



## Worship Leader’s Report

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Two years ago, I was blessed with an opportunity to join the ranks of those who have served the Saints of Love of Christ - some rather big shoes to now accompany! Upon entering the Pastor's Office and sitting behind the desk, I noticed a wooden cross seemingly tucked away. Attached to the cross was the following note:

### "A Rejected Cross

These (crosses) were made to sit on the top of the ALS - Faith, Hope, and Charity Cross I make and sell, giving the profits to ALS research. Because of a bad edge, knot, blemish, or defect, or did not look just right, these crosses were rejected. However, I saved them anyway, polished and stamped them; and now give one to you. This cross can remind us all that we too are rejects because of our flawed edges, knots, blemishes, or defects. However, it is God (who) saves us, with our flawed edges, knots, blemishes, and defects, polishes and stamps us for salvation." - Bill Hassel



It is said that no one is perfect - until you fall in love with them! Although we may see all the little imperfections, God loves us each and everyone...warts and all!

Thank you for two wonderful years, Church! Let's celebrate one another.

And as always, remember: God loves you...and I do too



Shalom!  
- Bob.

### Briner reelected bishop of Southwestern Texas Synod

Susan J. Briner, Seguin, Texas, was reelected May 5 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Southwestern Texas Synod. The election was held during the synod assembly, May 3-5, at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas. Briner was reelected on the fifth ballot, with 146 votes. Michael C. Coffey, interim pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Brenham, Texas, received 104 votes. Briner was elected bishop of the Southwestern Texas Synod in 2018. She previously served as a bishop’s associate in the synod (2012 to 2018) and as pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Summerville, S.C. (2003 to 2012). The bishop earned a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from Duke University in Durham, N.C., in 1984, and a Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS) in Columbia, S.C., in 2003.

~ Living Lutheran ~ May 7, 2024 ~ ELCA ~

## 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.**

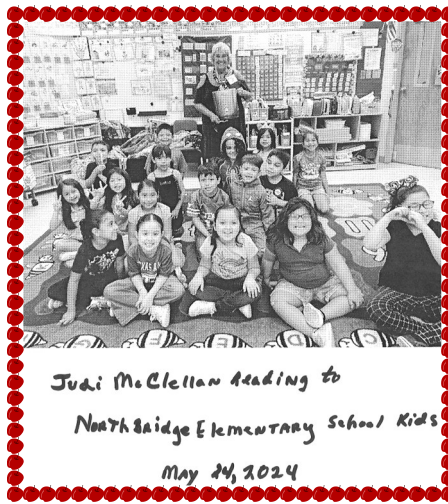
You may do so by calling: the church office (956) 447-1337 or email [locmailbox@yahoo.com](mailto:locmailbox@yahoo.com) We at LOC want to care for you, for your friends, and for all who want to know the love of Christ in their life.



Helen Lamson & her beautiful painting donated to Love of Christ May 12, 2024. Philippians 4:8

**Thank you to all of our Love of Christ Volunteers!**

Be it reading to the kids or reading to the congregation, knitting, ushering, shopping, quilting, crocheting, painting, wood working, cooking, decorating or working together, we can't spread the Love of Christ without you.



<sup>8</sup> Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8



Sharon Newcomer on her 45th Wedding Anniversary.



The many seasons of the LoC Altar & Jon lighting candles.



Anne Renkly sharing her experience reading to the NB Students.



Carolyn Buswell knit 56 Caps for NB.





**June Birthdays**

- 2 Kathy Whitney
- 14 Harlan Thompson
- 30 Marvin Hedlund

**July Birthdays**

- 7 John Egan
- 8 Tom Young
- 9 Al Hanson
- 10 Bob Dymond
- 24 Chuck Wolff
- 25 Tom Newcomer
- 27 Bob Slade
- 28 Suzann Nielsen
- 29 Jo Degener
- 30 Ann Thompson

**August Birthdays**

- 1 Will Baker
- 1 Rich Klindt
- 2 Jan Slade
- 2 Richard Twait
- 3 Nancy Karg
- 4 Ed Puder
- 6 Sharon Shull
- 8 Betty Bentsen
- 24 Judi McClellan
- 27 James Whitney

