



Mt. Calvary Messenger

JULY 2023

A Little Note from Pastor's Study

In Favor of Weekly Communion 6

(This series of articles is an overview of material presented by Kenneth W. Wieting in his book: *The Blessings of Weekly Communion*. I commend the book to you to read in its entirety. It's a worthy addition to your library and that of any Christian or their pastor.)

The Sacrament of the Altar: Circuit Riders and the Genesis of American Lutheranism

Circuit Riders were pastors serving multiple congregations in the American frontiers. In 1742, there were nine Lutheran pastors serving 21 congregations and an unknown number of preaching stations. Lutheranism in America fell prey to a confluence of pietism and rationalism, fueled by their limited access to their circuit riding pastors. American styled revivalism only accelerated this inward-turning American Christianity.

Under these influences, American Lutheranism grew first as an individualistic religious practice. Without adequate access to the Lord's Supper or pastors to serve us, we developed a "me an muh' bible" mentality regarding the Christian faith. Individual prayer and study as well as small, private studies and prayer gathering gained prominence and popularity. When, better pastoral care was available, infrequency became the norm and remained so for several decades. (Wieting, p. 134-135)

Back on the European continent, pietism and rationalism brought doctrinal indifference into the Lutheran church. That indifference combined with burgeoning nationalism set the stage for Friedrich Wilhelm III's Prussian unions. In 1817, He instituted a voluntary union between Lutheran and Reformed churches. The voluntary rule became compulsory by law in 1821. Lutherans confess the bodily presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper and the reformed reject it in favor of a spiritual presence that represents the Body & Blood of Christ. These teachings are thoroughly incompatible. (Wieting, p. 138-139)

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Wilhem Loehe, a Bavarian Lutheran pastor, struggled and taught to restore frequent use of the Lord's Supper in a context of "closed communion," specifically excluding the reformed view of the sacrament. Loehe was a strong supporter of the LCMS, both financially and by sending pastors into the American mission field. He encouraged a return to the view of the Eucharist not as a matter of doctrine, but as the center of Christian faith and life. (Wieting, p. 140-141)

Samuel Schmucker was a leading figure in American Lutheranism outside the LCMS at this time. He proposed an *American Recention of the Augsburg Confession* (1855 AD), in which he denied the bodily presence of Jesus in the Lord's Supper, baptismal regeneration, the practice of private absolution, and divine obligation of the Lord's Day. He regarded these as romanizing elements in Lutheranism. Like old uncle Dieter screeching, "das ist Katolisch!!" (That's Catholic).

Schmucker even developed a rite of ordination used in 18th and 19th centuries without any confessional subscription for those men being ordained in the Pennsylvania Ministerium. He further developed a Sunday service with limited liturgy, not standing for the gospel or acclamation of the "Word of the Lord," no creed, the sacrament without the Words of Institution, and the preaching at the end of the service as its pinnacle rather than the Supper. (Wieting, p. 141-142)

However, The Henkel family formed the Tennessee Synod in reaction to the doctrinal laxity of Pennsylvania. This confessionally faithful synod formed in 1820. They even managed to publish Lutheran catechisms, hymnbooks, and the first English translation of the Book of Concord in 1851.

Even these storms and trials didn't silence the Word of God.

- Pastor



In Favor of Weekly Communion 7

(This series of articles is an overview of material presented by Kenneth W. Wieting in his book: *The Blessings of Weekly Communion*. I commend the book to you to read in its entirety. It's a worthy addition to your library and that of any Christian or their pastor.)

The Sacrament of the Altar: Early American Lutheranism

Early in the Wendish, German, and Scandinavian immigration wave of 1830-1880, F. C. D. Wyneken arrived in Fort Wayne, IN. In 1836, he was received in Fort Wayne as a missionary from the Pennsylvania Ministerium. He wrote extensively to Germany about the deplorable state of Word and Sacrament in the frontier. He also wrote about the desperate need of pastors to serve in the US. Wilhelm Loehe responded by sending funds and volunteers to serve as missionary pastors. (Wieting, p. 143)

Wyneken returned to Germany in 1841 to raise additional funds and support. He returned to the US in 1843, a more mature, confessionally committed pastor. He received significant resistance to his renewed zeal in confessional stances, liturgical worship, and closed communion practice. He was even accused of being a "Romanizer."

