



MESSIAH MESSENGER

Sept 2026

Lutheran Church & School of Messiah
840 N. 11th Street, Grand Junction, CO



Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. — Genesis 50:19–20

A New Season



Forgiveness, welcome, and the harvest God still means

Before anything else, I need to apologize and ask for your forgiveness. I missed the last few months of getting the newsletter out because a number of things were crowding my schedule. I simply didn't get to the newsletter. I know many of you rely on this for news and happenings at Messiah. This is not an excuse. It's simply an explanation.

September is the month when we welcome in a new season — the season of fall. It's the time when summer gives way to harvest. The work of planting and nurturing gives way to gathering what the Lord has grown. The days are still warm, but not too warm. The evenings have gone crisp. Leaves begin to turn and the orchards on the Mesa get heavy. Classrooms are filled again. And the church doors open on people who are wondering if there is still a place for them.

That is not only the weather. That may be how God is using Messiah to bring a change of season in someone's life right now.





In Genesis 50 we hear two sentences from Joseph. His brothers have come back to him and they're afraid. Years earlier they had sold him. They had meant it for harm. Now their father is gone, and they are sure the bill is finally due. So much so that they even offer to become his slaves. Joseph will not take that deal. He will not play God. He tells them the truth, and then he welcomes them back in.

Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

— Genesis 50:19–20

Do not be afraid. Those are the first words of forgiveness. Not “well, you weren’t that bad to me.” Not “let’s pretend the pit never happened.” Joseph does not lie about what they did. They actually meant it for evil. He says so. And then he takes himself out of God’s chair. “Am I in the place of God?” No. He is not the judge of the whole story. He is a brother who has been kept by God, and who will now keep his brothers.

That is what forgiveness looks like in a real family, including our Messiah family. We refuse to sit in a seat that belongs to the Lord. We say, in so many words, “You belong here at Messiah”

God’s part is the part we cannot arrange. “You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.” Same event. Two intentions. The brothers’ plan would have ended the story in a hole in the ground. Joseph’s story ended with storehouses full of grain and a family still alive. That is harvest language. What the brothers planted in hate, God gathered for life, and many people were kept alive. That was the point.

Here at Messiah that good has a shape. We are not a church that happens to have a school, and we are not a school that happens to keep a sanctuary next door. We are one congregation with one charge: preach and teach the truth to His expanding Kingdom. That is our one thing as we serve the Lord. That is how the Lord uses this place for His harvest — to welcome and keep many people alive in Christ.

So this September, “welcome” is not a slogan in the narthex. It is Genesis 50 with the door unlocked. Someone will walk in who has been gone for a while. Someone will walk in who has never been here before. Someone will sit in a school desk whose family does not yet know they are wanted. Someone in the pew already wonders if the old thing is still the main thing. We leave God’s chair alone and let Him remain in it. Then we pull out a chair of our own and say, “You belong here.”

Continue to welcome one another as God continues to use Messiah in His Harvest.

In His service,
Pastor Redeker





Quilting Group

If you're a quilter—or just curious—we welcome you! Join us every Tuesday from 9:00 AM to noon in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Come see what we're working on or bring your own project and join in!





Go Tell It On The Mountain!

I usually think of the song Go Tell it on the Mountain as a VBS song. Every year when I was a kid, we sang it during VBS. But as an adult, I started seeing it pop up on Christmas albums. It doesn't have the jingle bell, snowy night, winter feel of a Christmas tune. But the lyrics certainly relate to Jesus' birth.

Go Tell it on the Mountain and the Great Commission always seemed like instructions to go into different countries to tell people about Jesus. I always thought and wondered, "Everyone in the United States must know about Jesus. So it must be the people in non-Christian countries who are the ones who haven't heard about Jesus." That's not true, of course. There are plenty of people in the United States who still need to hear about Jesus.

Well, this isn't December. And there are people in the United States who haven't heard about Jesus. But what about those people in foreign countries? I was connected with a group that has gone to the Dominican Republic on a mission trip for over twenty years. And this year, I got to go with them! It was a great trip at the end of June. I had no idea what to expect; I had never been on a mission trip out of the country. But I was excited to go! And I'm excited to have brought back information to Lutheran Church of Messiah. [Click Here](#) to view some pictures of and daily notes from the trip.

