



Newsletter

Love Notes



“Christ living and loving through us!”

Jun Jul Aug 2025

Worship Leader's Report

I greet you all with the Love of Christ and with warm hugs!

Peace be with you!

I have had the blessing and pleasure of working alongside you here at Love of Christ Lutheran Church for three years now – one full lectionary cycle! During this time, I have come to know and grow with you. I have celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, visits from family and friends, we have welcomed new faces in worship (mine included), I have shared in grief, and illnesses, memorials, and funerals. And through it all ... the Love of Christ has been known, experienced, and shared myriad times.

In our lives, as in the lives of the disciples from many moons ago, we face uncertain and chaotic times. Turmoil due to political and civil unrest. Countless refugees traveling looking for a new place to call home, a new place to find and settle into new “norms” or routines. Bombs, Drones, Shells – no matter the method – all destructive. Lives lost or displaced. Drugs, violence, and chaos. Homelessness, hunger, illiteracy, and poverty. Stuff of nightmares. Stuff that fuels the movies and TV shows we watch. And stuff that shares our living space in our neighborhoods.

And still... In the midst of all this “stuff,” we are surrounded by something amazing:

Love. I know I’ve said it before and quite frankly, I’ll never tire of saying it...The Beatles were right – “All You Need Is Love!”

Peace be with you! Four words that are repeated time and again, not only in the Bible, but in our lives. Whether we hear these words or not, God accompanies us at all times whispering these words of affirmation and of love. Yes, evil is around, it surrounds us, it also accompanies us...but we must NOT allow it to prevail.

You may find yourself asking, how can we overcome all this negative, all this evil, all this chaos, all this unrest, all this turmoil, all this strife? The truth of the matter is: We do it as WE. Together, we are stronger. We are better when we gather together.

We overcome it all when we muster all our courage and strength and wisdom and compassion and love and respond with four equally powerful words: **And also with You!**

May you find the Promise that is the Love of Christ filling your life this day and always. Make it a Great Day...or not...the Choice is Yours, but I hope You choose to make it Great!

Always, remember: God loves you...and I do too
- Bob. 

*The 2026 Spring Fling will be held on
Thursday, February 19th at the
Villa de Cortez Event Center in Weslaco, TX.
Mark your calendar now!*

Vice President Report

Thank you for electing me this year. As a newbie I have so much to learn from our Council and under their guidance will continue to understand all the “ins and outs” that makes LoC a fantastic congregation. Please don’t hesitate to contact me for any reason. I’m here to help and have a shoulder for you to lean on. God is good all of the time. All of the time God is good.
Judi McCellan
judim1944@gmail.com
651-261-2013-c

If you wish to keep track of your donations to Love of Christ, please place your offering inside and envelope and deposit it in the offering plate. Kindly include your name if you are donating cash. Envelopes are available on the Ushers desk.

Please note that donations to Love of Christ are tax-Deductible. For your records, we will provide a receipt upon request.

DEVOTIONAL FOR JULY

submitted by Sandy Sill
by request of Discipleship/Prayer Committee***

“Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:6-7.

Peace is something our world seeks but seldom finds. Wars and rumors of war abound. A century ago, the poet Longfellow, echoed our dismay when he wrote, “And in despair I bowed my head; “There is no peace on earth,” I said. “For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men.”” Yes, there is far too much worry, and too many troubled minds, anxious hearts and tense nerves in our restless world today. But there is also a solution to this problem.

Both our Lord Jesus and the apostle Paul endured persecution and great suffering from the hands of those they sought only to help. Outwardly they both were arrested, falsely put on trial and convicted, mocked, beaten, and killed. Those were chaotic events in their lives. Yet both of them speak of an overwhelming peace of heart and mind.

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” John 14:27 Paul speaks about having no anxiety about anything but about committing all to God in prayer and then experiencing the wonderful peace of God which passes all understanding, and which keeps our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. This peace is promised to us, and it is available to us. This peace will see us through the worst times.

