



Mt. Calvary Messenger

JANUARY 2020

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A Little Note From Pastor's Study

Continuing our look at the **Propers** (the Introit, Collect of the Day, Readings, Gradual, and Verse), let's now consider the Verse.

The Verse includes both the **Alleluia** and its verse. It has also sometimes been called the tract. Since, our evangelical friends associated that term inseparably with little hand-outs of give-your-heart-to-Jesus propaganda, we'll stick with the **alleluia** verse for the foreseeable future.

The word **Alleluia** or Hallelujah (from Hebrew הללויה literally means "praise Yah," a short form of "praise Yahweh," and is often rendered as "praise the Lord." When the Holy Gospel is introduced, it is fitting that we respond by praising the Lord.

Using the **Alleluia Verse** to introduce the Gospel dates back to the 3rd Century AD. In modern use the text is often taken from the Gospel text to be read as a kernel of theme of the reading itself.

There are general **alleluia verses** for each of the four full settings of the divine service. Settings three and four omit the **alleluia** verse during lent. Settings one and two have an alternate Lenten text that retains a musical response in the liturgy.

Ash Wednesday *Joel 2:13*

Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

In addition to the general **alleluia verses**, there are specific verses assigned to each Sunday and festival. For Epiphany and Ash Wednesday (01/05/20, 02/26/20) the verses reflect the themes of the day quite well.

Epiphany *Matt. 2:2b*

Alleluia. We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Epiphany is the celebration of the magi coming to see the Lord, Jesus. The star was their sign and guide. This marks the beginning of the revealing of our Lord in His ministry to us throughout Epiphany.

Ash Wednesday *Psalms 103:10; 78:8a, 9a*

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the Lenten omission of the word: Alleluia. It is put away until Easter. In its place, the verse, stands to spark this penitential season. We confess that the Lord does not judge us as we deserve. And, we pray for His continued mercy throughout Lent.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Kaspar

STEWARDSHIP

Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to pro-



claim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works

through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

"I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:18-19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

"For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ]," St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His "yes" to you, but others will find it, too, through you. "But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also" (2 Cor. 8:7).

TEXAS DISTRICT CEF NEWS

The arrival of the New Year makes us pause to reflect on its challenges and opportunities. There may be thoughts about your family, your health, your job, investments and saving for retirement. This could also be the time to consider investing in the Texas District Church Extension Fund, established in 1888, which continues to provide low cost funding for new buildings and expansion of the Texas LCLMS congregations.

CEF Investor Representatives look forward to the opportunity to assist you with your savings and investments. For more information, please call Texas District CEF at 888-951-1233 or visit their website at texascef.org and the IRA site: texascef.org/ira.html or contact local CEF Rep, Jeanette Huelsebusch @ 979-968-3829 for assistance.

CHECK OUT YOUR SAVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEW YEAR

- Flex Savings Account
- Rainy Day Fund
- Fixed Rate Term Notes – one, three & five year options
- Floating Rate Term Notes – one, three & five year options
- Individual Retirement Accounts, Traditional Roth, ESA, SEP & SIMPLE Plans
- Kid's Savings
- Congregational Savings & Building Fund

THE MARY MARTHA GUILD MINUTE

JANUARY MEETING

Monday, January 6th

Welcome
Devotion
Pantry Item
Hostesses
Mite Prayer

Multipurpose Room
Fellowship Time – 5:30 PM
Business Meeting – 6:00 PM
Beverly Albers
Janice Teinert
New, **twin flat** sheet **OR** Cereal
Stell Midgett, Debbie Wilson
Stell Midgett



Mary Martha
Guild

Business Meeting

Birthdays
Anniversaries

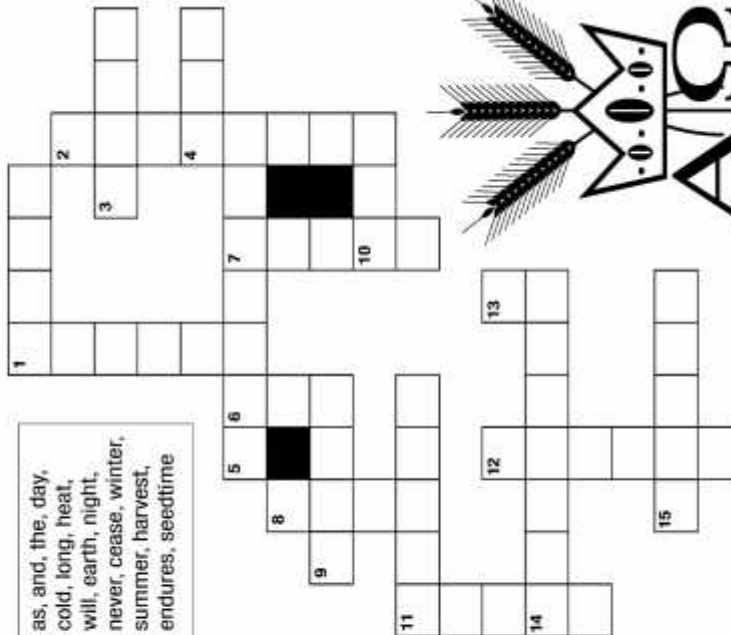
Call to Order
Projects/Activities
Discuss plans for turkey & dressing dinner money received in November
Memorial for Deceased members
Care Inn Birthday Party
Happy Scrappers LWR Quilting beginning January 13th
(10) Faye Winkler, ((19) Karen Fitch, (29) Marilyn Spillane
(2) Debbie Wilson