Would you like to go on a mission trip? The group that I went with goes every year and has been going for about twenty years. Anyone who is interested in going next year is welcome.

The trip is usually for adults, college age and older. But with parents attending, youth and children are welcome to attend. There were two families who went with middle school and elementary school children. If there is a large enough group from Messiah, we could set up our own trip and check out some of the LCMS International Ministry opportunities. But even if there's only a few people who are able to go, we are still welcome to join Mustard Seed Church in Palisade to go to Pimentel in the Dominican Republic. The trip I went on had people join from Denver and even a couple people from Delaware.

In the meantime, follow the VBS version of the lyrics that I learned. Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is *Lord!* There's also an alternate translation of the Great Commission I heard: *as you are going*, "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19 [NIV]). Don't wait for an overseas opportunity. Share the Gospel *as you are going* throughout your day. And please come find me to learn about another great opportunity to share Jesus' love with neighbors in another country next year too.

Jesus loves you!

DCE Jonathan Peterson

Wedding Announcement

Heather Anderson and Jonathan Peterson cordially invite you to celebrate their wedding on April 10, 2027. All are welcome and requested to celebrate God's blessings as they join their lives together. All are welcome to the ceremony; however, *an RSVP is REQUIRED for the reception* for a correct head count for food. If you do not RSVP you will be turned away. Thank you for understanding. Please RSVP by March 10, 2027 with Heather, Jonathan or [Click Here](#) (log-in password: April1027)



Youth Night for Middle School & High School

All youth (church, school, friends, etc.) are invited! Youth Nights are hosted each month by different families for middle school and high school. Click Here to see the schedule of upcoming youth nights. RSVP to DCE Jonathan to sign up to host.

There's a new movie being promoted by For King and Country called Drummer Boy. It is listed on the schedule for November high school youth night. Middle school could join as well. Or we could do separate events depending on who signs up to host. There's also a movie called No Limbs No Limits. This is listed on the schedule similar to Drummer Boy. These are just ideas. What great ideas do families have for awesome adventures?! Skiing, swimming, hiking, game nights?

Kids Aid - Not Just for Schools

Kids Aid is a non-profit organization with a primary focus on supplying food to hungry kids. Their Backpack Program sends food home with children who otherwise would go hungry over the weekend. This program is for children 18 and younger. Messiah will be working with Kids Aid to get food to our school students over the weekends. Since we will have the program at Messiah for school children already, the program organizers suggested that it could be an option for children under 18 years old who attend the church as well.

Please contact [DCE Jonathan](#) if you would like to sign up for this free program. Visit <https://kidsaidcolorado.org/> for more information.

Even if you aren't in need, maybe you know someone who is. If you or someone you know can answer yes to [any of these questions](#), this program may be of help. Pop up sites are available as well.



The Pregnancy Center

DCE Jonathan and Teresa Brossard attended *Lunch with Purpose* at the Pregnancy Center. We were able to watch a [documentary on Roe v. Wade](#). We learned about the age demographics that are served by the Pregnancy Center and quite a bit more. Did you know that the abortion pill is mandated on campuses in Colorado? The Pregnancy Center offers a 10 week Bible study to help single pregnant women. There are many ways you can get involved. [Click Here](#) to see a list of opportunities. You can also attend Lunch With Purpose. [Click Here](#) to sign up.



Right to Life Essay

Messiah's own Sawyer Hirons won a prize for her essay in the right to life essay contest. She was announced at the Pregnancy Center's Walk for Life on June 13th. Be sure to congratulate her when you see her!

CMU Dinners Began August 23rd

We had a great time serving dinner to CMU students on Super Bowl Sunday last school year. The students of CMU are very appreciative of all the dinners that have been provided by congregations and campus ministries in the valley. Contact [DCE Jonathan](#) if you would like to help and/or be a point person. There are a variety of menu options already. Or you could make up your own. Being the point person doesn't mean you do everything. You would help gather volunteers, plan the menu, make a list of supplies needed or delegate all these things to others.





Messiah has signed up to host dinner on *September 6th*. See the sheet in the narthex for supplies that are needed and to sign up to help serve.