How are we to deal with the countless concerns which the world daily presses upon us Hopefully, in faith and in prayer. **THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU!**

Reprinted from July 2014



Restoring the Soul: Faith and Mental Health in May 2025

A SWT Synod Devotional Series for
Mental Health Awareness Month
by Pr. Ricardo Jimenez-Reyes*
(Bishop's Associate for Community Network and
Latiné Ministries)

Theme Verse:
“You restore my soul.”
– Psalm 23:3a

“The Body of Christ Holds Together”
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12–27

Reflection

Paul’s metaphor of the Body of Christ is more than an image—it’s a spiritual reality. The church is called to function like a body, where every part is essential and interconnected. This means we don’t just tolerate each other’s struggles; we carry them together. Your presence matters, even if you’re hurting. In fact, your vulnerability enriches the community and invites others to be honest too.

Healing is not just a personal journey—it’s communal. God often brings healing through relationships, support, and being truly seen in community.

Mental Health Connection

Mental health often isolates. Stigma or misunderstanding can make people withdraw. But Paul’s vision for the church is

one where everyone belongs, is honored, and is needed. When we build churches where mental health is spoken about openly and compassionately, we become places of healing.

Reflection Questions

Have you ever felt unseen or disconnected from your church or community while struggling mentally or emotionally?

What might it take for your congregation to become a more mental-health-affirming space?

How might your experience—your story—be a gift to others in the Body of Christ?

Prayer

Jesus, help us be a church that welcomes, honors, and supports every part of the Body—including those in pain. Let our communities reflect your compassion and your justice. Teach us to walk with one another through every season. Amen.

Empowering Thought

You are not alone. You are a vital part of God’s family, just as you are.

*A Special Thank you to
Pr. Ricardo Jimenez-Reyes
for visiting us in April, 2025.

Social Ministry/Outreach Committee June 2025

Food Bank of RGV

In May we donated \$500.00 to the Food Bank of RGV. In addition, we participated in the Annual "Stamp Out Hunger Food Dive" in coordination with the letter carriers. A donation box was placed in the church lobby for non-perishable items.

Northbridge Elementary School

The school participated in our Spring Fling in February. They donated a raffle prize of \$50.00. In addition, they set up a free photo booth celebrating Valentine's Day. Pictures were given to the participants.



**Linda Kirchhoff, Guests from NB,
Judi McClellan & Rex Kirchhoff.**

Reading to Children

The school year is over in two weeks. We will continue to read to the children in the fall.

A special thank you to Lou Vitek for donating a large box of stuffed animals.

Souper Bowl

Super Bowl-February 9, 2025. LoC paired with tackle hunger.org to join the Super Bowl of Caring. We received a huge amount of non-perishable food. There was also a \$250 monetary donation. The food and money were given to the Aurora House. A big thank you to Julie Knutson, & Jon & LuRae Schwartz for delivering all these items to the Aurora House.

Annual Spring Fling

This is our fundraiser for North Bridge Elementary School. It was an absolutely fabulous extravaganza. 52 people attended and everyone participated. We had a great catered dinner, wonderful music, auction and raffle. We ended up with a profit of \$2,256.

The **2026 Spring Fling** will be held on **Thursday, February 19th** at the Villa de Cortez Event Center in Weslaco, TX. Mark your calendar now! Anyone interested in donating baskets for the raffle, just let me know.

Judi McClellan

Living in our world today can be challenging. LoC congregation loves one another and are always willing to open their pocketbooks (and wallets) for those in need. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Without your help it would be impossible to achieve all the great things we do. God Bless you all!

Judi McClellan
Social Ministries/Outreach Chair



**President Bob Chaloupek
and his wife, Darla.**

Love of Christ Lutheran Church, ELC A

914 West Third Street

Weslaco, Texas 78596

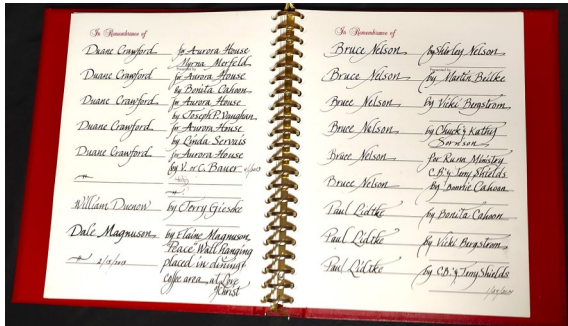
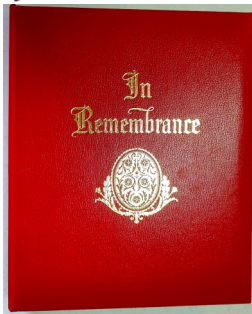


Dear Friend:

Thank you for the giving of a memorial gift to Love of Christ Lutheran Church to honor a deceased relative or friend.

