



Mt. Calvary Messenger

FEBRUARY 2018

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Corner	Front
Stewardship	2
Auxiliary News	3
Our Members in the News	4
For Your Information	5
Church Calendar	Insert
Serving Schedule	insert
Birthdays	10
Just for Kids	11

REMAINING STRONG IN OUR FAITH

A member of a certain church had previously been attending services on a regular basis. Suddenly he stopped coming. After several weeks the pastor decided to visit him. It was a very cold day and the pastor found the man sitting alone in front of a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair by the fireplace, and waited.

The pastor sat down and said nothing. After several long minutes the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to the side, alone. As the lone ember's flame burned out, leaving a momentary glow until it turn cold and dead. Not a word had been spoken since they first greeted each other. As the pastor rose to leave, the host said, "Pastor, thank you so much for your visit. I will be at church next Sunday."

A seasoned pastor once told me, "Christian failure is seldom a blowout; it is usually a slow leak." It is a surprising reality, even reported by our national news reports. What's the news? Even committed church-attenders are attending church less often in our country.

The writer of Hebrews warns of this problem saying, "Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other...." (10:25)

In our worship life together, we encourage and support each other with our presence, with prayers, song, God's Word, and with the fellowship of believers.

Alone, no longer nourished by God's love and the love of fellow Christians, soon the flame of our faith is diminished, and dies.

One of the important things we can do for ourselves and each other is to encourage one another in being faithful in our worship life and our walk with Christ. The result is a joyful community of believers, eager to serve Christ and each other.

The season of Lent with all of its special services gives us the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the joyful habit of gathering ourselves around Word and Sacrament as well as the fellowship of our friends and family!

Rev. Bill Qualman, Pastor

STEWARDSHIP

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It's not so much that we stop giving, but we don't put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it



of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is a sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God's Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service.

Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.



The children at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Pre-school in La Grange made a donation to the AMEN Food Pantry over the Christmas holidays.

OUR MEMBERS IN THE NEWS!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD



On Dec. 19, and Nov. 2, the Fayette County Community Theatre hosted an invited VIP preview performance of *Steel Magnolias* to a large and enthusiastic crowd. Guests were treated with food and drinks, including "Bleeding Armadillo" cupcakes, and were able to watch all the magic happen as the cast and crew ran a final dress rehearsal. The proceeds from the night went directly to the Second Chance Emporium Rebuild, which totaled \$1,400. The theatre then went on to have an entirely sold-out weekend of *Steel Magnolias* performances. For more information on the theatre or how to get involved in "Building Community Through Play," check out their Facebook page or go to fayettecountycommunitytheatre.com. Pictured from left are: Joy Learned, Second Chance Coordinator; Gayle Scholack, Second Chance Store Director; Susannah Mikulin, FCCT Founder/Artistic Director; Emily Matheson, Second Chance Asst. Store Director; Linda Striewer, Second Chance Treasurer; and Linda Morrison, Second Chance Secretary.

The Mary Martha Guild Minute



FEBRUARY	Monday, February 5th - Multipurpose Room Fellowship at 6:30 PM Devotion & Business Meeting at 7:00 PM
Pantry Item	Canned Fruit OR Canned Juice
Hostesses	Diane Johnson, Donna Kappler, Susie Polasek
Mite Prayer	Diane Johnson
Projects/Activities	LWR Personal Care Kits Care Inn Nursing Home Visit Lenten Lunch Volunteer Sign-up Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, & 28 World Day of Prayer-Mar.2 nd at Second Baptist
Birthdays:	(1) Sherry Dunk & Sharon Pietsch, (4) Sandy Rials, (12) Susie Polasek, (20) Genelda Pavlik, (23) Sandy Polasek, (27) Leah Wolf
Anniversaries:	(14) Sandy Rials

Everyone is invited to attend Guild Meetings in the Multipurpose Room on the first Monday of each month (except July & December). 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 at 968-3938 for more information.

