



# *The Messenger*

*August 2008*

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## **To Open Eyes That Are Blind**

I have a subscription to one of the major U.S. news magazines. While I usually enjoy the timely articles on politics and current events, their most recent issue disturbed me. It sought to explore how life on earth began and how the human race is supposedly continuing to evolve.

A secular news magazine will inevitably and utterly fail in an attempt to answer such fundamental questions of life, since God's Word is not consulted. What disturbed me was not so much that the magazine supported evolution. Sadly, I expected that. What bothered me was that they were so bold with the lie. It was on the very cover of the magazine! An in your face attack on us Christian readers who know the truth – that we haven't evolved from primates, but have been beautifully and wonderfully created by the hands of our Creator God. The magazine issue was deceptive, too. Claiming to be a study of life's mysteries on the cover, the articles inside were all completely biased toward evolutionary science, with only a passing mention or two of creationists.

What can we do when the truth is so completely ignored? Fight back? Yes. But not with violence. God's Word is our sword. All through the history of God's church from the Old Testament prophets, to the New Testament apostles, to the medieval reformers, to modern-day pastors and laypeople, believers have slayed the devil's lies by the double-edged sword of the Spirit, unsheathed and wielded through the written letter.

I decided to enter that great cloud of witnesses before me. Not wanting the dangerous lie in the magazine to go unchecked, I entered the arena of the “Letters to the Editor”. Below is the letter I sent in the other day.

*Dear Letters Editor:*

*Referring to your most recent issue, do you pride yourself on being a news magazine devoted to atheists? Perhaps in your single-minded bias toward evolutionary science, you haven’t thought through the implication. If evolution is real, that life came from some “spark”, then there is no God.*

*You wrote “How will humanity evolve?” on your magazine cover without even a thought for the millions of Bible-believing Christians that you will be grieving.*

*“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).*

*Sincerely,*

*Gregory Pope*

Now that I think of it, I may have been a bit too combative in the above letter, but I tried to make it tactfully firm, hoping that at least a person working for the magazine may stop, and consider the truth for the first time. Maybe it will even get printed. You can do this sort of thing too when you encounter false beliefs, whether in print or elsewhere. Using God’s law to rebuke lies and unbelief is not always pleasant – it’s called the field of polemics – but the end goal is always love, **“to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness” (Isaiah 42:7)**, that is, to lead people to faith in the Messiah Jesus.

May the sword of the Spirit bring forth this happy work in our hands!

*Pastor Gregory Pope*

# **Message From The President**



## **ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW**

This is a brief review of the annual meeting. There are copies of the Annual Report available in the Narthex, which covers most of what was presented at the meeting. This is mostly the item not in that report.

The congregation received into membership Larry and Linda Carstens. Larry by transfer from St. John's, Newtonburg and Linda by Adult confirmation.

The voter's approved up to \$850.00 to coat the roof on the Trinity Family Center with a fibrated roof coating. This also includes seal all flashings. There has been water leaking into the main room of the center.

The voters approved the recommendation to leave the support for families with children at St. John's the same as last year. That is the families will pay the book fees. This was not a financial decision. The main reason for this is to take away the temptation of members from other congregations joining Trinity to save paying this fee. The congregation will continue to pay the tuition cost.

The voters ratified the recommendation to continue with the building process with tentative starting date of actual construction April of 2009. Trinity has received approval from the county for the variance needed from the roadway. The finance committee will start checking financing options and the availability of funds for the project. Perk borings will be taken to determine the proper placement and type of sewer system required.

The voters approved the salary increase for Pastor Pope as recommended by the council. The recommendation was for 4 years service with an addition increase as detail in Synod code to level C. The council feels our Pastor is doing excellent work for the Lord here at Trinity and should be compensated as such.

The voters also approved a raise for the church office secretary over the amount recommended.

The voters also approved the new logo design, which was selected by the council and other boards. It took many different choices and refining of selected choices before a design that fit all need aspects was arrived at.

The rest of the meeting is in the Annual Report.

**John Smith**, Congregational President

## News from the WELS

Thank God for his blessings!

*From the office of President Mark Schroeder*

" 'Test me in this,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it' " (Malachi 3:10).

With those words, God encouraged the people of Israel to place their trust in his promises, and he assured them that he would bless them in ways that they could hardly expect or even imagine. At last summer's synod convention, we were encouraged to have that same kind of trust in God's faithfulness. In the 11 months since that time, he has poured out financial blessings on our synod that few of us would have expected.

