

August 2021



The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI AUGUST 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: August 1 John	Aug. 8 Andy	Aug. 15 Scott	Aug. 22 Darryl	Aug. 29 Randy		
1 9:00am Service 2pm LGP	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:00am Service	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 9:00am Service 2pm LGP	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 9:00am Service	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 9:00am Service	30	31				



"Giving" budget Bi-weekly \$6524

June 6th (one week) \$3549
 May 13th & 20th \$3456
 June 27th and July 4th \$5251
 July 11th & 18th \$6425.25

Attendance:

June 13 th	34	June 20 th	37
June 27 th	51	July 4 th	56
July 11 th	45	July 18 th	40



Kim Westman 715-682-6571
 Lynn Ladd 715-292-0592
 Katie Colgrove 715-209-2512

OFFICIAL ACTS

Clara Ann Johnson 07-03-2021

Welcome to August, the third leg in a really strange summer. As I say almost every month when I write this newsletter, "where does the time go? Seems like I just did this last week!" So as summer starts to move towards the rearview mirror, I thought I would take a little time to look forward to fall. Now I know as the uncertainty of COVID-19 seems to still loom around us, some might say don't plan anything too early. But my thought is that I would rather come out on the positive side of things and plan. If by some chance we have to change plans so be it.

To start with it is my intention to resume Monday morning Bible Study on Monday, September 13th at 10:00 A.M. And for those of you who may have forgotten we will be picking up where we left off, that being Matthew, Chapter 1, Verse 1. You guessed it, the New Testament, finally after 8 years we have arrived, and I look forward to seeing you all there. I know Max is excited to get started.

Another thing that will be returning you may have seen already, starting Sunday, August 1, 2021 we will again be offering the common cup at communion. There will be one slight change with the cup, and that is the order of distribution. Because we are going to continue with only one elder per Sunday, those who wish the individual cup will be asked to commune first. Then after all of them, we will ask that those wishing to partake in the common cup to come forward. If you do not feel comfortable with the common cup, simply commune with the first group. My guess it will take a time or two for us to get a feel for where the individual cup line ends and the common cup group begins but we will work through it.

The third thing I wish to discuss today is the starting up again of the Wednesday evening services. At this point, my target date to restart the Wednesday evening communion service in house is September 15 at 6:30pm. This will be the same service that was offered on the preceding Sunday. This raises the question, what about the existing Wednesday evening prayer service/Bible study. A number of people have stated that they really enjoy the informal prayer service with the in-depth review of the preceding weeks scripture lesson and have asked that will continue with it. Since the Wednesday evening message is not a true Law and Gospel sermon, and more of Bible study, I do not feel comfortable giving that message at the Wednesday evening communion service. What I am going to do is a weekly streaming Bible study to continue that format for those who like to watch it. Right now my thought is to stream the Bible study live on Thursday afternoon and it will be available online both on Facebook and

