



# Mt. Calvary Messenger

JANUARY 2021

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## THE THREAD OF GOD'S LOVE

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!

I love the service of Lessons and Carols because of how many readings we are able to hear. The story of God's love for his fallen creation is evident all the way through the readings. I would recommend you to read your Bible with this in the back of your mind. Because really, that is what this is all about: How God loves His fallen sinful creation so much that He would dare to send His Son into the world to save it.

What joy and peace one has when that is known and believed! Adam and Eve had fallen from paradise. They had been kicked out. Yet, God's love for them did not change. His demeanor did not change. They were the ones who changed. They were the ones who tried to hide and cover their shame with fig leaves. It was God who called out to them, found them, and had them come clean about what took place. Yes, they sinned against God and had fallen into and under the curse of the Law, yet God promised that He would act by giving the woman an offspring who would vanquish the serpent by crushing his head. And in this promise did Adam and Eve hope. They hoped and longed for that child to come.

Even in the midst of sin, God was loving his fallen creation, working to bring it back to Himself. But it was not going to come to right away. He was going to show throughout the rest of the Old Testament how He was going to work to bring about His people's redemption. We learn from Abraham and Isaac that the Lord God would send the Son to be a substitute, like the ram was for Isaac in the end.

When the Son would come, He would show love to those sitting in the darkness of their own sins and sufferings, by shining His light upon them that they be saved. And this for all peoples. And the zeal of the Lord of hosts would make this occur. And his rule would bring peace which only the Lord could bring. This child would bring about peace only known in Eden. Why does God do this? Because He loves us, and desires us to be reconciled to Him. His Son would be the one through whom they would come. So, he sends His Son for you and your salvation.

And with Matthew 1 and Luke 2, we learn who this child is, and how God will continue to show us His Love for us. For He is none other than God in the Flesh, Emmanuel, God with Us. And the God who is us is also the God who saves from sins: Jesus. And we with the Heavenly Host should rejoice and sing Glory to God in the Highest! For by sending us His Son, God and man are reconciled. Sins of all kinds will be taken care by Him because of His great love for his creation.

God is love says John the apostle in his 1<sup>st</sup> letter. It is His nature to love. And We know his love in this way: He did what He promised! The love of God was made  
*(Continued on page 7)*

# 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:

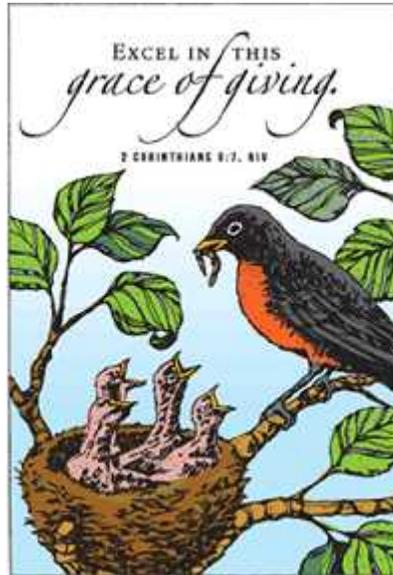
- J Who are you?
- J To whom do I give?
- J And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the *Luther's 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, and 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? Again, the Table of Duties, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer – a member of the Church who receives instruction – St. Paul taught: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (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 commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).



How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are to give:

- J Regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2);
- J Proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12);
- J Generously (2 Cor. 8:20);
- J Of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30); and
- J 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, biweekly,

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.

### THE MARY MARTHA GUILD MINUTE



Due to covid concerns, the Guild’s in-person January meeting is cancelled. Guild members are reminded that all committee assignments and services opportunities will be observed on same schedule as outlined in the 2020 yearbook.

#### JANUARY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Pantry Item	New, twin sized dark colored flat sheet For Happy Scrapper/LWR Quilting Or Box of Cereal for AMEN
Mites	LWML Projects
Project/Activity:	Annual Memorial for deceased members Happy Scrappers will resume LWR Quilting At the Blue House
Children’s Christmas Gifts Report	Gifts for fifteen Foster children/Angel Tree & \$300 and multiple Christmas gifts collected Needy children in the community
BIRTHDAYS	(10) Faye Winkler; (19) Karen Fitch; (29) Marilyn Spillane
ANNIVERSARIES	(2) Debbie Wilson

It is sincerely hoped that the Mary-Martha Guild will be able to resume regular meetings and activities in the coming months. In the meantime, Guild members are reminded to check their 2020 Yearbook for committee assignments and activities. 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.

