



# The Messenger

## July 2007

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### Spiritual Exercise III

We've mentioned it in the first two parts of this three-part series. The LORD has given us some wonderful spiritual exercises by which we can keep our eyes fixed on Christ. We have prayer. We have Scripture. And we miss out if we leave out either one. Pray without Scripture, and your own sinful mind is coming up with the prayers. Not good. Read Scripture without prayer, and you miss out on asking the LORD to give you and others you what you're hearing. Not good. But read Scripture *along with* prayer and you enjoy a loving conversation with your God and Father. Very good.

Now if you read this article the last two months, you may have thought, "Okay, but do I actually have to have the Bible in front of me every time I pray? That's not practical." If you thought that, you're right. But that brings us to the third spiritual exercise that you and I can engage in. Because you *can't* take your Bible with you everywhere you go, why not ensure that you *can* take your Bible with you everywhere you go? That is, memorize Scripture! But please don't think you have to push your brain to thermal meltdown by memorizing, say, the entire book of Romans. No, keep it simple. Pick out key passages to memorize, both law and gospel. That way you can take the comfort and encouragement of the LORD with you everywhere you go. For you seasoned adults out there, you've probably realized that that is the whole point of seventh and eighth grade catechism memorization. Back when we were in confirmation class, it was easy to see memory work as just a torture tool of the pastor, like the wooden yard-stick of bygone classrooms. But if you stop to think about it, memorizing holy Scripture is one of the most beneficial things we can do for ourselves.

Let's say you fall into a certain sin, and you feel really rotten, almost hopeless. Well, even if you don't have a Bible with you at the moment, you've memorized I John 2, "**If we confess our sins he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**" And later in I John 2, this, "**If anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense, Jesus Christ the righteous one. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.**" You've memorized those words, and you can take comfort in them. Or you get into a sudden hardship, let's say you're badly hurt in a car crash, but you remember the LORD's promise in Psalm 50:15, "**Call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver you and you will honor me.**" And so you turn to your solid Rock of refuge.

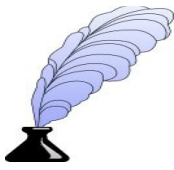
Now you may be saying, “Okay, maybe I don’t know many passages word for word, but I do remember the various truths of Scripture when I’m going through the day.” Such a wonderful thing does happen for us. As we hear God’s Word at church or at home, the Holy Spirit cements those truths on our hearts and minds, without us really having to try. Then, later on, when an everyday situation moves us to reflect spiritually, we recall the message of Scripture, if not the exact words. Yet there remains an argument for memorizing passages word for word.

If all we’ve memorized is a paraphrase of Scripture, and we haven’t read or heard Scripture for a while, it is so easy for the devil to find a foothold. Pretty soon, he will start saying, “*Did the Lord really say that?*” But if we have the exact words of God before our eyes, whether on paper or memorized in our mind, then we can cling to the certain comfort. “**Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**” “Yes, Jesus *did* said that *for me* in Matthew 11:28.” But this benefit is not just for ourselves.

If you are out in the world and you’ve struck up a chat with someone about spiritual matters and you confess what you believe, they may well say, “Yeah, where does the Bible say that.” If you’ve memorized the passage, the challenge is easy. Here’s a verse you can memorize so that you may always carry this encouragement with you. “**Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect**” (1 Peter 3:15).

Since memorizing Scripture is such a practical thing to do, I might as well give you some practical advice to make it happen. The best way, suggested to me years ago, is to buy a pack of 3 X 5 index cards. Write the Bible reference on one side (book, chapter, verse), and write the actual words of the verse on the other side. Then, you can gradually build up your collection of key verses over time. Go through the pack as often as you can. When you know the opposite side of each card without looking, you’ll be well on your way toward being a mega-armed Christian, superabundantly equipped for going into battle with the world. Yes, we are well equipped already, since we wear the armor of God’s love for us in Christ. But it doesn’t hurt to arm ourselves to the hilt, since it’s such an evil world out there. As Jesus said in John 6:63, “**The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and they are life.**”

*Pastor Gregory Pope*



## **Message From The President**

### **WHO SIGNS THE CONSTITUTION?**

The question has been brought up as to who signs the constitution. All adult members who have read the document should really sign that they agree and accept the Constitution of Trinity.

