

The Disciple

Digital Digest

 Spring 2026



**Whoever you are,
wherever you are in your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here.**



A Publication of Christ Lutheran Church, Richmond, VA

travels.





Christ



Tell us what you think

Scan QR Code or click **HERE**



In this issue...

1. Contents
2. Welcome
3. Vision & Mission
5. 2026 Council
6. Staff & Trustees
7. Recognition
9. Lutheran Learning
11. Bible Quest
17. Photography
21. CLC Softball Team
22. Art
33. Events- December Card Show
38. Poetry
44. Fun- Puzzles, Quiz and Mazes
53. Lutheran Laughables
67. Phone Downloads
69. CLC Online
70. CLC Docs
71. Lutheran Partners
73. Maze Answers
76. Credits
78. Contact Us
79. Blessing

Contents



Greetings from



Pastor Liz

**“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceived it?”
Isaiah 43:19a**

In the 43rd chapter of the book of Isaiah the prophet is bringing a message of hope, comfort, and restoration to the exiled people in Babylon, reassuring them of God’s enduring love and promise to redeem and return them from their captivity. This chapter tells them not to fear, that they are precious to God, and that God is doing a “new thing”.

I think these are fitting words as we are walking into a new year and a new chapter of ministry together, not exactly knowing where we are going, but that God is present, that God is leading us, that God is about to do a new thing in, with, and through us. I am beyond excited to be a part of Christ Lutheran and to see and participate in this “new thing” that God is about to unleash here.

I have been with you now for less than two months, and I have been honored by the outpouring of love, kindness, and welcome that I have felt since arriving. I am also humbled and thankful for your grace as I am figuring out how to fit into this tight community while still bringing the gifts and passions that God has granted me. Though there will be bumps along the way, and toes stepped on inadvertently, I know that God has been very present in this call process and will continue to be very present in this new chapter of ministry that we are embarking on.

This next year I am looking forward to getting to know all of you much better. So far I have gotten to know a few people through hospital visits, home visits, and conversations at church, in meetings or at events. My hope is to continue getting to know you in these ways, but also in having conversations and times of storytelling with you all. To that end, I have created a Cal.com link (<https://cal.com/clcpastor/30min>) for people to sign up so that we can have one-on-one (or small group) conversations where we get to know each other a little bit better. I want to know what excites you about CLC, what brought you here and how you found your home here, and who you think God is calling CLC to be in this chapter of ministry.

I am also looking forward to connecting with our homebound members and getting to know them, meeting the people in our neighborhood and at Moody Middle School and seeing how we can partner with them and support them, and introducing ourselves at community events in the area. I am also looking forward to our worship services, our education opportunities, our service project, our events, and cheering on our League Champion Softball Team!

We have a lot on the horizon at CLC - some new things, some things that have been happening for years - but in the midst of all of it God is present, God loves you, you are precious to God, and it will be exciting to see how God brings forth a “new thing” here at CLC.

Welcome



Vision

We endeavor to embrace and grow our relationships with God, each other, and the broader community by boldly serving all in need and fostering an environment of inclusivity and welcoming.

Mission

Christ Lutheran's mission is to serve the greater Richmond community and beyond. We welcome all, regardless of where you are in your faith and life journeys, to join us in the joyful service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



We Minister Through:

Worship

in Word and Sacrament

Witness

as the Body of Christ

Education

to continue to grow in understanding and faith

Service

in reaching out to help others through words and deeds

Support

by loving each other and our community



Your 2026 Church Council



Pres. Patty Franz
2026-2027



V.P. Jan Foltz
2025-2026



Sec. Darren D'Ateno
2026-2027



Fred Reidl
2026-2027



Tom Dry
2025-2026



Bill Mottet
2026-2027



Laura Greenday
2026-2027

Council



Staff, Officers & Trustees



Rev. Elizabeth Radtke
Pastor



Linda Keener
Music Director



Paul Quel
Treasurer



Kayley Greenday
Financial Secretary



Cynthia St. John
Trustee



David Ingraham
Trustee



Darren D'Ateno
Trustee

Term ending December 31, 2029 Term ending December 31, 2029 Term ending December 31, 2029

Staff & Trustees

Recognition



Congratulations
to Patty Franz-
2025 winner of the



Gladys Strong
Weaving Award
at the Montpelier
Fiber Festival.



Fall Fiber Festival &
Montpelier Sheep Dog Trials at



Recognition

Lutheran Learning



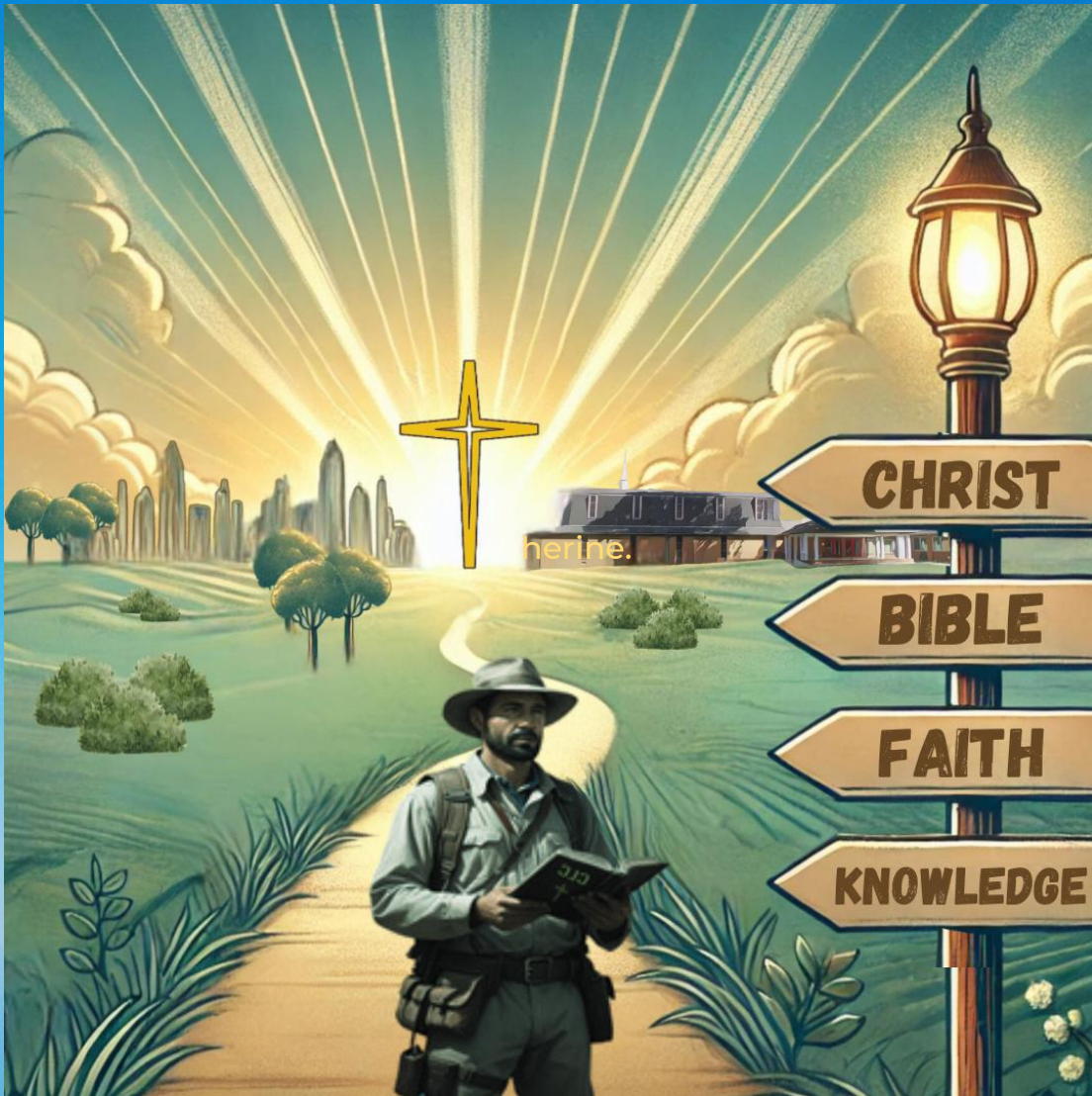
The Power & Primacy of The Pope

The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope (1537) (Latin: Tractatus de Potestate et Primatu Papae), The Tractate for short, is the seventh Lutheran credal document of the Book of Concord. Philip Melanchthon, its author, completed it on 17 February 1537 during the assembly of princes and theologians in Smalcald.

The Tractate was ratified and subscribed by this assembly as an appendix to the Augsburg Confession, which did not have a specific article dealing with the office of the papacy. Defining their stance on the papacy was deemed important by the Lutherans as they faced the impending church council that would ultimately meet as the Council of Trent. The Tractate historically was considered part of Luther's Smalcald Articles because both documents came out of the Smalcald assembly and the Tractate was placed after the Smalcald Articles in the Book of Concord.

[Read it online](#)

Bible Quest



Bible Quest is your journey to a basic understanding of the Bible, the church, and your Lutheran faith.



Holy Week

Holy Week, also referred to as Passion Week, is the culmination of the three-year ministry of Jesus Christ. Here is a brief summary of the events of that week and why these days are so significant to the Christian Faith.



Friday: Arrival in Bethany before the Passover. While here, Lazarus, the man whom Jesus raised from the dead, and his sisters Martha and Mary, host a dinner in Jesus' honor. Prior to the meal, Mary anoints Jesus' feet with an expensive perfume, an act of supreme devotion indicating her willingness to serve him. The account of this dinner is found only in John 12.

Palm Sunday: Jesus makes his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy proclaimed in the Old Testament book of Zechariah. The Pharisees are outraged by this display, and Roman Governor Pontius Pilate is concerned the Jewish leadership will soon lose control of the adoring crowds, thus destabilizing Roman control over Palestine. All four Gospels have an account of the entry into Jerusalem.



Monday: Clearing of the Temple. In one of the most dramatic moments in the Gospel story, Jesus enters the Temple in Jerusalem and disrupts the commerce going on and drives out the money changers, a major source of revenue for the Pharisees and Chief Priest. This intensifies their resolve to rid themselves of Jesus. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all contain an account of this event. John's Gospel does not.