In response, Wyneken invited C. F. W. Walther's Synod of the West to convene at St. Paul, Fort Wayne. In 1844, he also invited the congregation to accuse (charge) him in front of the synod. He defended his positions from the scriptures and the confessions. Both the synod and St. Paul congregation. Acknowledged him as a faithful Lutheran pastor. Walther shared Wyneken's confessional zeal. Wyneken joined the LCMS in 1848, the year after she was formed. (Wieting, p. 144)

At the time of the formation of the LCMS (April 26, 1847), the frequency of communion practices might surprise us. The four congregations founded by Walther celebrated the Lord's Supper every other week and on festival days. In the area of the Frankenmuth, MI congregations, The Lord's Supper was celebrated every week, though not on all festivals. In the Fort Wayne congregations, the Lord's Supper was celebrated every Sunday and on festival days. Lutherans in the 1850s received communion far more frequently than Lutherans in the 1930s. (Wieting, p. 145)

The trend in the westward expansion of the LCMS flowed away from the frequency seen at her birth. By 1930, Most congregations only offered the Sacrament four or six times per year, and often in a separate service from Sunday morning. This was likely a confluence of the pietist influence of newer immigrants from Europe, a lack of pastors to serve each congregation, and a decreased individual desire in the reformed and Baptist environment of the US West. (Wieting, p. 146)

On average, LCMS communicants receive the Supper as infrequently as 2.1 times per year in 1930. In 1950, the frequency only climbed to 3.22 times per year. (Wieting, p. 147)

"In the Lutheran Witness from 1928 to 1938, there were no less than a dozen articles dealing with poor church attendance and reception of Holy Communion. Five articles were entitled 'Contempt for the Sacrament.' While there was concern for infrequent reception, the concern for infrequent celebration was rarely expressed until after World War II. One 1929 article was entitled 'the altar neglected' and addressed the Lord's Supper. It expressed how the reformed discarded the altar and Luther kept it; however, poor communion attendance was showing contempt for the sacrament of the altar." (Wieting, p. 149)

The tide was beginning to turn toward our LCMS roots.

- Pastor

Annual BBQ & Auction



CAMP LONE STAR

Camp Lone Star
La Grange, Texas
Sunday, July 30, 2023

9:45 a.m.
Dedication of the new base camp dining hall

10:45 a.m.
Music by Camp Lone Star's summer staff

11:00 a.m.
Outdoor Worship Service led by Rev. John Karle

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Drive-thru plates available for purchase

Noon
Barbecue Lunch (freewill offering):
Brisket & sausage
Homemade noodles
Beans, pickles, bread
Coleslaw
Variety of homemade desserts

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Fund-raising **Live Auction** held in the air-conditioned Koop Activity Center. **Silent Auction** tables will be placed in the back of the Koop Center.

Swimming pool open
(Please bring your own towel.)



JOHN FIFTEEN FOUR N FIVE

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." -John 15:4-5

Camp Lone Star's Annual BBQ & Auction Fundraiser
Sunday, July 30, 2023

The last weekend in July each year, Camp Lone Star hosts the annual BBQ & Auction Fundraiser to support Camp and all that this ministry does to transform lives and grow God's kingdom. And you are invited!

Prior to our annual BBQ Worship Service, there will be an exciting opportunity to celebrate a special dedication and ribbon cutting of the new base camp dining hall at 9:45 a.m. This new dining hall will be able to serve up to 260 summer campers in one meal, adding back an entire hour of ministry opportunities into each day for our summer campers. Following the dedication and outdoor worship service, a traditional barbecue meal will be served at Noon with all the trimmings. BBQ plates will also be offered via a drive-thru that morning. We are so blessed by the many area Lutheran churches who provide the delicious BBQ meal.

