



Pastor's Reflections

Preparing to Go East!

Greetings, Beloved and Happy New (Church Calendar) Year!

We begin our journey alongside Emmanuel, God-with-us, prior to Christmas and this year encompass Christmas Eve. Then the fun begins! Many believe the 12 Days of Christmas are the days before and leading up to December 25, when that is actually not the case! Christmas begins on December 25 and goes on through the eve of Epiphany on January 5 – 12 days exactly! Which means we get to say “Merry Christmas” for 12 days after Christmas Day and teach people about the season known as Christmastide!

Advent through Christmas then New Year as we ring in 2024 brings with it a huge source of multitudes of color, joy, celebration, cheer...the list goes on! Sometimes, we may feel insurmountable stress, anxiety, and sadness as we fondly remember absent friends and family that we would spend time with during the holidays.

If you've seen our church calendar you may have noticed a little something **Blue** on December 21st. We will be hosting our first ever **Blue Christmas** service at 4pm. This is a special worship service held on the winter solstice, which is the shortest day and subsequently, the longest night of the year. There's nothing special to say, do, or wear (you don't have to wear blue!). Sometimes some of us just need a respite, a safe space where we can be ok not being ok – because that is ok – after the ever-present Christmas music, TV specials, commercials, movies, sales, all the color and cheer we're surrounded by...it can be exhausting. Please help spread the word about the service and invite a friend or two that you think may need a break from all the holiday cheer and be present with them and us.

Remember: YES, it is Ok to not be Ok. Because Jesus Loves You. And I do too.

- Bob.

Small Things

Are you like me when I thank God I thank Him for enormous blessing—thank you God that car did not hit me on the freeway, thank you God I could buy groceries and pay my house payment, thank you God the hurricane did not hit my area, or maybe even, thank you God my kids turned out to be decent humans.

But what about the small things, heat in the winter, cool air in the summer, the taste of a ripe watermelon, getting to the grocery store and back safely, wisdom to deal with a family problem, a good nights sleep, or even what exactly do I say in the note to my friend who is mourning.

The old African expression proves true, “It's not the mountains that hold me back, it's the small pebbles in my sandals.” (from an article by D. Jeremiah)

If we don't pray about small things, pebbles will grow into mountains.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”



A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON TO YOU AND YOURS!



Advent

Normally, the first thing that comes to mind of many when someone mentions Advent is the coming of Jesus. But to many others, it means Christmas is here and it is time to think about what to buy Aunt Millie for Christmas.

The peoples of the world are facing many difficult times today. We are reminded of this daily and our thoughts and prayers are always with those facing such hard times and tragedies. We do what we can to help with prayers and financial donations but it seems like it is never enough. As Christians, we will not forget those in need, no matter where they may be, and we will always be there to help.

Let's all try very hard this year to focus on the coming of Jesus and reflect on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today.

The Advent Calendar for Love of Christ is set, and calendars are available. Be sure to pick one up so you are informed of when services will be held.

If you are traveling to spend Christmas with family and friends, do so safely. If you are having family and friends visit you, enjoy the time spent with them.

Darla and I wish each and every one of you, a Very Merry Christmas. We are so proud of each and every one of you and so very thankful we are part of the Love of Christ Family.

Bob Chaloupek



As council secretary I have had my eyes opened on the workings of the council. It has been a pleasure working with other council members. As stated by council President the meetings are open for all to attend and see what is going on behind the scenes. Rest assured the council works for the good of the congregation. Also as a member of the finance committee, the funds are being used for the church business and each dollar is accounted for and being used wisely.

As the birth of Jesus approaches, I wish all a joyous season as we gather in celebration of his birth. Wishing all a happy new year and enjoy seeing the return of our winter Texans on Sunday.