Tuesday: Day of Controversy and Parables. Jesus returns to the Temple and debates the scribes, lawyers and Pharisees on the fine points of Jewish law. They are now merely looking for a legal pretense to kill Jesus. During this debate, Jesus is challenged about paying taxes to Rome. He provides the famous response "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."



Maundy Thursday: Jesus meets with his disciples one last time to celebrate the Passover (Seder) Meal, the ancient ritual in memory of Moses leading the Hebrews out of Egypt. Jesus transitions this meal into the “New Covenant” of the Last Supper declaring the bread is “my body given for you” and the wine “the new covenant in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me.” Afterwards, they retire to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prays as he waits to be arrested after being betrayed by Judas.

Good Friday: In the early morning hours, Jesus is arrested, tortured and condemned, first by the Chief Priest and then by Pontius Pilate. Pilate orders Jesus to be crucified, which is done about noon time. Around 3 pm Jesus exclaims, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” and breathes his last. His body is placed in a nearby tomb and sealed with a large stone.



Easter Sunday: Early in the morning, Mary Magdeline goes to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body, only to find the stone removed and the body gone. An angel in the tomb asks, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" and declares,

"Rejoice, for Christ has Risen!"

Continue your quest on our webpage by scanning the QR code or clicking the link below.



<https://www.christlutheran.org/bible-quest/>

Bible Quest

Photography

**The northern lights were on full display
in Minnesota on November 11, 2025 and
they did not disappoint!**

Photos submitted by Paula Kiley-Gerdes







**The angels came out to
witness the beauty as well!**

Photography



Christ Lutheran Church Softball Team

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 WESTERN HENRICO CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION B

CHAMPIONS



Submitted by Tom Dry

Congratulations to the 2025 Western Henrico Church Softball League Division B Champions!

Spencer Shumate Richard Tripp Derek Meyer
Scott Thurston Taylor McDougal Keith Banton
Trenton Hizer Adam Ikenberry Zane Durbin
Trevor Litwiler John Mark Quick Mitch Roost
Dustin Robbins Cutter Jacobson Taylor Morris
Tom Dry

Softball Team

Art



Submitted by Angela Pharr <https://www.instagram.com/plasterpeace/>

Art



Submitted by Angela Pharr <https://www.instagram.com/plasterpeace/>

Art



Submitted by Angela Pharr <https://www.instagram.com/plasterpeace/>

Art



Submitted by Angela Pharr <https://www.instagram.com/plasterpeace/>

Art



Submitted by Rebecca Smith https://www.instagram.com/sunshineart_rva/

Art



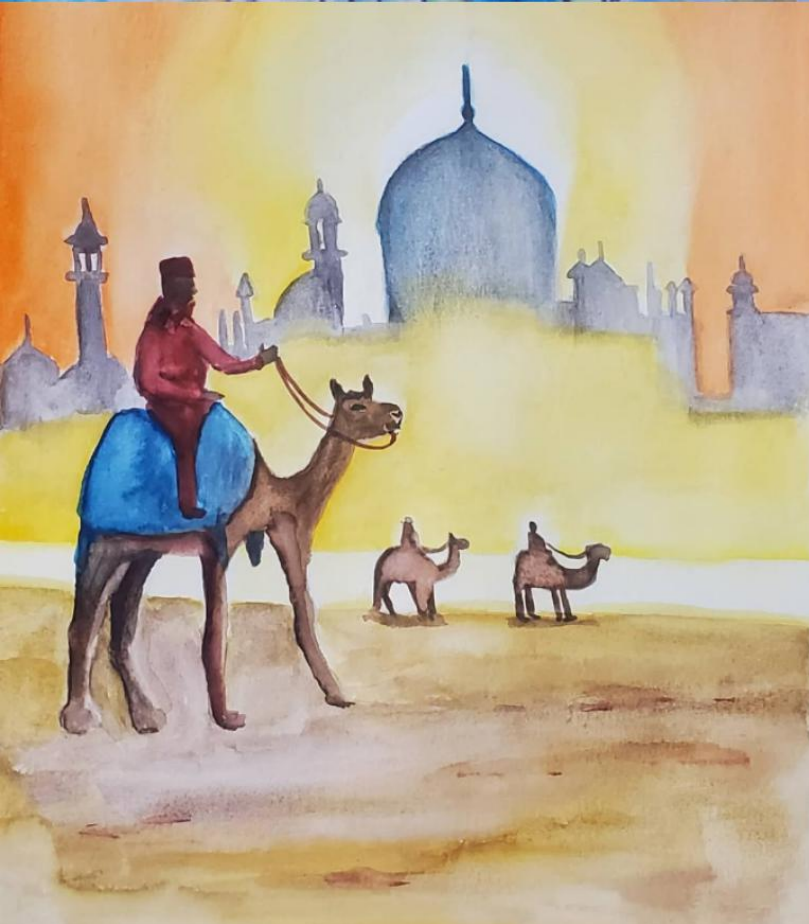
Submitted by Rebecca Smith https://www.instagram.com/sunshineart_rva/

Art



Submitted by Rebecca Smith https://www.instagram.com/sunshineart_rva/

Art



Submitted by Rebecca Smith https://www.instagram.com/sunshineart_rva/

Art



Submitted by Rebecca Smith https://www.instagram.com/sunshineart_rva/

Art



Submitted by Rebecca Smith https://www.instagram.com/sunshineart_rva/

Art

Events



Pics from the December 2025
Pirate Dog Card & Collectibles
show at CLC









PIRATE DOG

Cards & Collectibles

Poetry



Jesus, Lord of Life and Light

Jesus, Lord of life and light,
Born to chase away the night,
Word made flesh, so pure, so mild,
Heaven's own glory in a child.

Shepherd true with gentle hand,
Guiding hearts that cannot stand,
Calling sinners, lost and lone,
Claiming them to be His own.

On the cross, with love divine,
Bore the guilt that once was mine;
From His wounds the mercy flows,
Life eternal from His throes.

Burst the tomb! The stone gave way,
Death was shattered by the day.
Christ arose, the grave undone—
Hail the risen, conquering Son!

Reign forever, Lord of grace,
Shine upon us, face to face;
Till in heav'n our voices raise,
Endless anthems, songs of praise.

Poetry



When Spring Unfolds Her Gentle Hand

When spring unfolds her gentle hand,
And scatters life o'er sea and land,
The fields awake, the breezes sing,
And earth is crowned with blossoming.

The brooklets laugh through meadow green,
Where once the frost's cold breath had been;
The robin's song, so sweet, so clear,
Proclaims, "The Lord of life is near."

Each bud that bursts, each blade that grows,
The tender bloom, the drifting snows
Of apple boughs, in fragrant air,
All whisper softly, "God is there."

O heart, arise, cast off thy gloom,
For He who rose from death's dark tomb
Now breathes again through every thing—
The world made new, eternal spring.



The Shifting Altar

The hymnal closes, the old songs still hum, in the silence, a new rhythm
has come.

A faith solid, a house built of stone, Not a shadow, but a garment
outgrown.

It wasn't a sundering, sharp, quick, and loud, But a slow, quiet drifting
away from the crowd.

A question that blossomed, too vital to cease, Disturbing the comfort of
customary peace.

I step from the nave where my childhood was fed, The familiar comfort,
the words I once said.

And walk on a path markers not completely gone, Guided by light from a
brand-new dawn.

The language of angels, clear in the air, not only an echo, but beautiful
prayer.

And where I find solace is newly defined, A truth that is felt, not externally
signed.

There is no loss in this freedom, no ghosts of the past, For connections
aren't broken, but too sacred to cast

Aside without mourning—the kinship, the tie, The way they all watched
when they looked to the sky.

But look! In the clearing, a wider view lies, Where Spirit breathes fiercely
in unfamiliar skies.

The altar is shifting, not broken, but free, A quiet communion between
God and just me.

No longer constrained by the old, narrow door, My soul learns to worship
on a different shore.

For the search is the sacred, the journey the rite, Walking onward, bathed
in the new, hard-won light.



Awakening

The frost retreats, the earth exhales,
Soft breezes weave through budding trails.
A chorus rises, clear and bright,
Birdsong spilling into light.

Green unfurls on every tree,
A whispered hymn of liberty.
Petals drift like painted skies,
Hope reflected in our eyes.

The world reborn, both wild and kind,
A gentle stirring of the mind.
Springtime sings, and all things new
Begin their journey, fresh with dew.



Holy Week Haiku

Palm Sunday

Hosannas resound,
Palms wave in the morning sun,
Christ rides forth in peace.

Holy Monday

Temple cleansed of trade,
Zeal for God's house burns within,
Truth restores the way.

Holy Tuesday

Wisdom voices rise,
Questions test the Teacher's way,
Truth endures the storm.

Holy Wednesday

Shadows weave their plot,
Silver coins betray the Lord,
Night prepares the cross.

Maundy Thursday

Table set with grace,
Hands that serve in quiet love,
Night of sacrifice.

Good Friday

Silent hill of pain,
Cross lifted against the storm,
Love redeems the world.

Holy Saturday

Silent stone awaits,
Hope held in the shadowed tomb,
Light prepares to rise.

Easter Sunday

Dawn breaks, stone rolled back,
Alleluia fills the earth,
Life eternal blooms.

