



The Mountain Top Messenger

October 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: October [1 Darryl] [5 Scott] [8 Andy] [12 Doug] [15 JohnS] [19 JohnP] [22 Randy] [26 Andy] [29 JohnS]			1 6:00pm Worship	2	3	4 Golf Lover's Day
5 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:45 Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	6 Bible Study 10:00am	7 Taco Day	8 6:00pm Worship	9 9:30am LFOJ Chapel	10	11 Chess Day
12 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:45 Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study	13 Bible Study 10:00am	14 1:00pm Sewing Circle	15 1:00pm Hospice Group- Gathering 6:00pm Worship	16 9:00am Winkel	17 Pay Back a Friend Day	18 Harvest Fest Music and a wonder- ful dinner 4:00pm
19 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:45 Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	20 5:30pm Council Mtg Pastor at Conference - Eau Claire	21	22 6:00pm Worship	23 1:30pm Northern Lights	24	25 I Care About You Day
26 * 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:45 Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study	27 Bible Study 10:00am	28 1:00pm Sewing Circle	29 6:00pm Worship	30 Checklist Day	31 Refor- mation Day *Observed Oct. 26th	

October Altar Guild June Williams 715-208-0984 Janet Houle 715-292-8392

Here we are October, Apple Fest, fall colors, crisp cool air, and no mosquitos. I like fall, I believe it is my favorite season, it does come with significant change. Very symbolic of life, wouldn't you say? This fall we have a few things going on, we just started a 4-part series on the book of Malachi, "Managing God's Gifts for God's Glory" a look into stewardship. We also are coming up on our 3rd annual Harvest Dinner and music review, that will be on the 18th of October. And then we end the month with the celebration of Reformation. I am guessing that like all the other months of the year so far, this one will fly by as well.

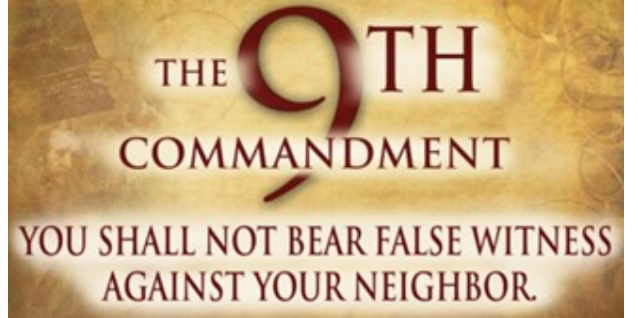
We are also approaching the end of our series on the Ten Commandments. This month we will be looking at Commandment number eight, and just an FYI, next month we will be grouping commandments Nine and Ten together, as they cover similar things, only separated by living and non-living objects. But for now, Commandment Eight "You are not to bear false witness against your neighbor." So what exactly does it mean "not to bear false witness"?

Luther starts out his explanation in the Large Catechism this way: *"Besides our own body, our spouse, and our temporal property, we have one more treasure that is indispensable to us, namely, our honor and good reputation. For it is important that we not live among people in public disgrace and dishonor."* He continues by saying that God doesn't want our neighbor deprived of his reputation, honor, and character any more than he wants them deprived of their money and possessions, which is what the previous commandments were about. Luther then goes on to break the commandment down into three parts.

The first part is that all people should help their neighbors maintain their legal rights. This aspect could be a real challenge in this day and age. It seems all we hear about lately on the news are questions of rights. Are they infringed or not. Luther goes on to say that whether you are a judge or a witness, no matter what the consequences may be, we are to promote and guard the rights of our neighbor.

Secondly, Luther tells us that it really goes even further than that and is applied to spiritual jurisdiction or administration. I try not to simply quote the catechism directly, because then you could just read it but this paragraph on spiritual jurisdiction or administration is worth of reprint: *"Here, too, all people bear false witness against their neighbors. Wherever there are upright preachers and Christians, they must endure having the world call them heretics, apostates, even seditious and desperate scoundrels. Moreover, the Word of God must undergo the most shameful and spiteful persecution and blasphemy; it is contradicted, perverted, misused, and misinterpreted. But let this pass; it is the blind world's nature to condemn and persecute the truth and the children of God and yet consider this no sin."* Again I am amazed how Luther's view of what was happening in the 16th century so closely matches the world and its actions today.