Address Changes

Kayley Dunk
576 E Walnut St
La Grange, TX 78945-2834

Keith & Jill Lund
P O Box 2302
Pottsboro, TX 75076
(same phone & emails)

Dot Moerbe
216 Lockhart Loop
Georgetown, TX 78628-6018

Amy Streit
P O Box 644
La Grange, TX 78945-0644

Nancy Lehmann
Cell (979) 208-9421

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2018



Women, men and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate Word Day of Prayer, Friday, March 2, 2018. This year, the women of the WDP Committee of Suriname call us to worship considering the words: "All God's Creation is Very Good!" With these words as backdrop, we are invited to learn about Suriname's history and rich cultural diversity.

The women of Suriname share their stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions, and experiences of God's profound love and acceptance. The focus is on Genesis 1, the story of Creation. The Bible study and worship service invite us to explore the relationship between God and creation and God and humanity and asks what is our role as Christians in the world of God?

This year's service will be held at noon on Friday, March 2nd at the Second Baptist Church of La Grange located at 910 von Minden Road. Lunch will be served by the women of First Baptist and the program will be presented by the women of Sacred Heart.

Friends, family, and communities of faith are invited to join the women of Suriname in prayer and song to support ecumenical efforts toward justice, peace, healing and wholeness. The annual offering supports the work of World Day of Prayer USA and helps meet the needs of families in Suriname and around the world who are victims of many forms of poverty, violence and injustice. Non-perishable food will also be collected for the local AMEN Food Pantry.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. World Day of Prayer was founded on the idea that prayer and action are inseparable in the service of God's kingdom. Services begin at sunrise in the Pacific and follow the sun across the globe on the day of celebration. Each year a different country's committee serves as the writers of the World Day of Prayer worship service.

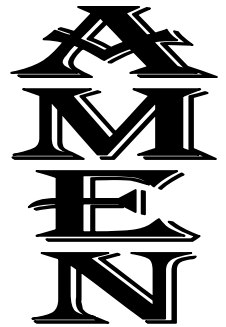




Board of Missions Sponsors "Souper Bowl Sunday"

Remember the recent cold (just about freezing) weather in our area? What came to your mind? "Hot chocolate sounds good!" OR: "Something warm (like soup) sounds good!" Any type of warm food would have been a source of comfort then, and every day. So many throughout our area and our nation go hungry on a regular basis. On Sunday, January 28, and Sunday, February 4 ("Super Bowl Sunday"), there will be a container in the narthex for donations of non-perishable food (canned fruit or vegetables, soup, packaged meals such as Hamburger Helper, cereal, dry beans, etc.). Forget to bring something? An offering plate will be available for checks (made payable to AMEN, the La Grange food pantry), or cash. Please help! Thank you from the Board of Missions; your donations are very much appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support for the AMEN Pantry by providing shelf stable food. Donations may be brought at any time and placed in the plastic bin in the church narthex. Items in high demand include boxed cereal, oatmeal, mac and cheese, canned fruit/juice, dried pinto beans, canned chicken/tuna, soups. Please check to make sure the "best by" date on products has not expired. And, continue to save your 12-count egg cartons! Bev Albers (979-250-1718) and Stell Midgett (979-966-2319) represent Mt. Calvary on the AMEN Board.



Reminder: Mt. Calvary volunteers are next assigned to staff the Pantry on March 12 and 15.

HOW TO USE THRIVENT FINANCIAL TO ASSIST YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY

- ⊕ Choice Dollars – In this program, eligible members either go online to their account or call Thrivent directly at 800-847-4836 and ask that their accumulated Choice Dollars be given to a qualified charitable organization like Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, etc. Some members with small Thrivent accounts may not be eligible, but it's worth a try!

When you call and are asked how they can direct your call, say "Thrivent Choice". Note – These accumulated dollars are either given to the charity of your choice or are reinvested in other programs. This isn't money you can take out for yourself – *Use it or lose it!* Do it today, the deadline is March 31 for 2017 Choice Dollars!