Updates from the Christ Center

Messiah has hosted dinners over the years at Four Winds Coffee Shop on Sunday evenings. We have worked with Will Kuhlman and other leaders of the Christ Center as we have served dinner to CMU students. Will Kuhlman will be stepping down as director. [Click Here](#) to read an email from Will. It also includes some pictures from Meat the Freshmen and Sunday dinners!

Battle Ready

Battle Ready Modules (7th/8th graders) and world religions/Lutheran distinction (9th/10th graders) will resume meeting this month. Modules will meet Sunday mornings at 10:30am in the computer room and during Pastor's religion class at school. World Religions/Lutheran Distinction will meet with Pastor on Sunday mornings at 11:30am. This year's 6th graders need to have their memory work completed as you prepare for 7th/8th grade Modules. See DCE Jonathan to recite your memory work. This year's 5th graders should have received your red workbook. If not, please see DCE Jonathan. We'll meet in January to go over the books and get ready for Pastor's first communion class.

Taylor Family GoFundMe

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Taylor family GoFundMe. The Taylor family is facing a challenging chapter as Max begins a six-year prison sentence after defending himself while at his job. Baer, who was a student at Messiah, and his mom are now navigating life without Max's support. This sudden change has brought emotional and financial strain, making everyday life and planning for the future much more difficult for them.



With Baer continuing his education through high school, the costs of school supplies, and daily living expenses are adding up quickly. Baer's mom is doing her best to provide stability, but the absence of Max has left a significant gap in their resources. The Taylor family is part of Lutheran Church of Messiah. Your generosity can make a real difference for Baer and his mom as they work to overcome these challenges. [Click Here](#) to visit a GoFundMe page. Every contribution will help ease their financial burden and show them that their community stands with them. Your support for a family of Lutheran Church of Messiah is greatly appreciated.

Grand Junction Centennial Band

Have you heard of the Grand Junction Centennial Band? It's all volunteers who put together concerts for the valley. DCE Jonathan and Shelby Geisert have been a part of the Grand Junction Centennial Band. At one of the concerts, Carita Pacini and Mona Blee were in attendance and suggested including a note in the Messiah newsletter. [Click Here](#) to keep updated on the concerts. There is usually a Christmas concert, spring concert and multiple concerts throughout the summer. Do you play an instrument? You're welcome to join as well.





Luke2 Project Shirts

Luke2 shirts are the Christmas story on a shirt! Luke2 Project shirts are a great way to allow the Holy Spirit to place Christ centered thoughts in people who see you wearing it, maybe even start a conversation about Jesus!

Have you heard of the Danner Dozen? It's named after a man who always kept a dozen Luke2 shirts in his car. When he met someone who says, "Hey, nice shirt!" He replied with, "Thanks! Would you like one?" Do you struggle with approaching strangers with the Gospel? Let the shirt do the work for you? Do you have a neighbor who needs to hear the Christmas story? Give them the gift of Jesus this year!

Please contact [DCE Jonathan](#) to order a shirt. We'll be taking orders for Luke2 shirts through the month of September. [Click Here](#) to view a variety of options.

Lutheran Hour Coloring Contest

All preschool through 8th graders are invited to enter a coloring contest for the Lutheran Hour Rose Parade float. [Click Here](#) for the coloring sheet. [Click Here](#) for contest rules and entry details.

Thank you to all the faithful ladies who provide salads and desserts for funeral meals here at Messiah. We are blessed to be able to provide this service for families. If you would like to help in this ministry contact Ruth Kinnett: [970-250-3206](tel:970-250-3206); or Kathy Hollatz: [970-250-1157](tel:970-250-1157) to have you name added to the Call List. If you are presently on the list and can no longer help, please call too.

Prayer Partners

Time for this year's prayer partners! Pictures are posted of students and staff in the Narthex, so please consider signing up and praying for one of these wonderful people this year.