Everyone is invited to attend monthly Guild Meetings in the Multipurpose Room at 5:30 PM on the first Monday of each month (except July and 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.

Puzzle!

Use the word list to complete the crossword. Then fill in the numbered blanks to read God's promise to Noah — and to us.

as, and, the, day,
cold, long, heat,
will, earth, night,
never, cease, winter,
summer, harvest,
endures, seedtime



13 8 13 10 7 14
2 6 5 9 6
3 1 12 6 1 down 4
6 11 across 1 across 11 down 15
GENESIS 8:22, NIV

Answer: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." Genesis 8:22, NIV

OUR MEMBERS IN THE NEWS!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD



Lots of La Grange High School students were part of the construction process Saturday. *Photos by Jeff Wick*



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Pictured Left to Right: Dulce Merlos, Raygen Pyle, Aïsa Formy, Abigail DolaRosa, Hannah Wilson, Kambri Mihatsch, Kaylee Holmes and Lion Diana Wilson.



The new playscape area was a flurry of activity Saturday. *Photos by Jeff Wick*

LG Freshmen Win Columbus Tournament



The La Grange Freshman Boys basketball team was undefeated on their way to becoming Tournament Champions of the Columbus Freshman Tournament held recently. Games and scores were as follows: La Grange 47 Columbus 23; La Grange 55 El Campo 47; La Grange 38 Shirer Saint Paul 13; and La Grange 46 Hollettsville 19. Pictured are (front, from left) Drew Harbers, Cullen Mathis, Jacob Cheva netz, Jaxon Cooper, Andrew Fiske. (back) Hayden Splawn, Philip Arcasaux, Jonathan Rogers, Jaren Woods, Clayton Knapik, Eli Roberts and Ty Ylicek. Not pictured were Cooper Imhoff, Landon Little, Jakoba Wilkerson and Eddie Murray.



Teamwork was needed to carry this heavy bench.

For Your Information



HAPPY SCRAPPERS - QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN RELIEF

The Happy Scrappers will resume meeting at the Fellowship House at 2 o'clock PM every Monday beginning January 13th. No special tools or skills are required - anyone interested in making a difference is invited to participate. There are various stages in making a quilt and with many helping hands, the process will move faster. If you would prefer to work at home help is needed taking hems out of new bed sheets and ironing them. Or if you prefer making a quilt top at home, pick up a supply of fabric to get you started! Quilt tops should measure 80 inches long and 60 inches wide.

Each Monday we are surprised and thrilled with a variety of fabric, unfinished craft projects and other donations that have arrived in our quilting room for our sewing project! A couple of months ago we received a large donation of a variety of fabric!!

Work, fun, food and fellowship are always a part of the afternoon get together, so stop by and join us for a visit to check out our completed quilts.



Thanksgiving Food Drive Update: 315 pounds of food and \$215.00 were donated to the AMEN Food Pantry through this November collection sponsored by the Board of Missions and Outreach. Because of your generosity, along with that of other churches and organizations in the La Grange area, the families that come through the Pantry at this time of the year are blessed in being able to select items from well-stocked shelves (something we probably rarely consider in our weekly grocery shopping at HEB or Walmart).


Reverse Advent Calendar: Due to the Christmas/New Year holiday schedule, this Newsletter will be printed before we have final totals on the amount of food and monetary donations gathered through December 22.

Thank you for caring and sharing!! Wishing you a Blessed New Year!!

Bible Quiz

According to Matthew, who was present at Jesus' baptism? (Choose as many as apply.)

- A. John the Baptist
- B. The Spirit of God
- C. Jesus' mother, Mary
- D. His first disciples

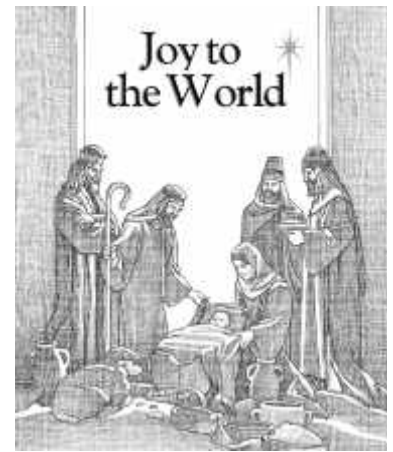


Answer: A and B (See Matthew 3:13-17.)