This acceptance of the constitution does not grant voting privileges at the voters meetings. That is spelled out in the Constitution and bylaws as a male member of 18 years or older who has been accepted by the voting body and has signed the constitution.

If you need more copies of the signature sheet, please let pastor or myself know and we will get them to you. I will also try to get them posted to the website so those of you who are that savvy can download it.

*John Smith,*  
Congregational President

*\*\* Note Tuesday July 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. Annual Voters Meeting.*

# Vacation Bible School 2007

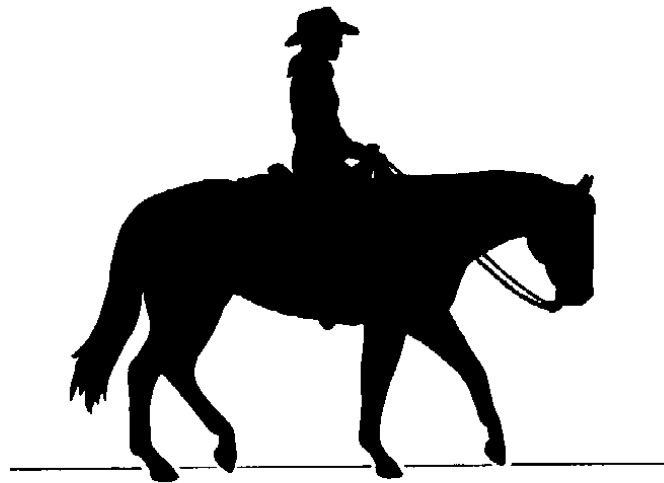
July 31<sup>st</sup>, Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>, Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Come take a wild ride through  
God's Word at Liberty's Ranch!

Camp Fire!

Petting Zoo!

Games!



Crafts!

Fun!

Food!

Horse Races!



\*Look for registration sheets in the bulletin & Narthex. Please turn in ASAP so we get a good idea of how many will attend! Make sure to invite your neighbors and friends! Thanks!

**Women of Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church...**  
**"Ladies Aid" Update**



**All the women of Trinity are invited to attend our next meeting on Tuesday July 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will be voting on a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. We will also be voting on a new name for the group so please come with ideas on what to call ourselves.**

**This is a great way for all the women of our congregation to come together for some fun Christian Fellowship, and at the same time do fun projects that will make a difference in our church and community. We will be done by 7:30 p.m. as there is a voter's meeting that night as well.**

## Announcements from the Fellowship Committee



### **Bus to the Brewer Game.**

This trip is scheduled for Sunday, July 15. The Milwaukee Brewers take on the Colorado Rockies. The bus will be in the church parking lot at approximately 10:30 am.

### **Family Softball Night**

Everyone is invited to family softball night at the Trinity softball field. Families do not have to be members of Trinity to attend. The game is scheduled for Sunday, July 22 at 6pm. Bring your bats, gloves and a snack to share. Beverage will be provided.

### **Continental Breakfast**

On August 19 at approximately 8:45 (before the church service) we are planning a continental breakfast with coffee, juice, donuts and fresh fruit. This is a time for church members to visit with one another. There will be planned activities for the children. Hope to see you there.



**July 1<sup>st</sup>** Paul & Tammie Nagel  
**July 8<sup>th</sup>** Brian & Carol Glaeser  
**July 15<sup>th</sup>** Mark & Jen Knutson  
**July 22<sup>nd</sup>** Chad & Karen Knutson