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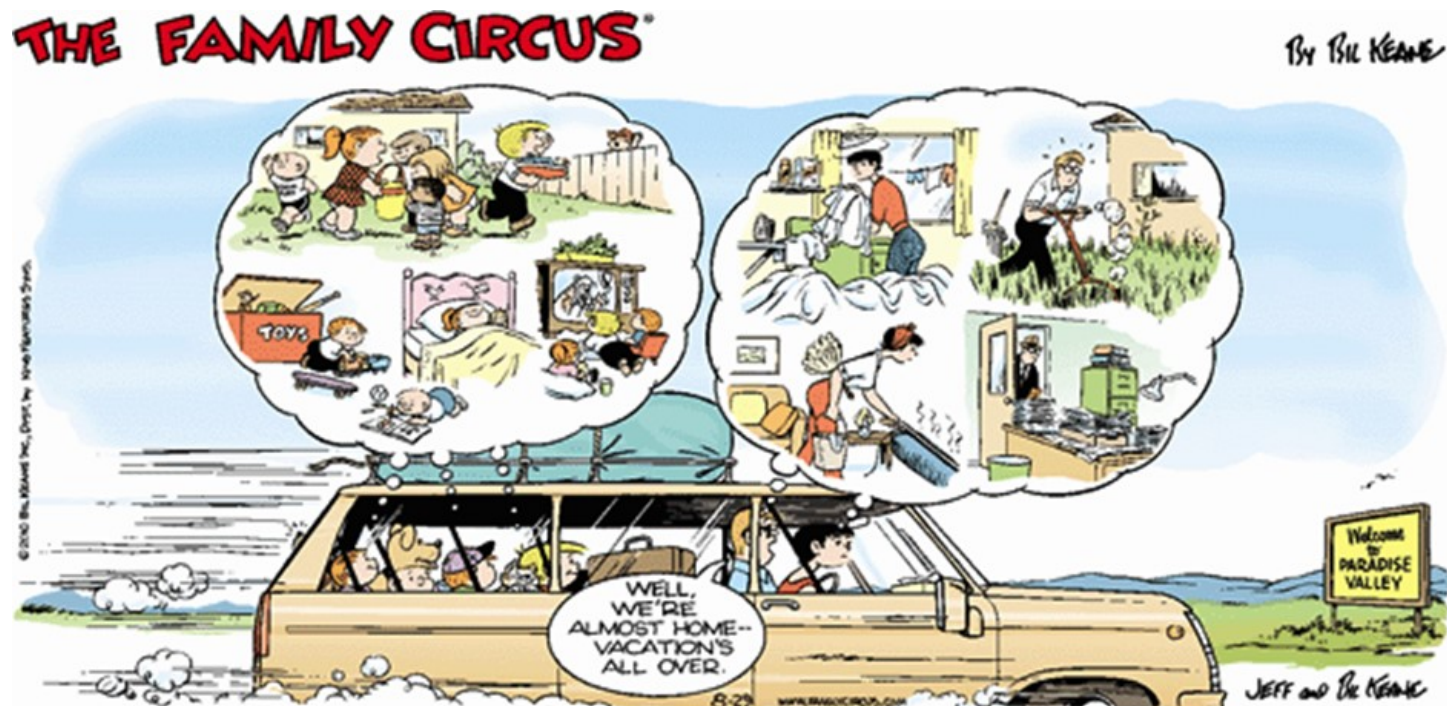
YouTube pages immediately following the live broadcast. Also a number of people have asked if we are going to continue to stream our worship services. Simple answer; Yes! We have developed quite a following online and a number of those people are from out of the area or otherwise unable to attend in-person services for one reason or another. According to our most recent statistics we are still having between 600-1000 people a month watching our online offerings. I truly believe God is using our online media ministry to spread His Word.

I think that is all I have for now and I really didn't get much of an opportunity to share a lot of scripture, so I will remind you of the Wednesday evening prayer and Bible study service, please join me there. Also, just a quick thought and reminder, in our reading last week, the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water and were terrified, they didn't recognize him. When Jesus saw that they were terrified he turned to them and said the following. "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." Remember always in this life when you are scared, when you are afraid, when you think that perhaps Jesus is just passing you by, know this; He will always turn, He will always come to you, and He will always say; "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." Jesus is with you always, we don't always see Him, but I assure you on all of scripture He is there.

"and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

Always means always, He will never leave or forsake you. God Bless.

Pastor Rick



Listen to God!

WASH THOSE HANDS?

Mark 7:1-23

(especially 5-7, 14-23)

"When my grandpa was a little boy, the people in his church said you weren't allowed to watch television. Were they like these Pharisees?"

asked Sean. "Yes, I guess so," answered Matt and he went on to explain. "The Pharisees had so many rules for outward behaviour, but didn't care if their thoughts and feelings were unclean. They even paid more attention to washing the outside of cups and bowls than they did the inside because that's what others saw. Jesus said it's not what goes into our mouth, but what is in our heart and mind that needs to be clean. He showed how worthless all the outside show of goodness is if there is no love for God and others in our hearts."

Delbert our dictionary says

Hypocrite: pretending to be something you are not, pretending to believe something that you don't. In this case pretending to be holy and morally clean.



Talk to God!

Heavenly Father, we know that we will never be clean in your sight by keeping rules. Thank you that when we ask your forgiveness, you make us clean.

God makes us clean inside.



Where does our food go? (verse 19)

What does Jesus say makes us unclean to God? (verse 20)

What are some things that can make people unclean? (verse 21-22)

Write down some good things that can come from a person's heart.

15 Fun Things to Do With Your Kids Before School Starts or even for yourself

1. Eat ice cream for dinner.
Now that's a good idea.

2. Cover your driveway in sidewalk chalk.
There's more than one way to color outside (like ice chalk, chalk paint, and even exploding chalk), so turn this afternoon activity into an all-day event.

3. Plan a family photo shoot.

Ask a pal to take some nice snaps of your entire crew in the summertime glow. Pose for traditional shots, but mix in a few while you play a game or read a book for some precious candid moments.

