



# Mt. Calvary Messenger

FEBRUARY 2017

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## NO GREATER LOVE THAN THIS

An elderly couple walked slowly into McDonalds on a cold winter evening. Many of the customers looked admiringly at them as the little old man walked up to the counter, placed his order and paid for their meal. The couple took a table near the back wall and started taking the food off the tray. There was one hamburger, one order of French fries and one drink.

The little old man unwrapped the hamburger and carefully cut it in half. He placed one half in front of his wife of sixty years. Then he carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a drink and then set the cup down between them.

As the man began to eat his few bites of hamburger, all the people in the McDonalds began to feel uneasy. You could tell what they were thinking: "That poor old couple. All they can afford is one meal for the two of them." As the man began to eat his French fries, one concerned young man came over to the old couple's table. He politely asked if he could buy them another meal for the couple to eat. The old man looked up and said that they were just fine, thank you.

Everyone in the place were watching, noticing that the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She just sat there watching her husband eat. As the man finished his meal, the concerned young man again came over and offered to buy some food. After being refused again, he finally asked the old lady, "Ma'am, why aren't you eating? What are you waiting for? She answered, "The teeth."

Love is a wonderful thing isn't it? In this season of Valentine's Day when we focus on those we love and those who love us are reminded again of the greatest love that has ever been expressed –God's gift of his Son, Jesus Christ!

To think that God so loved the world and every one of us that he was willing to share his Son is an incredible thought! Jesus himself offered his very life so that we might have life through his sacrifice on the cross. And so we love because he first loved us!

Rev. Bill Qualman, Pastor



Visit us on the Web at <http://www.mtcalvary-lcms.org>

# STEWARDSHIP

We've all heard that stewardship is giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. For God has given us everything we have and enjoy as we confess in the meaning to the First Article of the Apostle's Creed. And what we confess first among those is that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses." Only then do we confess that he gives us material things. Thus the time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have and indeed everything we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word—when we replace the word *and* with the word *or*. It is always written with the *and*, but when we read it, we read it with the *or*. Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolled that everything that we have

and are is a gift from God and which is to be pressed into the service of God in His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose which of the trinity we use into the service of God. The giving of our time, talents, *and* treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents, *or* treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasures? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give our treasure and not of our time and our talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and our talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. They are given to us and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits, proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God

gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things to us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, *AND* treasures as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings in which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents, and treasures to our families, our society, and to our church, our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price—with the holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything—His time, His talents, and His treasure,—to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love—time, talents, and treasures together.

## TEXAS DISTRICT CHURCH EXTENSION FUND NEWS

Let the Church Extension Fund be your savings place in providing IRA's in 2017!

Texas District CEF IRA retirement plans offer the following products and services:

Traditional IRA's help you to save for your retirement by allowing the earnings to grow tax-deferred. Contributions may also be tax-deductible if you meet certain conditions. Distributions from the IEA are generally tax able at the time of withdrawal.

Roth IRA's advantage to saving for retirement is tax free distributions if certain conditions are met. You must have earned income to open a Roth IRA. Contributions are not tax-deductible.

A Cordell Education IRA can be used to make annual non-deductible contributions on behalf of a child under the age of 18. The earnings will remain tax deferred while in the ESA. When the child uses the ESA to pay for qualified education expenses, the contributions and earnings are distributed tax free.

Additionally, CEF offers: SIMPLE IRA's and a Simplified Employee Pension Plan (SEP).

Regular savings accounts and one, three or five year certificates are also available.

CEF Investor Service Representatives look forward to the opportunity to assist you in setting up a CEF IRA. For more information, please call Texas District CEF at 888-951-1233 or visit their websites at [texascef.org](http://texascef.org) and the IRA site: [texascef.org/ira.html](http://texascef.org/ira.html). Before making any decisions, you are encouraged to consult with your tax advisor. Gold Star Trust serves as the custodian of the CEF IRA Program. Jeanette Huelsebusch is the local representative for the Texas District Church Extension Fund and can be reached at 979-968-3829.

## The Mary Martha Guild Minute



February	Monday, February 6th
	Fellowship Time – 6:30 PM
	Devotion & Business Meeting – 7:00 PM
Pantry Item	Canned Fruit <u>OR</u> Canned Juices
Hostesses	Donna Kappler, Stell Midgett, Judy Zuhn
Mite Prayer	Donna Kappler
Projects/Activities	Valentines for shut-ins & associate members LWR Personal Care Kit Collection Lenten Lunch sign-up (March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5) Preparations for Zone Rally (favors) World Day of Prayer – Friday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Birthdays:	(1) Sherry Dunk & Sharon Pietsch, (4) Sandy Rials, (12) Susie Polasek, (20) Genelda Pavlik, (23) Sandy Polasek, (26) Ruby Fehrle & (27) Leah Wolf
Anniversaries:	(14) Sandy Rials

Everyone is invited to attend our Guild Meetings in the Multipurpose Room and all volunteers and support of our projects are greatly appreciated. Contact our Member Development Committee - Karen Fitch or any Guild member or feel free to call the Church Office @ 968-3938 for more information.