The preliminary results for our synod's fiscal year, which ended on June 30, show that the synod ended the year with a budgetary surplus of approximately \$2.8 million. Year-end accounting is still being finalized, but our financial staff is confident that these numbers are very close to what the final results will be. The surplus is the result of a number of factors, including a substantial increase in congregational and individual offerings combined with significant underspending by the areas of ministry. The Synodical Council will determine how these funds will be utilized.

In May, the Synodical Council already approved an increase of \$500,000 in the 2008-09 budget for Home Missions to be used for new mission starts. The majority of this \$500,000 was actually a part of the 2007-08 budget that was not spent in 2007-08.

The budget originally adopted by the synod convention for the coming year (2008-09) showed a shortfall of \$2.6 million. This shortfall was created when the convention restored \$600,000 to World Missions and \$2 million for the continued operation of Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw. Again, due to a number of factors, the \$2.6 million shortfall has been reduced to approximately \$900,000. Part of the surplus from 2007-08 could be used to cover that \$900,000 shortfall, with the remaining surplus placed, for the time being, into a buffer fund for shortfalls that may occur in the future. Again, the Synodical Council will determine how to handle these unexpected blessings and will present final recommendations to the next synod convention.

Two important things need to be noted. First, we can and should be filled with a sense of overwhelming thanks to God. Even in a time of financial uncertainty in our nation, he has moved his people to bring generous thank offerings to support the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. This support is not the result of a convention resolution; it's the result of the gospel of Jesus Christ working in the hearts of God's thankful people.

Second, some have expressed a concern that news of this surplus will lead congregations and members to conclude that the financial crisis has passed and that support will diminish, even as forecasts warn of future shortfalls. I'm convinced that just the opposite will happen. We believe that the promises of a gracious God are what moved people to respond with their offerings in the last year. Those promises have not changed, and we should have no doubt that the gospel will continue to lead us to focus our efforts on the mission opportunities that God will give to us.

Personally, I would like to thank our synodical leaders (the Conference of Presidents and the Synodical Council) for their planning work and the encouragement they offer to the members of the synod. I would like to thank congregational leaders, both called and lay workers, for helping to keep our congregations focused on our shared work as a synod. I would like to thank the members of our congregations for their generous offerings. Together, we join our hearts in thanking God for the gift of his Son, and for all of the other gifts that he continues to shower on us as individuals and as a synod. To him alone be the glory!

Serving in Christ,  
*Mark Schroeder*

## WELS humanitarian aid trip to Africa

The three members of WELS Humanitarian Aid Committee—which exists to help spread the gospel by providing points of contact with people through humanitarian aid—are traveling to Africa July 24 and will spend two weeks assessing the committee's projects that are currently being carried out in Malawi and Zambia.

Rev. David Valleskey, Humanitarian Aid Committee chairman, says while in Africa the committee wants to see what's working, determine what needs to change, and find new opportunities. "The committee is funded entirely by special gifts from WELS members, so we want them to be used in the best possible way—which really is a major reason for our trip over there," he says. "We really want people's gifts to have an impact."

Valleskey, together with committee members Mr. Kent Raabe and Staff Minister Thomas Hering, will visit several sites where humanitarian aid is being given and meet with leadership of the national churches in Zambia and Malawi to see how humanitarian aid can be best used to assist in fulfilling the mission of the church.

Current projects in these African countries include digging deep wells and assisting in literacy and home health care training. In countries like India, Nepal, and Pakistan, the committee is digging wells, providing sanitary sewers and medical supplies, and running orphanages.

"We are simply showing the love of Christ toward people who may not have as much in the way of worldly goods as the Lord has blessed us in America with," says Valleskey. "If people in these countries ask, 'Why are you doing this?' we can point them to the love of Jesus that led him to go all the way to Calvary for them."

Committee members will be blogging during their two-week trip. Read about their experiences in Africa on the World Mission blog at <http://missions.wels.net>

## Record registration for worship conference

This year's National Conference on Music, Worship, and the Arts, to be held July 28-31 in St. Peter, Minn., already has a record number of registered attendees and presenters—almost 1,000 people—and according to Rev. Bryan Gerlach, administrator for WELS Commission on Worship, more registrations are expected to trickle in before and at the conference.

Gerlach says that he expects the conference will end up with about 250 more attendees than the last conference in 2005. He says the increase in numbers is partly due to the location—there was a lot of positive feedback when the conference was moved to St. Peter in 2005.