Blessings to all

Rich Klindt

Social Ministry/Outreach

A sincere thank you for your continued support of our mission work. In October we gave \$800.00 to North Bridge Elementary for their T shirt campaign; an additional \$500.00 for the following causes: \$200.00 for kinder mats, \$200.00 for shoes, and \$100.00 for incentives. In November we held a "sock drive" for the students and received a full tote of socks! Thank you. (I have not counted the pairs!) Then we did give the Aurora House turkey and gravy for the Thanksgiving holiday. Again, thank you for your support. Remember to Love your Neighbor! The Feast of Thanksgiving was a huge success! The food, fellowship, and service were terrific! We added \$1110.00 to our mission account. Again, thank you!

SKN



The Bible verse shared, bookmarked, and highlighted most often by the global YouVersion Community during 2023 is...

“do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand”. Isaiah 41:10



December Anniversaries

1 Bob & Jo Degener

January Anniversaries

1 Ernie & Lorraine Harrell
28 Mike & Gloria Jensen

February Anniversaries

4 Ann & Harlan Thompson
20 Roger & Adeline Olson

Drop a personal note to one of your brothers or sisters in Christ at LoC who celebrates a special occasion this month and let them know how much their presence in our family of faith at LoC means to you.

December Birthdays

2 Lois Tanula
14 C.B. Shields
18 Joyce Klindt
19 Gene Hasselquist
19 Wendy Haught
23 Ed Haught

February Birthdays

6 Marilyn Rounds
14 Mary Nelson
22 Ken Tanula
28 Ernie Harrell

January Birthdays

1 Mike Jensen
3 Helen Lamson
5 Garry Rhodes
10 Lee Nelson
11 Ellie Scott-Meyers
13 Gloria Jaegler
22 Jon Schwartz
24 Bob Chaloupek

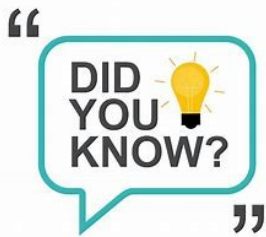
Music/ Worship/Discipleship/Prayer

Please sign up to be an Usher!

Some important information about serving as an "Usher in Church"!

1. The Definition of an usher-it means Door Keeper but in truth, our church greatly depends on many services our Ushers provide. Each usher has the opportunity to impact the lives of new and existing people in church and should be viewed as an extension of the Pastors' hand.
2. The role of the Usher is to help your first time guests, repeat visitors, and members in experiencing the joy of a worship service.
3. The purpose of ushering in church is to "Serve God". As Greeter, As Watchers and As Doorkeepers.
4. If you would like to be an Usher for a Sunday service, please sign the clip board on the table in the back of the church.
5. We welcome ladies, also.

Our Usher Slogan is: First in....Last out!



The "tar" in the famous Le Brea Tar Pits is actually prehistoric asphalt that slowly seeps from the ground.

Until 1982, U.S. pennies were 95 percent copper, but were phased out over the course of the year to a 97.5 percent zinc version with a copper finish.

The 1960s cartoon *The Jetsons* only had 24 episodes in the initial run of the show, but thanks to heavy syndication (and a later infusion of new episodes in the mid-1980s), the show is widely recognized and to this day, referencing "like *The Jetsons*" implies you're talking about a futuristic invention.

Medieval moats didn't just protect castles from invaders approaching over land, but also provided defense underground as well. The moats saturated the nearby ground with water and made it difficult and dangerous to tunnel under the castle to collapse the defenses.

The candy name "Milk Duds" is rather literal. The candies were first produced in 1926 with the goal of creating a caramel candy coated in milk chocolate that was perfectly spherical. When the machine kept churning out lumpy egg-shaped candies instead of nice round balls, an employee joked that they were "duds" and the nickname stuck.

After the "flair" that servers wore---buttons and other adornments---was made the butt of a joke in the popular movie *Office Space*, TGI Fridays, the restaurant the joke was modeled on, dropped the requirement that servers wear such flair as part of their uniforms.