Fun



Jigsaw puzzles

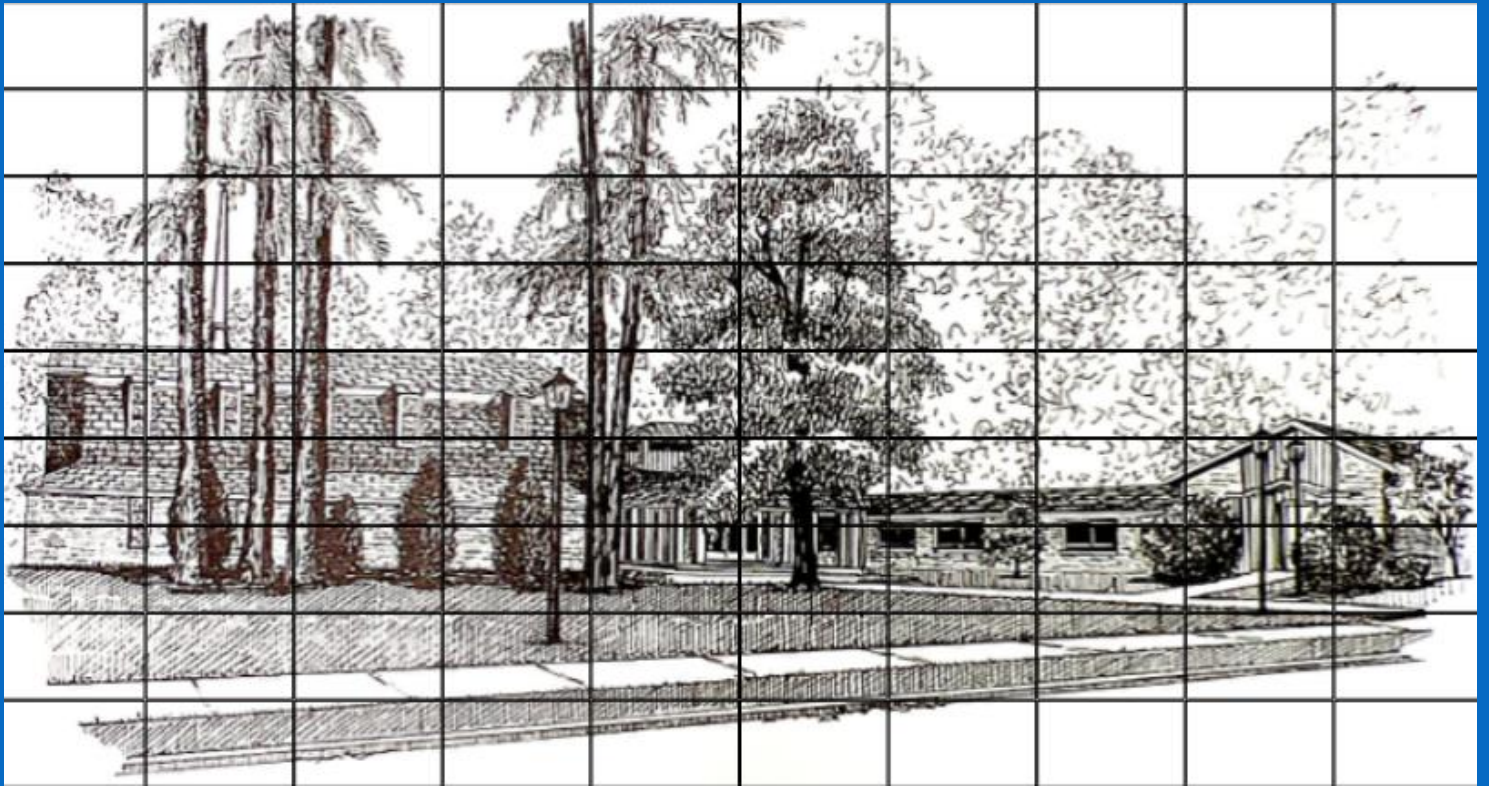
Click the pictures to play



<https://puzzel.org/en/jigsaw/play?p=-Odndlpjg4mG8KJ96PSz>

Complete this 100 piece puzzle to
reveal our beautiful Easter altar.

Fun



https://puzzel.org/en/jigsaw/play?p=-OdnhUfLY4iFdsBpWc_g

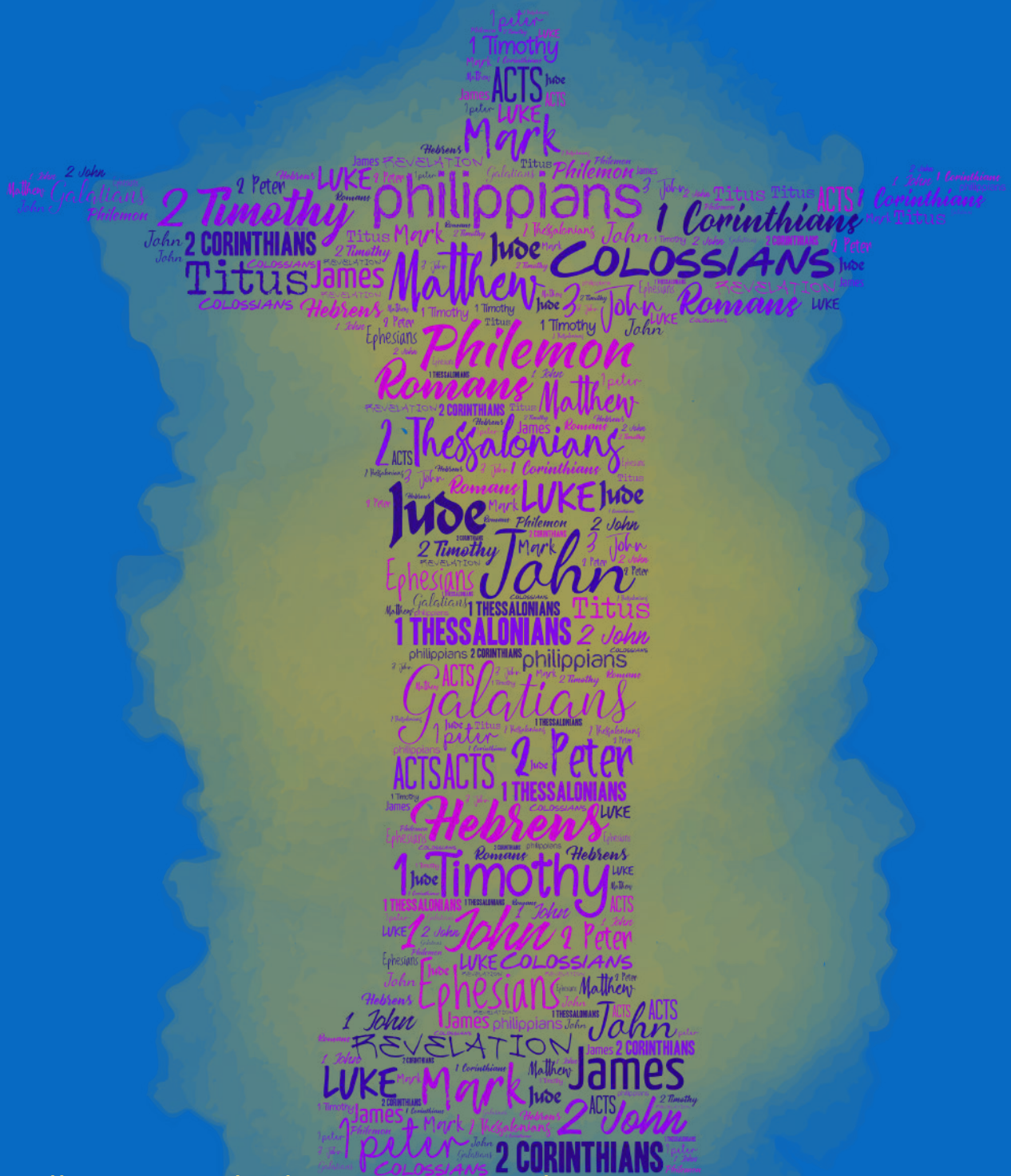
Complete this 90 piece puzzle to
reveal an artist's sketch of CLC.
For extra difficulty, all the pieces
are rectangular!

Fun

[illegible]

Click the picture to put all 39 books of the old testament in order.

Fun



<https://puzzel.org/en/matching-pairs/play?p=-Odnsqx3vvIDan-YxEYM>

How well do you know your new testament?

Click the picture to put all 27 books of the new testament in order.

Fun



Lutheran Quiz

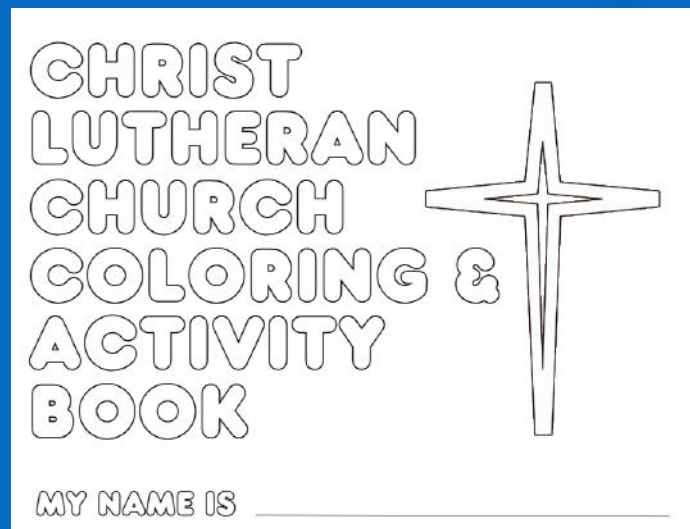
Click the picture to play



<https://puzzel.org/en/quiz/play?p=-OdtICXW9YSEwiCCwHPY>

Test your knowledge on
Lutheran history and facts

Printable CLC activity book



Click the picture to link to our activity book
and print as many pages as you like

