

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH

260 NORTH THIRD STREET • LEHIGHTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18235

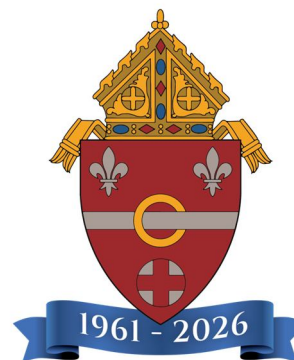
**Rectory:** 610-377-3690    **Rectory Fax:** 610-377-0721    **Email:** [sspp@ptd.net](mailto:sspp@ptd.net)    **Website:** [www.peterandpaulchurch.com](http://www.peterandpaulchurch.com)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ssppleightonpa](http://www.facebook.com/ssppleightonpa)    **YouTube:** Search under "Saints Peter and Paul Parish Lehighton"

## Fifth Sunday of Easter 3 May 2026

**Father Christopher M. Zelonis**----- *Pastor*  
**Deacon Joseph C. Wilhelm, Jr.**----- *Deacon*  
**Joseph T. Curnew, 856-472-1293** ----- *Cemetery Supervisor*  
**James G. Logue, Jr., 570-413-3819**----- *Communications*  
**Phil Liszka, 610-217-4768** ----- *CYO President*  
**Norine Onichimowski, 610-377-3690**----- *Parish Secretary*

### Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday from-----9:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Bulletin Deadline ----- Monday, 11:00 am



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE of ALLENTOWN  
CELEBRATING 65 YEARS

*The Catholic Presence in Lehighton since 1850 + Established as a Parish in 1885*

### WORSHIP

Saturday Vigil-----4:00 pm  
Sunday----- 7:45 & 10:00 am  
Daily Mass - M/T/Th/F ----- 8:00 am  
Holy Days----- As announced  
**Eucharistic Adoration**  
Thursday ----- 8:30 am—6:00 pm  
First Friday-----6:00 - 9:00 pm

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Thursday: 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
30 minutes before Friday, Saturday and Sunday Masses.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** First Sunday of the month during the 10:00 am Mass. Call the rectory for registration and necessary preparations.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Call the rectory at least six months in advance of proposed wedding date for registration and any necessary preparations.

**WILLS:** Please consider designating SS. Peter & Paul Parish in your last will and testament so the blessings the Lord has given you can continue to build His Kingdom.

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** Will be issued to parishioners who are active & registered.

### CATHOLIC EDUCATION

SSPP Parish Religious Ed. Program  
Preschool through Grade 8  
Sundays from 8:45 to 9:50 am  
Deacon Wilhelm, *Director*  
610-377-3690  
[jcwilhelm60@gmail.com](mailto:jcwilhelm60@gmail.com)

### ST. JEROME REGIONAL SCHOOL

Mrs. Amy Hannis-Miskar, *Principal*  
570-668-2757 / [sjrschool.com](http://sjrschool.com)

### ST. JOHN NEUMANN REGIONAL SCHOOL

Dr. Christopher Heery, *Principal*  
610-826-2354 / [sjnrschool.org](http://sjnrschool.org)

### MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Fr. Robert T. Finlan, *Principal*  
570-467-3335 / [mariancatholics.org](http://mariancatholics.org)

### VOCATION MINISTRY

Mr. John Meier / 570-657-6966

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DAMIEN COUNCIL #598

Patrick Gallagher, *Grand Knight*  
610-393-9470

### MUSIC MINISTRY

Mrs. Josephine Noll (+2025)  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl J. Marzen  
Mr. James Logue

### CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Please call rectory for information or registration.

### SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Mrs. Esther Meier, *President*  
570-657-6738

### SEVEN SISTERS / FASTING BROTHERS APOSTOLATE

Carol Tynan/ 570-249-0632

### DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A.

### DIRECT TELEPHONE

800-791-9209

### DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR

Pamela Russo, MSW, MS  
*Secretary for Youth Protection*  
[prusso@allentowndioocese.org](mailto:prusso@allentowndioocese.org)  
610-871-5200, Ext. 2204

Saints Peter and Paul Parish of Lehighton is a welcoming Roman Catholic community that seeks to grow in love of God and neighbor through personal prayer, liturgical celebration, doctrinal formation, and merciful living.



