas celebration was a great evening, both fun and inspirational, however, at our South meeting at Sheels in January, we agreed that not meeting since November was too long. We missed each other. We're still looking for ways to get together more often, whether through fishing, follow up or food. Missing can be a good thing. We've developed bonds and friendships at Deep C's and shared and prayed about things close to our hearts.

Learning more about fishing is a highlight of every meeting. In November Corey Bechtold promoted both his own Macula jigs and the Vexilar flasher he reps. The jigs were within our price range. Illness resulted in cancellation of our scheduled January speaker, but



Steve Cruikshank was quick to put together a professional presentation on long line trolling for walleye on Lake Erie.

The January meeting also ushered in this year's devotional theme: "I AM." Chaplain Russ Weybright summarized the life of Moses up until God as "I AM" called Moses to lead his people out of bondage. We look forward to studying the "I AMs" in the Bible.

The February meeting will be Rev. Dave Hoggard, who will give tips on tip-up fishing and other ice fishing techniques.

EAST

CHAPTER UPDATES

By Randy Markey

It is a new year, and with Fishing For Life, that means a new theme verse. Our theme verse this year is Exodus 3:14 – God said to Moses, “I Am who I Am.” This is what you are to say to the Israelites: “I Am has sent me to you.” This is where God reveals himself to Moses and lays out the direction in which he is to take. He is basically starting Moses on his Journey. As a group we will be taking this Journey as well as month after month we break down this verse and follow where it leads.

In January, Deep C’s East meeting, we discussed how God was revealing himself as the One True God. We also talked about the many times that Jesus used the same “I Am” statements. I cannot wait to see where this Journey takes us.

I am personally taking my own journey through scripture. I am reading the Bible cover to cover again this year. This is something I done every few years. I use a chronological Bible that lays out the Bible as it is believed to have happened. It is a good way to read the Bible all the way through for me. I always pick up new things along the way and may break off into a more in-depth study. If you have never done this, I encourage all of you to do so. It is not too late to catch up this year if you want to finish it by the year end.

Speaking of journeys, Larry Hanson was our guest speaker in January. He talked in depth about an ice fishing trip he took to Lake Winnipeg. His group caught many Walleyes, or Greenbacks as they call them there... Many of the Walleyes were over 25” with some over 30”. He told us what he used for lures and rod setups as well as the conditions they were in. He highly recommended us to take this trip for ourselves.

WEST

CHAPTER UPDATES

By Todd Goetze

2025 is here and new adventures await. I think about my own life and how the Lord blesses me and takes care of me. It is wonderful.

December was the Christmas party. What a great night to visit with everyone and to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Games were fun and learning about the new verse for the new year was exciting.

For January, Dwight kicked us off with the new verse. He read to us from Exodus 3:13-17 which includes the verse of the year. This is the passage where God appears to Moses. In this passage, Dwight made a point to remind us that God is God, and we are not. He also went over the lineage of Moses. Dwight’s focus was “What is in a name?” It’s a reminder to us that God is God, and we are his people. We need to trust in him and give our lives to him.



PRAYER

At Fishing For Life, we believe in the power of prayer. If you would like to be added to the Fishing For Life prayer list, please reach out to Steve@FishingForLife.org.

OUTDOOR WOMEN FOR LIFE (OWLS)

By Patti Murray

We pray you all had a good holiday season with family and friends. With 2024 behind us, the OWLs have started the New Year with a snowshoe event on the 25th at Lake Maria State Park.

Although we did not have enough snow to snowshoe, we did enjoy a good hike with great conversations and a great chili potluck. We highly recommend Lake Maria State Park to get out and enjoy the Minnesota winter weather.

We just finished our virtual winter study "How Much More" by Lisa Harper where we discovered how God loves each of us in unexpected places. We will be starting our next virtual spring study on "Psalms 23: The Shepherd with Me," by Jennifer Rothschild on Monday evening, Feb 10. If you know any interested ladies, they can sign up on the Fishing For Life website, FishingForLife.org.

Outdoor Women for Life will again be helping in the registration tent for Holes for Heroes this Saturday, Feb 8th. We are looking forward to seeing all the Veterans and their families coming out along with the general public. This event is a great way to support & appreciate our veterans. The funds raised from this tournament go right back into our veterans programming. So, get out and fish!