Please fill out the reverse side of this card designating for whom the gift is given, by whom it is given and complete mailing address information. Place this card in the envelope provided along with your check. This envelope may be placed in the offering plate, given to the ushers or dropped off at the office. We at Love of Christ will take care of sending a card in your name to the family of the deceased informing them of your gracious gift.

Your gift will be much appreciated and used wisely to the glory of God. Blessings!



Amount of this gift: _____

Given in memory of: _____



Name and address where memorial card is to be sent:

Donor's complete mailing address:

Special request for sentiment to be added to the card: _____

Given by: _____

We are pleased to offer an opportunity at Love of Christ to make a donation to the church in memory or honor of a loved one.

Donation cards are available near the Ushers Stand in the Overflow room. Each name will be inscribed in our Remembrance Book,

a note will be sent to the family of the person being remembered, and a thank you will be mailed to the donor.

Prayers of Intercession

Bill & Gail Brandt
(Faith Lutheran Church)
Carolyn Buswell
Bob & Darla Chaloupek
Renate Chamberlain
Raye & Richard Chandler
Jo & Lauren Coyle
Arlene Crawford
Pastor Sylvia De La Garza
Thelma Dutenhoeffer
John Egan
Dean & Marilyn Garnett
Gwyn Halvorson
(brother of Raye Chandler)
Rita Halvorson
(sister of Raye Chandler)
Karen Reij Johnson
(sister of Lois Tanula)
Nancy & Rod Karg
Joyce Klindt
Helen Lamson
Rich Learned
(son of Sam & Bette Learned)
Alice Lichman
Elaine Magnuson
Richard Newcomer
(brother of Tom Newcomer)
Tom & Sharon Newcomer
Carroll Paulson
(sister-in-law of Bette Learned)
Ed & Gwen Paulson
(brother & sister-in-law of Bette Learned)
Betty Piper
Barb Puder
David Raabe
(nephew of Bette Learned)
CJ Robinson
Helen Schultz
Jon Schwartz
Jerry Shields
Mike & Sharon Shull
Staff and children of North Bridge
Amy & Don Van Deest
Elaine & David Wisely
(daughter and son-in-law of Lou Vitek)
Cecilia Young
Amen.



Dearest in Christ,

There can be no doubt as to the time of year we are in – school graduations, warmer (dare I say, blistering) temperatures, new young faces working at stores and restaurants we frequent, increasing numbers of young people at parks, more cars in traffic...it's official, Spring has sprung, and Summer 2025 is now in full swing!

With all the above, we lift our grateful praises for those community organizations, school districts, federal and state agencies, and good folk providing a source of nutrition for those young people who reside among us. There is a billboard campaign that I have been witness to in my daily to and fro which does its job in making me think – the bold caption on the billboard simply reads: “HUNGER CAN BE HARD TO RECOGNIZE” and is a PSA campaign by Feeding America.

Statistics are staggering when it comes to hunger in the US and become even more troubling when we look beyond our borders. And yet...there is constant waste for one reason or another. I wish to thank our very own Judi McClellan, Council Vice President and Social Ministries/Outreach Chair, for organizing our most recent non-perishable “Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive” in conjunction with the United States Postal Service, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, National Association of Letter Carriers in the United States, and people like you who donated funds and goods that were delivered to the Food Bank of the RGV – all helping to feed those in our neighborhoods.

I continue to be amazed at the good will, prayerful consideration, compassion, grace, and love that you, as members of the community of faith that is Love of Christ continue to share not only with one another, but with the unrecognizable faces in our communities asking for our help.

Thank YOU for Being YOU – and for doing what YOU Do. It matters. It's important. YOU make a difference.

May we continue to lift prayers for hunger, poverty, and homelessness to be a thing of distant memory. May no tummies go without food and no head without a place to rest.

