



Mt. Calvary Messenger

JANUARY 2018

Rev. Bill Qualman
Pastor
Office: (979) 968-3938
Fax: (979) 968-2918
pastor@mtcalvary-lcms.org

Laura Gillette
Director of Music
lauragillette@cvctx.com

Linda Streicher, Secretary
Office Hours:
Mon-Thur 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Phonw: (979) 968-3938
Fax : (979) 968-2918
secretary@mtcalvary-lcms.org

Lori Hollek
Preschool Director
Office: (979) 968-5913
Office Hours:
Mon.- Thurs.6:30 am—3:30 pm
Fri. 6:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Preschool@mtcalvary-lcms.org

Janice Teinert
Member Care Coordinator
Office Hours:
Tue & Wed 8:00 a.m.-12:00
p.mjaniceteinert@hotmail.com
janice@mtcalvary-lcms.org

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“One More Time!”

I love to look up in the sky and watch as a jet airliner cuts a straight path across the sky leaving behind it a trail of white vapor, knowing that as it soars above rivers and mountains, it is headed for a precise destination and a specific strip of concrete on which to touch down.

Don't you wish that you could have that same sense of purpose and direction in the coming year? How different our lives seem as we pass from year to year? All of us begin each new year with such high hopes. We sense that the coming year will somehow turn out better and happier than the last. Somehow, our optimism and determination soon loses its focus. Things distract us, other choices capture our interest and soon we find ourselves off course.

And we see it most clearly in our spiritual lives. Perhaps you made some resolutions about being more devoted to worship and Bible study, to witnessing to your faith or your stewardship life. But other concerns caused you to set aside those noble pursuits and before you knew it, you were further away from your spiritual goals than when you began.

Someone once asked a sheep herder why it was that sheep so often got themselves lost. The shepherd simply answered, "They just nibble themselves lost." A little here, a little there, a tuft of this and a sprig of that; and before you know it, the nibbler is lost.

It is so important for us to remember in this new year of 2018, that God in his grace has cut us a clear path and he is determine through Jesus Christ to lead us on this new way for his sake. As the writer of Hebrews 10 reminds us, "by the new and living way which he opened for us" God will see to it that we can live for him in powerful and positive ways! That's God's will for us in the New Year!

God wants very much, for each and every one of us to set our goals high. Make no mistake, God's will and purpose for us in 2018 is clear. We are to set our goals high as we give ourselves over to him even as we pray..."Thy will be done."

Should we slip or fall, wander off the path, lose sight of our goal, God will reach out to us again with his grace and forgiveness saying, "One more time... !"

Rev. Bill Qualman, Pastor

STEWARDSHIP

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless. But it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions: Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the Small Catechism informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties and our questions arise in giving to the church.

So, what is our duty as members of the church with regard to giving? The Table of Duties, again, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer, a member of the church who receives instruction, St. Paul taught: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).



How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor. 6:1-2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own

strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.



Some of the little stars of Mt. Calvary Preschool's Christmas program last week. Photo by Jeff Wick

IMPORTANT NOTE

There will be a Special Voters Meeting on Sunday, January 14th, immediately following the worship service. Please make plans to stay for the meeting. Rev. Mike Newman will be presenting the results of the pastoral call survey which the congregation recently undertook.

The Mary Martha Guild Minute



JANUARY

Tuesday, January 2nd - Multipurpose Room
Fellowship at 6:30 PM
Devotion & Business Meeting at 7:00 PM

Pantry Item
Hostesses

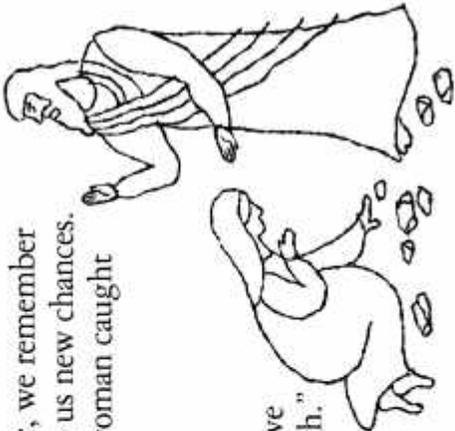
New twin, flat sheet, *OR* Cereal
Sandra Horn, Stell Midgett, Gladys Teinert

Mite Prayer
Projects/Activities

Stell Midgett
Memorial for deceased members
Spaghetti Lunch – TBA
Care Inn Nursing Home Visit
Happy Scrappers resume LWR activities
Birthdays: (10) Faye Winkler, (19) Karen Fitch, (29) Marilyn Spillane
Anniversaries: *None*

Everyone is invited to attend Guild Meetings in the Multipurpose Room on the first Monday (*or Tuesday*) 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.