We are also excited about our first OWLs fishing event happening this Summer on June 6th. Please keep an eye on our socials and emails for this event with a registration link.

Many prayers to everyone in this new year. May you be filled with God's hope, good health, and friends. The OWLs look forward to meeting you at an event. If anyone has any questions, you can contact Patti@fishingforlife.org.

Many blessings, Outdoor Women for Life



CHAPTER COORDINATORS

The Deep C's South group meets at SCHEELS Store in Eden Prairie on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Contact Chapter Coordinator Dave Lindmark for more information. 952-201-6849 or dlindmark@usa.net.

The Deep C's West group meets at Cabelas in Rogers on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact Chapter Coordinator Todd Goetze for more information. 612-247-9088 or tgoetze@hotmail.com.

The Deep C's East group meets at the YMCA in Woodbury on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Contact Chapter Coordinator Randy Markey for more information. 715-307-1822 or rmarkey92@gmail.com.

The Deep C's North group meets at the Insurance Brokers office in Andover on the 4th Thursday of the month. Contact Chapter Coordinator Travis Busch for more information. 763-269-0181 or tbusch79@gmail.com.

Outdoor Women for Life (OWLs) meet virtually for Bible studies from Oct-May and in person events throughout the year. The OWLs coordinator is Patti Murray, for more information, 651-470-9028 or patti@fishingforlife.org.

CRISPY BAKED WALLEYE

Crispy breaded baked walleye without the need for frying! My husband only likes deep-fried fish, and he loves this. Feel free to use your favorite seasonings.

Prep Time: 10 mins | Cook Time: 15 mins |
Total Time: 25 mins | Servings: 4

INGREDIENTS

- 2 eggs
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1/3 cup dry bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup instant mashed potato flakes
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 4 (4 ounce) fillets walleye

DIRECTIONS

1. Gather all ingredients.
2. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C). Grease a baking sheet.
3. Beat eggs and water together in a bowl until smooth; set aside.
4. Combine bread crumbs, potato flakes, and Parmesan cheese in a separate bowl with seasoned salt until evenly mixed.
5. Dip walleye fillets into beaten egg, then press into bread crumb mixture. Place onto the prepared baking sheet.



6. Bake in the preheated oven until fish is opaque in the center and flakes easily with a fork, 15 to 20 minutes.

RECIPE TIP

You can also use tilapia or other white fish fillets.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The nutrition data for this recipe includes the full amount of the breading ingredients. The actual amount of the breading consumed will vary.

NUTRITION FACTS

Calories 221, total fat 6g, saturated fat 2g, cholesterol 196mg, sodium 494mg, total carbohydrate 10g, dietary fiber 1g, total sugars 1g, protein 29g, vitamin c 3mg, calcium 234mg, iron 3mg, potassium 550mg

Source: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/217339/crispy-baked-walleye/>

If you are a veteran who has not previously attended the

Pay it Forward – Lake of the Woods Trip,

Applications are available at PayItForwardLow.org.

Click the DONATE link at the top and you will see the application link in bright blue lettering under the donate button. Next year's dates are **August 25-28, 2025**.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Please note Fishing For Life has a new phone system: Our general number is **763-203-7979**. From there you can choose and extension for each staff or leave a message. We also have new individual numbers as well. You can call and text staff directly at the numbers listed below.

Tom Goodrich
Laura Hudson
Linda Crosson Posavad
Ryan Strugar
Vaughn Blackburn
Michael Schlueter
Steve Cruikshank
Chad Landt
Phil Lambert
Darla Swanson

Chief Executive Officer
Chief Operation Officer

Camp Director
Pastoral and Volunteer Care
Program Coordinator
Director of Veterans Programs
Program Coordinator Military R&R
Reel Hope Program Coordinator

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CALENDAR 30-60-90



Our Reel Hope Program,

working with at-risk youth in the metro area doing a Reel 'Em In event and fishing from the dock has taken off. If you are interested in helping out at one or all of these events (year-round) please contact Phil. ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS PROGRAM MUST GO THROUGH GUIDE TRAINING, HAVE A CURRENT BACKGROUND CHECK, AND TAKE THE ABUSE PREVENTION TRAINING before being able to volunteer.