With, In, & Through the Love of Christ,
- Bob.



**Meet our newest members:
Sam & Bette Learned.
Magic Vally Resort
2300 E Bus Hwy 83 #465
Weslaco, TX 78596
608-213-7758-c Bette
sambette1965@yahoo.com**

Love of Christ Lutheran Church is host to hundreds of visitors each year. It is our hope and prayer that we exemplify our name, Love of Christ, by what we say and do as we welcome people from all over the United States to worship and fellowship with us.

We not only welcome you to worship and fellowship, but we also invite you to be a part of our ministry in serving the Lord. Many of you have served in and through our congregation for years. We thank God for our ministry together as the brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus.

*This is a Special Invitation for you to
become an Associate or full-time
Member of our church.*

This is also a special "thank you" to our present members of Love of Christ Lutheran Church for your faithfulness, devotion, service and support.

If you would like to become a member of Love of Christ Lutheran Church, please call the church office at 956 447-1337.

Whether a member or visitor, let us continue to serve the Lord together, read our Bibles, say our prayers and love one another.

MEMBERS:

are baptized persons who have been confirmed, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as a confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

are persons holding membership in other Lutheran or Christian congregations who wish to retain such membership. They desire to participate in the life and mission of Love of Christ Lutheran Church. This congregation welcomes their ideas and opinions. They have all the privileges and duties

**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

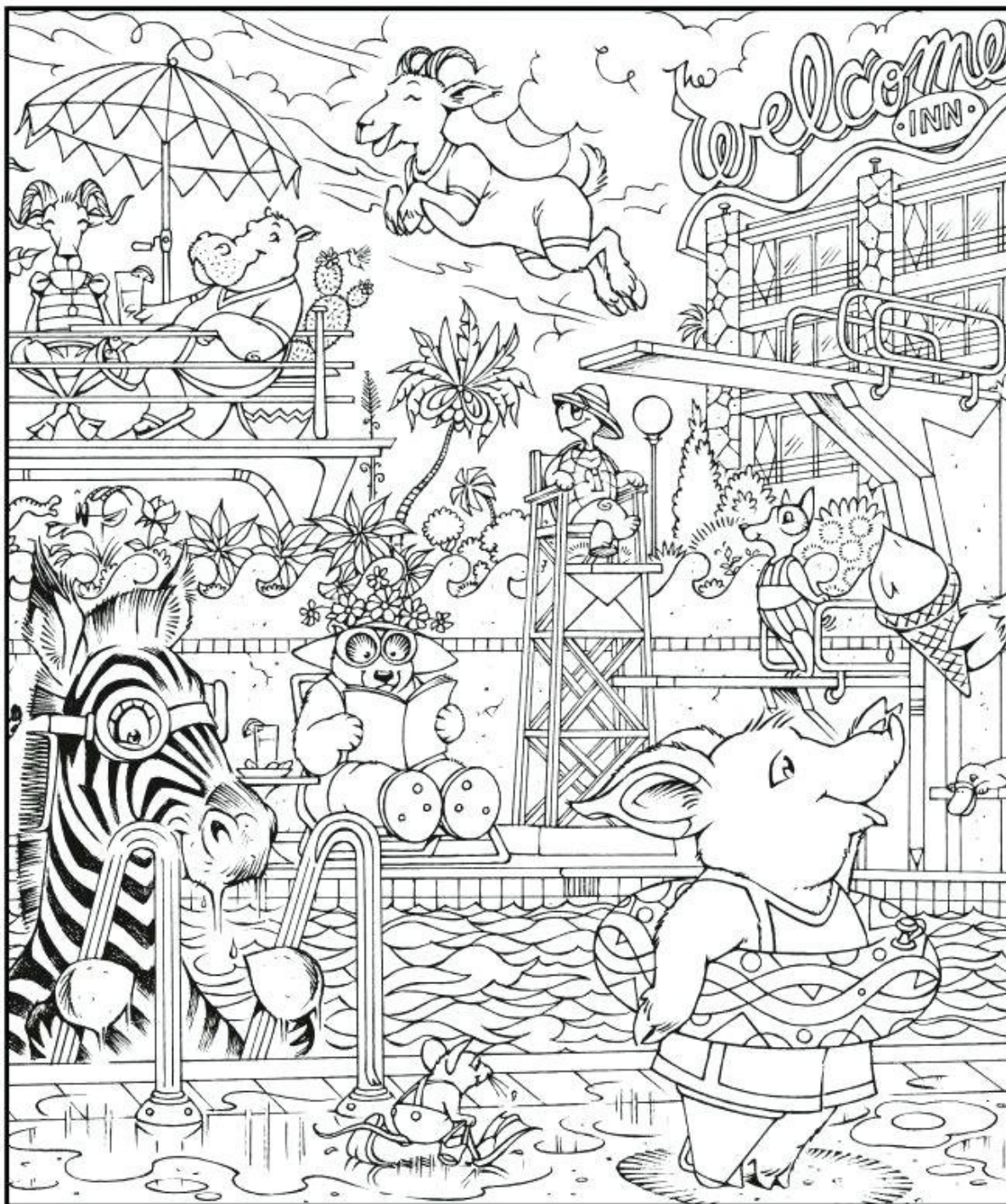
**Phone: 956-447-1337-Office
Email: locmailbox@yahoo.com
WWW.LoveofChristelca.com**