**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.**

**June Anniversaries**

- 4 Amy & Don Van Deest
- 7 Sharon & Mike Shull
- 9 Sharon & Tom Newcomer
- 16 Mary & Lee Nelson
- 23 Karen & Walt Fix

**July Anniversaries**

- 7 Suzann & Gene Nielsen
- 8 Ann & Will Baker
- 26 Darla & Bob Chaloupek

**August Anniversaries**

- 8 Lois & Ken Tanula
- 12 Raye & Richard Chandler
- 21 Bette & Sam Learned
- 22 Marilyn & Dean Garnett
- 28 Lynn & Marvin Hedlund

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Prayers are offered while shawls are created.

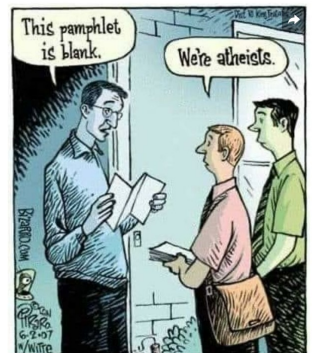
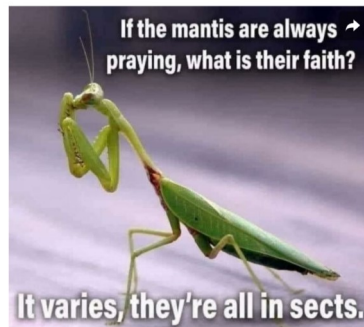
Then the shawls are given to the sick and those needing comfort. Shawls have been distributed to many within the community and they have been mailed to numerous locations within the United States and Canada as requests for those needing prayers and comfort are filled. We are pleased to fill requests.

Contact Betty Bentson 701-371-6631 or email [bettybentson@aol.com](mailto:bettybentson@aol.com)

**PRAYER SQUARES**

We have a "Prayer Squares" project 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](mailto:bettybentson@aol.com)

*The 2025 Spring Fling  
will be held on  
Thursday, February 13th  
here in Weslaco at the  
Villa De Cortez.*



# Prayers of Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, we give you thanks for those who have traveled the path of faith: for Abraham and Sarah, who trusted in your promise; for Mary and Joseph, who acted according to your word; for Paul, who spread the good news of Christ. Lead us also in your way, your truth, and your life. God of the journey,

**hear our prayer.**

Watch over all who travel. Grant rest and joy for their spirits. Be with bus drivers, flight attendants, pilots, road crews, and all who strive to make our travels safe and our homecomings joyful. God of the journey,

**hear our prayer.**

You sent your Son into the messiness of our world. Smooth the pathways between people and nations, that together we will move toward your justice and peace. God of the journey,

**hear our prayer.**

You walk with us on all the paths of life. Be with those facing hardship this day: the grieving, the poor, the lost, the sick

**Bill & Gail Brandt** (Faith Lutheran Church)

**Carolyn Buswell**

**Renate Chamberlain**

**Raye & Richard Chandler**

**Jo & Lauren Coyle**

**Arlene Crawford**

**Pastor Sylvia De La Garza**

**Thelma Dutenhoeffer**

**Dean & Marilyn Garnett**

**Rita Halvorson** (sister of Raye Chandler)

**Karen Reij Johnson** (sister of Lois Tanula)

**Nancy & Rod Karg**

**Shirley Knutson Nelson**

**Elaine Magnuson**

**Diana Mullen** (niece of Bette Learned)

**Richard Newcomer** (Tom Newcomers Brother)

**Tom & Sharon Newcomer**

**Ed & Gwen Paulson** (brother & Sister-in-Law of Bette Learned)

**Ed & Barb Puder**

**David Raabe** (nephew of Bette Learned)

**CJ Robinson**

**Staff and children of North Bridge Elementary**

**Lois Tanula**

**Amy & Don Van Deest**

**Wayne & Pat Winters**

**Elaine & David Wisely**

(daughter and son-in-law of Lou Vitek)

**Cecilia & Tom Young**

Hold them in the palm of your hand. God of the journey,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**



## **Put on the armor of God**

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

<sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

~Ephesians 6:10-17~

## DEVOTION FOR JUNE

**WANTED:** by children and mothers everywhere.

**CHRISTIAN FATHERS AND GRANDFATHERS**, last seen disappearing from many American homes. Should you apprehend one, please turn him over to a family who desperately needs his sincere affection and loving counsel.