Epiphany epiphanies

Sometimes brief words of ancient wisdom can spark an “aha!” moment — a revelation of new insight about God or faith. Here are some epiphanies for the season of Epiphany.

“If we approach with faith, we too will see Jesus ... for the Eucharistic table takes the place of the crib. Here, the Body of the Lord is present, wrapped not in swaddling clothes but in the rays of the Holy Spirit.” —St. John Chrysostom (347-407)

“So that we might also have the means to go, the one we were longing to go to came here from there. And what did he make? A wooden raft for us to cross the sea on. For no one can cross the sea of this world unless carried over it on the cross of Christ.” —St. Augustine (354-430)

“You wish to see; listen. Hearing is a step toward vision.” - St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)



January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, and many Christians remember this day as the one where Gentiles, the Magi — the Wise Men — visited Jesus, following the ‘star in the East’. Their journey is likely to have taken several months, not 12 days, over difficult terrain.

# OUR MEMBERS IN THE NEWS!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD



Homeowner Estlea Miertschin (left) speaks with a volunteer from the Texas Ramp Project, who built a ramp for her and her son last Thursday in La Grange. Photos by Andy DeWitt

## LG Ford-Lincoln Partners With Deputy Santa



La Grange Ford-Lincoln will donate two free oil changes in exchange for bicycle donations and one free oil change in exchange for toy donations. Pictured (front from left) are Lieutenant David Beyer, Deputy Santa volunteer Dana Greenon, Deputy Santa volunteer Tracy Denton, Sheriff Keith Kurenek, Deputy T.J. McClency, Deputy Santa volunteer Nettie Cernosek, Deputy Santa volunteer Gracie Albright, Investigator Jeremy Castleberry, Kenny Baker, Bobby Gronewald, Todd Baker, Ricky Dunk, Ed Plumley, and Chief Deputy Randy Noviske. Photo by Jessica Martoz



On Dec. 2, the Fayette Memorial VFW Post 5254 donated two five foot by eight foot America flags to the La Grange High School. Pictured left to right are John D. Marbuger, Post Commander Andy Kruppa, Glenn E. Altwein, Dick Frenzel, High School Principal John Pineda, and Bobby Connelly.



## Mt. Calvary Donates to Care Inn Residents



Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church and Preschool delivered Christmas gift bags last week for each resident at Care Inn nursing home in La Grange.

# For Your Information



As we begin 2021, the Food Pantry will continue to serve clients on Mondays, 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon, except for holiday closures, when the Pantry will be open on Tuesday morning instead. COVID protocols will be observed; no children under age 16 in the shopping area.

The schedule of Volunteers for January through May 2021 has been finalized. Beginning in January, two churches will be assigned each shopping day, with Volunteers working 2-hour shifts: 8:30 am - 10:30 am, and 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Mt. Calvary Volunteers are scheduled to work:

- Tuesday, January 19, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
(Pantry will be closed Monday, Jan 18 for Martin Luther King, Jr Day)
- Monday, March 1, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**
- Monday, April 19, 8:30 am - 10:30 pm.**

The AMEN Executive Committee will continue to monitor/evaluate the scheduling to come up with the best procedure for serving clients during COVID.

Feel free to call Stell Midgett (979-966-2319) or Beverly Albers (979-250-1718) if you have any questions.

Bible Quiz

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.

Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)

## Lutheran World Relief 2020

The District LWML Mission Service Committee is happy to report a very successful Lutheran World Relief (LWR) ingathering for the Texas District. However, the success was not without challenges. A postponement from April 2020 to November 2020, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, left churches and groups having to stockpile their donations. Most of the groups did not have an abundance of storage and were bursting at the seams. Some had to donate to other organizations in order not to be overrun with quilts and kits. Praise God for the abundance! Then COVID again made securing semi-trucks to come to the three Texas ingathering sites difficult. But working with the LWR, the Mission Service Committee persevered, and 6 semi-trucks rolled out of Texas headed for the LWR warehouse in Maryland to be distributed around the globe to those in need of comfort and compassion. Just look at the numbers that were donated by LWML groups, LCMS churches, ELCA churches and others affiliated with the greater Lutheran Church.