Hidden Pictures®

Making a Splash

By Mark Corcoran



In this big picture, find the wishbone, fried egg, paper clip, comb, coffeepot, acorn, scissors, toothbrush, boomerang, wooden shoe, bird, kite, pliers, and crowbar.

Can you find these
Hidden Pictures



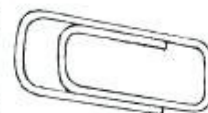
fried egg



wishbone



acorn



paper clip



comb



coffeepot



toothbrush



scissors



bird

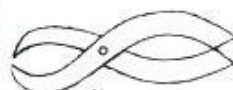
boomerang



wooden shoe



kite



pliers



crowbar

BONUS!

Can you also find
the baseball bat, envelope,
pencil, and hockey stick?

Major World Religions

R	C	S	O	M	A	L	S	I	N	U	M	U	T	Y	K	O	R	A	N	E	M	C	Y	Siddhartha Guatama
R	G	V	T	X	G	W	Y	Z	S	M	X	Y	Z	W	P	R	F	W	N	S	D	C	S	Crescent & Star
W	X	A	E	R	C	J	E	T	H	O	B	Z	I	I	G	Q	O	I	Q	A	G	K	W	Star of David
B	G	M	M	A	R	U	P	Y	A	X	C	A	L	G	C	J	U	Y	D	Q	K	T	G	Wheel of Life
F	J	A	P	T	V	Q	O	M	R	Y	X	H	W	G	Z	U	R	P	Q	Z	A	N	H	Christianity
G	B	T	L	S	D	H	P	A	O	G	G	K	P	L	N	D	V	G	I	J	B	M	I	Monotheistic
U	K	A	E	T	I	V	K	L	T	I	C	E	F	Y	C	A	E	O	X	A	R	U	N	Polytheistic
H	R	U	Y	N	V	P	Q	A	W	Z	T	H	O	V	S	I	D	N	U	X	A	T	D	Four Vedas
Y	O	G	T	E	A	T	V	R	F	L	A	T	Z	C	U	S	A	N	E	X	H	O	U	Symagogue
X	N	A	I	S	D	H	X	D	H	H	W	X	S	W	S	M	S	Z	P	A	A	I	I	Brahmins
D	G	H	N	E	F	A	V	E	L	B	I	B	N	N	E	C	G	I	T	T	M	J	S	Buddhism
U	O	T	A	R	O	P	K	O	O	S	R	R	S	T	J	P	Y	J	L	W	L	B	M	Hinduism
O	C	R	I	C	R	B	T	G	P	K	H	C	R	U	H	C	Z	Y	B	C	H	Z	X	Muhammad
D	A	A	T	S	A	J	T	J	U	N	C	I	T	S	I	E	H	T	O	N	O	M	Y	Abraham
Q	B	H	S	D	T	L	T	E	S	O	E	A	J	A	B	F	V	A	K	I	D	Y	V	Judaism
K	X	D	I	E	S	Z	U	H	Q	M	U	S	B	U	D	D	H	I	S	M	S	Z	M	Church
A	J	D	R	Z	T	S	W	H	E	E	L	O	F	L	I	F	E	O	N	J	B	Q	S	Mosque
S	R	I	H	T	E	P	T	Q	M	E	T	J	S	G	D	O	I	I	Y	P	R	M	U	Priest
A	K	S	C	F	A	U	C	R	O	S	S	J	S	U	Z	W	S	Z	B	D	A	I	T	Sutras
J	S	C	E	Y	Q	P	A	G	G	H	N	T	S	I	N	I	X	N	C	C	H	B	R	Temple
G	Y	E	U	Q	S	O	M	V	T	M	N	Z	T	S	E	I	R	P	J	W	M	B	A	Bible
W	N	S	Y	M	A	G	O	G	U	E	U	U	G	M	H	J	K	F	Z	F	I	A	S	Cross
R	M	U	H	A	M	M	A	D	A	Q	F	K	Z	H	N	Z	O	M	O	Y	N	R	R	Islam
E	C	C	I	T	S	I	E	H	T	Y	L	O	P	S	S	F	W	S	A	H	S	B	D	Jesus