At 1 p.m., immediately following the lunch, Camp's annual live and silent benefit auctions will begin inside the Koop Center. This annual BBQ & Auction event is the main fundraiser which supports the ministry of Camp Lone Star. Last year over \$100,000 was raised thanks to dedicated friends. Our goal for this year is to raise \$105,000 which will allow us to continue to faithfully fulfill our mission of transforming lives through adventurous Christ-centered experiences. By God's grace and the financial support of our donor champions, Camp Lone Star is able to plant seeds of faith, cultivate Christian leaders, and grow the Kingdom of God while serving over 12,000 guests each year from all over Texas.

For more information or to donate an auction item, please call 979-968-1657 or visit our website at www.camplovestar.org. And if you are unable to make it to this event but would still like to support Camp, visit www.camplovestar.org/support-us.

We're looking forward to seeing you at Camp on July 30!



Rev. John Karle, Lead Missionary and Campus Pastor at University Lutheran Chapel In College Station, is the featured speaker at the 11 a.m. outdoor worship service.



Camp Lone Star's 2023 Summer Staff will sing during offering at the morning service.

Shuttle service is provided between the parking lot and the activity area.

Camp Lone Star, 2016 Camp Lone Star Road in La Grange, is on Highway 77, 65 miles east of Austin, 90 miles west of Houston 110 miles northeast of San Antonio. Driving directions may be found on the web at www.camplovestar.org. Or, call the camp office at 979-968-1657.

Camp Lone Star's mission is transforming lives through adventurous Christ-centered experiences by planting seeds of faith, cultivating Christian leaders, and growing the Kingdom of God.



Camp Lone Star Auction Fundraiser
2016 Camp Lone Star Rd
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 968-1657
info@camplovestar.org

Need more forms?
Go to
www.camplovestar.org

Camp Lone Star Auction Fundraiser | July 30, 2023

We need your help in securing items for the Annual Camp Lone Star Barbecue and Auction Fundraiser! The revenue that this brings will further the programs that can be done through Camp Lone Star.

All donor names will be announced and/or displayed with auction items. Donated items are also tax deductible as provided by law. Items are considered in-kind donations to Camp Lone Star.

Experience has shown us that successful auction items can be anything from certificates to hand-made goods. As a general rule, the more unique a gift, the better it will do. We reserve the right to hold a duplicate/similar gift until next year's auction and to use any gifts in either the live or silent auction.

Thank you for your support!

Notification of Auction Item

Your printed name (first and last)

Item to be donated (use a separate form for each item, call for more or copy as needed)
Gift certificates, when possible, should be valid through October 1, 2023.

Business or individual making the donation

Physical/Street address of donor (if we need to pick up item) Mailing address of donor

City/State/Zip

Email Phone

Contact person at business (if applicable) Business website address for potential on-line auction link

\$ Fair Market Value (FMV)*

*The fair market value (FMV) is generally how much it would cost to replace this item with a similar one. The FMV of food items is the price you could expect to purchase a similar item in a grocery store. Buyers can only claim as a charitable gift tax deduction the amount that they bid over the FMV of an item. Each item must have this value listed before it can be put up for auction.

Check one: Item will be delivered to Camp before July 15th (delivery deadline)
Items received after July 14th have a great likelihood of not making it on the Live Auction.

A Camp Staff member should contact me regarding pick-up of item (only within a 50 mile radius).

FOR OFFICE USE:
L _____
S _____
ME _____
SB _____
BIN _____

Go ... Sell All You Have?

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, “No!” But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, every-thing we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to oth-

ers stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemploy-

ment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What’s more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don’t let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

LCMS Stewardship
Ministry:
lcms.org/stewardship



For Your Information



At the AMEN Annual Meeting held June 8, the Food Committee submitted the following report:

For the 12-month period **June 2022 - May 2023**: the Pantry served 3,333 families (9,491 individuals), of which 143 were new clients; Pantry received 47,040 pounds of donated food. In comparison, for the previous year **June 2021 - May 2022**: the Pantry served 2,600 families (6,900 individuals); of which 86 were new clients; Pantry received 31,000 pounds of donated food.