- ⊕ Action Teams – The new Action Teams programs get members involved in planning and carrying out
 - a. A project that will benefit a needy person or organization,
 - b. A fundraiser to gather more funds for a cause, or
 - c. An educational event.

Their way to help is to give the Thrivent member who is planning one of the above, a \$250 debit card to 'kick start' their project. This \$250 can be used to purchase materials for a project or supplies for a fundraiser or conduct an educational event.

Each Thrivent member can be given two \$250 debt cards per year to fund their projects. Projects must be applied for at least three weeks prior to the event date -- pre-approved by Thrivent -- two people can't use their cards for the same project.

Call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 to learn how to start your own Action Team and receive a \$250 project card or contact Congregational Advocates Linda Streicher or Jeanette Huelsebusch for assistance.

For Your Information

Bible Quiz

Paul declares that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Which of the following does Paul specify as unable to block God's love?

A. death; life
 B. angels; demons
 C. present; future
 D. height; depth
 E. all of the above

ANGELS
 LIFE
 death depth
 present HEIGHT
 FUTURE demons



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF NEWS

The Happy Scrappers quilting ladies meet at 2 o'clock PM every Monday afternoon in the Fellowship House, putting their hearts and hands to work assembling pieced QUILT tops with middles and backs into useful gifts of love to make a difference to families around the world. Your past generous financial and material support of LWR Quilts is greatly appreciated. However, more volunteers are welcome and needed, so you are invited for fun, fellowship and refreshments each Monday afternoon for an up close look at our activities.

Answer E (See Romans 8:38-39, NIV.)



LYF movie night will be Feb 10th from 6:30-9:45 at Claude home, 628 N. Monroe.



Change of menu to build your own tacos!!

Bring a friend and first time visitors/guests get a gift card to DQ!



Pastor Newman recently told us about reaching out and witnessing to others. Who do we seek out? What do we say? How do we do it?

A theme for our Mt. Calvary Outreach/Evangelism Board for 2018 is "Each One Reach One" Think how you might use these three suggestions in introducing Jesus to them. Inviting them to worship and a social event. You'll be richer for it!

BOARD OF OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

PROJECT PROMISE BUILDING KITS OF CARE

This Lenten season please join Lutheran World Relief's Project Promise campaign with a donation of personal care items or cash for their purchase which will be used to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

COLLECTION LIST

- Bath towels, light weight (20"x40" to 52"x27") dark color
- Bath-size bars of soap
- Adult-size tooth brushes
- Sturdy combs, no picks or fine tooth
- Metal nail clippers

Cash will also be very much appreciated to help purchase items in bulk and hard to find items such as sturdy combs and metal nail clippers. The approximate cost of one personal care kit is \$5 - \$6.

Last day to make donations is Sunday, March 18th after which all kits will be assembled and packed. On Monday, April 2nd all Quilts, Personal Care Kits and School Kits will be taken to St. John's Lutheran Church at Rutersville for shipment to Lutheran World Relief Headquarters.

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>Joe & Sherri Coufal (12 yrs)</i> <i>Jonathan & Marissa Lehmann (6 yrs)</i>	5	6 Shane Pietsch	7 Jamey Olenick	8 Michael Johnson 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 & Sandy Rials (36 yrs)</i>	15 Brenda Rainosek	16	17 Paul Mersiovsky
18 Josie Muske Caleb Stokes <i>Kevin & Becky Von Minden (40 yrs)</i>	19 Hannah Sanchez Geraldine Teinert	20 Genelda Pavlik	21	22 Valerie Johnson	23 Sandy Polasek	24 Julie Cook Gabe Qualman
25 Garland Midgett	26 Ruby Fehrle	27 Joyce Dippel Madison Prouty Leah Wolf <i>John & Malissa Mieth (4 yrs)</i>	28 Ron Glaiser Jessica Pietsch Tim Tarnowski (29th)			


 IN OUR

Thoughts and Prayers

Prayer of Christian Sympathy for the family and friends of WILMA RUTH BIGON (Lee Teinert's aunt), who passed away on December 30th; for the family and friends of DON MOERBE, who passed away on January 1st; for the family and friends of PHIL SCHAEFER (Lee Herbrich's step-father), who passed away on Jan. 15th; and for the family and friends of LANNY CONWAY, who passed away on Jan. 19th.