Other factors include the conference dates, which are not competing with another WELS event like the International Youth Rally, and word-of-mouth advertising.

"One of the presenters at past worship conferences recently told a friend, 'If you only go to the worship services, it's worth the drive,' " says Gerlach. "The friend was kind of skeptical and said, 'At \$4.25 a gallon?' And she replied, 'Yes, it's worth the drive because the services are so awesome!' And that's really true."

In addition to the 1,000 people coming from the United States, two people from Sweden and three from Canada will also be attending this year's conference, which features more than 60 workshops, exhibits, corporate worship opportunities, and concerts—including a performance by the conference's largest high school honor choir of more than 130 WELS students nationwide. The new *Christian Worship: Supplement* will also be introduced.

"People can see this on paper and say, 'Wow, they've got a lot of stuff at this conference,' or they can go to the Web site and see resources from the last conference—but it just doesn't compare to being there," says Gerlach. "One person said after the last conference, 'It's like the Grand Canyon: you can see pictures, but that's nothing like standing at the edge and looking down.' "

For more information or to register, visit [www.wels.net/jump/worship-conf](http://www.wels.net/jump/worship-conf)

## Work begins at new mission in Reno

Rev. Steve Hillmer, the new outreach pastor at Shepherd of the Mountains, Reno, Nev., was installed July 13. As outreach pastor, Hillmer is working to start a new mission congregation in Spanish Springs, a growing area just outside of Reno. Shepherd of the Mountains is partnering with WELS Board for Home Missions to fund the mission and is providing lay workers to get it off the ground.

Hillmer and his wife and family arrived in Nevada July 3. "The trip was a blur, three days of driving across the country," says Hillmer, who previously served at Beautiful Savior, Marietta, Ga. "Now we're just trying to unpack and get familiar with the area."

Hillmer is following up on prospects and says he's going to start canvassing in the next couple of months. Hillmer is also working on a Web site and logo for the new mission, which has been named The Springs. He hopes to hold the first service on Palm Sunday.

"Even as we spoke of this bold step by a small congregation in partnership with their fellow Christians through Home Missions, some of the saints were already speaking of where congregations numbers three and four should be, God graciously enabling," says Rev. Harold Hagedorn, administrator of Home Missions. "We give thanks for such outreach mindedness and efforts, and for congregations being willing to be a part of establishing new congregations."

In August, Hillmer will meet with his district mission board representative, Rev. Matt Vogt of Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nev., and Rev. Peter Kruschel, new mission counselor in the Southwest, to discuss plans for the mission and determine how to best utilize members from the existing congregation that live in the target area.

"By God's grace, I hope that we'll be able to get this congregation established and bring people into a more living relationship with their Savior," Hillmer says.

## New president for WLC

Daniel W. Johnson has accepted the call to be the next president of Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) in Milwaukee, Wis. Johnson, an administrator of Arizona Lutheran Academy (ALA) in Phoenix, Ariz., will be the third full-time president of WLC in its 35-year history, succeeding Dr. Timothy Kriewall, who retired June 30, 2008.

"I am humbled and excited to join Wisconsin Lutheran College in its mission to prepare students for lives of servant leadership," says Johnson. "It is a God-given privilege to ready students with not only academic excellence, but with the values, know-how, and desire to serve and be difference makers in their workplaces, communities, and the world."

"First and foremost, Dan is a dedicated man of God," says Todd Witte, chairman of the college's Board of Regents. "Throughout his varied leadership roles he has exemplified the type of unique servant leadership that is underlined by the WLC mission."

Johnson has served in multiple levels of education over the past 20 years. He has dedicated his career to improving education across various communities. His leadership of ALA since 1999 is marked by a focus on community, outreach, and meeting needs through creative private and public partnerships. Through such initiatives, ALA achieved record enrollment, financial support, and balanced budgets over his nine years at the helm.

Johnson will defend his doctoral dissertation, "Qualities of Christian Schools that Impact Enrollment," in fall 2008, earning his Ed.D. from Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. He is current president of WELS Association of Lutheran High Schools and holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from National-Louis University, Chicago, Ill., and a bachelor's degree from Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.

WLC is an independent, Christian liberal arts college of about 700 students. It is affiliated with WELS, but not financially supported by the synod's operating budget. All faculty are members of WELS or ELS congregations.

## The Bible-Book of Judges

This month's part of the Bible focus' is on the Book of Judges.