February 8th

Holes 4 Heroes Ice Fishing Tournament. We are looking for guides to help military veterans and their families fish the tournament. Guides must be able to take 2+ attendees, provide a hub, heat, auger, chairs. We will have bait and some extra rod/reels if needed. Please contact Chad Landt if you can help out. He will send you the registration link. chadL@fishingforlife.org.

February 13th

Ramy Fish 'N Chips military event. This is a chance to guide veterans on the ponds of the TPC golf course in Blaine. Please contact Chad Landt if interested in being a guide. Lunch and speaker included in the event.

February 18th

Guide Training For Youth Programs at Cabela's/Bass Pro Shops in Rogers. We will once again have dinner and go through policies, procedures, and safety protocol. TO VOLUNTEER WITH YOUTH PRO-GRAMS, YOU MUST ATTEND ONE OF THESE CLASSES.

March 7-9

Muskie Expo Trout Pond in the Coliseum at the State Fair Ground in St. Paul. Please contact Michael if you are able to take a shift or two.

March 14-16

Deer Turkey Classic Trout Pond at Canterbury Park in Shakopee, MN. One of the largest outdoor shows that we are a part of. Volunteers will have time before or after their shift to walk around and look at all the items for sale. Please let Michael know if you are interested in helping out.

March 14

Guide Training For Youth Programs in Plymouth. We will once again have dinner and go through policies, procedures, and safety protocol. TO VOLUNTEER WITH YOUTH PRO-GRAMS, YOU MUST ATTEND ONE OF THESE CLASSES.

FISH NERD FISHING STATS

By Travis Busch

We all know some days are tougher than others. We have either said or heard this phrase countless times "You should have been here yesterday!"

	Average	Winning Length	Winner/Average
2016	54.6	99	1.8
2017	no data for this year		
2018	53.2	98	1.8
2019	46.2	118	2.6
2020	51.2	94	1.8
2021	49.1	119	2.4
2022	52.2	106	2.0
2023	52.4	90	1.7
2024	57.3	110	1.9

When you are fishing by yourself, it is easy to say, "The fish just aren't biting today." But when we have data from dozens of anglers to look at, we know the truth. The fish are always biting for someone!

I wanted to look at the data to see which years have had the toughest bite at the Deep C's Fall Retreat. The table, shown here, shows the average number of inches that each angler reported. (I have only included anglers who reported at least one fish.) I was surprised to see that, until this year, the averages have stayed relatively consistent.

According to this data, the slowest bite came in 2019 when anglers caught an average of 46.2 inches. In contrast, 2024 was the best year! The average contestant reported 57.3 inches.

I also wanted to compare the winning numbers to the average, so you can see that in the 4th column. Using this analysis, the most impressive win came in 2019 by Corey Fox. Not only was he 1 inch away from the all-time highest score, he did this in a year when other anglers struggled to fill their live wells. Congratulations to Corey!

Please note- Fishing For Life has a new phone system!

Our new general number is **763-203-7979**. From there you can choose an extension for each staff member or leave a message. We also have new individual phone numbers as well. You can call or text these numbers. All of the numbers start with **763-203**-(the last 4 numbers are listed by staff person below).

Tom is 8001

Laura 8002

Steve 8015

Ryan 8035

Michael 8045

Phil 8009

Vaughn 8040

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CHAPTER DETAILS

WEST CHAPTER

2nd Tuesday
Cabela's—20200 Rogers Dr.,
Rogers, MN

*Spiritual Leader-Dwight Nelson
Chapter Coordinator-Todd Goetze
Food Coordinator-
Volunteers needed*

SOUTH CHAPTER

2nd Thursday
SCHEELS—8301 Flying Cloud Dr.,
Eden Prairie, MN

*Spiritual Leader-OPEN
Chapter Coordinator-Dave Lindmark
Food Coordinator-OPEN*

EAST CHAPTER

4th Tuesday
Woodbury YMCA—2175 Radio Drive,
Woodbury, MN

*Spiritual Leader-Dan Pilla
Chapter Coordinator-Randy Markey
Food Coordinator-Randy Markey*

NORTH CHAPTER

4th Thursday
Insurance Brokers—
3351 Round Lk Blvd,
Anoka, MN

*Spiritual Leader-Dan Pilla
Chapter Coordinator-Travis Busch
Food Coordinator-
Volunteers needed*

OUTDOOR WOMEN FOR LIFE (OWLs)

Virtual Fall/Spring
Chapter Coordinator-Patti Murray

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