**REWARD:** An orderly family. The love and respect of family and friends. A favorable ruling by the God of heaven and earth.

God's word has much to say to earthly fathers and grandfathers about what their role involves. Fatherhood is at the heart of God's plan for his people. To be a Christian father is to fulfill in your family the role which God fulfills in his church. Not that we can go around playing god. But in many ways the role we perform will be God-like.

God helps provide food, clothing, and shelter for his children. God protects from danger. God gives an example to imitate. God gives us an identity as his children. God educates us, teaching us right from wrong. God corrects and disciplines his children when they err. Most important of all, God loves us and helps us to find happiness and an abundant, meaningful life as a member of his family. May He help us all in our Christian roles!

Sandy Sill

### Are Prayers Always Answered?

If you are like me, there are times when you wonder why your prayers have not been answered. There are times when you feel that God just did not respond to your prayers, and you feel that God has abandoned you. Maybe it was the early death of a family member or a close friend. Maybe it was due to some financial difficulties. Maybe it was your own personal health. Whatever the reason, it is likely you have wondered why your prayer was not answered.

I recently prayed for my personal health. I also know that others were praying for my recovery and for that I am very grateful. My prayers were answered, your prayers for me were answered, and I am on way to better health.

Does God always answer your prayer? Yes, he does! At times it may seem like he did not answer the prayer but remember an answer is a solution to a problem. God has a much better understanding of our problems. God has a plan for all of us. The answer to a prayer may not seem like God has responded but his response is his solution to the problem. God does respond!

Bob Chaloupek

## Five Ways to Practice Your Faith During the Summer...

### 1.) Enjoy Nature to Its Fullest

Summer is the perfect time to bask in God's creation. The summer season offers many opportunities to spend and enjoy time outdoors with nature. Take this time to explore the world and scenery around you; visit new parks, go on hikes, visit the beach, and more. Be sure to use your senses and pay close attention to all the different sights, sounds, and scents around you.

### 2.) Grow And Tend to Your Own Garden

Continue to appreciate all the beautiful nature God has created for you by tending to your very own beautiful garden. You can grow fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers for you to harvest and enjoy this summer. Tending to a garden also gives you a sense of hard work that yields great results you can share with your family, friends, and community.

### 3.) Take Your Prayer Outdoors

With so many distractions from technology and the busy life around you, it can be hard to maintain a regular prayer schedule. This summer, take your prayer outdoors to enjoy the lovely weather, but also to eliminate those distractions, which often come from indoors!

### 4.) Create a Soulful Summer Reading List

The summer months are a great time to take up more reading. You can always pick up the bible and reconnect with the Word of God, but if you're looking for another suggestion to help strengthen your relationship with God, here is a book to consider picking up:

*How To Know a Person by David Brooks*

### 5.) Donate to a Local Organization Helping the Community

One of the best ways to practice your faith, embrace the spirit of service, and help your community year-round is to support a local charitable organization. With the kind support and hard work of their volunteers, organizations can give back and help community members during difficult times. Whether you donate your time or money, your efforts will make a difference and help support their mission to aid others.



† With Gratitude,  
*Deacon Darcy J. Mittelstaedt, (she/her/ella)*  
Bishop's Associate for Leadership & Lifelong Faith Formation  
(including Candidacy and Call/Mobility)



## NOW OPEN!

### SOUTHSIDE RECYCLING CENTER

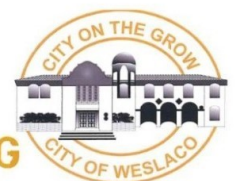
2900 S. BORDER AVE., WESLACO, TX 78599

Opening Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Hours of operation:

Tuesday & Friday:  
8:00am - 11:45am  
1:00pm - 4:45pm

Saturday:  
8:00am - 12:00pm  
(alternating Saturdays)