### *GENERAL FACTS ABOUT THE BOOK OF JUDGES*

The Book of Judges gets its name from the military leaders that God raised up to deliver Israel from its enemies. They were called "judges". They were not judges in the same sense that we use the word today. Though they did some work of advising in legal matters, they were primarily men of action who delivered their tribe or nation from enemy nations. They became local or national leaders during the time between Joshua and the first kings of Israel. We do not know for sure who the author of the Book of Judges is. The book itself says nothing about its authorship. A Jewish tradition says the Prophet Samuel wrote it. But the fact is, we do not know for sure.

### *THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES*

We could say the Book of Judges has a three-fold purpose: 1) First, to fill in the history of Israel between Joshua and the time of the monarchy (ruling by kings). 2) Secondly, to show the people's need for leadership under a strong government headed by a king. 3) Thirdly, to show how low the morals of God's chosen people had fallen, and at the same time, to show God's grace. The third point above expresses the chief purpose of the book. Consider this quotation from a Bible handbook: "The human scene in Judges is a depressing one. The nation's fortunes follow a monotonous, repetitive cycle. Israel deserts God for the heathen gods. In consequence God allows them to suffer at the hands of the Canaanites. Israel cries to God for help. God sends a deliverer (judge). All is well until his death: then the old pattern of infidelity reasserts itself... The wonder is God's constant love and concern in the face of all this. Despite their past unfaithfulness, and what he knows will happen again, as soon as Israel turns to him he answers." (from "Erdmans' Handbook to the Bible")

### *GENERAL OUTLINE*

#### **Theme: "ISRAEL UNDER THE JUDGES"**

- 1.The Need For The Judges (1-2)
- 2.The Work Of The Judges (3-16)
- 3.Two Additional Episodes (17-21)

### *THE 12 JUDGES OF ISRAEL*

- 1.Othniel** (3:7-11): He was from the tribe of Judah. He defeated King Cushan-Rishathaim.
- 2.Ehud** (3:12-31): He was from the tribe of Benjamin and defeated Eglon, the fat king of Moab.
- 3.Shamgar** (3:31): He fought against the Philistines.
- 4.Deborah and Barak** (4-5): Deborah, from the tribe of Epharaim, was a woman judge in the judicial sense. Her song is recorded in chapter 5. Barak, from the tribe of Naphtali, was the military leader. They defeated King Jaban and his general, Sisera.
- 5.Gideon** (6-8): Gideon of Manasseh defeated the Midianites and the Amelikites. (Abimelech, told of in chapter 9, is considered an outlaw and not a judge.)
- 6.Tola** (10:1-2): This judge was from the tribe of Issachar.
- 7.Jair** (10:3-5): Jair was from Gilead.
- 8.Jephthah** (10:6 - 12:7): Jephthah of Gilead defeated the Ammonites.
- 9.Ibzan** (12:8-10): He was from Bethlehem.

**10.Elou** (12:11-12): This judge was from Zebulun.

**11.Abdon** (12:13-15): He was from Ephraim.

**12.Samson** (13-16): This famous judge from Dan fought against the Philistines. Survey the chapters on the judges. You will notice that we know very little about some of them. But about some, such as Gideon and Samson, we have several chapters.

## **Announcements**

### **Trinity Ladies Circle**

The Trinity Ladies Circle did not meet in July. Please plan to attend the August 26 meeting at 6pm in the church basement. All confirmed ladies of Trinity Congregation are welcome to attend the meeting or join the group.

Please remember to purchase scrip for gas, groceries or dining out. Every purchase helps MLHS. When you write Trinity Lutheran church in the "Family Name" on the form your purchases will also help Trinity families. Contact Diane Smith 726-4323 if you have any questions.

### **Installation**

The members of Rockwood Ev. Lutheran Church would like to invite you to the installation of Pastor Huehn. The date is August 10<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 p.m.

### **Thank You**

Dear Trinity Lutheran Members,

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us". We have seen this promise fulfilled in our World Mission program. Over the past 12 years the number of souls in World Mission churches has grown from approximately 33,000 to over 77,000 souls. On behalf of the Board for World Missions, I would like to extend my thanks to you for your gift, a gift that enables us to continue sharing the wonderful message of God's love with the other nations. Your gift of \$568.00 was recorded and has been directed to MP-East Fork Lutheran School. We appreciate the commitment of the missionaries and their families who are willing to share God's saving truth on our behalf. We are grateful to God for your committed gift of love in supporting their work. We assure you that we are also committed to using your offering in the wisest possible manner.