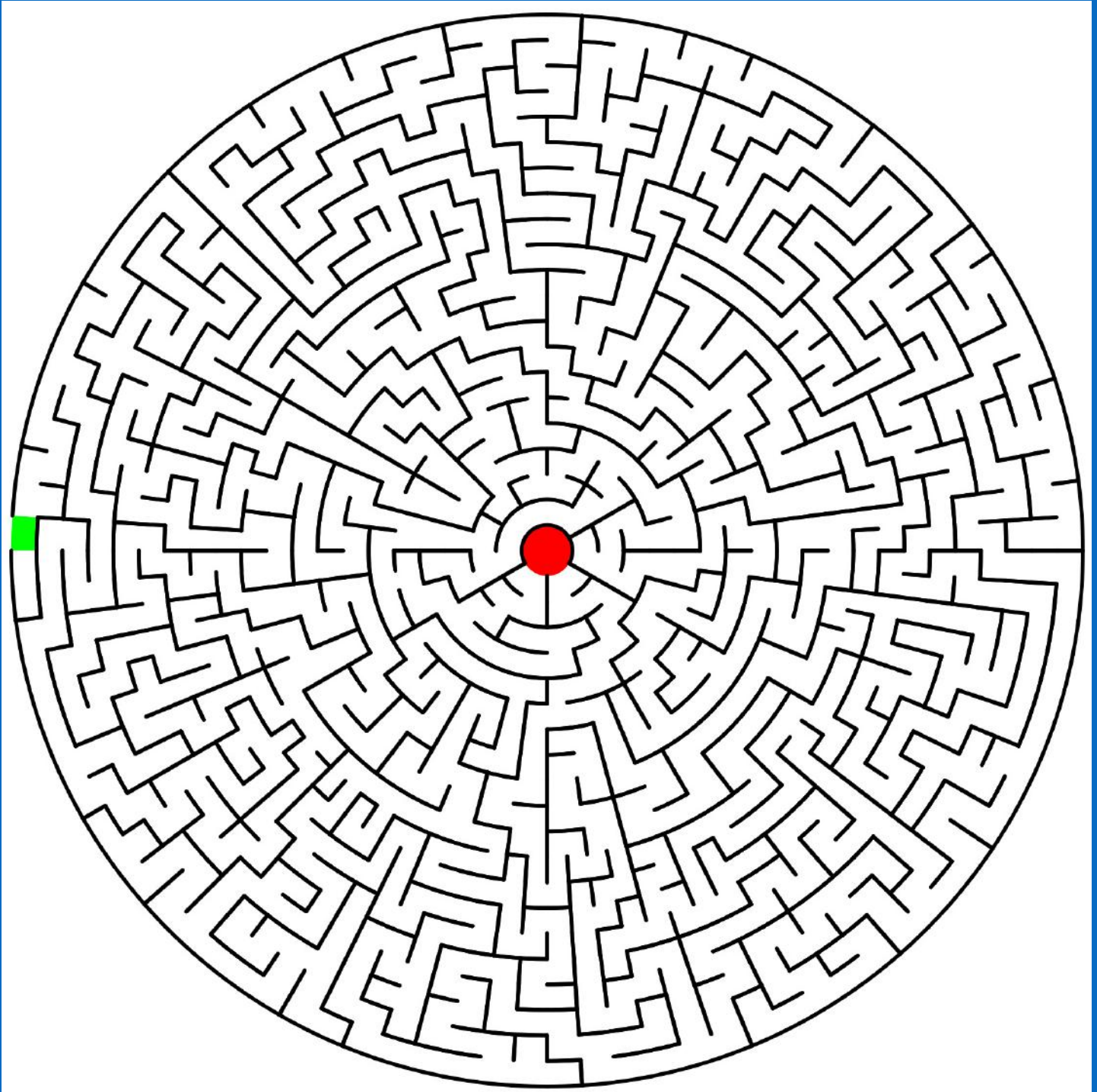
Fun



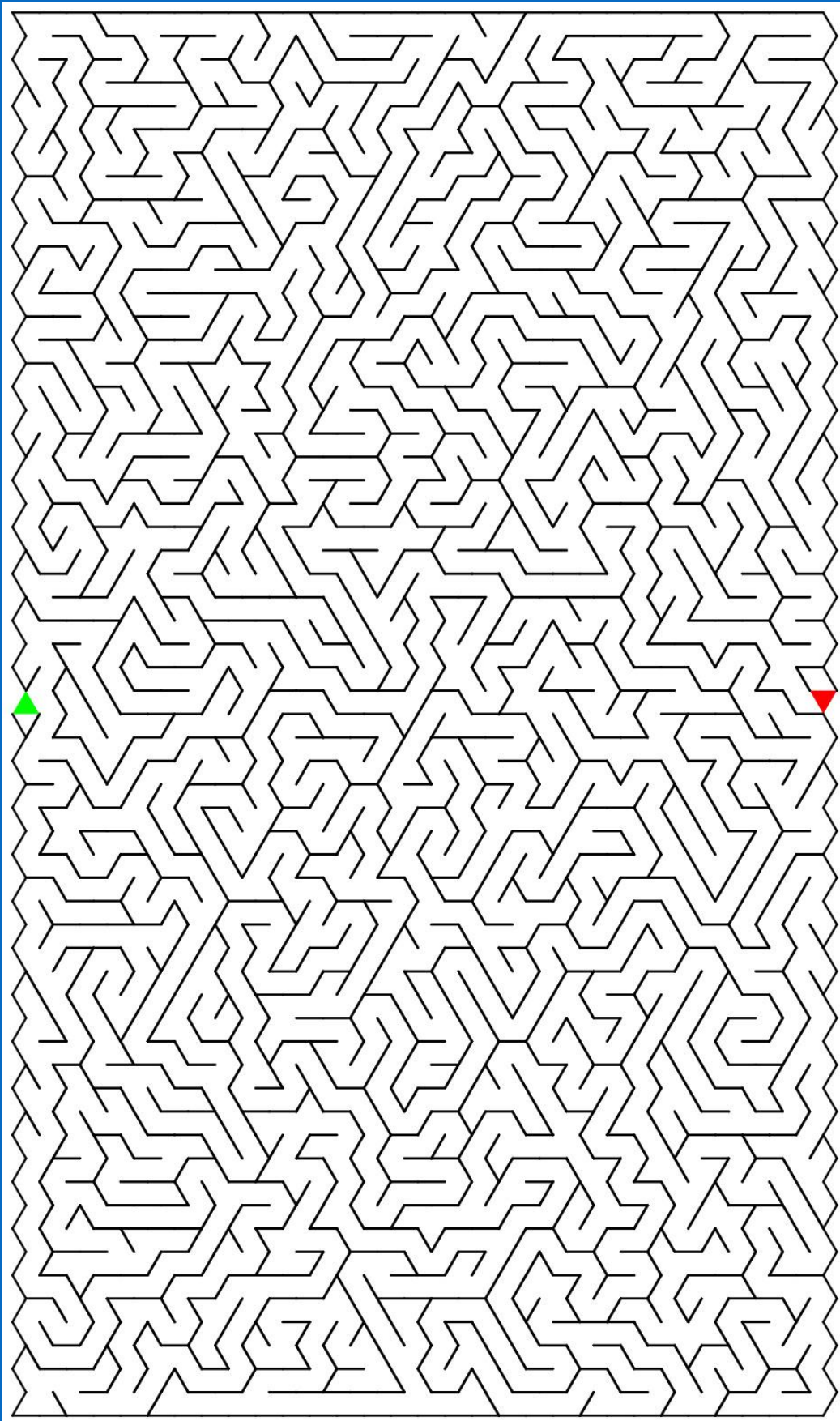
Mazes

Just screenshot the maze and use your photo editor's pen to find your way. Begin at the green starting point and end at the red finish line.

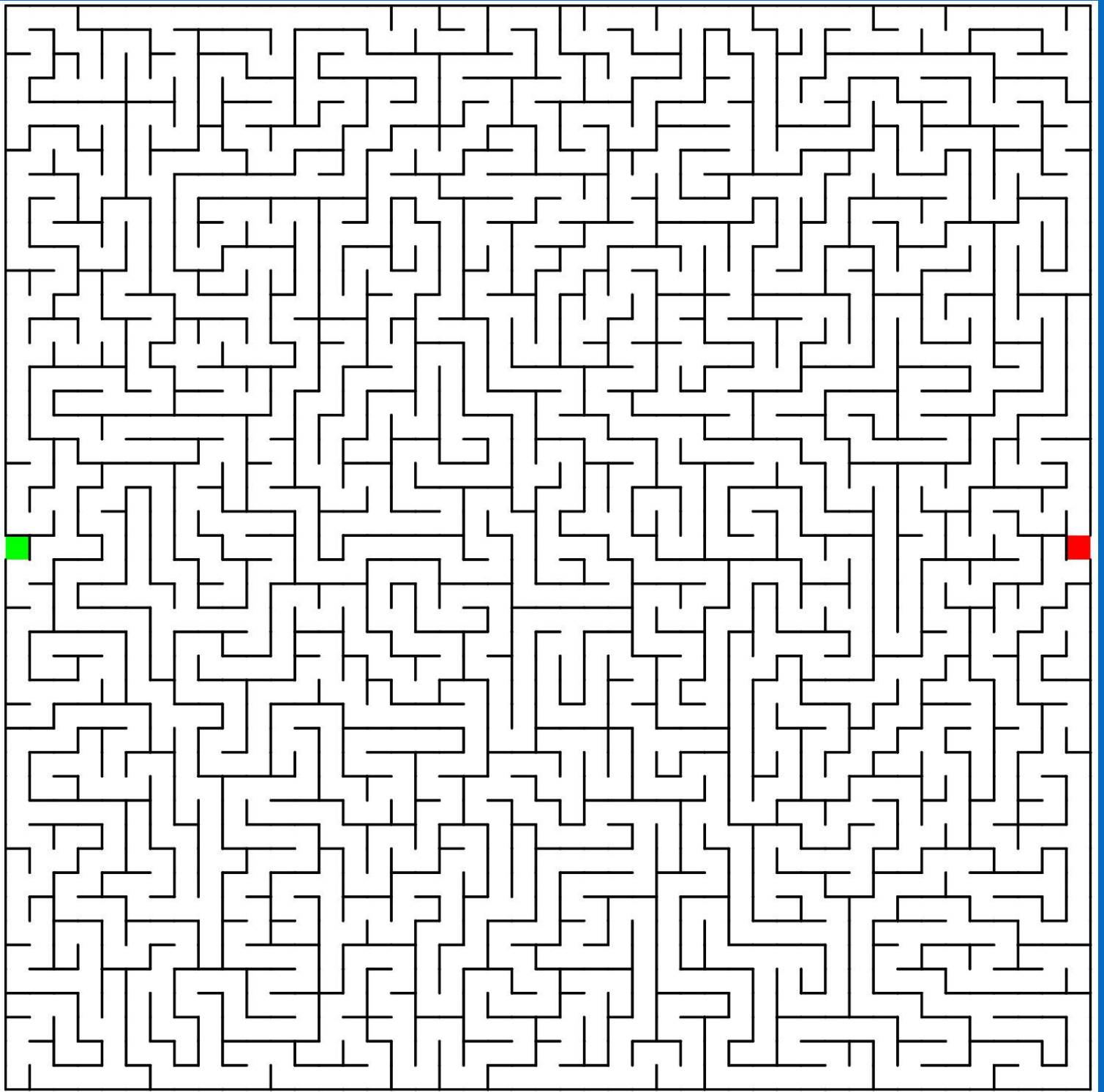
Old fashioned? Just print it out and use your pencil!