To God be the Glory as brothers and sisters in Christ came together to put into action the statement of Martin Luther, "God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does."

Serving with joy and gladness ,

Mary Afsharirad, Mission Service Committee Chair

Item	Seguin	Dallas	Houston	TOTALS
Quilts	9,574	4,539	5,843	19,956
Blankets	14	11	27	52
Personal Care kits	3,277	2,780	4,020	10,077
School kits	5,870	2,680	5,423	13,973
Baby Care kits	1,584	277	763	2,624
Fabric kits	214	134	203	551
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,533</b>	<b>10,421</b>	<b>16,279</b>	<b>47,233</b>

# CONGRATULATIONS



Gabe Huelsebusch married Kassidy Hakemack on December 12, 2020 at the Oaks at High Hill, outside of Schulenburg. Gabe and Kassidy were childhood friends. We wish the all the best for them!



Trey Wolf and wife Bailey graduated from Sam Houston State University in December. Trey with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics degree, and Bailey with a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree. They just celebrated their first wedding anniversary in December!

**PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP**  
 NOW MEETING AT RANDOLPH RECREATION CENTER  
 The **third Thursday** of every month 10:00 – 11:00 AM

*Who should attend?* All area persons with an interest in living with and caring for persons who are struggling with this movement disorder. For all who have recently been diagnosed as well as those who have tried different medications and a host of doctors in an attempt to find any relief that might be available.

Our programs center on friendship, and the knowledge that we are not alone in our battle to conquer this terrible disease. We strive to increase our knowledge about on-going research, for knowledge is power.

WON'T YOU CONSIDER JOINING US? For more information, call 832-561-1447.

manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. The birth of Christ is indeed joyful, God is with us! But that is not the end of God's love in action. No, not by a long shot. God's love comes to full manifestation a few decades later on a cross outside the city of Jerusalem where the Son given would give himself up for you and for the world. There He would die, and speak words of love: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

And what His love still shines. For Christ overcame death by his resurrection. And we live in His Resurrection. You have been brought into the resurrected life by the waters of Holy Baptism, where you are an heir of everlasting. You now live by the light of Christ! So, live in that light. This is the light that is the true life of men. The Light has come and the darkness cannot overcome it. Live in Christ, who loves you to death, and love one another just as Christ has loved you.

That means speaking to one another and asking for forgiveness and given forgiveness to one another because that is the living in the Light of Christ. Act as children of God, for that is what you are, you are his baptized children. Show mercy to one another for you have been shown mercy and love by God.

The Christ Candle is aptly called the Christ candle for it is lit and prominently displayed during the Christmas season and then again in the season of Easter. You would not be celebrating Christmas if Easter didn't happen. For why would we celebrate and remember the birth of a God-Man who died but did not rise triumphantly over the grave? And also, we would not be celebrating Easter if the miracle of God becoming Man did not happen, for only the blood of God would suffice to pay our ransom from sin and death. There would be no salvation given to all humanity without the death and resurrection of the Word made flesh.

Remember the loving work of Christ as you look at the Christ candle. Know the Lord's great love for you, promising to come and save you, and fulfilling His promise by being born of the virgin. And remember that this day is just the beginning of the acts of love that our Lord does for us in His flesh. For He goes to the cross for you. He rises for you in His flesh. He ascends in His Flesh to the right hand of God, and still in love for you now gives you His body and blood in the blessed Sacrament of the Altar. Look at the Christ Candle and know Christ is here in love for you and for your salvation from sin and death. Rejoice with the angels of the heavenly host. Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to His People on Earth! For the Light has shined on us who were in darkness. The very light of the only begotten. And by Him we have everlasting life!