- **Visitors:** We're glad you're here! Please greet Father or Deacon after Mass.
- We especially welcome little children and their families.
- Noise in church is a sign of hope and a motive for gratitude!
- Please silence all noise-making devices out of respect for the Eucharist. Use your phone for religious apps and emergency communication. WiFi: SSPP PARISH – GUEST; password: presenttense
- **Low-Gluten Hosts** are available upon request; inform Father, Deacon, or an usher before Mass.
- **Restrooms:** leave church by the side exit and enter the parish hall by the door closest to the school parking lot. Changing tables available in both restrooms.
- Please take a Treasury of Prayer booklet from the pew. Donations toward future printings are appreciated.
- Call or email the Rectory promptly with any information worth sharing. We'll do our best.
- **ParishSoft Giving (PSG)** facilitates one-time and recurring donations thru checking acct, CC, PayPal Wallet, and Google Pay: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/sspplehighton>. Thanks also for assisting with the transaction fees.
- Be alert to the possibility of monetary donations either by the traditional basket collection or in the box in our vestibule.
- At the end of Mass, we pray **three (3) Hail Marys and the Prayer to St. Michael**, for peace & justice in the world & the Church.
- Deposit your **used printer ink cartridge\$** in the designated box in the vestibule or bring them to the rectory during the week.
- Families from the parish get together to **pray the Rosary every third Friday of the month at 6:30 PM**. Everyone is welcome!
- **Hospitalized or homebound persons** in need of pastoral care (Eucharist, Confession, Anointing), notify the rectory ASAP.
- If you are **making any changes in residence or parish affiliation**, please contact the rectory with the relevant information.
- **House blessings** gladly conducted by appointment.
- **VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR, DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN:**  
**Wendy S. Krisak-Kalamar + DIRECT #: 800-791-9209 +**  
**[www.allentowndiocese.org/youth-protection](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/youth-protection)**
- The Diocese of Allentown extends the fullness of compassion to anyone who was sexually abused by a diocesan priest, deacon, or employee. Parents, guardians, children, and survivors of sexual abuse: please contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information.
- Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: To report that a bishop has abused: [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) / 800-276-1562.
- Rachel's Vineyard provides pastoral care & retreats for anyone who has experienced abortion & its effects. [www.hopeafterabortion.com](http://www.hopeafterabortion.com) / 610-435-1541x373.
- [adlumenchristi.org](http://adlumenchristi.org) promotes human dignity against the assault of pornography with resources and support for those who struggle with its use or those who love them.
- Natural Family Planning information can be found at <https://www.nfpoutreach.org/3>.
- Retrouvaille helps heal troubled marriages: [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) / 800-470-2230.
- [realtrue.org](http://realtrue.org): The Catechism of the Catholic Church and other morsels of the Faith, presented for moderns.
- [www.CatholicCharitiesAD.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesAD.org) assists the needy throughout our diocese.
- FreeWill is a free estate planning service: <https://bit.ly/45vxydX>. Remember our Diocese, parish, and schools.
- [Knights of Columbus](http://Knights of Columbus) Damien Council #598 & Msgr. Angelini 4th Degree Assembly #971 meet in our hall on each first Tuesday at 7 PM.
- [Seven Sisters Apostolate](http://Seven Sisters Apostolate) offers 1 hr of prayer each week for a particular priest.
- [Fasting Brothers](http://Fasting Brothers) fast 1 day/wk alongside a Sisters Holy Hour.