Just For Kids



heart sandwich

Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.

What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)

What you do:

1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
4. If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.



A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:34, Jesus offers important instructions for his followers.

Directions: Figure out the pattern in each vertical line of letters. Then add the next letter in the sequence to the blank underneath, completing John 13:14, NIV.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCD...

F	L	S	Y	F	K	Y	X	E	I	Q	B	V	O	O	J	F
H	M	T	A	I	L	A	Y	H	K	R	D	Y	P	S	M	G
J	N	U	C	L	M	C	Z	K	M	S	F	B	Q	W	P	H

E	X	M	B	C	L	M	B	U	V	F	R	P	L	V	F	R
F	Y	P	C	F	M	P	C	X	W	I	S	Q	M	W	I	S
G	Z	S	D	I	N	S	D	A	X	L	T	R	N	X	L	T

A	R	J	Q	C	C	S	B	F	K	Y	X	H	L	Q	B	Y	I
E	S	M	R	F	G	T	C	I	L	A	Y	J	M	R	D	A	L
I	T	P	S	I	K	U	D	L	M	C	Z	L	N	S	F	C	O

JOHN 13:34, NIV

Answer: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34, NIV

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

NON-PROFIT ORG.
STANDARD PERMIT #50
LA GRANGE TX

800 N. Franklin St.
La Grange, Texas 78945

Change Service Requested



“Committed to Reaching Out With The Love Of Jesus”

Ash Wednesday, February 14th, at 11:00 AM & 7 PM
Distribution of Ashes and Holy Communion

Wednesday Lenten Services at 11:00 AM —February 21 and 28, March 7, 14, 21 (11 AM services are followed by lunches at the Fellowship House)

Palm Sunday, Sunday, March 25th at 9:00 AM

Maundy Thursday Service, March 29, 7 PM (Stripping of the altar, Holy Communion)



LENTEN WORSHIP

Good Friday Service,
Friday, March 30, 11 AM
& 7 PM (Tenebrae service)

EASTER SUNDAY, April
1st, 6:00 a.m. and 9:00
a.m.

Puzzle!

Search in all directions to find these words from the first seven chapters of Proverbs.

WORD LIST: covenant, delight, discipline, evil, father, fool, forsake, fountain, fruit, heart, honest, humble, insight, listen, Lord, love, neighbor, path, pleasant, poverty, protect, rebuke, sleep, son, teaching, tongue, walk, wisdom, youth

M	I	C	W	L	O	O	F	Y	C	M	N	C	T	
D	S	K	A	C	X	J	X	H	M	K	I	P	P	N
E	N	I	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	A	Y	R	E	A
E	J	H	K	T	O	T	R	N	T	W	O	Y	K	S
D	E	L	I	G	H	T	E	N	O	T	U	R	A	A
E	U	G	N	O	T	G	U	A	E	S	T	C	S	E
H	T	A	P	N	Y	O	N	C	C	D	H	O	R	L
A	U	J	L	X	F	Z	T	E	C	H	Y	V	O	P
E	Q	N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R	T	I	E	F	W
T	H	G	I	S	N	I	F	L	R	T	L	N	J	I
H	O	N	E	S	T	A	O	E	I	B	S	A	G	S
E	V	I	L	I	T	R	V	I	M	S	R	N	T	D
V	M	X	U	H	D	O	A	U	M	I	T	T	A	O
O	E	R	E	Y	P	Y	H	E	K	U	B	E	R	M
L	F	R	K	S	L	E	E	P	H	C	N	P	N	R