4. Take the kids on a scavenger hunt.

Thanks to Pinterest, this boredom-buster requires virtually no prep at all.



5. Host family game night.

Pass GO and collect \$200 before homework takes over your evenings again.

6. Actually go get that amazing burger/hike that pretty trail/visit that sculpture garden.

Summer is meant for impromptu adventures to the restaurant, park, or site everyone's been talking about.

7. Go on a picnic.

Even if it's just in your backyard. The days on which is this is doable (and practical) are numbered. Or grab a sandwich and go sit at one of the parks and eat

8. Call someone, ask what they have been doing

9. Have a water fight.

These DIY water toys have soaking power, but will minimize bumps and bruises.

10. Start and finish a puzzle.

Let a challenging thousand-piecer take over your dining table for a few days. It's a great ongoing activity for rainy afternoons (or any other "I'm bored!" moments).

11. Help out your favorite cause.

Whether you raise a few dollars with a lemonade stand or volunteer in person, teach your kids that their free time is well-spent helping people in need. We suggest joining the fight against childhood hunger by supporting No Kind Hungry, an

organization *Good Housekeeping* has teamed up with this year.

12. Make s'mores.
If you're uncomfortable with an open flame, there's no shame in making the microwave version of this fan-favorite dessert.

13. Seek out live outdoor music.

Many towns offer free shows in parks during the summer months — find the schedule you sorta remember glancing at in June so you don't miss the last performance.

14. Tie-dye T-shirts. This is an outdoor-only activity for sure, so

quench your kids' thirst for hand-dyed clothing now.

15. Best of All - Sit in a chair, close your eyes and thank God for all that you have seen, heard, loved, endured, and thought.



Sunday Worship Service 9:00am in-church service and live streamed
Wednesday Prayer Service 6:30pm live streamed
Sunday School - 3yrs.—5th grade starts in September
Bible Studies—currently cancelled.

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479

Office Hours: M 9-5 T off W 12-8 Th 9-5 F 9-3

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M-W 8:30-2:30

Days and times may change upon need of work.

Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 Head Elder: Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185

LFOJ Administrator: Karyn Leino 715-682-6075

Website www.zionashland.org **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

PRAYERS for Home-bound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.

Walt Schutte
Arlene Zimmerman
Violet Basina
Madge Houle
Nancy Zehe

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

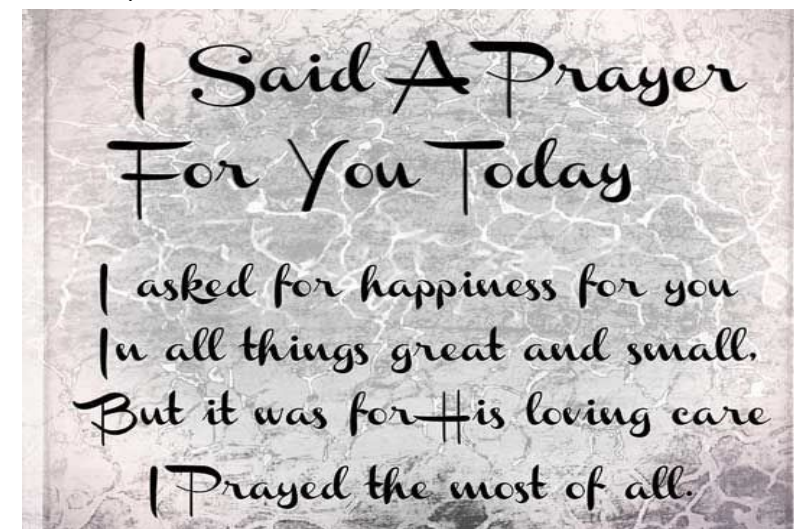
David Wright
Emily Melecha
Tucker Melecha
Jordan Thimm
Andrew Pruss

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

Brad Prill	Lynda Koppelman
Alice Balmer	Penny Larson
Francis Balmer	LeeAnn Billing
David Gustafson	Vi Basina
Andrea Gunderson	Dave Pearson
James Fletcher	Colton Ledin
Brett Everman	Judith Wismeth
Walt Schutte	Cheryl Hildebrandt
John Schutte	Madge Houle
Nancy Beiersdorf	Sherry Gurski
Danny Pocernich	Larry Tody
James Lavasseur	Harold Larson
Haylee Fisher	Sally Gustafson
Lisa Thomson	Russel Joyner
Carmella Kortekaas	Tyler Hildebrandt

and those in our hearts





Mustard Seed

Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

From Quiet Times to Noisy Love Lost and Found

In the Word

“And when she had found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15: 9–10).