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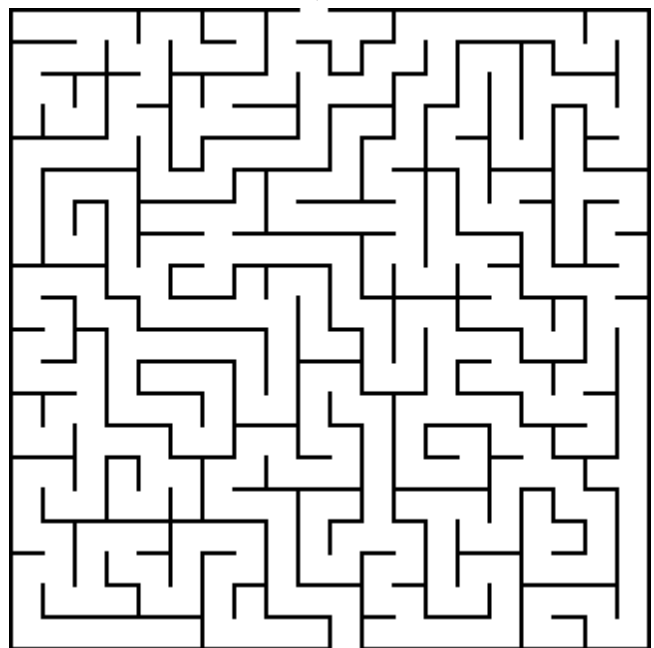
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Please contact DCE Jonathan to order a shirt. We'll be taking orders for Luke2 shirts through the month of September. [Click Here](#) to view a variety of options.sizes.

MAZE GAME!

Can you make it from one side to the other?

Start



Finish





Lutheran
Women
in Mission

Western Zone LWML *Fall Rally*

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Grace Fellowship Lutheran Church
Gypsum, Colorado

Join us for a morning of



Worship



Devotion

Pastor Austin Kraft



Be Prepared



Fellowship Project

Bring a Clean
Quart JAR
with lid



8:30 a.m.

A light breakfast



Registration
\$5



Lunch

will be served

Serving Him with Gladness



Rib City

Show Us Your Colors

2025 receipts for Rib City have been turned in. Rib City will be making a donation of \$62.43 to Messiah.

Rib City donates 5% of your food bill. All three locations, all year long! Ask your server about 'Show Us Your Colors'. They will stamp your receipt. Bring your receipt to Messiah and we get 5%!





Battle Ready

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This year's 6th graders need to have their memory work completed as you prepare for 7th/8th grade Modules. See DCE Jonathan to recite your memory work.

This year's 5th graders should have received your red workbook. If not, please see DCE Jonathan. We'll meet in January to go over the books and get ready for Pastor's first communion class.

MCRTL's mission is to support and encourage pro-life efforts in Mesa County through education, prayer, and other awareness efforts with the goal of eliminating abortion. According to a report by the WHO released in December 2025, approximately 73

million abortions are performed worldwide every year. Please join the Pregnancy Center in praying for issues related to abortion in Colorado during the month of May, and please remember our donation box in the narthex. Donations are always welcome.

Thank you.



Bible Studies



► Kids Connection

Kids Connection will start again on September 13th with an ice cream social at the church playground! This coming year we will meet from 10:30 to

11:30 on Sundays during Education Hour. Ages 0 - 10 are welcome, with the request that a parent or responsible sibling stays with any child who is not yet toilet trained. We will be working our way through the New Testament with lessons, songs, crafts and games. We need more volunteers! Anyone who is interested in helping can sign up on the schedule which will be located in the church entryway over the next few Sundays, or to contact Jenna Lampe at 970-309-9875 or Jonathan Peterson. All materials, snacks, and lesson plans will be provided to you for any day you teach. And thank you to everyone who has helped this last year: especially Amanda Bizer, Brittany Markert, Carmel McGee, Carl and Denae Nesbit, Jenna Lampe, Jonathan Peterson, Jane Withee, Lanie Allred, Jacob Krelovich, and all others who helped in so many ways and are not listed here



► Women's Bible Study

Saturday morning Women's Bible Study is on break and will resume in the fall.