Give up? Check out the answers near the end of the digest.



Fun



Lutheran Laughables





“What’s wrong, Bubba?” asked the pastor.

“I need you to pray for my hearing,” said Bubba.

The pastor put his hands on Bubba’s ears and prayed.

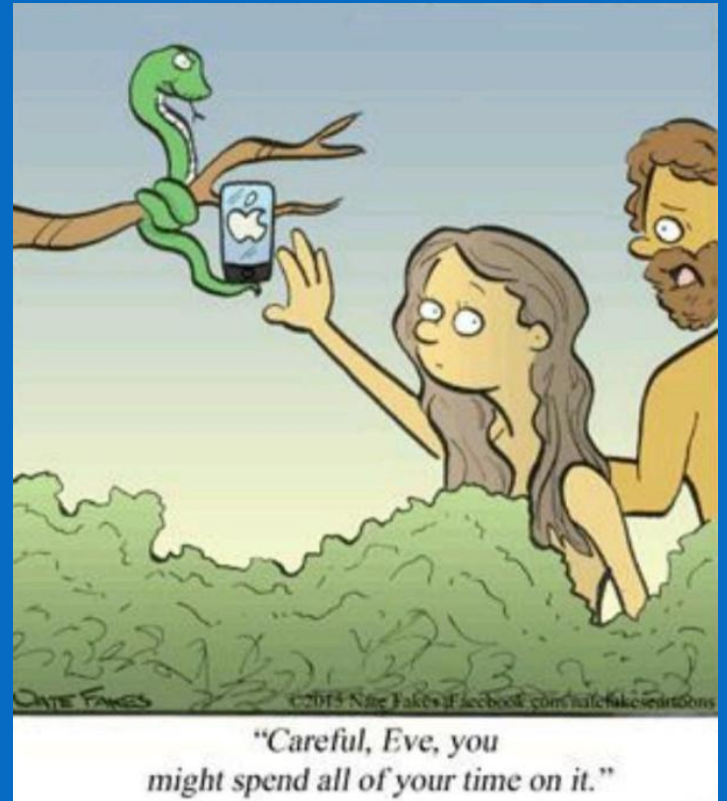
When he was done, he asked,

“So how’s your hearing?”

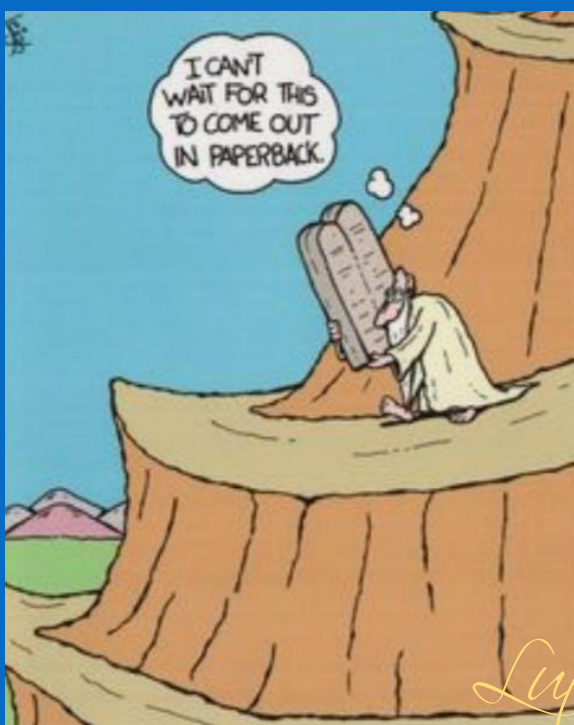
“I don’t know,” said Bubba.

“It isn’t until next Tuesday.”

Lutheran Laughables



"Love your enemies; After all, You made them."



Coffee first
reached
Europe in
1515.



Martin
Luther
sparked the
Reformation
in 1517.

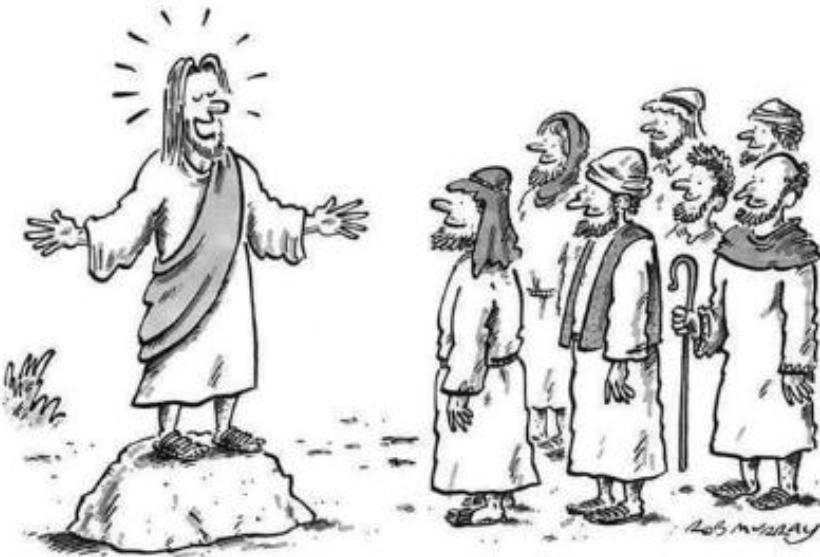


Coincidence?

Lutheran Laughables



GALILEE, A.D. 26



"Now that you're all following me, it would be great if you could like and share my messages"

You might be a Lutheran if the most meaningful times of church are the Children's Sermon and Coffee Hour

You might be a Lutheran if you expect the pastor to visit you in the hospital even if you never informed the church that you were admitted.

NOT BAD! BUT CHECK THIS OUT!

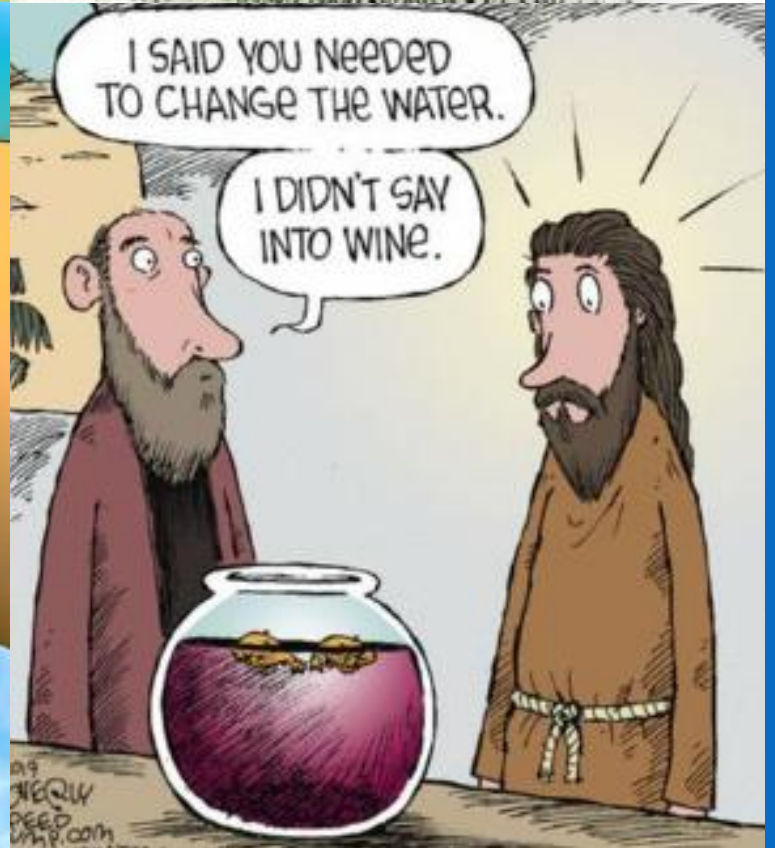
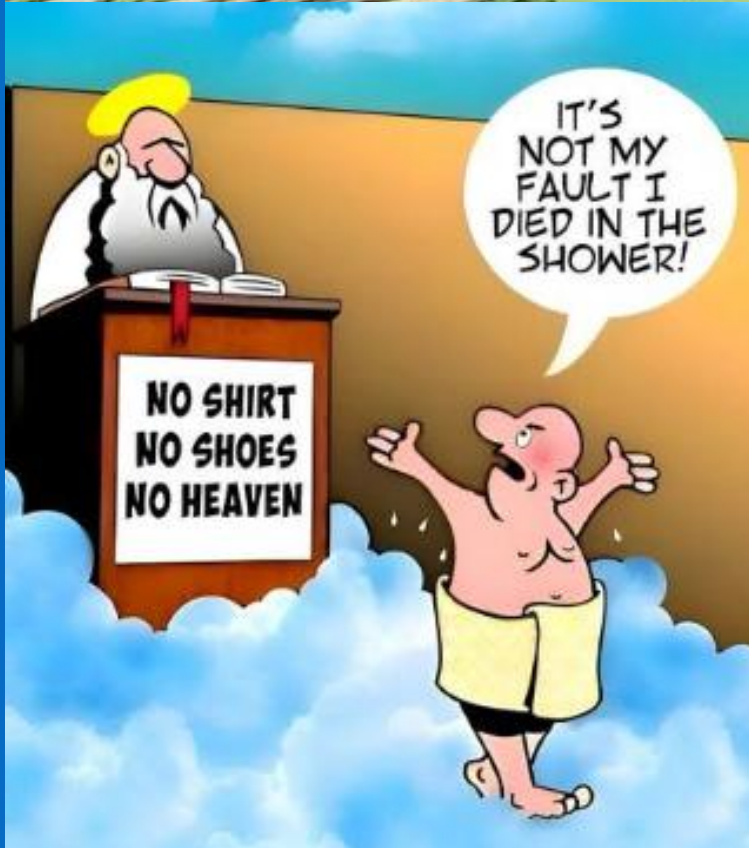