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Ushers on Schedule:</b>
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Len Arnold (Server), Brian Glaeser (Server), Mark Kiesow
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Vetter (Server), Mark Knutson (Server), Keith Peterson, Jeff Knutson
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Harold Bratz, Peter Liermann
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	John Smith, Larry Hochkammer, Eli Kenneke, A.J. Kenneke
July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Al Bonfigt (Server), Warren Lutze (Server), Derrick Krey
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	James Glaeser (Server), Brian Glaeser (Server), Elwood Free, James Ott
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Harold Bratz, August Teesch
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Dan Knutson, Jeff Kasten Alex Kasten, Wayne Otto
July 21 <sup>st</sup>	John Smith (Server), Mark Knutson (Server), Steve Pleuss
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Gary Vetter (Server), David Schultz (Server), Keith Peterson, Larry Hochkammer
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Al Bonfigt, Marty Kiesow
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Len Arnold, Jeff Knutson, Eli Kenneke, A.J. Kenneke
August 4 <sup>th</sup>	Dan Knutson, Mark Kiesow
August 5 <sup>th</sup>	James Glaeser, Jim Krim, Jim Liermann, Elwood Free
August 11 <sup>th</sup>	Al Bonfigt (Server), Brian Glaeser (Server), Peter Liermann
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Vetter (Server), Warren Lutze (Server), James Ott, Larry Hochkammer

If you are unable to make your scheduled service, Please call Brian Glaeser @ 775-3941.

Thanks, *Brian*

**Communion Liturgy:**

Take, Eat; This is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take, Drink; This is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for you for the remission of your sins.

May this strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto life everlasting.

Depart in peace; your sins are forgiven. Amen.



## **WELS NEWS Release- July 2007**

### ***WELS' 2007 Synod Convention to Discuss Ministerial Education, the Budget, and Synod Direction in July***

**THE 400 WELS MEMBERS SERVING AS DELEGATES TO WELS' 59TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION THIS SUMMER WILL GRAPPLE WITH MANY IMPORTANT ISSUES AS THEY SET THE DIRECTION FOR THE SYNOD FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM. PERHAPS THE MOST CRITICAL ISSUE THEY WILL DETERMINE IS HOW TO BALANCE THE SYNODICAL BUDGET IN THE MIDST OF LIMITED GROWTH OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**

**THE SYNODICAL COUNCIL—THE SYNOD'S GOVERNING BOARD RESPONSIBLE FOR WELS' MINISTRY PLAN—HAS MADE SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO HELP DELEGATES MAKE THESE CRUCIAL DECISIONS WHEN THEY MEET JULY 30-AUG. 3, IN NEW ULM, MINN. THE THREE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE**

- TO MAINTAIN A THREE-TIER MINISTERIAL EDUCATION SYSTEM THROUGH A 1+1+1 STRUCTURE (1 SEMINARY, 1 COLLEGE, AND 1 SYNOD-SUBSIDIZED PREP SCHOOL). TO ACCOMPLISH THIS AND SUPPORT THE SYSTEM, THE SYNODICAL COUNCIL RECOMMENDED THAT MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY (MLS), SAGINAW, MICH. (ONE OF THE TWO CURRENT SYNOD-SUBSIDIZED PREP SCHOOLS), BE CLOSED AT THE END OF THE 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR.**
- TO SELL THE MLS SCHOOL PROPERTY FOR ONE DOLLAR TO ANY WELS MEMBERS, GROUP, OR AFFILIATE WHO WILL USE THE SCHOOL FOR SYNOD PURPOSES.**
- TO USE A \$2.5 MILLION ANNUAL GIFT FROM AN ANONYMOUS DONOR FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS TO OFFSET REDUCTIONS TO MISSIONS AND PARISH SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-08 (JULY 1, 2007-JUNE 30, 2008) AND IN FISCAL YEAR 2008-09 TO APPLY ABOUT HALF OF IT TO PARTIALLY OFFSET THESE SAME REDUCTIONS AND THE OTHER HALF TOWARD DEBT REDUCTION.**

View the entire article in July's *Forward in Christ* (p. 20-21 or [www.forwardinchrist.net](http://www.forwardinchrist.net) ). For more information on the Synodical Council's recommendations, visit [www.wels.net/jump/rationale](http://www.wels.net/jump/rationale) .