Of the Word

Can't find your car keys? Glasses? Checkbook? How irritating! You look everywhere, checking every nook and cranny, even searching the same places over and over. Finally, the lost is found. Your level of joy is directly proportionate to the time spent searching.

When Jesus told the parable about the lost coin, He knew His listeners could relate. They understood as Jesus explained that the joy in heaven when a sinner repents is greater than finding a lost coin. “A sinner ... like me?” we think. “The angels of God rejoice over ordinary me?”

It is hard to grasp the immensity of this truth. We can do nothing to earn the value He places on us. God, in His grace, loved us while we were still lost sinners. Jesus' death and resurrection changed us into precious treasures.

Walking with my Lord

Lord, help me live each moment of today as a precious, restored treasure and share this message of joy with those around me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

LWML

After much deliberation, the active members of LWML of Zion Lutheran Church voted to disband their chapter. With a declining membership and inability to attract new members they felt unable to fully participate in activities here, in the Zone and the District. Numerous attempts were made to increase members by changing the times and days of meetings. This will also mean that there will be no collecting of mites, used stamps, used Portals of Prayer or soft eyeglass cases. This will be the last “Daily Devotions” in the newsletter. You can still receive the Daily Devotions by email. Go to LWMLorg website and look un “Word” and then “Mustard Seed Devotions” and it will give further instructions to have it sent directly to you. The website also has many other options such as eQuarterly magazine, coloring pages, etc. The LWML says thank you to all in the congregation who have supported us and our missions both here in Ashland and around the world.



“Every Summer has a Story.” (Unknown)

*Dear summer,
I love you.*

You have given me weekends at the lake, endless dinners on the grill, pool dates with friends, scattered flip flops everywhere, bonfires, sticky s'mores, and so much more. You have nursed my broken heart more than once through the years with gifts of sunshine and ice cream. Each year, you come back again to help me write another incredible story.

Thank you. Sarah

P.S. You're my favorite, but don't tell the other seasons.

As I look back at past summers, I see a trail of beautiful and bittersweet memories. There have been summers that overflowed with joy and summers filled with deep sadness and pain. The common thread is that every summer was unique and had its own tale to tell.

Just as every *natural* summer has a story, so does every *spiritual* summer. We will each walk through the spiritual seasons many times. Autumn is a time of change. Winter is a time of barrenness and preparation. Spring is a time of rebirth. And summer is a time for bearing fruit and embracing the abundant life that surrounds us.

The key to embracing our spiritual summer, no matter what time of year it is in the natural, is to remember to seize the joy of the season. This is a time to feel the heavenly warmth on our face and revel in the beauty that surrounds us. Relax, have fun, celebrate, and abide in gratitude for the blessings that surround. Fall and winter will come, but don't let thoughts of the unknown rob you of the joy of the moment.



Summer is a season known for cultivating and bearing good fruit. Oh goodness, there is just nothing like a sweet, sun-ripened, summer strawberry. It is like a taste of heaven on earth! Our spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control must also be cultivated and ripened so it can taste even sweeter than the best summer strawberry. There is one sure way to do this, and that is to remember *who* our spiritual gardener is and to remain in him always.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

“The seasons may change, but our good and loving Father does not.” Let's celebrate our summers, both the natural and the spiritual, and embrace every story being written, because God's hand is in each one.

Lord, thank you for the gift of summer. Thank you for ice cream cones, backyard barbecues, and sun-drenched memories. May we seize each moment of joy and remember that you are the true cultivator of our harvest and author of our stories. Amen.

Scripture for Reflection

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV)

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Reach for More

This week's challenge is to seize the joy of the season. Embrace the summer and all of its goodness. Start each day with a prayer of gratitude to our Father, and then go and enjoy the sunshine! Go to the beach, savor an ice cream cone, run through a sprinkler, tend to your garden—whatever brings you summer joy. If you want to take this challenge even further, see how you can incorporate the fruits of the spirit into your summer activities. Maybe share the joy and invite friends over for the afternoon. Practice patience with your children as they call your name for the millionth time. Exhibit self-control when you are offered your tenth s'more. Offer peace when there is fighting over the last slice of watermelon. Show yourself an extra dose of kindness to yourself when you slip on your bathing suit after eating those nine s'mores, knowing priceless memories are being made.