## **Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**

**Saturday, May 2 – St. Athanaseus, Bishop & Doctor of the Church, Memorial.**

8:00 AM Msgr. Joseph R. Sobiesiak (CMZ)

### **5th Sunday of Easter**

4:00 PM *pro populo*

**Sunday, May 3**

7:45 AM **Edward, Grace, & Edward James Finney**  
(Cindy and Rich Finney)

10:00 AM **Denise Sander** (Tom and Rosa Sander)

**Monday, May 4 – Easter Weekday**

8:00 AM **Ernest Christman** (Carl & Mary Marzen)

**Tuesday, May 5 – Easter Weekday**

8:00 AM **In Honor of Elsie Beckett's Birthday** (Son, Ed)

**Wednesday, May 6 – Easter Weekday**

Unann. **Florence Wirtz** (Greg Wirtz)

**Thursday, May 7 – Easter Weekday**

8:00 AM **Joan DeAcetis** (Pat & Lana Gallagher)

**Friday, May 8 – Easter Weekday**

8:00 AM **Kazimierz Banas** (Dorota Kozali & Family)  
**Irena Bezak** (John & Carol Tynan)

**Saturday, May 9 – Easter Weekday**

### **5th Sunday of Easter**

4:00 PM **In Honor of Jerzy & Alison Kornilow's 28th Wedding Anniversary** (The Family)

**Sunday, May 10**

7:45 AM **Mothers Day Memorials**

10:00 AM *pro populo* and **Mothers Day Memorials**

**Sanctuary Candle** this week **IMO Elsie Beckett**, r/b Son, Ed.

*Donations toward the weekly Sanctuary Candle or towards sanctuary flowers may be made in person or via PSG. Requested candle offering is \$10; a flower arrangement usually costs around \$50.*

**Collection totals** for 4/25-26: \$5,387.00, includes \$564.04 via ParishSoft. Thank you!

**Thank you for continuing to support the parish when weather, health, or circumstances are inclement!**



*Parish-Soft Giving (PSG) securely enables both recurring and one-time donations. For more info, visit:*

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/ssppleighton>

We have established a PayPal account for various possible uses; the QR code is above.

### **HYMNS for May 2 & 3, 2026:**

	Sat 4:00 pm	Sun 7:45 am	10:00 am
Ent:	569	176	176
Off:	190	558	558
Com:	347	355	355
Rec:	188	171	171

**Backyard Bash Food Committee Meeting**, Sunday, May 2nd after the 10:00 am Mass.

**Beautification Days:** Weekdays, possibly Saturdays in May from 10 AM to noon and 6 to 8 PM.

**Women's Bible Study:** Thurs., May 7th and every Thursday from 10 to 11:30 AM.

**National Day of Prayer:** Thurs, May 7 from 6 to 8 PM at the borough amphitheatre behind the municipal building.

**News for the bulletin, website, and/or Facebook page** can be directed to the parish office at [sspp@ptd.net](mailto:sspp@ptd.net) or to Jim Logue [JGMLogue@gmail.com](mailto:JGMLogue@gmail.com).

Are you in need of Confirmation, or was your marriage never recognized by the Catholic Church if it ought to have been? Father loves to assist people in such circumstances, no matter how complicated it may seem. He was ordained more for that than for the administration of properties.

**Church Cleaners** for the upcoming weekend of May 2: **Ed & Cathy Maren**. To volunteer for a week either by yourself or with an established crew, call Raegan at 484-464-7131.

The Ascension series “**Foundations of Faith: A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church**” continues Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. **NB: There will be no session on April 29.**

Thursday, May 14, is the **Feast of the Ascension of the Lord**, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses are on Wednesday at **4:00 PM**, Thursday at **8:00 AM and 6:30 PM**. Adoration as usual between the two Thursday Masses; Confessions from 5 to 6 pm.

### **High School and College Graduates!**

If you are graduating this year, please send us a brief biography, including where you have gone to high school (and college, if appropriate). Please include ideas of what your next steps are, what major you studied (if at college), and how your faith has helped you to this point. Please get that to us by Sunday, May 16th. You can put it in the collection basket, give it to Father Zelonis, or call the parish office (610-377-3690).