## ***Proposed Restructuring Plan to be presented at convention***

**DELEGATES AT THE SYNOD CONVENTION WILL BE VOTING ON A VARIETY OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAWS—REVISIONS DESIGNED TO STREAMLINE SYNOD STRUCTURE, ESTABLISH CLEAR LINES OF AUTHORITY, AND SAVE MONEY—IN LINE WITH THE DIRECTION SET BY THE 2005 SYNOD CONVENTION.**

**THE REVISIONS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY MODIFIED FROM A MORE SWEEPING RESTRUCTURING PLAN THAT WAS REJECTED BY THE DISTRICTS IN CONVENTION LAST SUMMER.**

**PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT REVISION AMONG THE CURRENT PROPOSALS IS THAT ADMINISTRATORS FOR VARIOUS AREAS OF MINISTRY (MINISTERIAL EDUCATION, PARISH SERVICES, AND HOME AND WORLD MISSIONS) BE CALLED BY THE SYNODICAL COUNCIL (SC) AND BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE SYNOD PRESIDENT ACTING FOR THE SC.**

**UNDER THE CURRENT STRUCTURE, THE ADMINISTRATORS ARE CALLED BY THEIR BOARDS, WHO ARE ELECTED BY THE SYNOD CONVENTION. IN SOME CASES LINES OF AUTHORITY HAVE BEEN UNCLEAR SINCE ADMINISTRATORS ARE ANSWERABLE, IN VARIOUS SITUATIONS, TO THEIR BOARDS, THE SYNODICAL COUNCIL, AND THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS (COP).**

**UNDER THE PLAN REJECTED BY THE DISTRICTS, THE ADMINISTRATORS WOULD HAVE BEEN ANSWERABLE TO A NATIONAL COUNCIL—A COMBINATION OF THE SC AND THE COP. “AFTER LISTENING TO THE DISTRICTS, IT’S REALLY EVIDENT THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE—IN ANY STRUCTURE WE HAVE—GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY, CLEARER REPORTS, AND SEE . . . THE PROCESS TO REVIEW ACTIONS OF THE SYNOD,” SAYS PRESIDENT KARL GURGEL. “OVERALL, TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY IS A VERY DESIRABLE GOAL.”**

**THE PLAN PRESENTED TO THE SYNODICAL COUNCIL AND THE DISTRICTS IN CONVENTION IN 2006 WAS MODIFIED AND REVIEWED BY AN INDEPENDENT PANEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2005 CONVENTION RESOLUTION. THE PANEL AGREES WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGES, BUT IS STILL ENCOURAGING THE 2007 SYNOD IN CONVENTION TO CONSIDER GOING EVER FURTHER WITH RESTRUCTURING.**

**“ALL OF THESE SUGGESTED REVISIONS ARE PRACTICAL IN NATURE. NONE OF THEM HAVE TO DO WITH THE DOCTRINAL FOUNDATIONS OF OUR SYNOD,” SAYS GURGEL. “CONSEQUENTLY, OPEN DISCUSSION IS ENCOURAGED AS WE SEEK TO CARRY OUT THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR SYNOD IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY.”**

## *Convention Coverage Comes in all Shapes and Sizes*

Decisions made at this year's convention will affect all WELS members; therefore it's important that members stay informed about what is happening at the convention. WELS Communication Services and WELS Web Services are preparing more ways than ever for WELS members to learn about convention decisions.

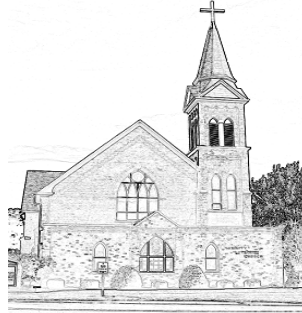
Joel Hochmuth, WELS' communication director, says, "My philosophy on convention communication is that we must include laypeople. We need to find ways to communicate not just what happens, but how what happens at the convention affects laypeople individually and in the congregations they attend. That's why we're trying new things like nightly video wraps of the day's main developments. We're also continuing to promote the live streaming of the convention itself. Laypeople can directly access all of these tools, at home, on their own computers."

All synod convention coverage and resources are available at [www.wels.net/convention](http://www.wels.net/convention), including

- pre-convention information, including the *Book of Reports and Memorials* and its supplemental reports;
- a list of delegates, including e-mail links and floor committee assignments;
- official information such as approved convention resolutions, convention minutes, election results, and schedules;
- convention worship services, devotions, and essays;
- photos;
- delegate interviews conducted during the convention;
- daily news and headline news, both of which are also available as news services delivered to you via e-mail;
- links to video and audio coverage on Streams, WELS' Internet media network;
- links to chats and blogs involving convention delegates; and
- post-convention information, including *Proceedings*, the official record of convention business that is published following the convention.