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Rev. Jacob Hercamp  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
La Grange, MO

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## Happy Scrappers

The Happy Scrappers hope to resume their regular quilting activities this month, Covid restrictions permitting. We are waiting on the installation of a handicapped ramp at the blue house. The regular time is at 2 o'clock on Mondays. Look for further announcements...



# JANUARY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 <i>Mark &amp; Debbie Wilson (39 yrs)</i>
3 Emma Herbrich Neal Lochte Rodney Stokes	4	5	6	7 Jonathan Cook A J Lehmann	8 Travis Schiwart	9
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 Josh Zuhn	23
24 Angela Dalton Reece Kollaja	25	26 Glenn Schneider	27	28 Joslyn Hensley Rev. Jason Kaspar	29 Kathy Pietsch Marilyn Spillane	30 Trey Dalton
31						

## Remembering

**Prayer of Christian Sympathy** for the family and friends of Chris Matthews (Dorothy Witt’s nephew), who passed away on December 16th;

for the family and friends of Howard Joseph Muniz (Aaron Muniz’s father), who passed away on December 20th;

and for the family and friends of Rev. Timothy Magill, who passed away on December 26th.

### An ongoing goal



Still searching for a New Year’s resolution? None is more worthy than becoming Christ-like. In fact, 19<sup>th</sup>-century evangelist Henry Drummond calls it “the only thing in the whole world worth caring for.”

Two modern-day authors offer more insights. Stormie Omartian points out that we’re either making progress or backsliding on this goal. “There is no neutral position in the Lord,” she writes. “You are either becoming more like Christ every day or you’re becoming less like him.” And followers of Jesus must keep the goal always in focus. Christ-likeness is our “eventual destination,” writes Rick Warren, but the “journey will last a lifetime.”

# JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>LEGEND:</b> BBO - Pavilion CC - Church Carport CH - Church CLS - Camp Lone Star CPL - Church Parking Lot EB - Education Building	FR - Finance Room MPR - Multipurpose Room N - Narthex PO - Pastor's Office SS - Sunday School YR - Youth Room				11:00 AM - Bulletin Assembly (MPR)  OFFICE CLOSED	1 2
9:00 AM - Worship (Communion) No Bible Class	4  No Mary Martha Guild or Men's Club Meetings	5  No Bible Class / Communion No Confirmation Class  Pastor Out of Town (Vacation)	6  No Bible Class / Communion No Confirmation Class  Pastor Out of Town (Vacation)	7  9:00 AM - Bulletin Deadline	8  11:00 AM - Bulletin Assembly (MPR)	9  9:00 a.m. - Altar Guild takes down decorations
10  9:00 AM - Worship Service (CH) (Vicar Gary Johnson, Guest Preacher) 10:15 AM - Bible Class (CH)	11  No Mary Martha Guild or Men's Club Meetings	12  9:00 AM - Mt. Calvary volunteers at 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance 5:30 PM - Board of Preschool (MPR)	13  No Bible Class / Communion No Confirmation Class 9:00 AM - Mt. Calvary volunteers at 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance 5:30 PM - Board of Missions (MPR)	14  9:00 AM - Bulletin Deadline 9:00 AM - Mt. Calvary volunteers at 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance	15  9:00 AM - Mt. Calvary volunteers at 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance 10:00 AM - <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 11:00 AM - Bulletin Assembly (MPR)	16  9:00 AM - Mt. Calvary volunteers at 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance
17 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS  9:00 AM - Worship (Communion) 10:15 AM - Bible Class (CH)	18  9:00 AM - Mt. Calvary volunteers at 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance	19  10:30 AM - 12:30 PM - Mt. Calvary volunteers at AMEN	20  10:00 AM - At-Risk Communion (CH) 10:15 AM - Bible Class (CH) 4:30 PM - Confirmation Class (CH)	21  9:00 AM - Bulletin Deadline	22  11:00 AM - Bulletin Assembly (MPR)	23
24  9:00 AM - Worship Service 10:15 AM - Bible Class (CH)	25  No Mary Martha Guild or Men's Club Meetings	26  2:00 PM - Newsletter Assembly (MPR) 6:00 PM - Church Council (MPR)	27  10:00 AM - At-Risk Communion (CH) 10:15 AM - Bible Class (CH) 4:30 PM - Confirmation Class (CH)	28  9:00 AM - Bulletin Deadline	29  11:00 AM - Bulletin Assembly (MPR)	30
31  9:00 AM - Worship (Communion) 10:15 AM - Bible Class (CH)						