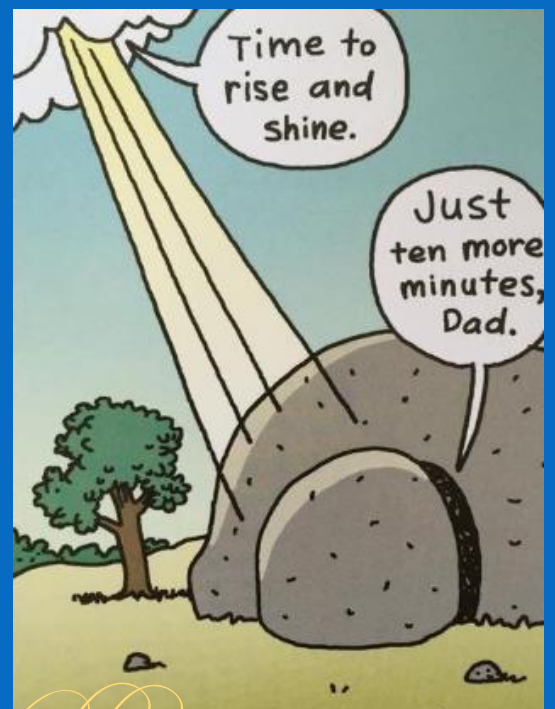
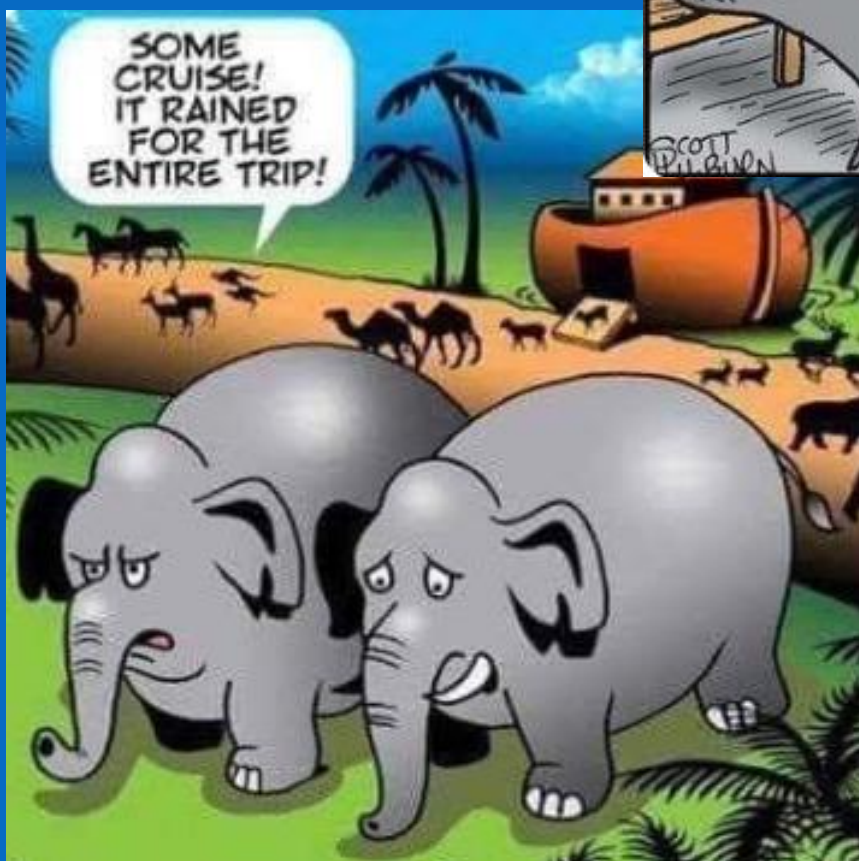
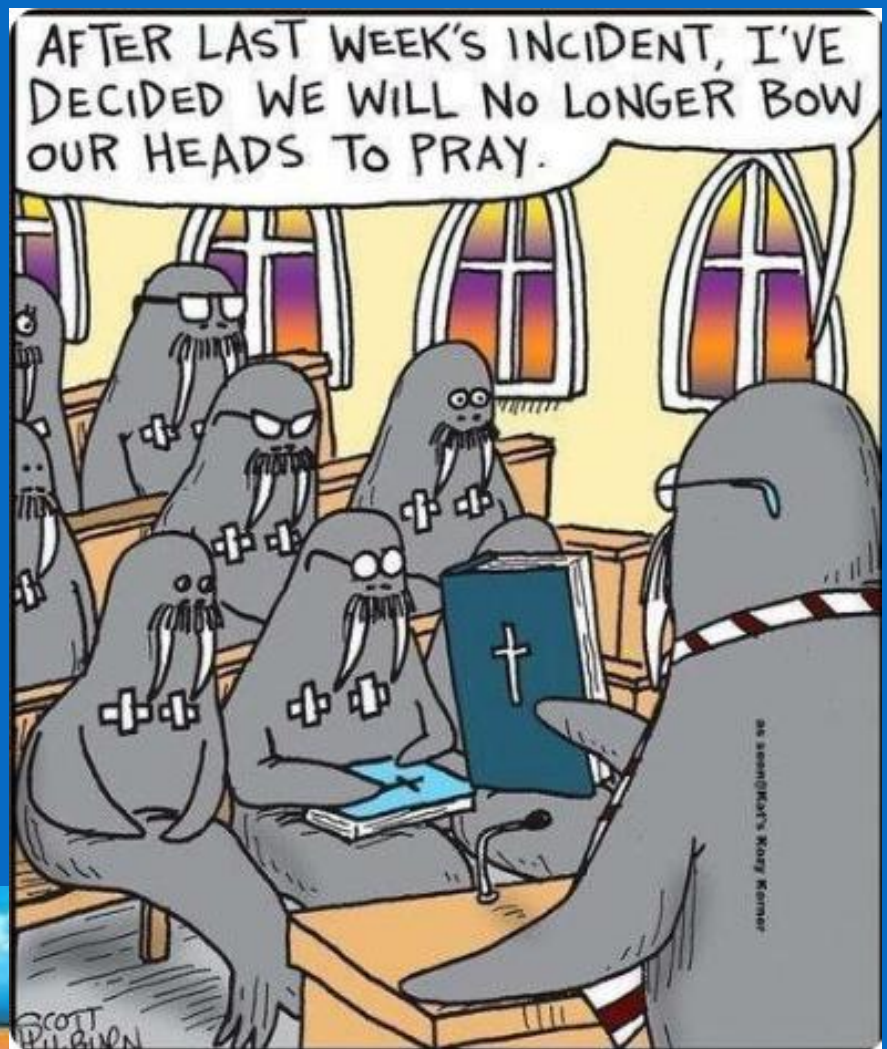
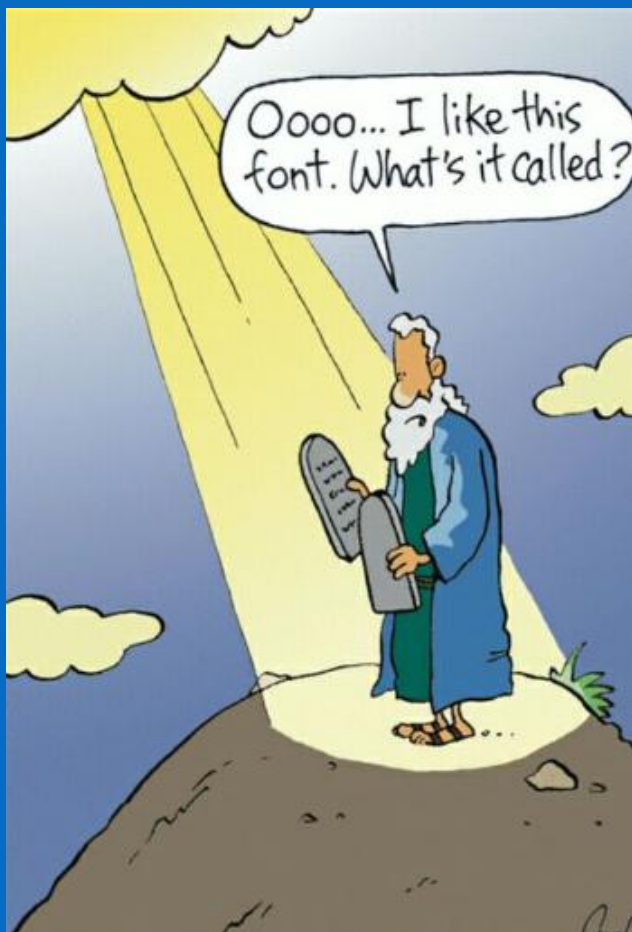
Lutheran Laughables