A convention wrap-up and post-convention news will also be available in the October issue of Forward in Christ.

## Church Attendance for June



Saturday/Sunday = Total

Saturday/Sunday = Total

June                      2004

**Week 1:** 35 / 78=113

**Week 2:** 38 / 96=134

**Week 3:** 29 / 67=96

**Week 4:** 35 / 67=102

**Monthly Total=** 445

June                      2005

**Week 1:** 34 / 81 =115

**Week 2:** 43 / 95 = 138

**Week 3:** 35 / 89=124

**Week 4:** 44 / 83=127

**Monthly Total =** 504

June                      2006

**Week 1:** 33 / 77 = 110

**Week 2:** 41 / 77 = 118

**Week 3:** 60 / 66 = 126

**Week 4:** 29 / 90 = 119

**Monthly Total =** 473

June                      2007

**Week 1:** 30/100=130

**Week 2:** 51/71=122

**Week 3:** 40/72=112

**Week 4:** 36/72=108

**Monthly Total =** 472

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## *A Happy Birthday and God's Blessings to...*

7/1 Brian Glaeser	7/16 Terry Slater
7/1 Brook Hansen	7/17 Billy Free
***7/3 Allen Reichardt - 81 Years Young!	7/19 Alison Fischer
7/6 Gail Lietzau	7/20 Bill Propson
7/6 Jesse Lietzau	7/21 Rachel Lutze
7/7 Jeana Ott	7/25 Tabitha Grunow
7/7 Tyler Petersen	7/26 Vernon Jaeger
7/7 Faith Woepse	7/27 Jasmine Smith
7/8 Mary Liermann	7/28 Lance Preston
7/8 Gary Preston	7/28 Fred Schnell
7/10 Donna Nagel	7/29 Leon Wallander
7/10 Julie Lietzau	7/31 Kristen Schreiber



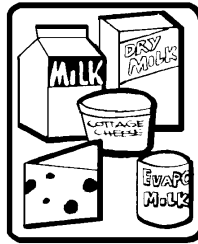
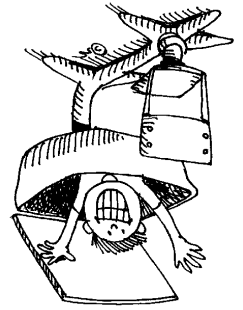
## *Happy Anniversary To...*

7/1 Pastor & Jennifer Pope – 1 Year!  
7/4 Charles & Jodi Lovell – 11 Years!  
7/8 James & Julie Glaeser – 46 Years!  
7/11 Ronald & Carol Kasten – 42 Years!  
7/12 Michael & Dianne Rusch – 38 Years!  
7/15 Mark & Jennifer Knutson – 1 Year!  
7/19 Michael & Louette Propson-Enders – 4 Years!  
7/23 Steve & Arlene Schreiber – 47 Years!  
7/26 Elwood & Denise Free – 32 Years!  
7/28 Al & Polly Bonfigt – 6 Years!

\*If you have a July birthday or anniversary and it is not listed or is listed incorrectly please let us know so we can update your information. Thanks!