► Men's Bible Study

Bible Study will resume October 6th and every Tuesday morning after at 7:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

► Wednesday Bible Study

We had a great year looking at a variety of chapter 3 verse 16s from the Bible and discussing how they relate to John 3:16. We're going to resume meeting on September 9th. All are welcome to join us on Wednesdays at 9:30am starting September 9th. We're going to use an audiobook called Four Portraits of Jesus, A Survey of Jesus and the Gospels by Mark L. Straus

► Pastor's Virtual Bible Study

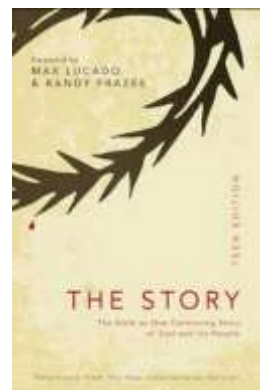
Meet with Pastor online at 6:30 pm
Meeting ID: 830 0615 1276
Passcode: Thurs630

► Jesus Book Club

We are currently reading "Smalcald Articles" from the Book of Concord. Come join us in the 7/8 Classroom downstairs shortly after service on Sunday as we have an open floor discussion about these books and religion.

► High School Bible Study

High School Bible Study
Please plan to join us again beginning September 13th. All high school youth are invited; we'll meet on Sunday mornings at 10:30am in room 141. We'll be looking at the teen story Bible. Invite a friend!





September 2026: Gift Planning Newsletter Article



Beyond the Jargon: Faith-Based Guidance for Estate Planning

Jerry said to his friend Paul, “I just came from the doctor. I don’t like conversations at the doctor’s office. I get so tongue tied. I forget about what I wanted to ask the doctor. I’m trying to think about what certain words mean and before I know it, I’m being ushered out of the office without talking about everything I needed to discuss.”

Paul replied, “I know what you are talking about. It’s the same reason that I have not been getting my estate plan updated. When I get around legal people, I hear words like codicils, per stirpes and in vivo. I get so stressed about keeping it all straight that I put it all off for another year.”

Legal terms and carefully crafted documents all have very important purposes in our estate plans. Sometimes, the difference between a contested estate and non-contested estate may come down to the proper use of these words. In truth, that may be stressful for you. That’s why it is important to start talking about your goals, thinking and praying, before facing that stress head on. That is where working collaboratively with an LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Your counselor is a fellow believer who wants to stand alongside you, to assist and encourage you in expressing your wishes clearly. Once that is achieved, the counselor will assist in sharing that with your attorney so you can be confident that all your desires are known. In the process, you can gain a new friend, sharing life in Jesus.

Jason Jones, CGP, CDE
Gift Planning Counselor
LCMS Foundation
(970) 988-0305 - Cell
Jason.Jones@LFND.org

Raise Right Gift Cards

Purchase a gift card through Raise Right. You get the full amount of the gift card. Raise Right makes a donation to Messiah. See DCE Jonathan with any questions.



◆ ★ *Happy Birthday* ★ ◆
Messiah Members

1-Sep	Kevin Hardy, Jay Johnson III
2-Sep	Steve Kaskus
3-Sep	Evangeline Thornton
4-Sep	Linda Joseph
5-Sep	Sarah Lampitt
6-Sep	Carl Boydstun, Jan Hoaglund, Donny Olbert
7-Sep	Harlan Diaz
9-Sep	Craig Wegner
10-Sep	Betty Colvin
11-Sep	Petra Lampe, Carl Lampitt, Linda Romersberger
12-Sep	Ray Seeley
13-Sep	Lizzie Clubb
14-Sep	Walter Milburn
15-Sep	Linda Hildebrand, Tony Bonnell
16-Sep	Kaiden Ehlert
17-Sep	Rosemarie Arendall
18-Sep	Brenda Brock, Shawn Ryden
19-Sep	Sue Eberhard, Mark Monett, Jody Nestler
20-Sep	David Burgess
21-Sep	Wes Lewis
23-Sep	Luke Jones
24-Sep	Cal Diedrich, Jackie Gallik, Genevieve Johnson
26-Sep	David Miller
27-Sep	Richie Ashcraft, Elle Diedrich, Carol Neverve, Greg Larson
28-Sep	Noah Hirons
29-Sep	Isabelle Johnson

Did we miss your birthday? We are actively trying to update the church member records, so please let the office know! (sec@mlqj.org) or stop by the office and fill out a Member Information Sheet