Dear friends, we can do this. Be courageous, and let's be brave enough to defend our joy with an ice cream cone in one hand and God's Word in the other!

By: Sarah Lundgren *in* **DEVOTIONS**

(Thank you Katie for our visual on the bulletin board of "Fruits of the Spirit".)

Everyday Blessings: Childlike Wonder

The home and gardening TV personality receives a gentle reminder from her daughter to slow down and take in God's wonders.

by **Katie Brown** from  -

Posted on May 27, 2021

From the minute I woke up, I was behind schedule. Typical. I loaded my two young daughters into the car to run errands. Our town, Petoskey, was built along [Lake Michigan](#). To get from one end of town to the other, you have water on one side of you at all times.

Before we even left the driveway, the girls began to bicker. I let their chatter fade into white noise as I rushed around. Grocery store. Dog groomer. Post office. Gas station. Then something made me glance in the rearview. My younger daughter pointed toward the water and said, "Who poured that?"

"Who poured that?" I repeated. I looked out at the expanse of blue, stretching as far as the eye could see.



Everything seemed to slow as I took a breath and answered, "God did."

Now I have one daughter who is highly scientific and needs to drill down to the proof of the matter. My other daughter is extremely visual and needs to see in order to understand. Yet there was no follow-up interrogation. Both carried on as if that was the answer they'd been seeking. I felt a wave of satisfaction and assurance and, yes, even pride. Somehow in all the [messiness of everyday life](#), I had instilled in my girls enough faith to understand the simple response "God did." I silently gave thanks for the reminder to slow down and take in [the wonders all around me](#)—from the Great Lake to my growing girls.

Needed:

The Church kitchen is in need of clean containers (Cool



Whip, cottage cheese, ice cream pails, etc.) with lids.



You can bring them down to the kitchen counter.



JULY 29, 2021

LCMS.ORG

Two Finnish leaders are being prosecuted for articulating the historic Christian teaching on human sexuality.

The church confesses Christ in the face of persecution

St. Paul asked the Ephesians to pray for him, that all his words would bear witness to the truth of God's Word, and that in all he did, he might proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. "To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel" (Eph. 6:18-19).

The church prays that Christians, and especially those called into the Office of the Holy Ministry, might be given boldness and strength to confess the truth of God's Word, even in the face of persecution and opposition. Where persecution occurs, and where governments fail to protect the right teaching of Scripture, the church confesses Christ and stands on the truth of God's Word.

Finland's prosecutor general has charged the Rev. Dr. Juhana Pohjola, diocesan dean and bishop-elect of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, with incitement against a group of people. The charges stem from his agreement with a 2004 booklet that articulates historic Christian teaching on human sexuality. In addition, the prosecutor general has similarly charged Dr. Päivi Räsänen, a Finnish member of Parliament who authored the booklet identifying homosexuality as a sin and teaching that a failure to recognize sin as sin undermines the very need for a Savior.

Through a recent International Lutheran Council statement signed by 48 confessional Lutheran leaders worldwide, LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison addressed these events: "The actions of the Finnish State in prosecuting Christians for holding to the clear teaching of the very words of Jesus regarding marriage and sex (Matt. 19:4-6) are egregious. ... We Lutherans make this strong confession along with Drs. Pohjola and Räsänen."

Join us in praying for Christians throughout the world, that boldness of confession would lead all to Christ and Him crucified, as the church stands on the unchanging truth of God's Word.

RIDDLES

1. Triplets (Neha, Bandini & Shivani) were born in August but their birthday is in December. How come?
2. What house can fly?
3. What is brown and sticky?
4. What has 6 wheels and flies?
5. What has a neck but no head?
6. What is God's favorite food?
7. A mirror for the famous, but informative to all. I'll show you the world, but it may be a bit small. What am I?
8. What has six faces, but does not wear makeup, has twenty-one eyes, but cannot see, has twenty-one eyes, but cannot see?
9. I am a word of six; my first three letters refer to an automobile; my last three letters refer to a household animal; my first four letters is a fish; my whole is found in your room. What am I?
10. Three playing cards in a row. Can you name them with these clues? There is a two to the right of a king. A diamond will be found to the left of a spade. An ace is to the left of a heart.