Bible Quiz



At the start of a new year, we remember that God continually gives us new chances. What does Jesus say to a woman caught in adultery?

- A. "Go, and from now on sin no more."
- B. "Not even in Israel have I found such great faith."
- C. "Peace be with you."
- D. "Tell no one what I have done for you."

Answer: A (See John 8:11.)

1 Chronicles

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

Crossword puzzle answers

OUR MEMBERS IN THE NEWS!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD

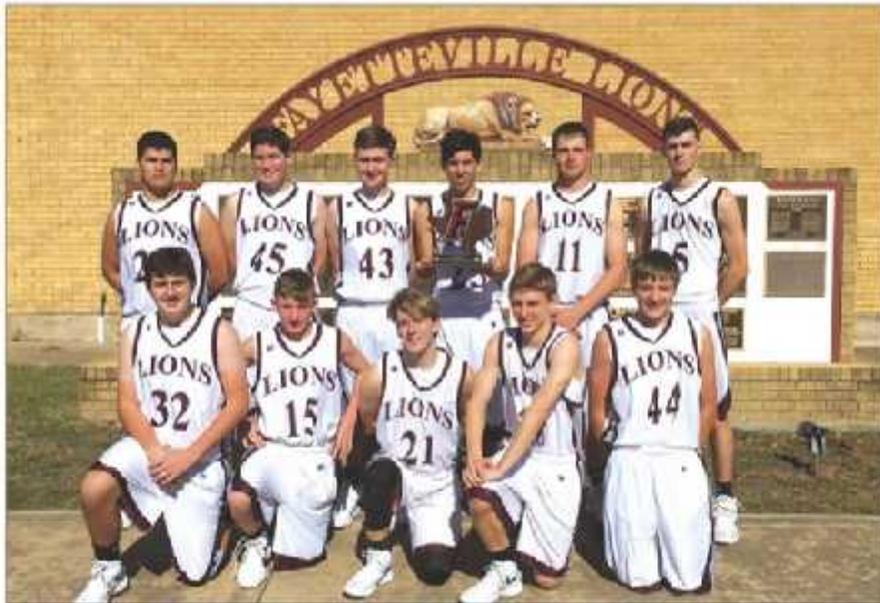


Fayette Savings Bank (FSB) presented a check for \$12,895.91 to Second Chance Empa Inn at the bank's headquarters in La Grange on Thursday, Dec. 14. Pictured (front, from left) are Lil Laundry, Second Chance Vice President; Linda Szwiecher, Second Chance Treasurer, Rec. Eric Hangerford, Second Chance President; David Zepiani, FSB President; Emily Matheson, Second Chance assistant shop manager; Gayle Schiebeck, Second Chance shop manager; (middle) James Lehmann, FSB Vice President; Rodney Jatch, Fayette Savings CEO; Jay Leamon, Second Chance board member; JoAnne and Daryl Hill, donors and Second Chance volunteers; Linda Monitor, Second Chance Secretary; Wade Modrak, FSB Senior Vice President; (back) Mike Cile, FSB Vice President; Robert Bulzer and James Wunderlich of Ellinger St. Mary's Parish Finance Council; and Kyle Jantz, FSB Vice President.

Photo by Andy Schick



Church Women United of La Grange delivered bags of toys to Deputy Santa's warehouse on Dec. 17. Toys were collected at area churches from Nov. 18 through Dec. 11 and will be distributed by the Fayette County Sheriff's Office to children in Fayette County. Pictured below from left are Deputy Dan Wilson, Marnie Fritsch, Kathleen Alvarez, Jeannette Haselbacher, Jacsin Astill and Lt. David Beyer.



The members of the Fayetteville boys' basketball team pose Saturday with the championship trophy after they won their home tournament.


**I CAN DO ALL THINGS
 THROUGH
 HIM
 WHO
 STRENGTHENS
 ME.**
 ...
PHILIPPIANS 4:13



Prosperity Bank - From left to right: Suzette Zarr, Tracy Hobrach, Barbara Janacek, Pam Read, Wendy Kruse, Elle Astridge, Lilly Rios, Ashley Raabe, Marsha Hutton, Sharon Belota

Christmas Highlights



Sandra Horn shared the Japanese Christmas story with our Sunday school kids before the pro-

Thanks to the LYF, who helped assemble the Lutheran World Relief school kits!