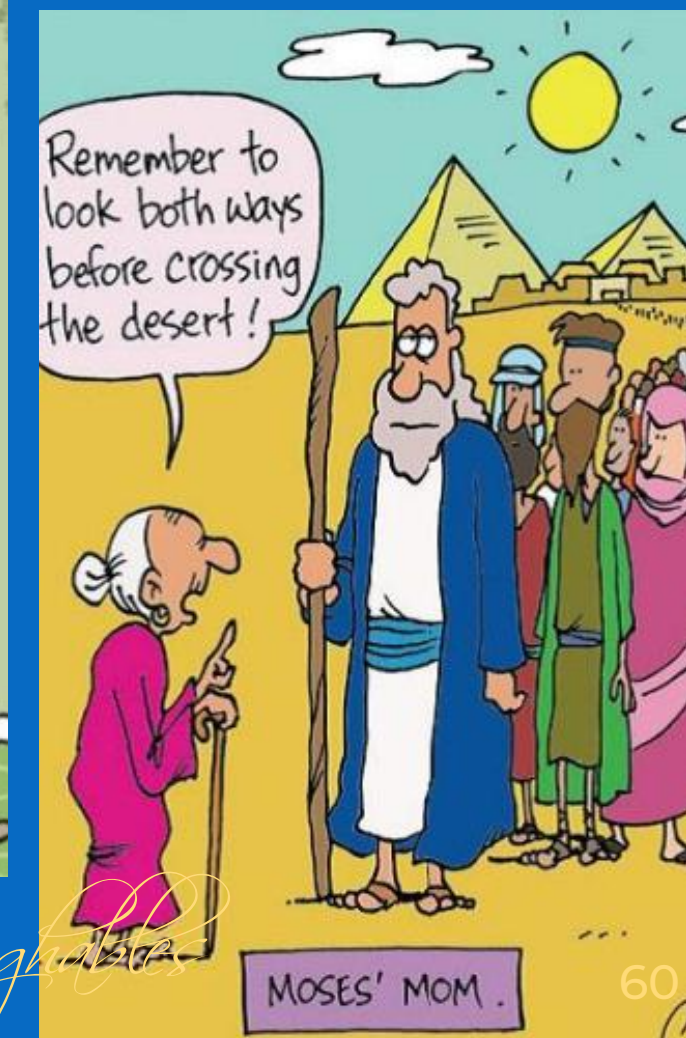
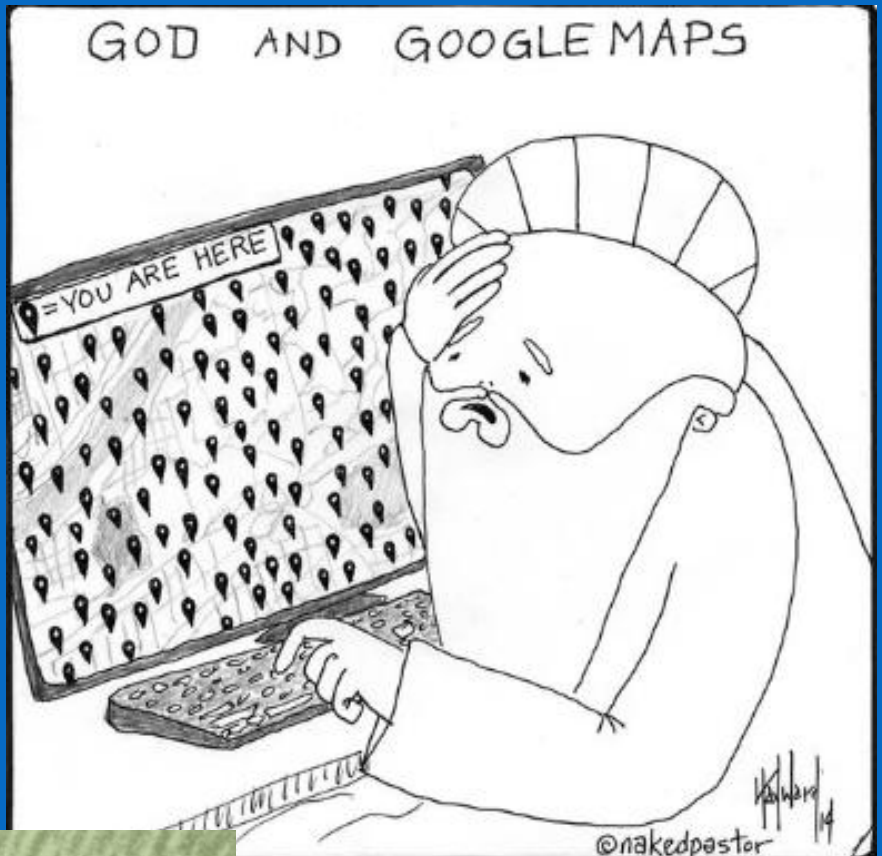


How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?
You can't change that bulb, my great aunt donated it!

Lutheran Laughables







Lutheran Laughter



Vehicles of the Bible



Isaiah 63:5

And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my Plymouth Fury, it upheld me.



Isaiah 42:13

The LORD will go out like a mighty man. He will stir up zeal like a man of war. He will raise a war cry. Yes, he will shout aloud. He will drive his British Triumph over his enemies.



Acts 2:1

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all in one Honda Accord in one place.



Job 30:22

You lift me up on the wind and cause me to ride upon it; And You toss me about in a Pontiac Tempest and dissolve me in the storm.

Lutheran Laughables



Genesis 22:13

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a Dodge Ram.



Leviticus 11:20

All Volkswagen Bugs that go on all fours are detestable to you.



2 Kings 10:16

He said, "Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord." So he made him ride in his *BMW* Chariot.



Luke 20:22

Is it lawful for us to give a Mazda Tribute unto Caesar, or no?

Lutheran Laughables



1 Peter 2:16

You are free, but still you are God's servants, and you must not use your Jeep Liberty for evil.



Matthew 14:8

Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a Dodge Charger."



Revelation 16:14

For they are spirits in a Dodge Demon, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world.



Jesus was a car-painter.

Lutheran Laughables



Mary washes Jesus' Fiat.



Genesis 8:11
The dove came back to Noah in the evening, grasping a Nissan Leaf.



Job 38:1
Then the Lord spoke to Job out of a Geo Storm.



Genesis 29:1
Then Jacob continued in his Dodge Journey and came to the land of the eastern peoples.



1 Samuel 17:51

When the Philistines saw that their Studebaker Champion was dead, they turned and ran.



Numbers 13:17

Moses sent Indian Motorcycle Scouts out to the land of Canaan



The Queen of Sheba was seen taking a Dodge Caravan to visit Solomon.



Mark 8:36

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his Kia Soul?

Lutheran Laughables



Acts 28:3
Paul gathered a bundle of sticks, and as he laid them on the fire,
a Dodge Viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself to his hand.

DOWNLOAD

CLC Phone Wallpapers

SCAN OR CLICK CODE





Phone Downloads



Christ Lutheran Church Online



Click icons to go to sites



WEBSITE

(<https://www.christlutheran.org/>)



FACEBOOK

(<https://www.facebook.com/CLCRVA/>)



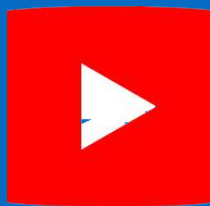
INSTAGRAM

(<http://www.instagram.com/clcrva>)



X

(<http://www.twitter.com/@clcrva>)



YOUTUBE

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwqHdM7OhT6Olq5xjbDSclA/featured>)



THREADS

<https://www.threads.net/@clcrva>



SPOTIFY

<https://open.spotify.com/show/5wVp1h8Jh7vsyTFb8H5EeC?si=12db8782bda8455c>



LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com/in/christlutheran

CLC Online



Christ Lutheran Docs Online

CLC Constitution

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H_yiVGvLr8GJcuKBKheFce6Lq32UwrQ9/view?usp=drive_link

Continuing Resolutions

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UC8GVJlhWpedsotFn4lAs27TBvLV5KY1/view?usp=drive_link

Vision & Mission Statements

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xq9VPXDdiZEaZAuOvmdCetEiWhJ3wE32/view?usp=sharing>

2025 Annual Report

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pr_5lIU6oF0F66n42-UO_DewzY1fVQSr/view?usp=sharing

CLC Online

*Lutheran
Partnerships
Online*



(<https://www.elca.org>)



(<https://vasynod.org>)



(<https://lwr.org>)



(<https://www.carolinefurnace.org>)



(<https://www.lirs.org>)



(<https://www.nationallutheran.org>)



(<https://vlhnet.org>)



(<https://vlhnet.org>)



(<https://hungrymother.org>)



(<https://www.thrivent.com>)



(<https://graceinside.org>)



(<https://www.augsburgfortress.org>)



(<https://www.roanoke.edu>)