**NORTHSIDE RECYCLING CENTER WILL HAVE NEW HOURS OF OPERATION!**  
1912 Joe Stephens Ave., Weslaco, TX 78599  
Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday:  
8:00am - 11:45am & 1:00pm - 4:45pm  
Saturday:  
8:00am - 12:00pm  
(alternating Saturdays)





# 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

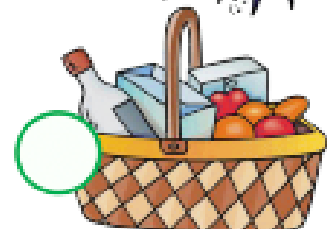
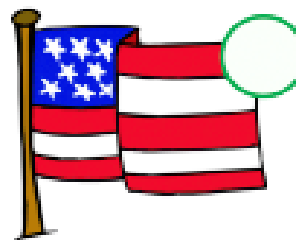
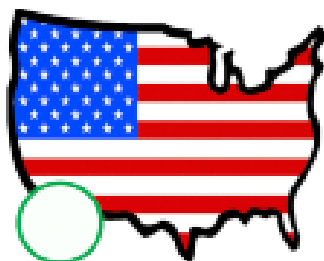
Find and circle the words in the word search puzzle and number the pictures

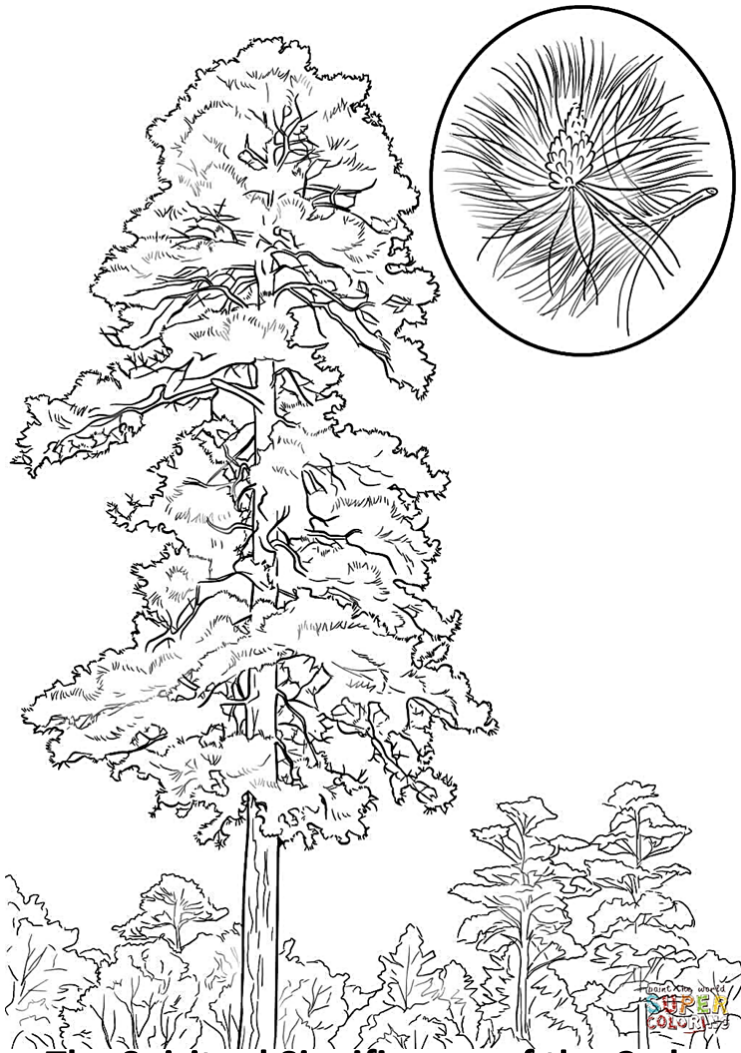
p	a	z	s	d	q	b	a	l	l	o	n	s	e	
a	m	x	p	j	d	v	p	a	t	r	i	o	t	y
t	e	p	a	a	i	l	u	p	m	u	s	a	n	
r	r	a	r	p	i	c	n	i	c	n	x	p	t	f
i	i	r	k	c	a	n	n	o	n	y	u	n	u	j
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t	a	d	e	u	b	c	u	p	c	a	k	e	o	n
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n	z	d	a	l	q	r	o	c	k	e	t	u	t	u
x	k	c	a	k	e	k	e	t	j	e	u	u	y	e