Left, Larry Faldyn stirs the fruit and nut mix for a batch of fruitcakes. Right, Carol Faldyn wraps and labels the cakes.

Photos by H. H. Howze



For Your Information



Church Women United delivery of toys to the Deputy Santa Warehouse. Pictured are Deputy Ben Wilson, Mannie Fritsch-Schmid, Kathleen Alvarez, Jeanette Huelsebusch, Jackie Asbill and Lt. David Beyer



THE HAPPY SCRAPPERS

A heartfelt "Thank you" from the Happy Scrappers for your very generous support of our Holiday Craft Sale!!

The Happy Scrappers will resume their regular quilting activities in the Fellowship House at 2:00 PM on Monday, January 8th. No skills are needed - just an opportunity for fun, fellowship and service.

MEMBERS OF CHURCH WOMEN UNITED greatly appreciate your generous support of their Christmas toy/gift drive in behalf of local social programs. Specific gifts were collected for the ANGEL TREE in behalf of the Child Welfare Board and numerous toys were collected to support the DEPUTY SANTA PROGRAM.

Thank You!!



A New You

The 12 Old Testament books known as the Minor Prophets aren't unimportant — just short! Unscramble the names of these books. Then unscramble the circled letters to find a fruit of the Spirit.

The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective.

—G.K. Chesterton

Puzzle!

The 12 Old Testament books known as the Minor Prophets aren't unimportant — just short! Unscramble the names of these books. Then unscramble the circled letters to find a fruit of the Spirit.

Fruit: _____

LEJO _____

IHCAM _____

ABKUKKAH _____

DHAIABO _____

MUNAH _____

OAESH _____

AZAEHINPH _____

NJHAO _____

AGIAGH _____

OASM _____

AHRIZAHCE _____

IHCMALA _____

Answers: Joel, Micah, Habakkuk, Obadiah, Nahum, Hosea, Zephaniah, Jonah, Haggai, Amos, Zechariah, Malachi; Kindness



The Mt. Calvary Ensemble will resume rehearsals on Sunday, January 14, at 8:15. We meet in the sanctuary and new voices always welcome! No audition required and, although weekly attendance

helpful, we understand that not everyone can make every practice. We will be starting new Lent and Easter music so this would be a great time to join! Any questions? Contact Laura Gillette (lauragillette@cvctx.com).

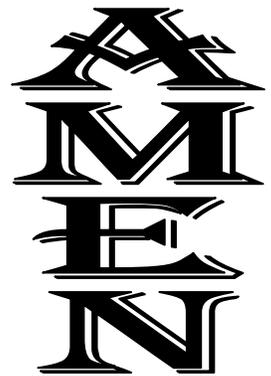
The bell choir will resume practice on Wednesday, January 10th, at 6:30 PM.

Start the New Year off with movie night at the Claude home on Saturday, January 13th. If time permits, we will squeeze in a game of Pictionary. This is a great time to invite any friends who do not attend church. It is a "homey" environment and all of the youth welcome any visitors!! So be a friend and bring one!!



Burgers and fixins as always at 628 N. Monroe at the corner of Pearl and N. Monroe. 6:30-9:45. See u then!

For the month of November, 11,465 pounds of food were distributed by the AMEN Food Pantry to 234 families (representing 711 individuals). Of these families, 22 were new clients. During this same time period, the Pantry received 1,811 pounds of donated food. Thank you for your continued support by providing food and monetary donations. Note: please continue to save your 12-count egg cartons.



Normal operating hours for the Pantry are Monday mornings, 9 – 11 AM, and Thursday afternoons, 1-3 PM. For 2018, Mt. Calvary is scheduled to provide volunteers at the Food Pantry on the following dates:

- January 4, Thursday afternoon (the Pantry is closed Monday, January 1)
- March 12 and 15
- May 31, Thursday afternoon (the Pantry is closed Monday, May 28)
- July 30 and August 2
- October 15 and 18
- December 17 and 20

If you are interested in volunteering, or have any questions, feel free to call Bev Albers (979-250-1718) or Stell Midgett (979-966-2319).

TEXAS DISTRICT CEF NEWS

Let the Church Extension Fund be your savings place in providing IRA's in 2018!

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: SIMP LE 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 and the IRA site: 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.

+Christian Symbol+

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ

This set of letters spells “Christ” in Greek. It may be written using the Roman alphabet (from which the English alphabet descended), but is also often presented in Greek characters, as shown here.