The third aspect of this commandment and this part, applies to us all and forbids all sins of the tongue by which we may injure or offend our neighbor. *"Bearing false witness, is nothing but a work of the tongue."* This is the part



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I believe we most often think about, the sin of simply sharing a little gossip, the have you heard, the, I'm not sure if its true or not but I heard. Luther calls this the detestable, shameless vice of backbiting or slander by which the devil rides us. He goes on to put it this way: *"Even when we ourselves are evil, we cannot tolerate it when anyone speaks evil of us; instead, we want to hear the whole world say golden things of us. Yet we cannot bear it when someone says the best things about others."*

Luther says the best thing to do if we have a question or if we know a fellow Christian has been sinning, it is our responsibility to call them on it. Not by sharing it with those around us to bring shame and pain on the sinner, but to bring it to them one on one and Jesus tells us in Matthew 18 where Christ says, *"if your brother sins against you, go and tell him of his fault, between you and him alone."* Luther reminds us that we are absolutely forbidden to speak evil of our neighbor. But he then tells us of a few exceptions. And they are; Civil magistrates (Judges), preachers, and fathers and mothers, in order that we may interpret this commandment in such a way that evil does not go unpunished.

I believe this commandment often gets overlooked in the scope of the other commandments, it isn't always the first in our minds, yet it is one that we must deal with on a daily basis, I also found it interesting that of all going over the commandments in the Large Catechism this one has one of the longest explanations. I am going to close this look at commandment number eight with Luther's Summary and Substance: *"No one shall use the tongue to harm a neighbor, whether friend or foe. No one shall say anything evil of a neighbor, true or false, unless it is done with proper authority or for that person's improvement. Rather, we should use our tongue to speak only the best about all people, to cover the sins and infirmities of our neighbors, to justify their actions, and to cloak and veil them with our own honor. Our chief reason for doing this is the one that Christ has given in the gospel, and in which he means to encompass all the commandments concerning our neighbor, In everything do to others as you would have them do to you."*

On that I will leave you with a quote my mother reminded me of often as I am sure you heard as well, "if you can't say something nice about someone don't say anything at all."

God Bless you all!

The Lord Bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Pastor Rick



**"Lord, I ask for Your guidance in my speech and actions. I ask that I may always speak the truth and not bear false witness against others.
May I be a faithful witness to Your truth, reflecting Your love and justice in my life. Amen."**

SEPTEMBER LFOJ NEWSLETTER

TOTVILLE NEWS: Greetings from the Infant Room!

The children are growing and learning more each day. It's amazing that not long ago, most of them were helpless infants. Now, they're walking, talking and learning new things daily.

We've been enjoying the last bit of summer and spending as much time as we can outdoors. All too soon, we will be trading their sunscreen for jackets, boots, hats, and mittens.

The children keep us busy. There's never a dull moment in our room.

- Denise and Nikki

COOK'S CORNER

One-pot creamy beef and shells

Ingredients: 1 lb ground beef, 1 cup beef broth, 1 cup milk, 1 can crushed tomatoes, 1 cup pasta shells, 1 cup shredded cheese, 1 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp pepper.

Instructions:

- 1 In a large pot, brown the ground beef over medium-high heat. Drain any excess fat.
- 2 Add the beef broth, milk, crushed tomatoes, pasta shells, salt, and pepper.
- 3 Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally until the pasta is tender.
- 4 Stir in the shredded cheese until melted and serve.



"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

-Matthew 18:20

God Bless,

Tressa Groom

Director

JoAnn Martikonis

Administrator

TODDLER TIDBITS: Our class has done some fun crafts and made some sea creatures this month: Jellyfish, seas horses, crabs, and fish.

Our room loves to move! We love Danny Go and watching and following the dance moves.

Pete the Cat is our favorite book right now!

The Toddler class would like to welcome Lucy! She loves to read books and swing on the swings outside.

- Ms Jane, Ms Lael and Ms Michelle

LEARNER LANE: Our themes this month are eating, All about Me, construction, outer space, and apples!

We have read the Bible stories Adam and Eve, In the Beginning, Noah's Ark, and the Story of Isaac.