Messiah's Board of Elders

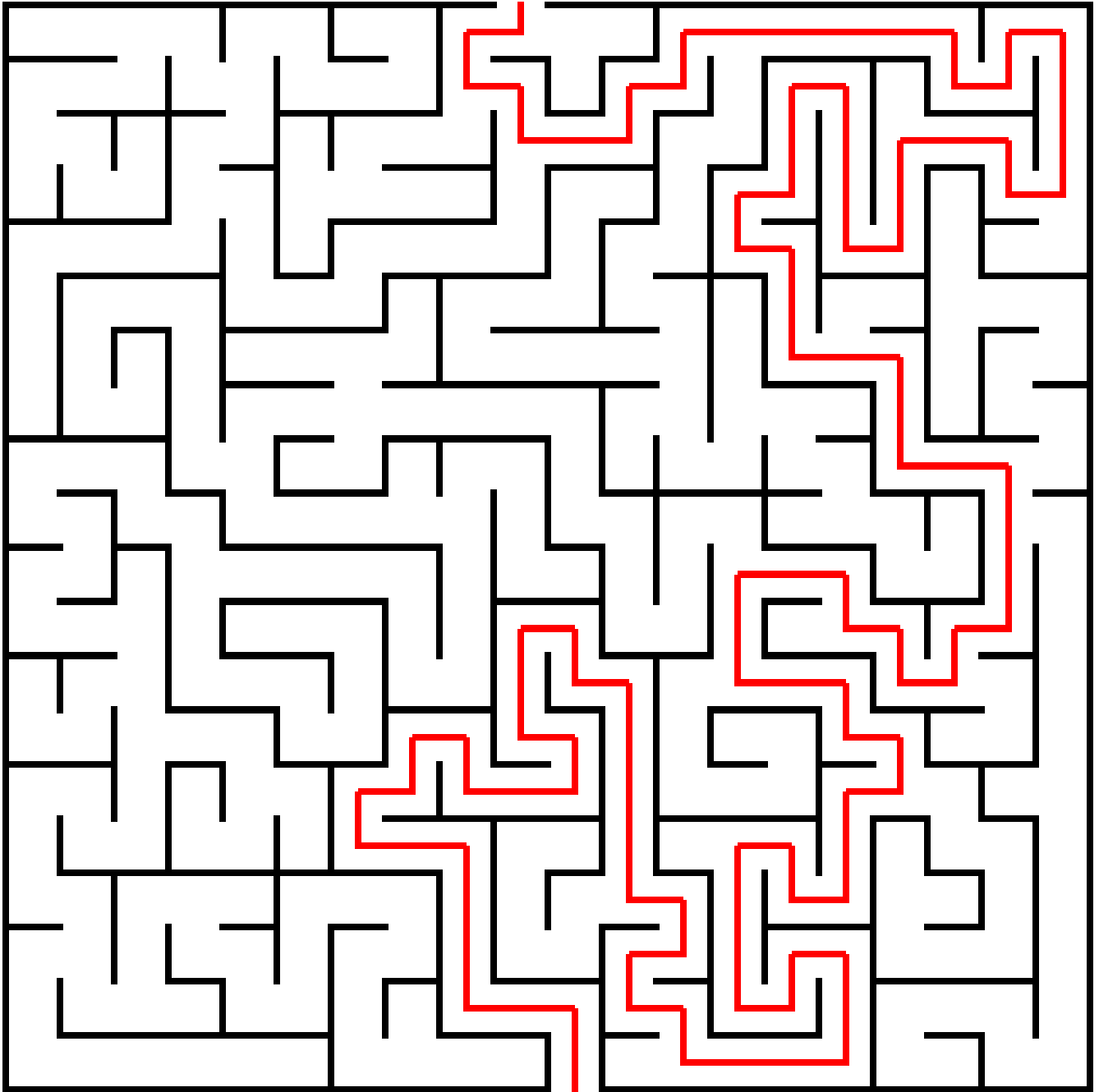
Board of Elders-2026

Gary Anderson	970-260-1598	gary64afa@charter.net	All Fruita Area Members
Duane Lofton	970-234-3544	leftylofton@yahoo.com	Aden - Blee
Joshua Ammon	970-216-8178	joshua-r-a@msn.com	Bonnell - Buxton
Charles S. Johnson, Jr.	209-607-7561	wb6nvb@arrl.net	Callison - Dowling
John McDowell	970-216-6868	mjmcdowell2@msn.com	Eads - Gustad
David Miller	714-270-9798	davisimo0@gmail.com	Haller - Kroft
Victor Lozano	H 970-433-7890 C 818-726-6234	colozos1@gmail.com	Lampe - Mayer
Otto Ratz	801-300-2990	omratz@msn.com	McAvoy - Moore
John O'Connor	970-250-4321	sixgun6x@gmail.com	Morris - Powell
Ray Seeley	H 970-243-8917 C 970-260-8954	rseeley51@yahoo.com	Ratz - Sickler
Curtis Peterson	763-203-1393	cdprainbow@gmail.com	Skoog - Stull
Peter Chaney	970-200-1203	peterchaney67@gmail.com	Thiebaud - Zollner





PUZZLE ANSWERS



SUN 30	MON 31 Sep 1	TUE Sep 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
9am Divine Service 10-30am Education Hour	3:15pm Staff Meeting 6pm Scouts	9am Quilt Ladies- FH 6pm Handbell Practice 7pm Choir Practice 7pm Compassionate Friends (Fellowshi	Bulletin Items Due 9AM 8:30am Chapel 9am Safety Team Meeting 6pm Midweek Contemplative Service	10am Sew Blessed Quilters 6-30pm Scouts Roundtable Meeting (fe	4pm High School Youth Night	7-30am Open Gym
9am Divine Service 10-30am Education Hour 11-30am Fellowship Potluck	No School Labor Day 3:15pm Staff Meeting 6pm Scouts	9am Quilt Ladies- FH 6pm Elders Meeting (library) 6pm Elders' Meeting 6pm Handbell Practice 7pm Choir Practice	Bulletin Items Due 9AM 8:30am Chapel 9:30am Bible Study (parish hall) 6pm Midweek Contemplative Service	3:15pm Finance Action Team Meeting (l 3:30pm Kitchen Action Team Meeting 6-30pm Pastor's Online Bible Study	11	American Legion District Meeting 7-30am Open Gym