**Safe and Sacred Space the Second (SSSS)** is our campaign to raise money toward the replacement of the church HVAC, the Coal Street sidewalk, and the cemetery road. Donate through the QR code above. Estimated costs for these projects: church HVAC, \$65,000; Coal Street sidewalk, \$40,000; parish cemetery road, \$70,000; for a total of approximately \$175,000. ***Some four-figure gifts have come in!***



The **Women's Bible Study** will meet on Thursday mornings, May 7 through May 28 from 10:30 am until noon. The Gospel of Matthew will be our starting place. Come for one session or all, bring a Bible or borrow one of ours. Summer may open new possibilities for more bible study. Come and join us in the church hall or classroom. For info call Nancy at 609-575-0599 or Charlotte at 570-413-3777.

**Eucharistic Adoration** happens every Thursday from noon to 6:00 PM, and **the Sacrament of Penance (Confession)** is available from 5 to 6 PM.

**Parish Beautification Days** for purging all parish buildings of unused, unneeded items, and much-needed restoration or renovation (or whatever

applies) to the buildings. (1) in the week of **May 3-9**, we empty and inventory storage for parish events, and we assemble metal shelving for same; (2) in the week of **May 10-16**, we begin demolition of a dividing wall and will load the dumpster with debris and with items from the convent (and, as needed, the modular); (3) in the week of **May 17-23**, we begin moving currently-stored and Backyard Bash items back into the new storage room. **Work shifts will be from 10 AM to noon and 6 to 8 PM, all days.** Bring lunch items to enjoy, or we can order pizzas.

The parish needs **Lectors** (especially the 4 PM Sat Anticipated Mass), **Altar Servers** (all Masses), and **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** (for Mass and/or to the homebound and hospitalized. Please call the Rectory. Training will be available.

Please let Deacon Joe know if you want to participate in the Parish **Safety and Security Committee**.

**Diocesan Vocation Ministry:** Please join us in offering a **Spiritual Bouquet** of prayers for Fr. Zelonis. You can pick up specially-made cards and information in the back of the church. Cards should be returned by June 7th.

As part of the new **Diocesan Vocations Ministry**, Bishop Schlert has asked parents, catechists, etc. to recommend names of parishioners who might be suitable candidates for ordained or consecrated life. Mention their names to Father Zelonis, John Meier, or Jennifer Griffin. While only the older candidates may be invited to diocesan vocation events, a child is never too young to think about God's plan for his or her life. **One good prayer for everyone to make daily is, “Lord, how can I make a gift of my life today?” Pray it, and then answer it with the next right thing.**

SSPP Parishioners prepare and serve **bagged lunches for veterans** every 4th Wednesday from 8:30 AM to Noon at the American Legion building along Bridge St. Your assistance with money or labor is most welcome: Call the Rectory..

## The 2026 Backyard Bash will be held on



**Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27 from 5 to 9 PM.** You can help with the event and still attend it with your family.

**Facilities:** planning, setup-takedown; **Food:**

purchasing, preparing, delivering food and supplies to stands during the event;

**Advertising:** flyers, news stations, newspapers, online ads; big signage; **Fundraising:** getting BYB event sponsors, getting BYB gift card raffle items, etc. Interested? Contact Jennifer Griffin

([griffinfeathers@hotmail.com](mailto:griffinfeathers@hotmail.com) or 570-213-1217) or Gloria Bowman ([bowman2@ptd.net](mailto:bowman2@ptd.net) or 570-657-6705). The **Food Committee** will hold a meeting **Sunday, May 3rd in the parish hall after the 10 AM Mass.**

## SSVDP News



The Society of St. Vincent DePaul is collecting these items: personal hygiene items especially body wash, pump bottle soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, wipes, toilet paper, hairbrushes, hair ties, dish soap, and sponges. Items of special need include deodorant, soap, shampoo / conditioner, laundry detergent, dish soap, and toilet paper. All these donations can be placed in the bins in the back of the church.