Bible
 Cross
 Islam
 Jesus
 Koran
 Monks
 Rabbi
 Torah
 Pope
 Om



June Birthdays

26 Melanie Jackson
30 Marvin Hedlund

July Birthdays

7 John Egan
8 Tom Young
9 Al Hanson
10 Bob Dymond
24 Chuck Wolff
25 Tom Newcomer
26 Melanie Jackson
28 Suzann Nielsen
29 Jo Degener

August Birthdays

1 Will Baker
1 Rich Klindt
3 Nancy Karg
6 Sharon Shull
8 Betty Bentsen

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.

LoC 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.

June Anniversaries

4 Amy & Don Van Deest
7 Sharon & Mike Shull
9 Sharon & Tom Newcomer
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
26 Rod & Nancy Karg
28 Lynn & Marvin Hedlund

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. 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.



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 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 Julie at the office 956-447-1337 or locmailbox@yahoo.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 Julie at the office 956-447-1337 or locmailbox@yahoo.com.

Aurora House Wish List

Household

- Plastic Cups
- Paper Plates
- Disposable Utensils
- Foam Cups 8 oz.
- Antibacterial hand Soap
- Laundry Detergent (HE Only)
- Foil Paper
- Parchment Paper
- Plastic wrap
- Garbage bags- 13-gal/ 30 gallons
- Freezer bags gallon sizes
- Ziplocs 1 gallon & 1 quart
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Tissue
- Air Freshener (sprays) – all aromas
- Disinfectant wipes
- Latex Free Nitrile gloves XL
- Clorox
- Floor Cleaners (Faboloso/Pine Sol)
- Napkins
- Dish Soap

Office

- Copier Paper 8½ X 11
- Pocket Folders
- Manila Folders
- Dividers
- Highlighters
- Binders with plastic cover in front
- Sharpies/Permanent Markers
- Pens/Pencils

Groceries

- Fresh Fruits/Seasonal Fruits
- Fresh Vegetables
- Meats - Chicken/Beef
- Milk
- Eggs
- Instant Tea (sweet & unsweetened)
- Tea bags
- Coffee Creamers
- Coffee: regular & decaf
- Soft Drinks: all flavors
- Lemonade Mix
- Bread
- Lunch meat
- Artificial Sweetener
- Sugar
- Oatmeal
- Potatoes
- Rice
- Pinto Beans/ Lentils
- Olive Oil
- Vegetable Oil
- Cooking Spray
- Garlic Powder/Garlic Salt
- Crackers
- Flour
- Cake Mix/Frostings
- Mayonnaise
- Pancake Mix/Pancake Syrup
- Honey
- Peanut Butter/Jam/Jelly



A donation from
our March Shower.



Gift Cards to HEB, Walmart, & Home Depot Are Appreciated

2646 West 18th Street Weslaco, Texas 78596 | 956.973.9690



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
Facebook: Loc Weslaco

RULING ELDER BOB DYMOND 956 873-5902-C

2024 Church Council

President - Robert Chaloupek 501-253-1232- c
Vice President – Judi McClellan 651-261-2013- 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 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