News from the Board of Missions and Outreach

On December 15, members sang a variety of Christmas carols to the residents of Care Inn, Monument Hill, and Jefferson Place. Many joined in with us; handshakes, smiles, Christmas greetings were shared, and obviously appreciated. Participating were: Brenda Fischer, Daniel Fischer, Karen Fitch, Mandy Kaspar, Pastor Kaspar, Stell Midgett, Diana Mikulin, Holden Mikulin, Holly Mikulin, Donald Roensch. Plan to join us next year - you'll be glad you have a chance to spread some Christmas cheer, and to gladden hearts (well worth the time taken)!



A sacred partnership

Bible scholar William Barclay notes that John the Baptist was “startled and unwilling” when Jesus asked to be baptized. The evangelist thought *he* needed what *Jesus* could give, not the reverse!

We are pros at taking our needs to God — indeed he invites this: “Call on me in the day of trouble” (Psalm 50:15). But God also comes to *us* with needs: “Mortal, I am sending you” (Ezekiel 2:3, NRSV); “Go ... make disciples” (Matthew 28:19); “Carry each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2, NIV).

Apparently, God prefers partnership to acting solo. From the beginning, God has invited people to name the animals, tend the garden, welcome strangers, build the tabernacle, proclaim his word, ensure justice and mercy, share his love.

What does God need from you, as Jesus needed baptism from John? Salvation is God’s alone to accomplish, but then he calls us to share work with him, for the world’s sake. So we echo Jesus: “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this” (Matthew 3:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann

Crossword Puzzle Answers



Christmas at Mt. Calvary



The annual Mt. Calvary Christmas Party



Preschool Christmas Program



Sunday School Christmas Program



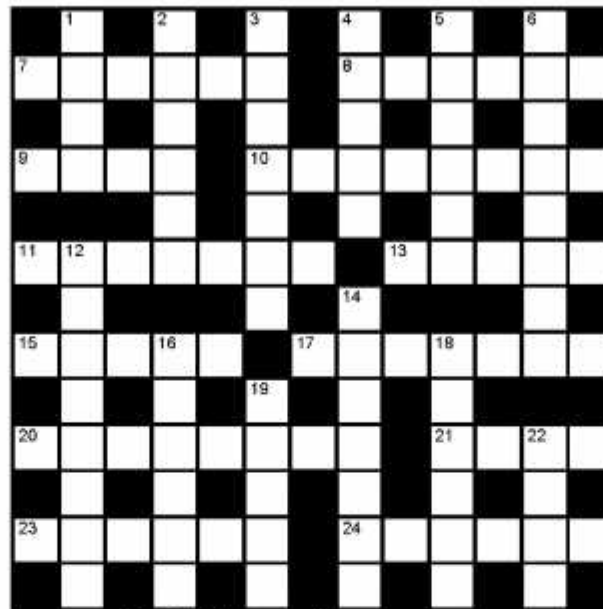
Sunday School Caroling



Mary Martha Guild wrapping & delivering gifts to the nursing home residents



Titus



Across

- 7 Paul instructs Titus to ____ elders. Titus 1:5 (6)
- 8 In the beginning, God created this and the earth. Gen 1:1 (6)
- 9 Some profess to know God, but do this by their works. Titus 1:16 (4)
- 10 A friend and companion of Paul. Titus 3:12 (8)
- 11 Zenas and Apollos were going on this. Titus 3:13 (7)
- 13 "Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering ____." Titus 2:9 (5)
- 15 "And let our's also ____ to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful." Titus 3:14 (5)
- 17 Older women are to teach younger women to be these at home. Titus 2:5 (7)
- 20 Along with love, this appeared toward man. Titus 3:4 (8)

- 21 Paul instructs Titus that the elders he chooses should not have children that are "accused of ____." Titus 1:6 (4)
- 23 Heavenly creatures. (6)
- 24 "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou ____ constantly ..." Titus 3:8 (6)

Down

- 1 "This witness is ____." Titus 1:13 (4)
- 2 The profession of Zenas. Titus 3:13 (6)
- 3 "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish ... and hating one ____." Titus 3:3 (7)
- 4 "In hope of eternal life, ____ God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." Titus 1:2 (5)
- 5 "This is a faithful ____ ..." Titus 3:8 (6)

- 6 God wanted to purify for Himself this type of people. Titus 2:14 (8)
- 12 "Exhort servants to be ____ unto their own masters." Titus 2:9 (8)
- 14 Anointed one. (7)
- 16 Christ came to ____ us from iniquity. Titus 2:14 (6)
- 18 Christ came to "____ unto himself" a people. Titus 2:14 (6)
- 19 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." Titus, Chapter 2, ____ 11. (5)
- 22 "And let ____ also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful." Titus 3:14 (4)