They are also collecting phone cards, which can be dropped off in marked envelopes. Please place all cash and card donations in the collection or take them to the parish office. Call Esther in advance (570-657-6738) to donate larger items. Those in need of these items can call Esther or the rectory (option 4).

Instead of using the parish convent, the SSVDP will assist the Willow Foundation with a day program at the former Indigo Salon on First Street. The Society will continue using SSPP social hall or other rooms for their meetings. **For SSVDP meetings or any other activities on the parish campus, schedule with Norine by contacting the rectory.**

To prepare for the demolition of the former convent, the modular will need to be emptied. The clothing and other items currently in it will be funneled to the new Willow location and/or the former Concern building that has been used until now for the Cold Weather Station.

**Regarding the former convent building**, we have two choices: **retention/renovation, or demolition**. To fix it up to code will be expensive. Demolition also will be expensive, especially if and when asbestos remediation is necessary. The Diocese has been very helpful in helping with the bidding process. The parish will assume responsibility for the costs, whichever option we go with, as it remains parish property. The Society agreed to pay for the restoration of the boiler and various pipes to working order. **Home Comfort Solutions (parishioners) performed that service at a considerable discount to them.**

Father Zelonis intends to convene the Finance Committee and the Pastoral Council to inform about the bids and to solicit opinions on the above options.



SSPP CYO welcomes any boys or girls from public, Catholic, charter, or home schools to take part in activities. We welcome volunteers and suggestions for events! For event information or registration, contact District 5 CYO Commissioner Phil Liszka (610-217-4768; [phill@ptd.net](mailto:phill@ptd.net)) or SSPP

CYO Moderator Bill Keer (484-560-4338; [bkeer@ptd.net](mailto:bkeer@ptd.net))

**Congratulations** to all who participated in the **District 5 Spelling Bee for Grades 3-5** last week.

### Upcoming CYO Events

- **May 3: Declamation Contest:** gr. 7-8 at Notre Dame HS at 1 PM.
- **May 16: Chess Tournament:** at St. Elizabeth, Whitehall at 1 PM.
- **May 24: D5 CYO Mass** at SSPP at 10 AM with Brunch to follow. CYO participants eat free; adults \$10, siblings \$5. Deadline to register May 10.
- **June 7, 14, 21, & 28: CYO Sundae at Nonna's Ice Cream Parlor;** "Scoop Me 3" Ice Cream Flight: Parents free with CYO children. Tickets available at 10 AM Mass beginning in May.
- **June 28: "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"** Sunday, June 28 at 1:15 PM: watch the LV Iron Pigs play the Syracuse Mets at Coca-Cola Park. Limited free tickets available beginning in May at 10 AM Mass; first-come, first-served. See Phil Liszka.

Several of our parishioners attend – and several work for – our local Catholic schools ([mariancatholics.org](http://mariancatholics.org), [sjrschool.com](http://sjrschool.com), and [sjmrschool.org](http://sjmrschool.org)). These people are the best “evangelizers” for the academic, artistic, and athletic excellence in our schools, all rooted in Catholic faith and mutual charity. **Scholarship funds are available, especially for new transfers; you may be surprised at who qualifies. Consider donating such funds for a tax break (call the respective school FMI).**

## DIOCESAN NEWS

The Diocesan *Lumen Christi* Commission offers **hope and help for everyone affected by the scourge of pornography.** The LCC promotes *Covenant Eyes* ([covenanteyes.com](http://covenanteyes.com)), a monitoring and accountability software; *Strive* ([strive21.com](http://strive21.com)), a recovery app for men; *Arise* ([ariseforwomen.com](http://ariseforwomen.com)), a recovery app for women; and *Restored Vows*, a guide for recovering couples.

Men’s Commission “Monthly Rosary for Families”: YouTube, 3rd Weds, 7PM [www.menaliveinchrist.org/mens-rosary](http://www.menaliveinchrist.org/mens-rosary)

**Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Allentown offers:**

- Individual, marriage, and family counseling
- Pregnancy and parenting support (counseling, material assistance such as diapers, wipes, baby items)
- Supportive services (case management, material assistance, emergency rental assistance, referrals)

For info, contact **Jeremy Leidich at 610-435-1541 x5310.**  
\*Services do not regard religious affiliation.