The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer by Keith Lund. The meeting was then called to order at 6:45 PM by President Gary Diers at the BBQ Pavilion. (Prior to the meeting, members of the Mary Martha Guild and of the Men's Club met to coordinate responsibilities for the Spaghetti Dinner.) Roll call was answered by 24 members.



Minutes from the regular meeting of November 7, 2016 had been emailed to the members and had been printed in the church newsletter. The minutes were approved. Dr. Randy Albers presented the Treasurer's Report and reported a Lutheran Hour Fund balance of \$115.29, a General Fund balance of \$9,403.82 and an ending bank balance of \$9,519.11. Randy noted that, of this amount, \$2,100 was encumbered as the Men's Club would be buying a fish fryer, would contribute to a commercial food processor/slaw shredder, and would contribute to the La Grange VFD. The treasurer's report was approved.

The Men's Club members agreed that \$1,500 could be spent on the fish fryer, and that Gary Diers should choose and order the fryer to be purchased. Harold read a thank you card received from Lori Hollek, Preschool Director, thanking the Men's Club for having paid for the repairs to the floor drain and installing new tile flooring in the ladies' bathroom in the Education Building.

Sunday, March 19 was chosen as the tentative date for the pork steak dinner. Keith Lund, Donald Roensch, and Nick Hensley will each apply for a Thrivent Action Team, which would provide \$250 each towards the dinner. Keith will coordinate.

Planning was done for the Sunday, January 15th Spaghetti Dinner. The club members voted to donate the Club's 1/4 share of the profits to Mt. Calvary. The Sunday School will have a bake sale in the drive through line. Club members will meet on Thursday, January 12th at 5 PM at the BBQ Pavilion to cut onions and bacon, and to do other prep work for the dinner, and will meet on Friday, January 13th at 5:30 PM at the Camp Lone Star kitchen to cook the hamburger meat. Club members will begin work on Sunday at 6 AM at the BBQ Pavilion.

The election of the Men's Club officers for 2017 was held. Willie Ahlschlager was elected President, Larry Faldyn was elected Vice President, Randy Albers agreed to continue on as Treasurer and was elected, and Justin Hollek was elected Secretary.

The next regular meeting of the Men's Club will be held on Monday, February 6, 2017 starting at 6:30 PM, followed by a fellowship time and a meal to be served by Team 6. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, and the members enjoyed fellowship and a meal prepared and served by Team 5.

By Harold Streicher, Secretary

# For Your Information

## AMEN FOOD PANTRY

Just a reminder that Mt. Calvary volunteers will staff the Food Pantry on Monday, February 6, from 9-11 AM, and Thursday, February 9, from 1-3 PM.

THANK YOU for the food and monetary donations given throughout the year. Your donations are vital to AMEN's mission of feeding the hungry in our community. If you have questions or would like more information how you can become involved, please contact Stell Midgett, 247-4703 or 966-2319.



Youth Game Night is Saturday, February 11th, at the Claude home (628 N. Monroe) from 6:30–9:45 PM with dinner. Bring a friend for pizza and lots more. All confirmation age and above are invited. We will be showing "God's Not Dead 2".



## NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF MISSIONS

Sunday, February 5th is Super Bowl Sunday. Mt. Calvary Mission board encourages you to observe "Souper Bowl Sunday". Begun in 1990, it is a time when many get together to watch football, have fun, and eat. It is also a time to remember those who are without a bowl of soup, or food of any kind. One in seven people in the United States face hunger every day! Being mindful of those who struggle with hunger, the Board of Missions will have a food collection basket in the church narthex on Feb. 5; all members are encouraged to bring cans and boxes of food – forget to bring something? There will be an offering plate for checks and cash. All donations go to AMEN, our local food pantry – please consider helping for this worthy cause.

## Address Changes

Karen Fitch Email: karenfitch64@gmail.com  
 Pastor Fitch Email: fitchphd@gmail.com



For God so loVed the world  
 thAt He gave His  
 onLy  
 begottEn  
 SoN,  
 thaT whoever  
 belIeves  
 iN Him should not perish  
 but havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)

## Bible Quiz

What unique characteristic of the judge Ehud enabled him to outsmart King Eglon of Moab, who had been oppressing ancient Israel?

- A. He was left-handed.
- B. He was blind.
- C. He was very fat.
- D. He was exceedingly strong.



Answer: A (See Judges 3:12-26.)

# OUR MEMBERS IN THE NEWS!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD



Shirley Behrens of La Grange won a \$300 certificate good for shopping at businesses that advertised in the Record's Eat, Shop, Play special edition geared to promote local shopping. Behrens is shown with Record circulation manager Theresia Karstedt.