Because He Lives,  
Rev. Daniel Koelpin, Administrator  
WELS Board for World Missions

## **MLHS News**

*Scott Reinhard, Development Director*

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# Church Attendance for July



Combined Total for Saturday/Sunday

## July                      2005

**Week 1:** 34/ 76=110  
**Week 2:** 40/ 104=144  
**Week 3:** 32/ 103=135  
**Week 4:** 33/ 102/135  
**Week 5:** 39/ 128=167

**Monthly=691**

## July                      2006

**Week 1:** 0/ 87=87  
**Week 2:** 29/ 93=122  
**Week 3:** 29/ 113=142  
**Week 4:** 47/ 81=128  
**Week 5:** 41/ 100=141

**Monthly=620**

## July                      2007

**Week 1:** 45/ 69=114  
**Week 2:** 41/ 111=152  
**Week 3:** 58/ 105=163  
**Week 4:** 60/ 92=152  
**Week5:** 57/ 104=161

**Monthly= 742**

## July                      2008

**Week 1:** 38/ 78=113  
**Week 2:** 35/ 98=133  
**Week 3:** 33/ 110=144  
**Week 4:** 47/70=117

**Monthly= 507**

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“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

*John 4:24*

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

8/3 Jacob Krim	8/15 Amy Hochkammer
8/3 Darlene Schnell	8/15 Kalie Knutson
8/5 Charles Lovell, Jr.	8/19 Kayla Kasten
8/7 Al Bonfigt	**8/22 <i>Reuben Gass-93 yrs. young</i>
8/7 Walter Kiesow	8/22 Desirae Kiesow
8/7 Dianne Schultz	8/27 Doris Wehausen
8/8 Dean Luebke	8/29 Lucille Jaeger
8/9 Marlena Free	8/29 Aaron Wallander
8/9 Lauren Petersen	8/30 Cindy Williamson
8/10 Amanda Knutson	8/30 Hannah Bratz
8/10 Uriah Matznick	8/30 Heidi Bratz
**8/10 <i>Harold Schnell -86 Yrs. young</i>	8/31 Lisa Kiesow
8/13 Andrew Kiesow	8/31 Tyler Teesch
8/14 Makenna Krim	



## *Happy Anniversary To...*

8/2 Dennis & Shanna Bratz -3 Years!  
8/4 Michael & Marilyn Kaufmann - 35 years!  
8/4 Mike & Karen Kiesow-25 years!  
8/6 David & Dianne Schultz - 42 years!  
8/9 Mark & Darlene Kiesow - 28 years!  
8/18 Kermit & Mabel Liermann - 54 years!  
8/24 Harold & Lucille Jaeger - 62 years!  
8/31 Jeff & Sherri Kasten - 18 years!

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

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Ushers on Schedule:</u>
Aug. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Fred Wehausen, Mark Kiesow
Aug. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	John Smith, Wayne Otto, A.J. Kenneke, Eli Kenneke
Aug. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Dan Knutson (Server), Brian Glaeser (Server), Steve Pleuss
Aug. 10 <sup>th</sup>	James Glaeser (Server), Warren Lutze (Server), James Ott, Joseph Nagel
Aug. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Harold Bratz, Peter Liermann
Aug. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Petersen, Brett Glaeser, Brian Glaeser, Jeff Tuschel
Aug. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Dave Williamson (Server), David Schultz (Server), Derrick Krey
Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Vetter (Server), Mark Knutson (Server), Jeff Kasten, Alex Kasten
Aug. 30 <sup>th</sup>	John Smith, August Teesch
Aug. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Fred Wehausen, Elwood Free, Al Bonfigt, Larry Hochkammer

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

**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.

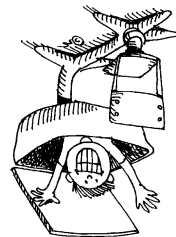
### Altar Guild Schedule

Group 3: Cindy Williamson, Eunice Barnes, Janice Wehausen, Diane Smith

## ***Our Greeters For August***



**Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> Lori Schleis family**  
**Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> Chad & Karen Knutson family**  
**Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> Brian & Carol Glaeser family**  
**Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> Bob & Gail Lietzau**  
**Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> Wayne & Elizabeth Otto**