### Diocesan Employment Opportunities website:

[www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment).

### Weekly email of events sponsored by the Diocese:

<https://allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/DiocesanEvents>

## In our Community



The Knights of Columbus Damien Council #598 (1<sup>st</sup>—3<sup>rd</sup> degrees) and Msgr. Angelini Assembly #971 (4<sup>th</sup> degree) meet every first Tuesday in SSPP parish hall at 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM respectively. Next meeting: May 5th.

The **National Day of Prayer** service will be held Thursday, **May 7th**, from 6 to 8 pm at the Lehigh Amphitheater, behind the Municipal Building. The theme: ***Glorify God Among the Nations; Seeking Him in all Generations.*** Clergy and faithful from various churches in the area will seek God’s care and direction for our United States, which are especially needful in our times as our nation celebrates her 250th Anniversary.

**Bereavement Support Group:** May 4, 11, & 18, all Mondays. In the Brogan Room in St. Joseph Rectory of Immaculate Conception Parish: 526 North St. Jim Thorpe. Space is limited; registration required. Call 570-325-2791 by April 6 to register.

**Available from one of our parishioners:** 2 twin-sized beds, dresser with mirror, nightstand, and chest of drawers. Also available, an extra-wide “rollater” type walker. Call Christine at 610-392-3962.



Spring having sprung, I seem to feel more mentally fertile. I grant that current parish events have played their part. There’s lots going on between the takeoff of the Bible Study, two upcoming baptisms, the impending Beautification Days, the HVAC installation, the replacement of the door to the church basement, and the recent pastoral visit of Bishop Schlert, for which all parties involved were grateful.



At the Mass he offered for us last week, His Excellency was exceedingly kind to refer to me as a priest devoted to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to care for the sick. In these areas I never feel like I’m doing enough. But all that does is reinforce my spiritual sickness and the spiritual remedies Holy Mother Church makes available for me no less than for you.

Speaking of fertility, I conceived an aphorism during a recent conversation. The initial statement has since undergone some development. To wit: Confession is like a recipe, but for mercy. While both the ingredients and the directions are equally necessary for a recipe, with Confession the list is more important, because the Lord is the chief agent in the mixing and baking. I must say, the saying started out much simpler.

One other motive for gratitude is the Coffee-and-Donuts that took place after the Mass with the Bishop: these two events happened coincidentally, or rather providentially. It showed me that we “clean up nice” as a parish, not that it was any kind of “Dog-and-Pony Show.”

The kind of cleaning I enjoy doing most with God’s people—but feel like I do least—is the celebration of Confession. To make another metaphor, I compare the sacrament to doing laundry. You need the list, lest you know not what to wash. But more important is the agitation of the washer and the tumbling of the dryer.

For purposes of this comparison, the Church has come to prefer conducting the Sacrament discreetly, as with the modern machines, versus the exterior wringing in a washbasin and hanging on a line. Twas not always thus! Public penances perished with the medieval Church, but I hand it to the Church for extending the practice of Confession to sins beyond the most grievous, thus fostering deeper examinations of conscience and greater freedom to air everything out. There is, of course, the temptation to scrupulosity (I always sin; God never forgives), yet an even greater one to laxity (sin is no big deal; I’m basically a good person anyhow).

# < KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today  
Fifth Sunday of Easter | John 14:1-12

At the Last Supper, Jesus tells us there is room for us in His Father's house (Heaven) and the way there is through Jesus.