Please return all about me posters and development profile surveys, I have extra copies if you need them.

Thank you to all the parents who showed up for parent-teacher conferences. It was great talking to all of you!

We welcomed a new friend, Oliver, to our room this month. We also welcomed Kase and Scarlett downstairs. We are so happy to have them!

Happy 4th birthday to Asher!

-Ms. Hanna

Harvest Festival

Entertainment and Dinner

Saturday, October 18th 4:00pm

Sign-up
sheet in the
Narthex.
If you would
like to
participate in



the entertainment
part speak with
Pastor or Tiffany



LFOJ MONTHLY WISH LIST/NEEDS

Tomato soup Graham crackers Vanilla wafers
Elbow noodles Toilet Paper
Ragu spaghetti sauce Prego alfredo sauce
Natural peanut butter
Regular paper towel and/or Tri Fold paper towel
Hand soap (unscented, antibacterial)
Great value brand canned fruits in juice (not syrup)
Parent's choice gentle baby formula (must be iron-fortified)
All natural ketchup (no high fructose corn syrup)
Foam Tumbling mats
FYI - LFOJ has to follow state regulations for
"daycares" for food, cleaning supplies, soaps, etc.



FALL BUCKET LIST

SEASONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR ADULTS

- 1. Enjoy a hot seasonal beverage outdoors
- 2. Light a fall-scented candle
- 3. Take a short nature walk
- 4. Bake pumpkin or apple quick bread or pies
- 5. Declutter and decorate a cozy nook
- 6. Update your fall wardrobe
- 7. Make a gratitude list
- 8. Go on a scenic drive
- 9. Roast pumpkin seeds or a batch of spiced nuts
- 10. Decorate your porch with mums
- 11. Plan one small fall-themed outing – A pumpkin patch OR an apple cider mill OR a winery OR a fall festival OR a corn maze
- 12. Create a fall playlist
- 13. Read a thriller or mystery novel
- 14. Sit on the porch in the crisp air
- 15. Volunteer or make a donation to a local cause
- 16. Host a small fall-themed gathering
- 17. Make homemade hot chocolate
- 18. Try a new fall recipe – Keep it simple!
- 19. Light a fire in the fireplace or fire pit – Or play a video of a crackling fire on your television
- 20. Watch the sunset earlier
- 21. Try a new fall craft, adult coloring book or jigsaw puzzle
- 22. Watch a favorite fall-themed movie
- 23. Take photos of fall scenery
- 24. Restock your office supplies
- 25. Reflect on your goals before the end-of-year rush begins



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1111-11TH AVE WEST
ASHLAND, WI 54806

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am live streamed

Wednesday Evening Service 6:00pm

Sunday School - 1st – 7th grade Sunday 8:45am (Sept.-May)

Confirmation 7th grade and up (Sept - May)

Bible Studies Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am (Sept.-May)

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479

Office Hours: M /T/Th 9-5 Wed. 12-8 Fri. off

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M/T 8:30-2:30 Wed 11-4:00pm
Days and times may change.

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: JoAnn Martkonis 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.

*Arlene Zimmerman
Violet Basina*

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

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

*David Wright
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:

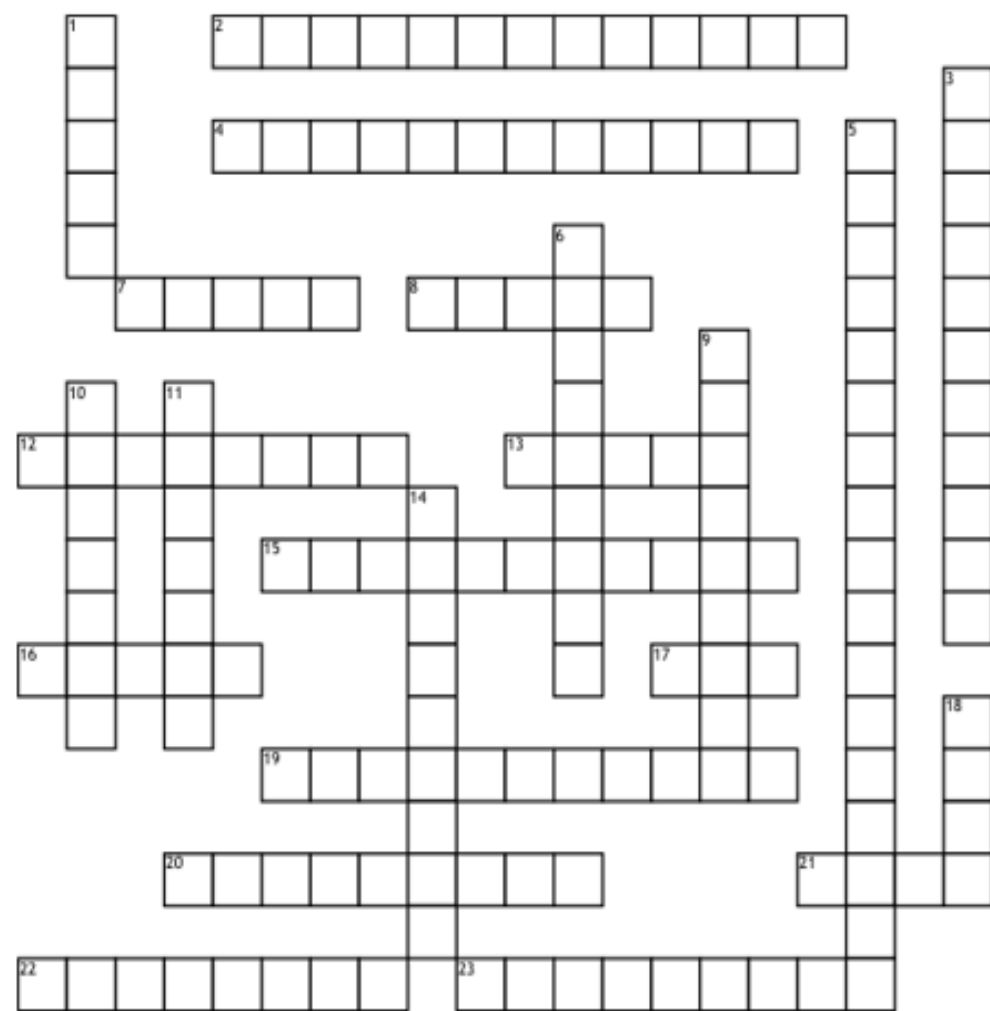
Brad Prill	Vi Basina	James Fletcher
Harold Larson	Linda Stenroos	Steve Key
Tim Erickson	Patty Hmielewski	Pam Ekholm
Don Pocernich	Jamie Klema	Keith Tveit
Rick Kallio	Cheryl Hildebrandt	Mary Dahl
Mike Trimble	Molly Colgrove	Linda Parrish
Chuck Sandor	Dwayne Lynch	Tom Anderson
Karl Wellnitz	Octavia Pearce	Don Pocernich
Larry Hildebrandt	Cindy Lazorik	Tracy Thompson
Clyde Sukanen	Kevin Heggie	
Karen	Wayne	Casey
Chuck	Betsy	Marsha

And those in our hearts

Dear Lord, heal the heart from all pain, grief, and anxiety from those who suffer. Fill them with Your peace. Restore joy where there is sorrow, hope where there is despair, and peace where there is turmoil. Fill those who are in need of divine endurance, courage and hope each day. Thank you, Lord, for being the anchor in the storms of life. Amen



Reformation Crossword



GOD
POPE
WINE
FAITH
BREAD
GRACE
PATEN
CHALICE
MARTYRS
CATHOLIC
95 THESES
CHRISTIAN
EUCCHARIST
PURGATORY
SACRAMENT
INDULGENCES
PROTESTANTS
REFORMATION
MARTIN LUTHER
PRINTING PRESS
CONSUBSTANTIATION

The Boys of Fall Song by Kenny Chesney

When I feel that chill, smell that fresh cut grass
I'm back in my helmet, cleats, and shoulder pads
Standing in the huddle listening to the call
Fans going crazy for the boys of fall

They didn't let just anybody in that club
Took every ounce of heart and sweat and blood
To get to wear those game day jerseys down the hall
Kings of the school man, we're the boys of fall