1. American flag
2. USA
3. Statue of Liberty
4. patriot
5. parade
6. eagle
7. fourth of July
8. liberty bell
9. patriotic hat
10. balloons
11. stars
12. cake
13. barbecue
14. cupcake
15. picnic
16. fireworks
17. firecracker
18. sparkler
19. rocket
20. cannon

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## The Spiritual Significance of the Cedar Tree in the Bible

### The Biblical Meaning of Cedar Tree

In the Bible, the cedar tree holds deep symbolic significance and is mentioned numerous times throughout the scriptures. It represents strength, beauty, and resilience, and is often associated with the presence of God.

### The Cedar Tree in the Old Testament

In the Old Testament, the cedar tree is frequently referenced as a symbol of majestic beauty and abundance. It is described as a tall and sturdy tree with aromatic wood, making it highly valued for construction and craftsmanship. The use of cedar wood in building structures, such as the temple of Solomon, further emphasizes its importance and grandeur. One notable mention of the cedar tree is found in Psalm 92:12, which states, "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon." Here, the cedar tree is used to represent the flourishing and prospering of those who are faithful to God. Additionally, the cedar of Lebanon, known for its impressive size and longevity, is mentioned in several passages. In Isaiah 41:19, it says, "I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive. I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane and the pine together." This verse symbolizes God's ability to bring forth life and beauty even in barren places.

### Spiritual Significance of the Cedar Tree

Beyond its physical attributes, the cedar tree carries profound spiritual symbolism. Its towering presence and enduring nature serve as metaphors for God's strength and everlasting love. Just as the cedar tree provides shelter and protection, God is often portrayed as a shelter and refuge for his people. The fragrance of cedar wood is another aspect that holds spiritual significance. The sweet scent represents the pleasing aroma of worship and sacrifice. It is a reminder of the importance of a pure heart and genuine devotion to God.

### The Cedar Tree as a Symbol of Restoration

In the context of restoration and renewal, the cedar tree signifies a time of abundance and divine intervention. In Isaiah 60:13, it says, "The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary." This verse portrays the coming of God's presence and blessings, bringing forth a sense of restoration and spiritual growth. Furthermore, in Ezekiel 17:22-23, the cedar tree is used as a metaphor for the Messianic reign of Jesus Christ. It states, "I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain... Under it, every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches, they will nest." This passage symbolizes the establishment of God's kingdom and the ultimate restoration of all things.

### The Cedar Tree as an Inspiration

Considering the rich symbolism associated with the cedar tree, it serves as a powerful inspiration for believers. It reminds us of God's strength, protection, and faithfulness throughout history. The cedar tree encourages us to stand tall and firm in our faith, to find beauty and tranquility in God's presence, and to trust in His plans for our lives. Let the biblical meaning of the cedar tree inspire you to seek a deeper connection with God, to remain rooted in His love, and to grow into the person He has called you to be.

In conclusion, the biblical meaning of the cedar tree signifies strength, steadfastness, spiritual growth, and a connection to God. It serves as a reminder for us to remain rooted in our faith and seek righteousness in all that we do. Let us draw inspiration from the ancient cedar tree and strive to live in alignment with God's plan, for just as the cedar stands tall, so shall we flourish under His guidance.

**Michael Anderson**

John Baptist Church CEO

### A Prayer from Pastor Chuck Wolff

..... so many years later (after D-Day) we find our country in need of prayer that we become united in hearing God's word again that draws together rather than separating us, that color, sexual orientation, religion, nationality nor political party can separate us from your love. We are one, because you made, all, so different and yet the same. Let us love one another as you love each of us. Amen.



# 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](mailto:locmailbox@yahoo.com)**  
**[WWW.LoveofChristelca.com](http://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**

**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 Kirchoff 402-469-0176- c**  
**Finance Secretary/Prop. & Fin./Stewardship - C.B. Shields 956-330-7426- c**  
**Music/Worship & Discipleship/Prayer - LuRae Schwartz 712-299-0837- c**  
**Social Ministries & Outreach – Judi McClellan 651-261-2013- c**