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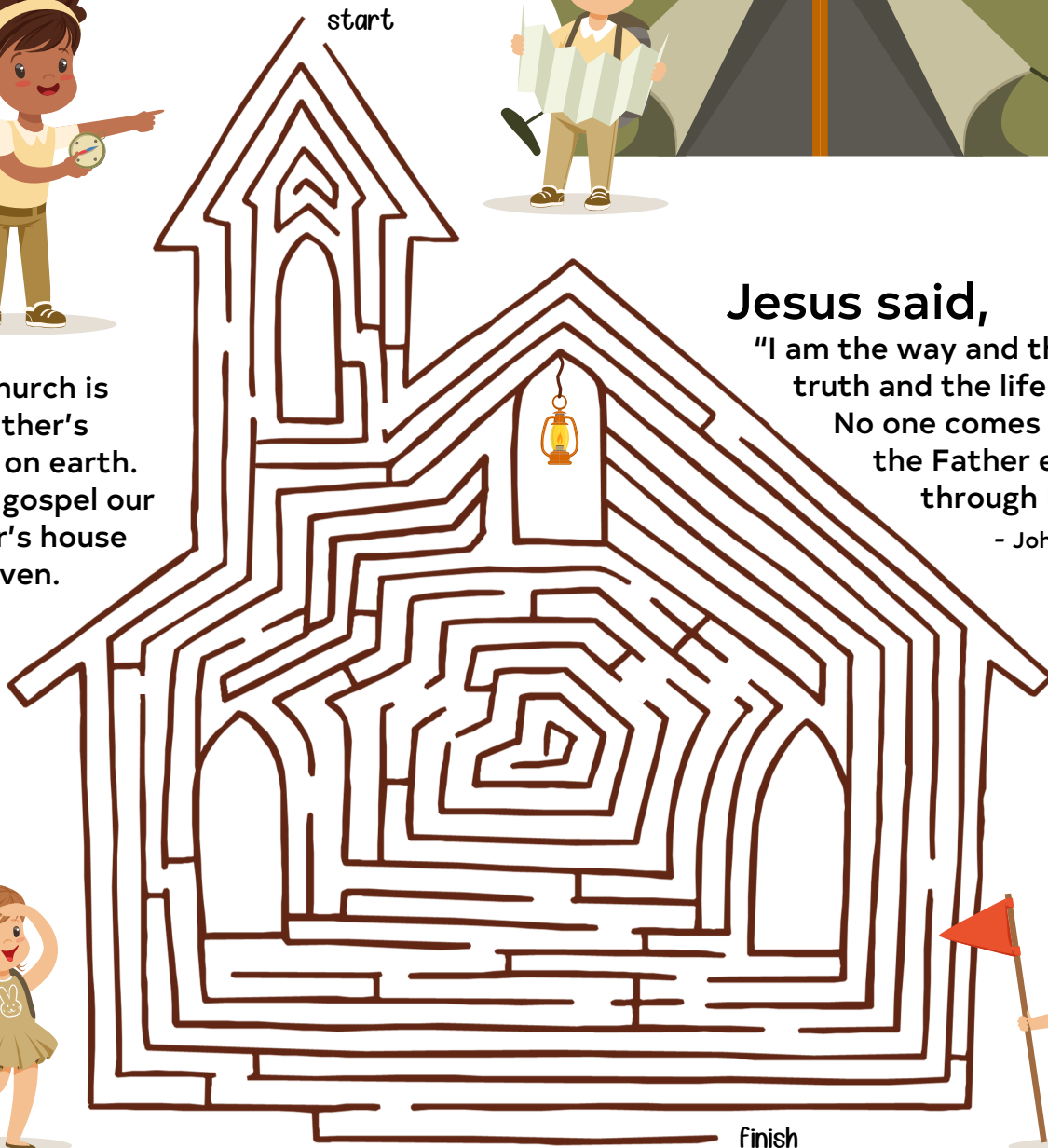
## The church helps us find our way to heaven.



The Church is our Father's house on earth. In the gospel our Father's house is Heaven.

**Jesus said,**  
"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- John 14:6



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MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 10<sup>th</sup>

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**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> to SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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**GIVE A HOOT! DON'T POLLUTE**



Thanks for giving a hoot! *Woody*