*Photo by H.H. Howze*



Linda Poncik, left, presented a certificate to Charleen Koopmann for being chosen as the Plum Hermann Sons Life Humanitarian of the Year for 2016. Koopmann is the lodge's secretary, is the secretary of the VFW Post 5254 and is an active member in her church, St. Peter Lutheran Church of Prairie Valley. She also volunteers many hours with St. Mark's Medical Center Auxiliary in La Grange. The presentation was made at the lodge's annual Christmas party.

## A Five Generation Celebration

Five generations recently gathered for a celebration at the Allen Wolf residence. Pictured from left to right in front row are, mother Emily Barber with son Calib Christian Barber, great-great grandmother Lorine Bamsch, great-grandmother Dolores Wolf. Back row, grandfather Clayton Wolf.



County Judge Ed Janecka also delivered the oath of office to the attorneys of the Fayette County Attorney's Office. Pictured from left are Assistant County Attorney James Herbrich, Assistant County Attorney Lori Grabowski, Assistant County Attorney Harold Streicher, Janecka and County Attorney Peggy Supak.



National Bank and Trust employees in La Grange recently donated to the Fayette County Sheriff's Department Deputy Santa Program.

# February Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Lillie Diller Shery Dunk Sharon Pietsch Michele Stokes Krystal Synatschk	2 Virginia Polasek	3 Dorothy Witt	4 Megan Hollek Sandy Rials <i>Jonathan &amp; Marisa Lehmann (5 yrs)</i> <i>Sherri &amp; Joe Coufal (11 yrs)</i>
5	6 Shane Pietsch	7 Jamey Olenick	8 Austin Walker	9 Mark Huelsebusch Cadence Rinald Jason Von Minden Edward Votaw	10	11
12 Susie Polasek Laverne Wittmann	13 Charles Hebert	14 Vastine Michalk Stacey Olenick <i>William Crawford &amp; Sandy Rials (35 yrs)</i>	15 Brenda Rainosek	16	17 Paul Mersiovsky	18 Caleb Stokes <i>Kevin &amp; Becky Von Minden (39 yrs)</i>
19 Hannah Sanchez Geraldine Teinert	20 Genelda Pavlik	21	22	23 Sandy Polasek	24 Julie Cook Gabe Qualman	25 Garland Midgett
26 Ruby Fehrle	27 Joyce Dippel Madison Prouty Leah Wolf <i>John &amp; Malissa Mieth (3 yrs)</i>	28 Ron Glaiser Jessica Pietsch Tim Tarnowski (the 29th)				



IN OUR



## Thoughts and Prayers

**Prayer of Christian Sympathy** for the family and friends of PATTI SPILLANE-ROGERS (Marilyn Spillane's daughter), who passed away on December 28th; for the family and friends of LILLIAN TEINERT (mother of Lee Teinert), who passed away on January 10th; for the family and friends of BERNICE BUSCHA HEINRICH, who passed away on January 12th; for the family and friends of GLEN WHITLEY, who passed away on January 13th; and for the family and friends of MONROE SCHUBERT, who passed away on January 14th.

# Just For Kids

## Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day.



**What you need:**

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bowl and spoon
- Mint leaves (optional)

**What you do:**

1. Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
2. Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
3. Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half. Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
4. Cut grapes in half.
5. Place fruit in bowl and stir.
6. Wash and cut the mint. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!



## Love your neighbor as yourself

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love. How does Jesus say we should treat other people?

*Directions: Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here: (12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12<sup>th</sup> letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.*

- (1) You really like ice cream! \_\_\_\_\_
- (16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab. \_\_\_\_\_
- (21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels. \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph. \_\_\_\_\_
- (11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns. \_\_\_\_\_
- (17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently. \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled. \_\_\_\_\_



"Honor \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_."

Matthew 19:19, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19, NIV

# Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

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“Committed to Reaching Out With The Love Of Jesus”

# Puzzle!



Use the clues to discover these four-letter answers. When read from top to bottom, the first letters reveal a phrase related to the children of Israel's wilderness experience.

• • • • •

1. Camping shelter \_\_\_\_\_
2. To track wild game \_\_\_\_\_
3. Home to Adam and Eve \_\_\_\_\_
4. Middle Eastern tree \_\_\_\_\_
5. A form of precipitation \_\_\_\_\_
6. To follow commands \_\_\_\_\_
7. Martha's sister \_\_\_\_\_
8. A false god \_\_\_\_\_
9. Israel's first king \_\_\_\_\_
10. Valley in 1 Samuel 17 \_\_\_\_\_
11. Unable to hear \_\_\_\_\_
12. Smaller than an ocean or sea \_\_\_\_\_
13. Jezebel's husband \_\_\_\_\_
14. Mount climbed by Moses \_\_\_\_\_
15. Morning's light \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: 1. tent, 2. hunt, 3. Eden, 4. palm, 5. rain, 6. obey, 7. Mary, 8. idol, 9. Saul, 10. Elah, 11. deaf, 12. lake, 13. Ahab, 14. Nebo, 15. dawn.  
The promised land