Donations of shelf stable food (cereal, rice, baking mixes, canned fruit/juice, canned vegetables, soup, canned meats, canned and dried beans, etc) can be placed in the plastic bin in the church narthex (in the coat rack area) at any time. **Your generous support is greatly appreciated.**

Mt. Calvary Volunteers are next scheduled to assist at the Food Pantry on Monday, July 24, for the 10:30-12:15 shift.

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

HAPPY SCRAPPERS



The Happy Scrappers are taking a summer break from their LWR Quilting efforts to allow time for other activities. The group has been very busy since January and so far we have created approximately 60 new quilts.

We appreciate the donations from time to time of a variety of fabric and bed sheets to replenish our quilting supply/stash as well as the support of ladies working from their homes sewing quilt tops and ironing sheets to facilitate quilt assembly. If you have quilting supplies to donate, you may call Jeanette Huelsebusch @ 979-968-3829 or Marilyn Spillane @ 281-581-2341 to make arrangements for delivery to the Blue Fellowship House. Also, thanks to Thrivent members for the donation of Thrivent Action Team Gift Cards to help finance our quilting project.

THE MARY MARTHA GUILD MINUTE



Mary Martha
Guild

NO JULY MEETING

June Projects/Activities Support AMEN Food Pantry—**Doner's Choice**
Order & prepare noodles for Camp Lone Star BBQ
July 30th — Committee Members — Beverly Albers,
Robbie Cole, Karen Fitch, Jeanette Huelsebusch,
Stell Midgett

BIRTHDAYS (9) Gladys Teinert
(21) Sylvia Hebert
(27) Beverly Albers

ANNIVERSARIES none

Everyone is invited to attend the Guild Meetings in the Multipurpose Room at 5:30 PM on the first Monday of each month (except July & December). All volunteers and the support of our projects are greatly appreciated. Contact our Member Development Committee Chairman, Karen Fitch, or any Guild member or feel free to call the Church Office at 968-3938 for more information.

GriefShare

Dear Friend,

I can only imagine the questions that are still heavy on your mind and the strong emotional ups and downs that you are experiencing as you bereave the loss of your loved one. You need not walk this journey of grief alone. That is why we at Immanuel Lutheran Church sponsor a special ministry called GriefShare.

GriefShare is a non-denominational program featuring Christ-centered, biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. The DVD presentation features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about the DVD presentation. You may share as much or as little of your situation as you want; confidentiality is very much a part of this program. This program takes us through 14 weekly sessions and also includes a workbook in addition to the DVD and discussion time. You will find this a place where you can be around people who understand your loss. Some of the topics include “Is This Normal?”, “Loneliness & Sadness”, “Regrets”, and “Questions for God.”

GriefShare will begin on Thursday, August 17, 2023 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM and continue through November 16. We meet in the small meeting room in the fellowship hall of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 300 N. Grimes, Giddings, Texas. You are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any time.

May God’s love continue to comfort and strengthen you as you consider attending. Call Kathy Bartels at (512) 461-5442 or email me at monniebartels@gmail.com for more information or any questions. If you do plan on attending, I would appreciate you letting me know so I can plan accordingly. You may join at any time.

In His service,
Kathy Bartels

MEN’S CLUB PIT STOP

NO JULY MEETING

Next Meeting : Monday, August 7, 6:00PM@ BBQ pits

Joseph Johnson
Men’s Club Secretary
mcmensecretary@gmail.com
-Psalm 78:72 “With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand”.



Team 1:
Dennis Schnell
David Boening
David Cole
Willie Ahlschlager
Jason Von Minden
Mark Wilson
Ricky Dunk

Team 2:
Daniel Fischer
August Pietsch
Donald Roensch
Joe Johnson
Luis Sanchez
Lee Teinert

Team 3:
James Lehmann
Jason Lehmann
James Herbrich
Justin Hollek
Randy Pietsch
Charlie Herbrich

Team 4:
Randy Albers
Lummus Hannes
Glenn Altwein
Aaron Muniz
Neal Lochte
Harold Streicher
Jarrod VonMinden



Faith Lutheran High School of Central Texas seeks to engage young adults in a Christ-centered environment where faith and knowledge grow as one.

HOME OF THE FALCONS!