# Kids

# Corner



## Bible Quiz – “Meals”

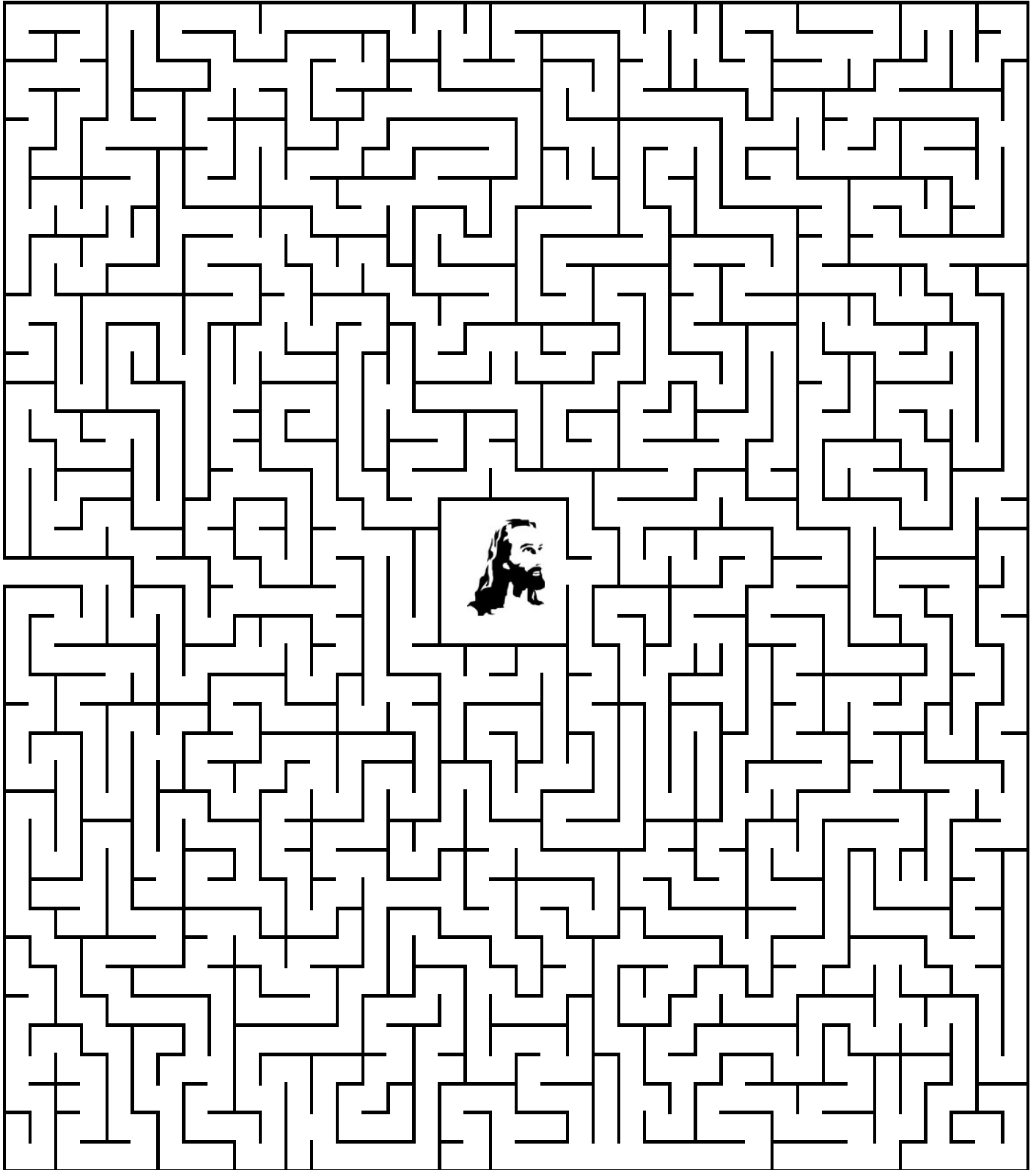
1. According to Luke, to locate the venue for the last supper, Jesus instructed Peter and John to locate a man carrying this?
  - a. Donkey
  - b. A sack
  - c. A pallet
  - d. A jar of water
2. This man wanted to eat what the pigs were eating?
  - a. The poor blind man
  - b. The leper outside the city
  - c. The centurions slave
  - d. The Prodigal Son
3. This man was arguing with his father at dinner when his father took up a spear and threw it at him?
  - a. Jacob
  - b. Johnathan
  - c. Joab
  - d. Joseph
4. During Herod's birthday dinner, one of his relatives asked for:
  - a. A hand in marriage
  - b. A head on a platter
  - c. The Salt
  - d. Half the kingdom
5. After Pentecost everyone met for meals in:
  - a. Their homes
  - b. The upper room