## Kids Corner

### Bible Quiz – “Noah’s Ark”

1. What was the first creature to leave the ark?
  - a. Crow
  - b. Dove
  - c. Sparrow
  - d. Raven
  
2. What was the second creature to leave the ark?
  - a. Crow
  - b. Dove
  - c. Sparrow
  - d. Raven
  
3. Who told Noah to leave the ark?
  - a. Noah’s son
  - b. An Angel
  - c. Noah’s wife
  - d. God
  
4. What did the dove bring back to the ark?
  - a. A twig
  - b. A pebble
  - c. An olive leaf
  - d. Another dove
  
5. What was the first thing Noah built when he left the ark?
  - a. Altar
  - b. House
  - c. A tower
  - d. A zoo

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**Answers:** 1.) d [Genesis 8:7] 2.) b [Genesis 8:8] 3.) d [Genesis 8:15] 4.) c [Genesis 8:11] 5.) a [Genesis 8:20]



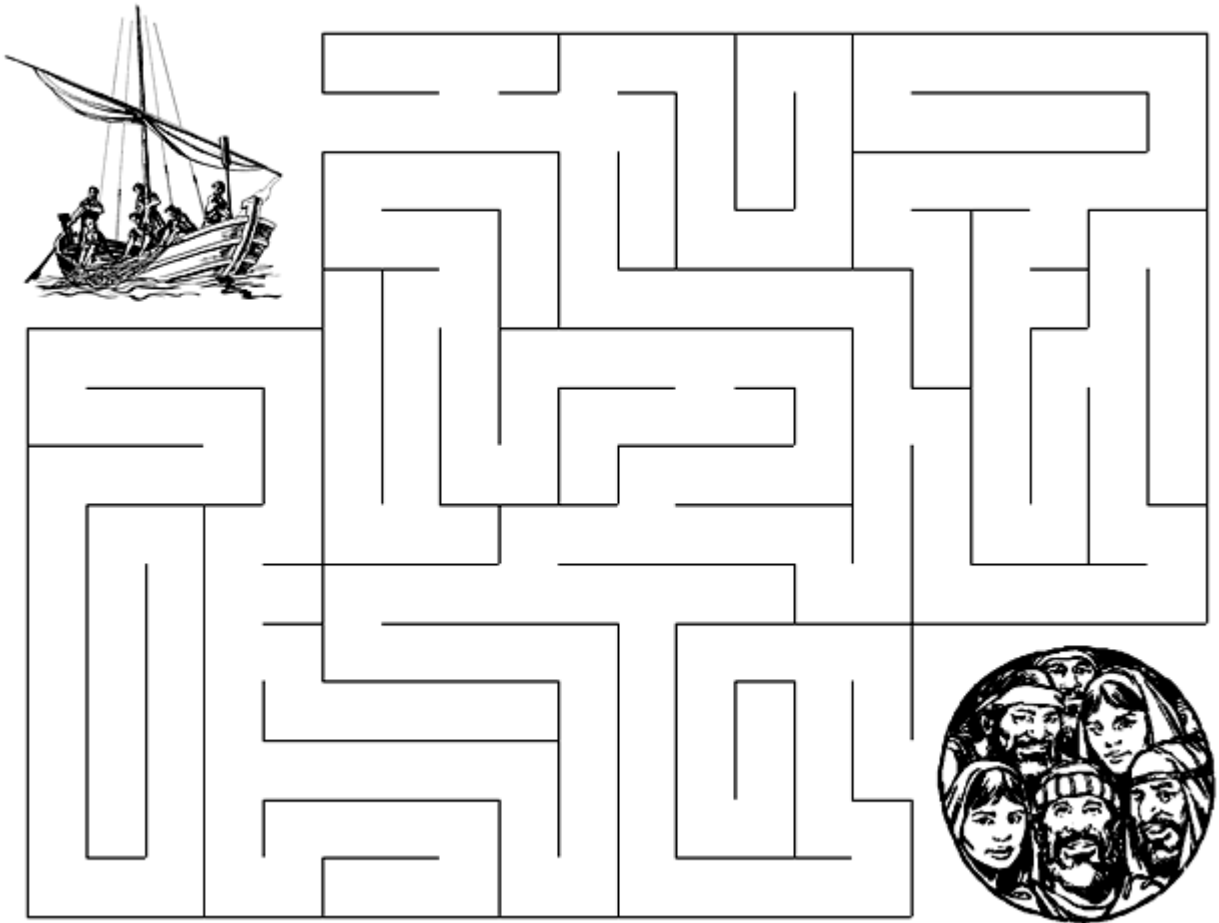
Jesus can feed a crowd with a little food.

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[Sermons4Kids.com](http://Sermons4Kids.com)

# Feeding the 5000

Help Jesus and the disciples find the way to the crowd.



When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns.

Matthew 14:13