July 2023

Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you for all the prayers and support you have offered on behalf of FLHS. We ask that you continue to remember us in your prayers and gifts, as we make preparations for the next year and the following. God continues to bless our ministry and YOU do as well.

Thank you!

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is underway. We already have new students enrolled and would love to welcome you into our Falcon family as well. Call us at (979) 242-2889 to schedule a shadow day or visit our website at www.flhstx.org for registration information.

Scholarship Program

Have you ever had this thought? “Faith Lutheran High School sounds great, but my family can’t afford it.” We firmly believe that EVERY family desiring a Christ-centered education for their children should have the opportunity to attend FLHS. We have a Tuition Scholarship Program with funds available, and EVERY family who applies (through TADS) will receive some assistance.

*Additionally, there are other scholarship programs for students to apply for to receive financial assistance prior to enrollment and even throughout their time as a student at Faith.

Save the Date!

FLHS’s annual Oktoberfest will be Saturday, October 28th. New this year will be **The Battle of the Vines**, in addition to **The Battle of the Brew**—both are home brew competitions, so start planning your brews now. Returning will be our traditional German meal, domino tournament, music, kids games, and lots of fun!

First Day of School

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 16th. We are excited to welcome our in-coming freshmen students and look forward to a wonderful school year.

Thrivent Action Team Grants

If you are a Thrivent member willing to submit an application for a \$250 grant to be used on projects at Faith, please contact Nikki Kueck by calling (979) 242-2889. Help us to be able to take advantage of these funds for the good of our school. *we are currently looking to utilize Action Grants for some summer projects!

Share the Gift of Love

Faith Lutheran High School has a unique role in combining knowledge and God’s love in a student’s high school experience. We are partnering with families at the intersection of education and faith development. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, Thrivent Action Grant, Thrivent Choice Dollars, or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

New Association Congregations

Faith Lutheran High School is excited to announce that Epiphany Lutheran Church in Bastrop and Zion Lutheran Church in Schulenburg have recently joined the association of congregations that support FLHS. Welcome and thank you for your support!

Amazon Wish List

FLHS has created a wish list on Amazon, for needed materials for the upcoming school year. The easiest way to find it is by clicking on the link on the FLHS website or Facebook page. Thank you for your generous support!

Keep in Touch

Find and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or Twitter — like and share our posts so others can learn about FLHS. Also, visit our website at www.flhstx.org!

JULY

GEMS

Our Post Oak GEMS (Girls Embracing Mission Service) : We will resume our monthly meetings when the school year begins again. Thank you to all who have participated and attended. It has been a great year!

Texas Wendish Heritage Society Scholarship Program

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society (TWHS) appreciates support given to our scholarship program. All Texas Wendish Heritage Scholarship funds are received through fundraising projects and donations. The TWHS scholarship program is available to students of Wendish descent and encourages students to learn more about their Wendish heritage. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited college, university or trade school for Fall 2023 semester. 2023-2024 scholarship applications are available online at texaswendish.org and on the Texas Wendish Facebook Page. The entire process is online and must be submitted digitally by the deadline; 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 14th, 2023. For more information contact the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum 979-366-2441 or museum@texaswendish.net.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

FLOWER CHART OPENINGS

Don't forget that we have a Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the narthex hallway. You can sign up to provide flowers for a special occasion or simply to the glory of God.

Call the church office if you would like more information!

BIRTHDAYS

Don Pietsch
Mary Walker
Zach Zahradnik
Avery Harbers
Drew Harbers
Gladys Teinert
Dale Witt
Karen Koopmann
Trey Wolf
Daniel Boening
Larry Faldyn
Cristina (Sanchez) Rasch
Daniel Fischer
Frank Wolf
Kash Wessels
Syvia Hebert
Doris Pietsch
Vivian Taylor
Jettson Wolf
Michelle Koopmann
Velma Behrens
Rick Herbrich
Sharyn Lueker
Diana Petty-Stone
Kenneth Harbers
Beverly Albers
Anthony Mikulin
Shea Henderson
Michelle Dunk