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Mark & Debbie Wilson (38 yrs)	3 Emma Herbrich Neal Lochte Rodney Stokes	4
5	6	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 Luke Zahradnik	18 Heath Hunger
19 Doug Ahlschlager Karen Fitch Blane Meek Charlene Stelzig	20	21 Edna Ebner Jennifer Tarnowski	22 Jackie Claude Josh Zuhn	23	24 Angela Dalton Reece Kollaja	25
26 Glenn Schneider	27	28 Joslyn Hensley	29 Marilyn Spillane	30 Trey Dalton	31 Rev. Jason Kaspar	



Instant **Church Directory™** Online

Our online church directory is ready! We are still missing a number of family photos, and we will be adding activity pages shortly. But the directory portion is now available. On your smart phone, go to the App Store and install "Instant Church Directory". Then create a login. It will send you a confirmation email, click on the link in the email to activate your account. You can also access it on the internet at <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> You will need to create a login this way also. If you see any errors in your information, please contact the church office. If you are unable to login, contact the church office. Once most of us have had a chance to check it out, we will look into printing directories for those who don't have smart phones or internet access.

Prayer of Christian Sympathy for the family and friends of Keith Adams, who passed away on December 6th; and for the family and friends of Kenneth Ahlschlaeger (Carol Ahlschlager's 2nd cousin), who passed away on December 12th.

Prayer of praise and thanksgiving for the birth of a healthy son, Timothy James Brooks, born to parents Kayley and Trevor Brooks, on December 18th. Grandparents are Ricky and Shery Dunk.

Prayer of God's blessings upon the marriage of Trey Wolf and Bailey Jones, who were united in marriage on December 15th.

Just For Kids

“STEP” INTO THE NEW YEAR

Make this craft to remember God's many blessings.



What you need:

- Small stones
- Permanent markers
- Foil pan and cooking spray
- Drop cloth
- Gloves
- Quick-set concrete (and adult help)
- Bucket and paint stirrer

What you do:

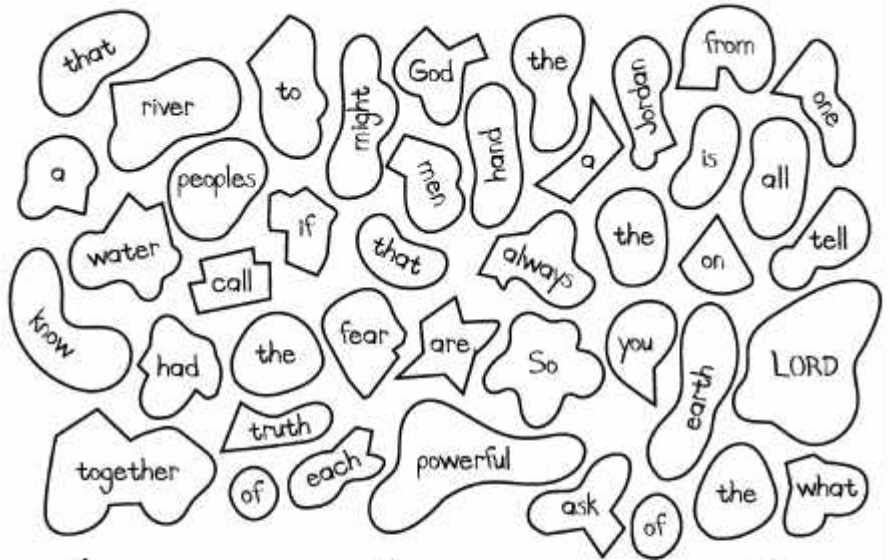
1. After reflecting on the past year, use markers to decorate stones with memorable words, dates and drawings.
2. Spray pan with cooking spray. Set pan outside on a drop cloth.
3. Wearing gloves, mix concrete in a bucket, according to instructions.
4. Pour concrete into pan. Smooth top with paint stirrer.
5. Press in stones, handprints and other decorations.
6. Let dry completely. Remove from pan.
7. Place the stepping-stone outside as a reminder of God's continued goodness.



Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.



So _____ the _____ the
 _____ the _____
 the _____ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

800 N. Franklin St.
La Grange, Texas 78945

Change Service Requested

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

“Committed to Reaching Out With The Love Of Jesus”

ALMIGHTY Beautiful One
Deliverer FAITHFUL AND TRUE
King of Kings Lover of
Lord of Lords my Soul
Lamb of **jesus**
GOD
Messiah EVERLASTING FATHER
EMMANUEL PRINCE OF PEACE
God with us
SAVIOR Holy One LIGHT
ALPHA MIGHTY GOD OF THE
AND **Yaweh** WORLD
OMEGA WONDERFUL