The invention of the fire hydrant is typically credited to Frederick Graff Sr. in 1801 but, ironically, can't be officially verified because the patent records for the first fire hydrant were destroyed in a fire at the U.S. Patent Office in 1836.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray especially for:

Bill & Gail Brandt (Faith Lutheran Church)
Carolyn Buswell
Renate Chamberlain
Jo Coyle
Arlene Crawford
Pastor Sylvia De La Garza
Bob & Jo Degener
Thelma Dutenhoeffer
Dean & Marilyn Garnett
Rita Halvorson (sister of Raye Chandler)
Karen Reijo Johnson (sister of Lois Tanula)
Nancy & Rod Karg
Maria Mendoza
Tom Newcomer
Ed Puder
David Raabe (nephew of Betty Learned)
C.J. Robinson
Chuck & Kathy Sornson
Staff and Children of North Bridge Elementary
Amy & Don Van Deest
Vicki Wilson (niece of Shirley Nelson)
Elaine & David Wisely (daughter and son-in-law of Lou Vitek)
Cecilia & Tom Young
And to all people experiencing violence in their lives.



**The Prayer Shawl
Committee
is in need of funds for
postage & mailing
supplies.
Please consider
donating to this
important part of our
ministry!**

PRAYER SQUARES

We have a "Prayer Squares" project. A square is quilted and tied with loving strings of embroidery thread. Then when one of our members of Love of Christ (or a friend) is having surgery or is in a hospital, each of us say a prayer, tie a knot, and then give the patch to them. We want our prayers with them. Contact Betty Bentson 701-371-6631 or email bettybentson@aol.com

THE LIBRARY

Come and check out the Love of Christ Library! Folks have donated some great reading, videos, and audio tapes. Come and browse or come and bring your donation to the Library, and be an encouragement to the folks at Love of Christ church. The Library is located in the church office.

READING MACHINES

If you, or a loved one, have a vision difficulty that could be helped by the use of our reading machines, please contact the Church office (956) 447-1337. Three reading machines are available to be used by anyone in need of help. There is no charge for this use. If you have a problem picking up the machine from the church office, the machine can be delivered to you. This is another ministry of the Love of Christ Church!



Prayers are offered while shawls are created. Then the shawls are given to the sick and those needing comfort. Shawls have been distributed to many within the community and they have been mailed to numerous locations within the United States and Canada as requests for those needing prayers and comfort are filled. We are pleased to fill requests. Contact Betty Bentson 701-371-6631 or email bettybentson@aol.com

CHRIST CARE...

Reflecting Christ's love in our community of faith! His inspiration! **Please, if you... or someone you know... could use some Christ care, some concern, some prayers, or some expression of the love of Christ in his/her life, LET US KNOW.**

You may do so by calling:

**Love of Christ Lutheran church office
(956) 447-1337**

We at LOC want to care for you, for your friends, and for all who want to know the love of Christ in their life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◇ **Council Meetings:**
 - Thursday December 14th 2pm
 - Thursday, January 11th 2pm
 - Thursday, February 8th 2 pm
- ◇ **Happy Stitchers:**
 - Tuesdays 9-12 noon
- ◇ **Blue Christmas Service** December 21st 4pm
- ◇ **Christmas Eve Service** December 24th 11am
- ◇ **No Service Christmas Day**
- ◇ **Ash Wednesday Service** February 14th 3:30pm
- ◇ **Annual Meeting** February 17th 10am



The Wise Men brought gifts for Baby Jesus. Matthew 2:11.

Hidden in this picture are 3 gifts, brought by the Wise Men. Also find the best gift you can give to Jesus. (Your heart.)

Jesus once told a story about a boy and his father. The boy came to his father one day and said, "Give me all the _____ that belongs to me."
(object)

Right after that, the boy gathered all his _____ and left. The boy moved to _____ and spent all his money on _____ and _____.
(objects - plural) (place) (food)

When the boy realized he was out of money, he tried to find _____ work at a _____ farm. The boy was so hungry that he would've eaten a _____!
(event) (animal) (bug)

While the boy was at work one day, he realized that his father's servants lived better than him. The boy knew he had done wrong so he decided to ask his father for forgiveness. The boy _____ to his dad's house. As soon as the father saw the boy, he _____ to him. The boy said, "I'm sorry Father. I was wrong for taking your money. Please forgive me." The father _____ the boy and said, "Of course I'll forgive you!"
(action) (action) (action)

Happy New Year!



Today is _____

I am _____ years old.