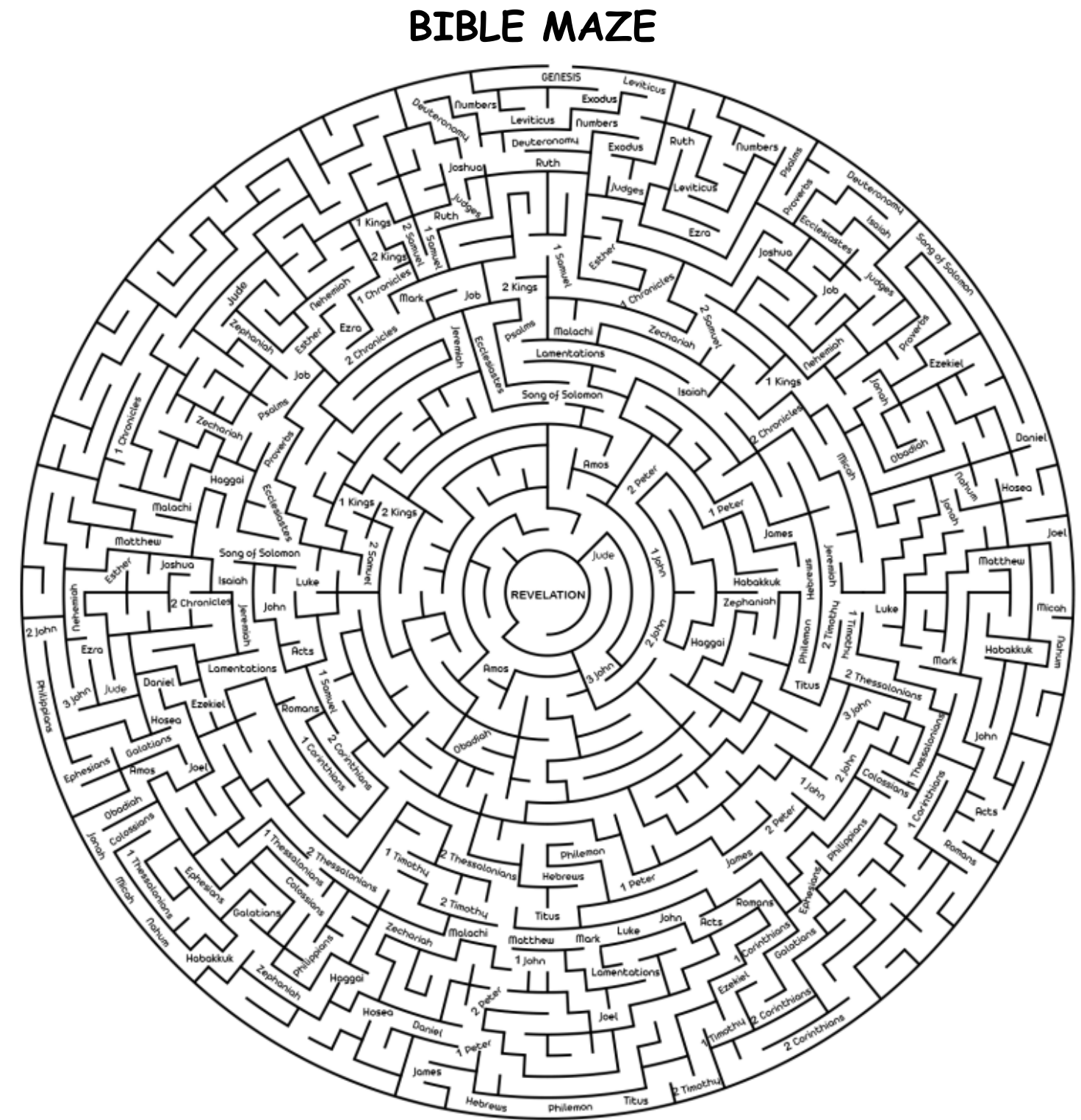
John 6:22-51

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

Use these words for both puzzles:

- Ancestors
- Believe
- Bread
- Disciples
- Eternal
- Flesh
- Forever
- Grumbling
- Jesus
- Heaven
- Life
- Live
- Manna
- Works

1. August is a town.
2. A housefly
3. A brown stick
4. A garbage truck
5. A bottle
6. Angel cake
7. Television
8. Dice
9. A carpet
10. Ace of Diamonds, King of Hearts, Two of Spades.
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____



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- Riddles Answers**

Three Tests
for speaking about some-
one: 1. Is it true? 2. Is it
needful? 3. Is it kind?