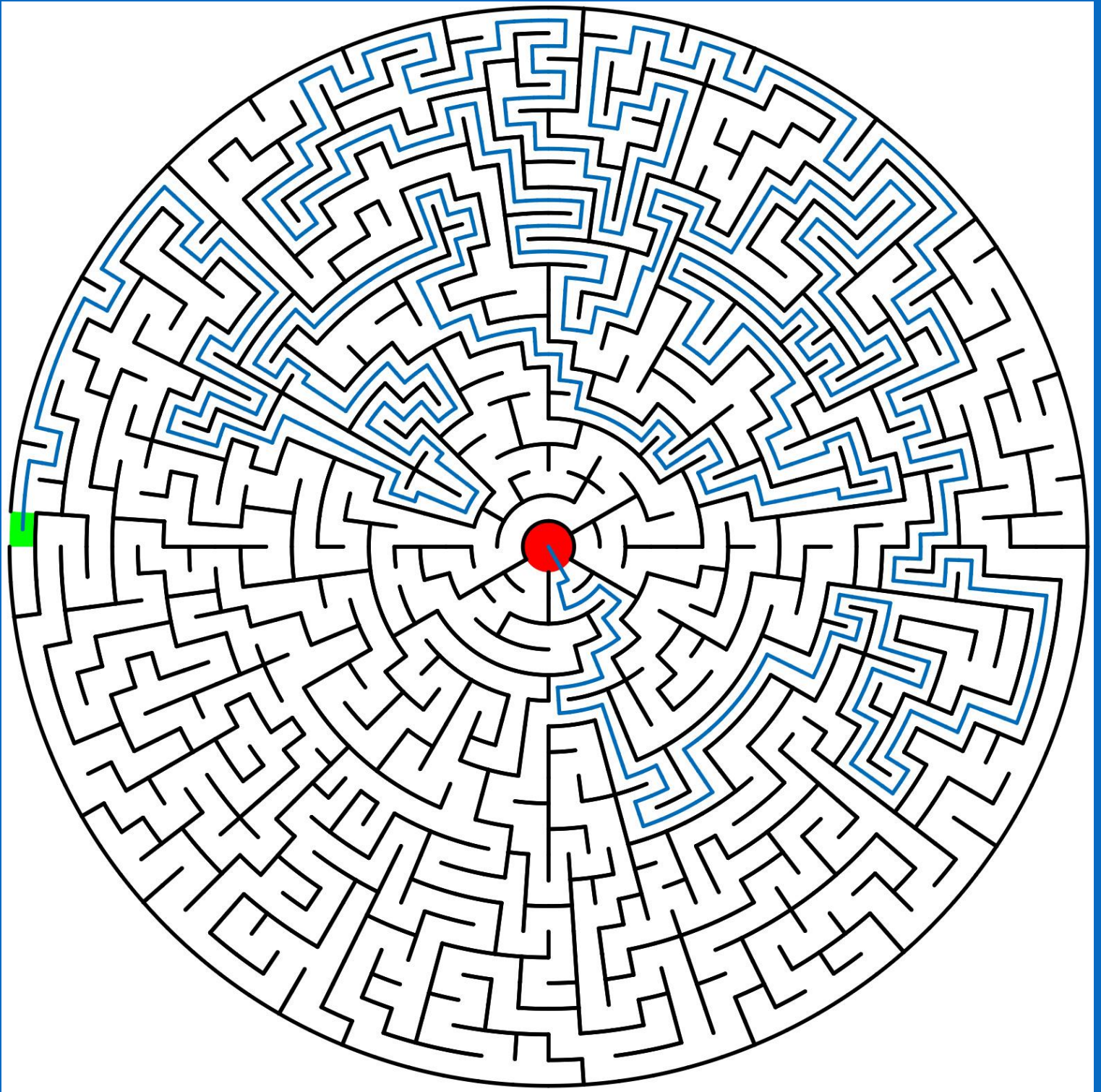
CLICK LOGOS TO ACCESS

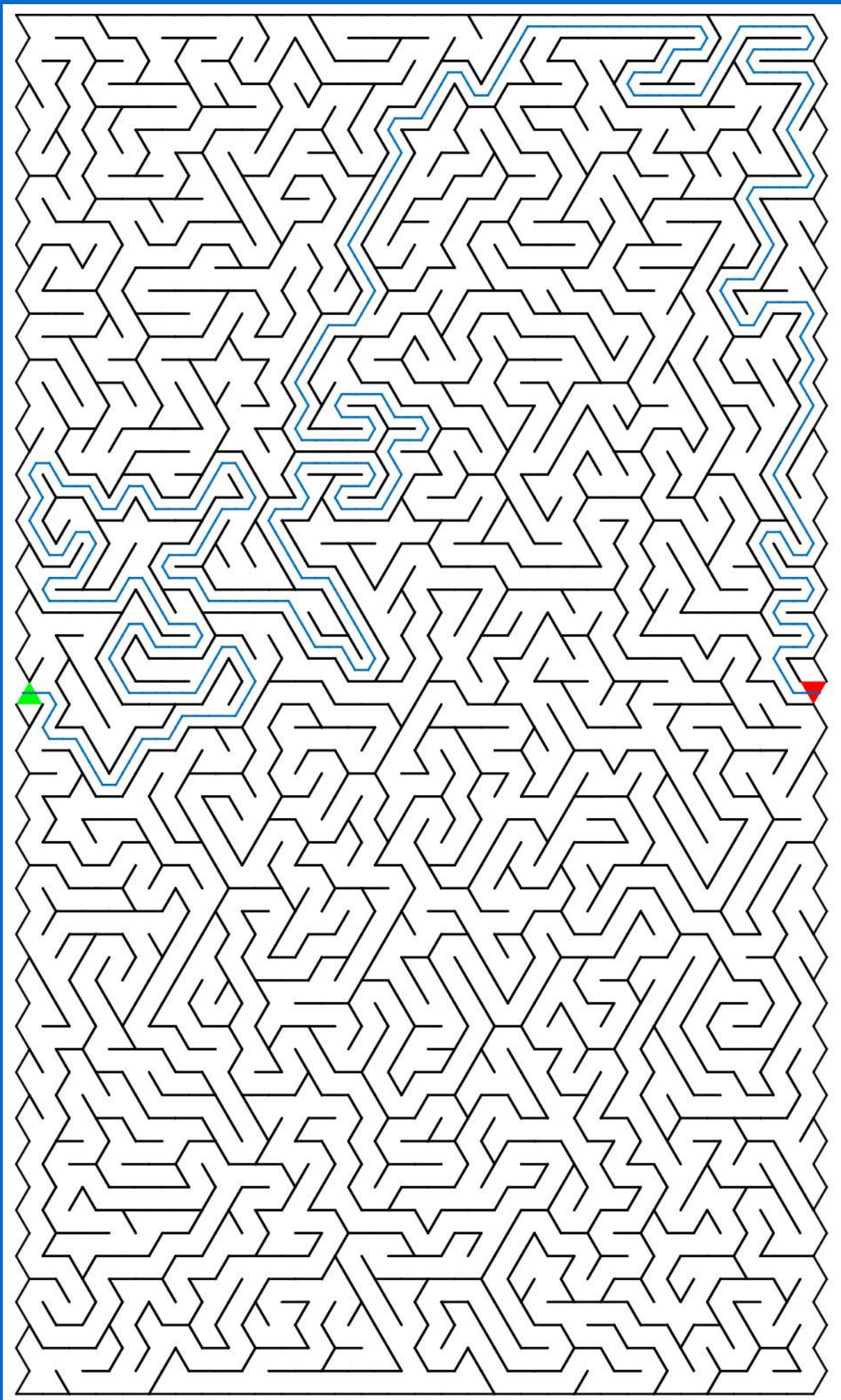


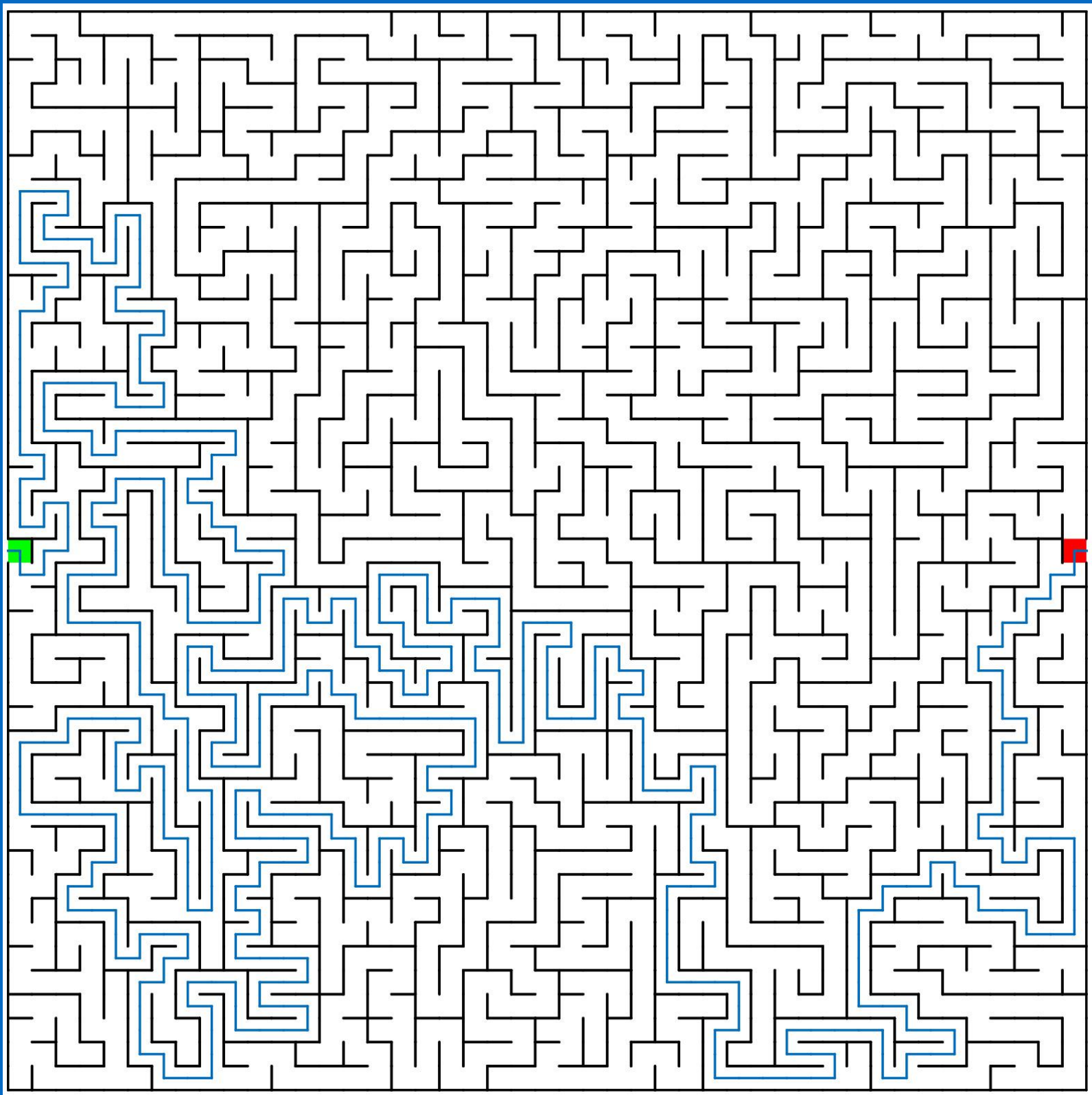
(<https://encircleall.org>)

Lutheran Partners

Maze answers









*Thanks to
all who
contributed to
this issue*



Darren D'Ateno

Tom Dry

Bill Franz

Patty Franz

Jim Ingraham

Tinky Keen

Paula Kiley-Gerdes

Cheryl Matson

Angela Pharr

Pastor Liz Radtke

Rebecca Smith

Jason Wells



Contact us

Phone
804-266-5775

Church Office
adminassist@christlutheran.org

Digest comments, suggestions and submissions
media@christlutheran.org

©2026 Christ Lutheran Church

Created, designed, edited & published by Darren D'Ateno for Christ Lutheran Church

Contact Us



***WE PRAY THAT
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
IS A BLESSING TO YOU.***

***PLEASE CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING
TO THE NEXT ISSUE TO MAKE IT
BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!***

Submit entries to media@christlutheran.org



Tell us what you think

Scan QR Code or click [**HERE**](#)