This year I want to learn _____



I want to try _____

I want to go _____

I don't want to _____

This will be a good year because _____



© Mrs. Thompson's Treasures

ASH WEDNESDAY WORD SEARCH

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

ABSTAIN
ASHES
BLESS
CROSS

EASTER
FAST
FOREHEAD
LENT

REPENT
WEDNESDAY



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GERALD EDWIN LAMSON



Age 102, of Fargo, North Dakota passed away on November 13, 2023. He was born April 11, 1921 in Yorkton, Saskatchewan to Ernest Lamson and Bessie (Caskey)

Lamson. He grew up on a farm in the Armstrong District near Rokeby, where he attended the Armstrong District School. At an early age this farm became the Lamson farm, where he worked the land and lived with his father, mother and brother Scott.

In 1952 Gerald married Molly George and they continued to work the Lamson farm until the auction sale in 1990. Molly's health failed in March of 1989 and she passed away on February 7, 1993.

Gerald enjoyed sports and played soft ball in the summer and curling during the winter. Curling was his game! The Tonkin Curling Club was built and it was the winter home of many spirited events. He also trained as a ham radio operator and spent many hours talking with friends he had made around the world. He was an avid reader, especially enjoying mystery books.

Gerald and his mother traveled to Weslaco, Texas for the winter season 1993-94. His shuffleboard partner was Ollie Bentson, who introduced him to his sister Helen Bentson. Gerald and Helen became friends, while each also caring for their aged mothers. Together they organized a Bingo night in the village where they lived and Gerald ran the sound sys-

tem. They enjoyed playing cards, shuffleboard tournaments, and often dined out with their mothers.

Gerald and Helen were married on January 3, 2005 and moved to Siesta Retirement Village in Weslaco. Gerald became a champion at the game of shuffleboard and was inducted into the Texas State Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. His trophy collection didn't mean nearly as much as the friends he made on the courts. After the Lamson farm was sold, Gerald and Helen moved to Fargo, ND and he became a Permanent Resident of the USA. They continued to spend summers in North Dakota and winters in Texas. Gerald loved cruise ships and they enjoyed many adventures on ships, traveling extensively during their retirement, often-times to Europe.

Gerald was preceded in death by his father, mother, brother Scott and his first wife Molly. He is survived by his wife Helen (Bentson) Lamson, Daryl Pittman and Donnalee Lamson (Scott's daughters), as well as many nieces and nephews. Helen acknowledges the many kind expressions of sympathy and love from family and friends. Gerald's spirit continues to live in all of us who knew him, as he claimed the name "Uncle Gerald" in the Lamson family, the Caskey family, the Robertson family, the George family and the Bentson family.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the summer of 2024, when his ashes will be placed at the Cormorant Lutheran Church Columbarium near Cormorant, Minnesota. It is Helen's wish that memorials be given to Ethos Hospice (ethoscare.org/hospice) or a charity of your choice.





**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



Love of Christ Lutheran Church
914 W Third Street
Weslaco, TX 78596
 Corner of Border & Third Street
 We worship in the Facilities of Faith Lutheran Church
 Phone: **956-447-1337-Office**
 Email: locmailbox@yahoo.com
WWW.LoveofChristelca.com
 Office Hours: Tues-Fri 9:00am-2:00pm
 Office Administrator: Julie Knutson 956-447-1337 - o

RULING ELDER BOB DYMOND 956 873-5902-C

2023-2024 Church Council

President - Robert Chaloupek	501-253-1232 - c
Vice President - Jon Schwartz	712-540-3555 - c
Secretary - Rich Klindt	501-605-3636 - c
Treasurer - Lauren Coyle	651-434-1694 - c
Associate Member at Large - Rex Kirchhoff	402-469-0176 - c
Finance/Property Stewardship - C.B. Shields	956-330-7426 - c
Music/Worship & Discipleship/Prayer - LuRae Schwartz	712-299-0837 - c
Social Ministries & Outreach - Shirley Nelson	956-358-6690 - c
Associate Member At Large - Rex Kirchhoff	402-469-0176 - c