United in Diversity

Although early Christians had much in common, they also dwelt in diversity. Each of their leaders emphasized certain parts of the gospel and favored certain worship styles. They all believed in the resurrected Jesus, and they all celebrated the Lord's Supper and baptism. But Christians in Corinth had a unique approach, as did those in Ephesus, Philippi, Galatia, Rome and so on.

It might be boring if we all believed and practiced completely alike. Variations don't need to be an impediment to Christian unity. As pastor Charles Best said, “If we're going to be in heaven together, we might as well get along now.”

Good Food for Thought

A minister was attending a men's breakfast. He asked one of the older farmers in attendance to say the prayer that morning. The farmer began, “Lord, I hate buttermilk.” The pastor opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going. Then the farmer said, “Lord, I hate lard.” Now the pastor was worried. But the farmer prayed on, “And Lord, you know I don't care much for raw flour.” As the pastor was about to stop everything, the farmer continued, “But Lord, when you mix 'em all together and bake 'em up, I do love me those fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up we don't like, when life gets hard, when we just don't understand what you are saying to us, we just need to relax and wait 'til You are done fixin' and probably it will be something even better than biscuits.” Amen.

Three Questions

There's a tale of a traveling priest who was confronted by a soldier in pre-revolutionary Russia. Rifle in hand, the soldier barked, “Who are you? Where are you going? Why are you going there?”

Instead of answering, the priest asked how much the soldier was paid — and offered double if the soldier would challenge him with those three questions each day as he passed by.

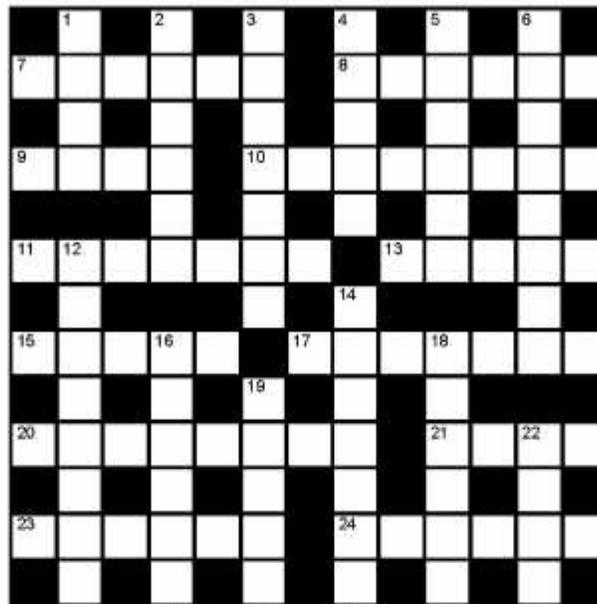
Those three important questions can guide us on our journey through the brand-new year ahead. For Christians, thankfully, the answers are clear:

-) Who are you? “I'm a child of God!”
-) Where are you going? “I'm going out into the world!”
-) Why are you going there? “I'm going out of love for Jesus, who died for me!”

Place these questions and answers in a spot where you can see them each day. Then go forward confidently, knowing “whose” you are and what your purpose is.

“For
I KNOW
 the plans
 I have for you,”
 declares the LORD,
 “... plans to give you
HOPE and a
FUTURE.”
 Jeremiah 29:11, NIV

1 Chronicles



Across

- 7 One of the sons of Helah. 1 Chron 4:7 (6)
- 8 Baalhanan was the son of this person. 1 Chron 1:49 (6)
- 9 One of the sons of Dishan. 1 Chron 1:42 (4)
- 10 One of the people listed in 1 Chron 3:20 (8)
- 11 Benaiah slew an Egyptian who was a man of great _____. 1 Chron 11:22-23 (7)
- 13 "For at that time day by day there came to David to help him, _____ it was a great host, like the host of God." 1 Chron 12:22 (5)
- 15 One of the wives of David. 1 Chron 3:3 (5)
- 17 David did this while Joab fought against Ammon and besieged Rabbah. 1 Chron 20:1 (7)
- 20 Uzza held up his hand to hold the ark when the oxen carrying it did this. 1 Chron 13:9 (8)

- 21 1 Chronicles 3 lists the sons that were _____ to him. (4)
- 23 One of the sons of Jonathan. 1 Chron 2:33 (6)
- 24 The son of Tahath. 1 Chron 7:20 (6)

Down

- 1 The LORD brought this on all the nations because of the fame of David. 1 Chron 14:17 (4)
- 2 A musical instrument used to worship God. 1 Chron 15:28 (6)
- 3 Saul was wounded by one of these. 1 Chron 10:3 (7)
- 4 One of the sons of Ishmael. 1 Chron 1:30 (5)
- 5 The place where Uzza put his hand on the ark. 1 Chron 13:9 (6)
- 6 Shallum was a _____. 1 Chron 9:31 (8)
- 12 "So Saul died, and his three sons, and all his house died _____." 1 Chron 10:6 (8)