ANNIVERSARIES

Brandon & Emily Barber (11)
Michael & Michelle Dunk(16)
Jason & Kim VonMinden(14)
Gary & Diane Johnson (44)
Luis & Lorri Sanchez (26)
Carl & Sharyn Lueker (53)



Remembering

We pray for the family and friends of the following people who are at rest in Christ:

- Ed Krivacka 5/26/2023
- Betty Pratho 6/1/2023
- Nancy I. Pietsch 6/5/2023
- Deanna Anita (Meinke) Radenz 6/11/2023
- James "Jimmy" Alvin Weikel 6/13/2023
- Jim Duke 6/20/2023
- Faye Winkler 6/21/2023
- Blessings on the joining of Jason Wayne Lehmann and Kristin Michelle (Becker) in holy matrimony on 6/3/2023.



Why do we need Higher Things?

According to Barna, less than half of teens believe Jesus was crucified, just 33% believe he was raised from the dead, and only 21% say he is active in the world today. Generation Z is extremely online and has one of the highest presences in social media. More than 2 billion people around the world by 2024 will be classified as Gen Alpha. These young users have already started interacting with social media and technology for education, entertainment, and to communicate with others.

What is Higher Things?

Higher Things seeks to make the gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. We want to share the word and sacraments with our youth, have meaningful conversations, engage youth and young adults in ways that impact their lives, and lead them to and keep them in the Church. *Your Church*. We offer a variety of events like annual conferences where youth gather around the gifts through plenary sessions, breakaways, and worship services. We host retreats where the youth gather around these same gifts at home, in local churches. *Your Churches*. We have camps that engage their faith outdoors. Young Adults travel abroad to foreign countries and experience new cultures with HT Abroad, a new offering where they work with local missions in a retreat setting so they can lead in their vocations when they return home. HT helps to make these same gifts known online by employing the many voices and talents of our brothers and sisters in Christ from across our church body. HT believes that while the internet cannot replace Word and Sacrament ministry, it does need to try to reach the youth in these areas. We use social media platforms like TikTok and Instagram for bite-size lessons and YouTube for deeper content. HT content points youth and young adults toward Christ crucified for them, the very message they hear in your sanctuary. HT also offers an abundance of curriculum designed to help youth learn, think, and defend their faith with offerings of VBS, a confirmation curriculum, High School Bible studies, and more. We help *Your Church* equip youth to stand firm in Christ Jesus.



Annual Conferences, Retreats, Camps



Lead Anywhere



Confirmation, HS Bible Studies, & More



25K combined Social Media Subscribers

Scan this QR code to access our website, to learn more, and to support our work.

www.higherthings.org
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 175 Lisbon, IA 52253



Please pray for Emma Herbrich, Shannon Herbrich, and Zach Zahradnik as they join members of Holy Cross, Warda, St. James, Lexington, and Trinity, Dimebox at the Higher Things Conference at Trinity University, San Antonio at the end of July.

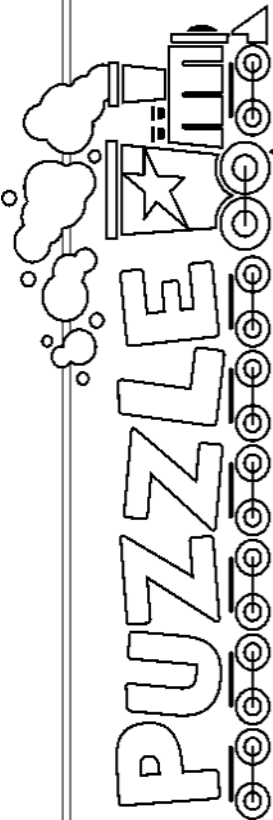
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

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”



Beyond number

God is all-knowing, and his thoughts toward us are beyond number.

Directions: Solve the addition problems and use the code to complete Psalm 139:17-18, NIV.



How $13+10$ to me are your $12+6$, God!



How $8+11$ is the $10+3$ of them!



Were I to $15+6$ them,

they would $3+12$ the grains of $4+18$

when I $13+4$, I am still with you.



PSALM 139:17-18, NIV



Answer: precious, thoughts, vest, sum, outnumber, sand, awake