9am Divine Service 10-30am Acolyte Training 10-30am Battle Ready Modules (7th/8th 10-30am Education Hour 11-30am Battle Ready (9th/10th grade) 11-30am The Lutheran Mind: High Scho	3:15pm Staff Meeting 6pm Scouts	9am Quilt Ladies- FH 1pm Ruth Circle (L) 6pm Handbell Practice 6-30pm Lydia Circle (L) 7pm Choir Practice	Bulletin Items Due 9AM 8:30am Chapel 9:30am Bible Study (parish hall) 6pm Midweek Contemplative Service	1:30pm Dorcus Circle (L) 6-30pm Pastor's Online Bible Study	18	7-30am Open Gym 9am Women's Bible Study (L) Lunch Bunch-Pirate Day Movie Night - VeggieTales Pirates 4pm Middle School Youth Night
9am Divine Service 10-30am Battle Ready Modules (7th/8th 10-30am Education Hour 11-30am Battle Ready (9th/10th grade) 11-30am The Lutheran Mind: High Scho 12-30pm Council Meeting	3:15pm Staff Meeting 6pm Scouts 7pm Pack Committee Planning Meeting	9am Quilt Ladies- FH 6pm Handbell Practice 7pm Choir Practice	Bulletin Items Due 9AM 8:30am Chapel 9:30am Bible Study (parish hall) 6pm Midweek Contemplative Service	10am Sew Blessed Quilters 6-30pm Pastor's Online Bible Study	25	Newsletter Due 7-30am Open Gym 9am Women's Bible Study (L) 10am Sew Blessed Quilters 2pm Denae Nesbit (Gym)
9am Divine Service 10-30am Battle Ready Modules (7th/8th 10-30am Education Hour 11-30am Battle Ready (9th/10th grade) 11-30am The Lutheran Mind: High Scho	3:15pm Staff Meeting 6pm Scouts	9am Quilt Ladies- FH 6pm Handbell Practice 7pm Choir Practice	Bulletin Items Due 9AM 8:30am Chapel 9:30am Bible Study (parish hall) 6pm Midweek Contemplative Service	6-30pm Pastor's Online Bible Study 6-30pm Scouts Roundtable Meeting (fe	2	7-30am Open Gym 9am Women's Bible Study (L)