Well, it's turn and face the Stars and Stripes
It's fighting back them butterflies
It's call it in the air, alright, yes sir, we want the ball
And it's knocking heads and talking trash
It's slinging mud and dirt and grass
It's I got your number, I got your back when your back's
against the wall
You mess with one man you got us all
The boys of fall

In little towns like mine that's all they got
Newspaper clippings fill the coffee shops
The old men will always think they know it all
Young girls will dream about the boys of fall

Well, it's turn and face the Stars and Stripes
It's fighting back them butterflies
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The boys of fall

We're the boys of fall
We're the boys of fall

Songwriters: Dave Turnbull, Casey Michael Beathard

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/
stewardship Newsletter Article – March 2025

God's Instruments, God's Stewards

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!

STEWARDSHIP

SHARING THE
GIFTS WE HAVE



Zion Lutheran Church Council

September 15, 2025

Call to Order – John Pruss, President

Opening Prayer – John Pruss, President

Roll Call President - John Pruss Education & Elder – No
Trustees – Nick Jarvela Secretary - Jule Jarvela
Treasurer – Tiffany Darling Financial Secretary – No
Evangelism – No LFOJ – JoAnn Martikonis
Pastor Williams

Approval of Minutes (printed) = 1- Nick Jarvela 2- Tiffany Darling MMC

Pastor's Report – All churches in Circuit have a Pastor, Starting stewardship series,
Searching for new website manager

Approval of Treasurer's Report (printed) – 1- Nick Jarvela 2- JoAnn Martikonis MMC

Approval of Agenda for this meeting – 1- Nick Jarvela 2- JoAnn Martikonis MMC

Board Reports

Elders & Education – None

Trustees – Replaced steps at LFOJ, new stripes on parking lot, painted exterior crosses, refinished exterior doors, gas meter replaced, painted LFOJ fence exterior

Financial Secretary – None

LFOJ (print out) – parent-teacher conferences, singing at Harvestfest, new t-shirts, currently breaking even with new students

Evangelism – reviewed Church picnic with suggestions for next year, working on Harvestfest for Oct. 18., new member dinner will be in Spring

Official Acts

Confirmation – Sikander Ellis - 06-22-2025

Kayan Ellis - 06-22-2025

Death – Ingrid Pocernich - 08-09-2025

Wedding – John Swanson & Cameryn Ouimette - 09-06-2025

Baptism – Waylon Warren Bond – 09-14-2025

Old Business

New computers acquired for Church office and Pastor. will be on line soon

Church now using Quickbooks software

New Business

Request for office copier change – 1- Nick Jarvela, 2- JoAnn Martikonis to pursue MMC

Group of youth from Church in Sheboygan, WI wishing to use Zion as a mission trip during Christmas holidays. Felt not enough to keep them engaged at that time of year.

Welcome package for visitors will be looked into in coming months.

Request for building use for weekend retreat. Voted no as we did not meet their specifications

Web Page – will look for people to create and manage new web page

Security measures – will be discussed at next meeting

Next Council Meeting – October, 20, 2025

Adjournment – 1- Nick Jarvela 2- JoAnn Martikonis MMC

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Jule Jarvela, Secretary

FALL WORD SEARCH

www.GrowingPlay.com

Acorn
Apple
Autumn
Bark
Bonfire
Boots
Brisk
Campfire
Chestnut
Chilly
Cider
Cinnamon
Cocoa

Corn
Cornucopia
Cozy
Crisp
Deciduous
Fall
Flannel
Foliage
Football
Forest
Frost
Gourd
Gratitude

Harvest
Hay
Hayride
Jacket
Lantern
Leaf
Maize
November
Nuts
Orchard
Overcast
Pie
Pinecone

Pumpkin
Raincoat
Rake
Scarecrow
September
Squirrel
Sweater
Thanksgiving
Wind
Woodpile
Yard