# Serving in Worship

JANUARY 2021

DATE - JANUARY	SUN 1/3 COMMUNION	SUN 1/10	SUN 1/17 COMMUNION	SUN 1/24	SUN 1/31 COMMUNION
TIME	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM
ACOLYTE	Gavin Hollek	Autumn Wolf	Kole Krnavek	Gavin Cook	Emma Herbrich
LECTORS	Glenn Altwein	Myrna Altwein	Beverly Albers	Lynsey Bamsch	Brenda Rainosek
ELDERS	Sherry Winkler, Dale Witt				
HEAD USHERS	Daniel Fischer Dennis Winkler	Willie Ahlschlager August Pietsch	Glenn Altwein Harold Streicher	Ricky Dunk Dennis Schnell	Daniel Fischer Dennis Winkler
USHERS					
GREETERS	Jeanette Huelebusch Rosalie Moerbe	Joan Miertschin OPEN	Stell Midgett Sharon Pietsch	Karen Pietsch Faye Winkler	Annie Cook Judy Zuhn
FINANCE	Randy Albers, Sylvia Hebert				
SOUND	Ralph Streicher	Linda Streicher	Frank Wolf	William Crawford	Ralph Streicher
ALTAR	Brenda Fischer				
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
LUTHERAN HOUR	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
FELLOWSHIP TIME					

# Just For Kids

## A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



**What you need:**

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

**What you do:**

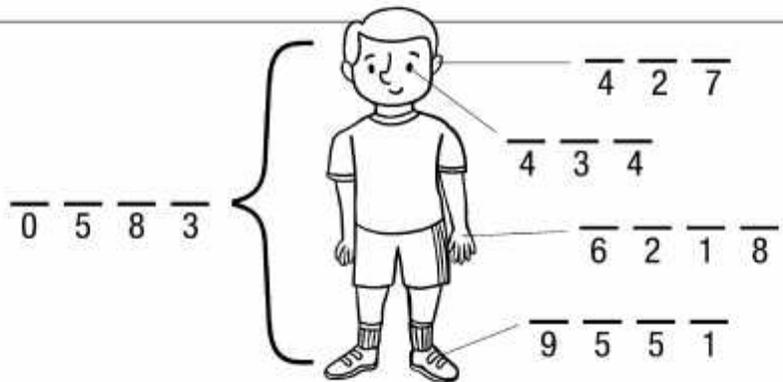
1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.



## WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God’s purposes.

*Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part’s number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.*



Now if the  $\frac{20}{20}$  should say, “Because I am not a  $\frac{17}{17}$ , I do not belong to the  $\frac{16}{16}$ ,” ... And if the  $\frac{13}{13}$  should say, “Because I am not an  $\frac{11}{11}$ , I do not belong to the  $\frac{16}{16}$ ,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the  $\frac{16}{16}$ . If the whole  $\frac{16}{16}$  were an  $\frac{11}{11}$ , where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole  $\frac{16}{16}$  were an  $\frac{13}{13}$ , where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one  $\frac{16}{16}$ .

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body = 16, eye = 16, ear = 11, hand = 13, foot = 17, foot = 20

# 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”

# Puzzle!

Complete each saying below. Then place the words from those blanks in the correct order to complete Proverbs 23:4.

1. When the going gets tough, the tough \_\_\_\_\_ going.
2. People who live in glass houses should \_\_\_\_\_ throw stones.
3. If the shoe fits, \_\_\_\_\_ it.
4. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the kingdom of God."
5. Good things come \_\_\_\_\_ those who wait.
6. When in Rome, \_\_\_\_\_ as the Romans do.
7. Don't wear \_\_\_\_\_ your welcome.
8. If you want something done right, do it \_\_\_\_\_.

Write the *unscrambled proverb* here:

PROVERBS 23:4

Answer: Do not wear yourself out to get rich. Proverbs 23:4