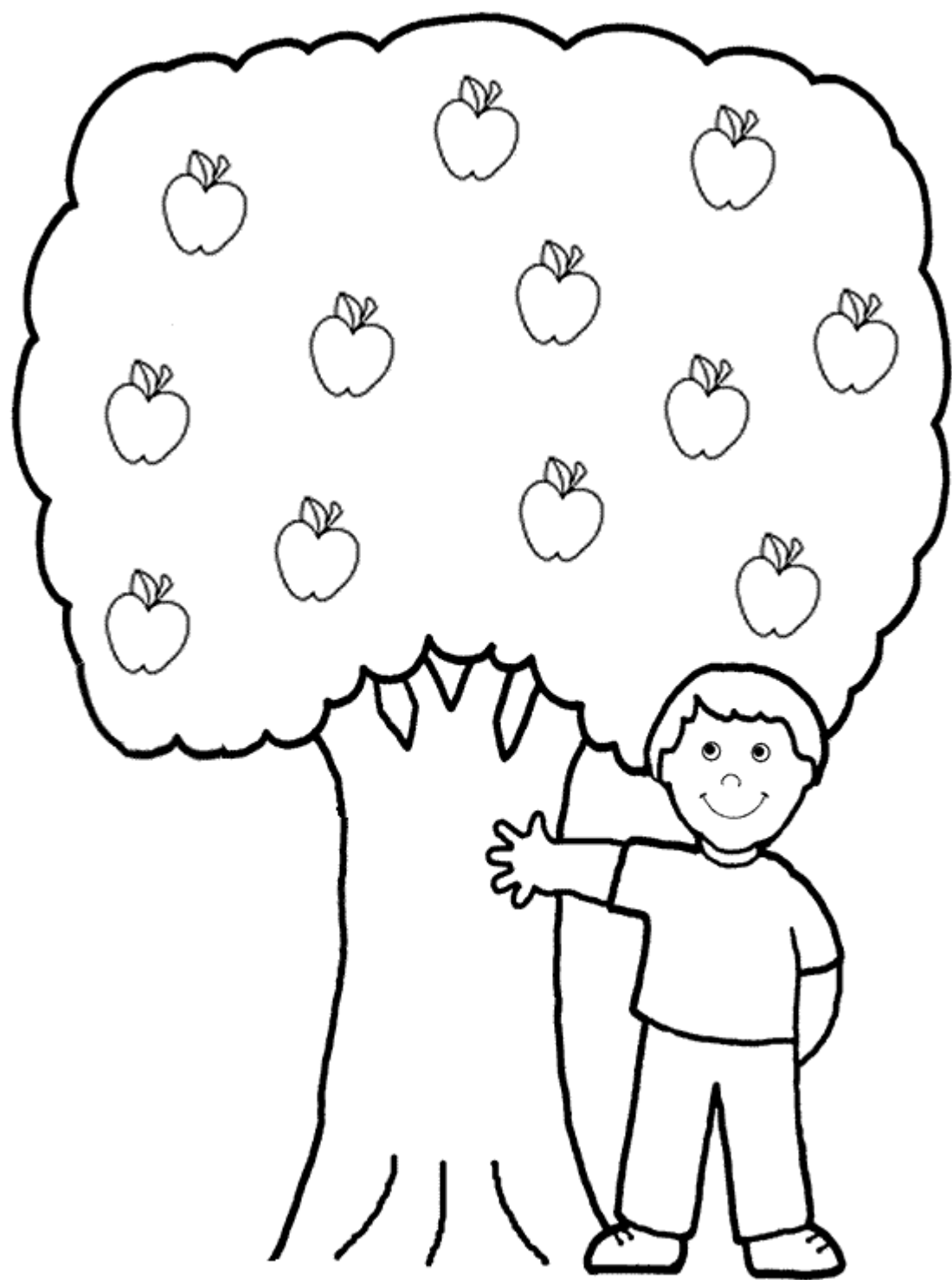
- c. The temple court-yard
- d. The Synagogue

**Answers:** 1.) d [Luke 22:10] 2.) d [Luke 15:16] 3.) b [1 Sam 20:32-33] 4.) b [Mark 6:21-25] 5.) a [Acts 2:46]

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path!

Start





"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5 (NIV)