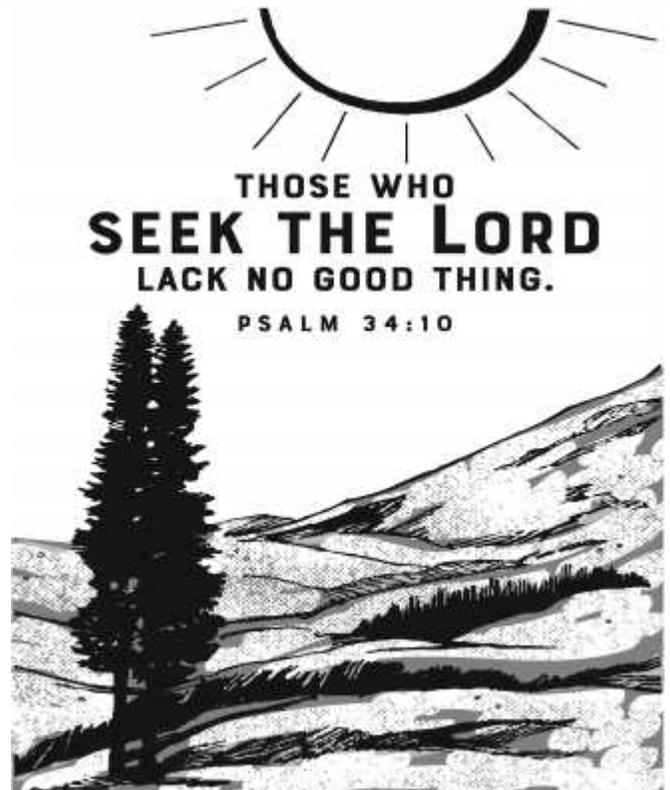
- 14 One of the "heads of the house of their fathers." 1 Chron 5:24 (7)
- 16 Asahel and Elhanan were "valiant men of the _____." 1 Chron 11:26 (6)
- 18 A city destroyed by Joab. 1 Chron 20:1 (6)
- 19 "The sons of Shemaiah; Othni, and Rephael, and Obed, Elzabad, whose brethren were strong men, _____, and Semachiah." 1 Chron 26:7 (5)
- 22 "Let the sea _____, and the fulness thereof: let the fields rejoice, and all that is therein." 1 Chron 16:32 (4)

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Emma Herbrich Neal Lochte Ethlyn Michalk Rodney Stokes	4	5	6 Leroy Wittmann
7 Jonathan Cook A. J. Lehmann	8 Travis Schiwart	9 Matt Qualman	10 Faye Winkler	11	12 David Boening Lee Teinert	13
14 Laura Gillette	15 Joyce Boening	16 Harvey Bohot Luke Huelsebusch	17	18 Heath Hunger A. F. Seifert, Jr.	19 Doug Ahlschlager Karen Fitch Blane Meek Charlene Stelzig	20
21 Edna Ebner Jennifer Tarnowski	22 Jackie Claude Josh Zuhn	23	24 Angela Dalton	25 Elvas Roensch	26 Glenn Schneider	27
28 Joslyn Hensley	29 Kathy Pietsch Marilyn Spillane	30 Trey Dalton	31			


 IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers


Prayer of Christian Sympathy for the family and friends of Collin Pietsch, who passed away on December 18th; and for the family and friends of Charleen Koopmann (Judy Zuhn's aunt), who passed away on December 18th.



Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

800 N. Franklin St.
La Grange, Texas 78945

Change Service Requested



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LA GRANGE TX

“Committed to Reaching Out With The Love Of Jesus”

Puzzle!

The 12 Old Testament books known as the Minor Prophets aren't unimportant — just short! Unscramble the names of these books. Then unscramble the circled letters to find a fruit of the Spirit.



- Fruit: _____
- LEJO _____
- IHCAM _____
- ABKUKKAH _____
- DHAIABO _____
- MUNAH _____
- OAESH _____
- AZAEHINPH _____
- NJHAO _____
- AGIAGH _____
- OASM _____
- AHRIZAHCE _____
- IHCMALA _____

Answers: Joel, Micah, Habakkuk, Obadiah, Nahum, Hosea, Zephaniah, Jonah, Haggai, Amos, Zechariah, Malachi; Kindness