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



Just for KIDS

Bugs in the Bible

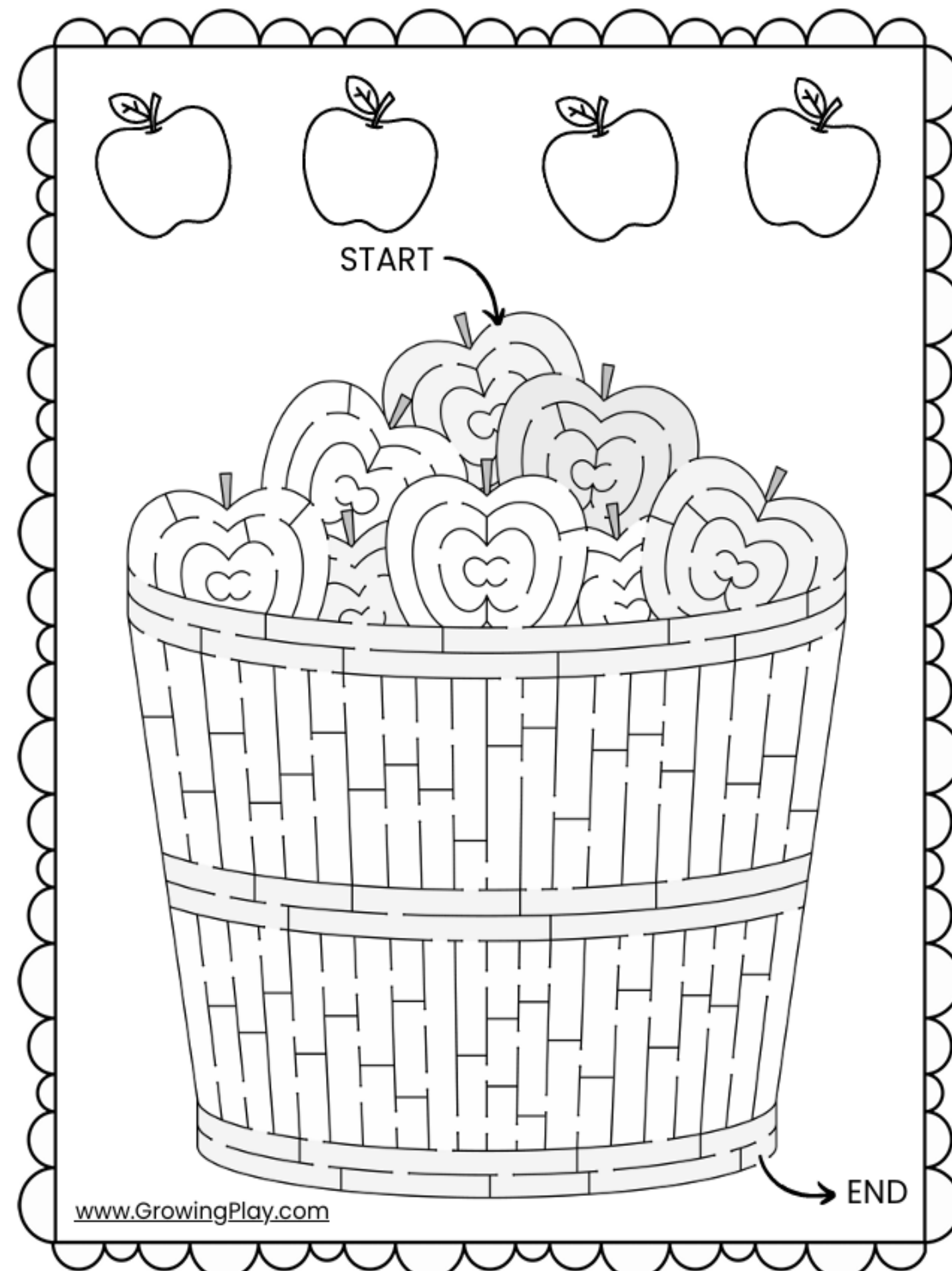
Whether at a picnic, on the beach or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests – bugs!
Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.

Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse.
Circle them in the puzzle below.

Proverbs 6:6 _____	Exodus 16:20 _____
Psalms 78:45 _____	1 Sam. 24:14 _____
Matt. 23:24 _____	Isaiah 50:9 _____
Judges 14:8 _____	Isaiah 59:5 _____
Acts 12:23 _____	Leviticus 11:22 _____
Leviticus 11:22 _____	Leviticus 11:22 _____
Leviticus 11:22 _____	
Deuteronomy 7:20 _____	

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

Answer: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket



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