



Newsletter

Love Notes



“Christ living and loving through us!”

Mar Apr May 2025

Worship Leader's Report

Love of Christ Lutheran Church of Weslaco The 27th Annual Meeting of the Congregation Worship Leader's Report February 15, 2025

“I thank my God every time I remember you,
constantly praying with JOY in every one of my prayers for all of you.”
– Philippians 1:3-4

Dearest Beloved,

I greet you in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord!

How time flies! Often, milestone anniversaries are counted on the one-, five-, and ten-year marks; however, the number I look forward to is three! The month of May of this year will mark my three-year anniversary in worshipping with you all.

What's the big deal with three years? I am so glad you asked! It brings to a close a lectionary cycle that we began together back in 2022! One of many tools I use as your worship leader and preacher is the Revised Common Lectionary which allows anyone following it to journey through and complete reading the Bible, with various prescribed readings, in three years!

I have enjoyed preaching from the assigned Gospels this cycle...and yet, the Good News does not and will not stop there! That's the Promise of the Living Word – there remains much to unpack, both as hearers and preachers of the Word. I get to face the beginning of a new Lectionary cycle journey in delving deeper into what God has in store for us, just as you begin settling in for another journey alongside me.

My gratitude and thanksgiving for all of you. Many of you have heard a Call on your lives to give of your talents, time, and tithes (which I call T3 or T-cubed). Thank you for blessing me and us all with your presence by attending worship allowing the witness to God's face. Thank you for opening your pockets and bank accounts to contribute to the financial success of our mission. Thank you for contributing your leadership in reading scripture, serving on Council and various committees, reading to children, meeting the needs of our community with canned goods and other supplies for the Aurora House and North Bridge Elementary.

I Love You.

- Bob.

Ruling Elder Bob Dymond



2024 Council President Report

It has again been an interesting and sometimes challenging year for the Church Council, and I continue to be immensely proud of the way they have responded to the challenges we faced.

We are fortunate to have Mr. Bob Dymond continue to serve as our Service and Spiritual Leader. During the past several years and into this year he has proved to be an excellent leader, and we are all enormously proud of him and love him dearly.

In October of 2022 we resumed our Sunday Social Hour. Although we can still only schedule the social time for 30 minutes, it has proved to be well attended and a wonderful opportunity to sit down with friends for coffee and fellowship. If you are not attending our social hour, I encourage you to join us. I also want to thank Julie for the wonderful job she does in preparation for the social hour.

During the year we unfortunately lost several members of our congregation, which includes a long-time member, Alice Lichman who has moved to Maryland. They will always be in our thoughts and prayers. I also want to again welcome our new members who joined this year, and all the new, and returning, Winter Texans who join us on Sundays.

Sandy Thormahlen continues to do a fantastic job of providing us what can only be considered as "heavenly music." Our organ or occasional piano can be heard every Sunday. It certainly adds warmth and comfort to our services.

Our wonderful Church Administrator, Julie Knutson, continues to serve our congregation with dedication and professionalism. We are fortunate to have her talents.

This year we had a new Council member, Judi McClellan, who took over the Social Ministry and Outreach Committee. Following the strong leadership of Shirley Nelson, Judi has done an outstanding job continuing our outreach to Northbridge Elementary and the fundraising projects she organizes.

Due to some personal health problems, I was not able to attend the annual Synod Conference. Hopefully, I will be able to attend the 2025 conference as it offers a wonderful opportunity to meet other congregational leaders who face the same challenges we face. I also want to thank the other council members who stepped in to help out during my absences and who continue to help out each Sunday.

Our relationship with Faith Lutheran is good and remains strong.

Our financial position remains good thanks to the challenging work of our Treasurer, Lauren Coyle, and a strong finance committee chaired by C.B. Shields. Again, this year they have had to make budget and commitment changes and have done so in a very responsible manner. It will take all of us to do what we can to keep us in this sound financial position.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Council President. May God continue to Bless all of us.

Bob Chaloupek

Lenten Service Schedule 2025

Sunday, April 13	Palm Sunday	11:00 AM-Communion
Thursday, April 17	Maundy Thursday	4:00 PM-Communion
Friday, April 18	Good Friday	12:00 PM
Sunday, April 20	Easter	11:00 AM-Communion

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

Associate Member Report-Church Council

February 2025

As we look forward to another year at Love of Christ, we work to be a light in a dark world and share that with those around us, in our membership as well as those in our “community”. We are each part of a larger community where we live every day and are not all in the same communities during the week. May we share with those in our individual communities to include them in our church community.

We need to invite more people to take advantage of the enthusiasm that we feel during the Sunday services and in Missions that we support. Judi McClellan has done a wonderful job with the Feast of Thanksgiving and planning for the Spring Fling coming up. Others have been helpful in maintaining enthusiasm for these programs and others as well. The Church Council supports other missions on behalf of the congregation. As a member of the Council, I have enjoyed Ruling Elder Bob Dymond’s services and Pastor Chuck Wolf’s assistance with visitation and serving as needed.

It has been my pleasure to be a part of the Church council, and look forward to serving in capacities to spread the light here at Love of Christ!

Rex Kirchhoff

Associate Member Representative

Love of Christ Lutheran Church Council

Music, Worship, Discipleship & Prayer Report 2024

A big thank you to the congregation (men and women) who help with the Lector or Usher talents. God gives us special gifts and talents, so we can live fully for him. Please sign up to Usher or Lector for a Sunday. What great joy to see the smiles on faces, as we come together to sing, proclaim, receive and go forth!

LuRae Schwartz


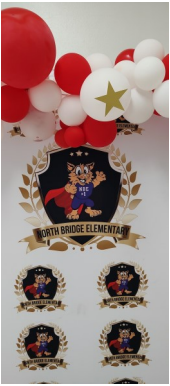
Happy Stitches 2024 Report

In 2024, we were proud to distribute 48 adult quilts and 52 baby quilts. Our outreach also included 21 prayer squares, numerous pocket squares, and 50 prayer shawls. Beyond supporting those who were ill, we extended our generosity to North Bridge Elementary, the Weslaco Police and Fire Departments, Knapp Medical Center, and Aurora House.

Betty Bentson

Social Ministry/Outreach Committee 2024 Recap

Northbridge Elementary School



I became a new council member in April 2024. My first goal was to meet with the Northridge Elementary School. On Wednesday, April 17 we met for a round table discussion. Attended were the Principal, Assistant Principal, Liz Cardenas, and myself. We discussed what has been done so far this year and what was needed for future. The school received \$2400 in January for shirts (which they have put aside until they can raise enough \$7000). They were also given in March \$609.69 for miscellaneous school supplies. They really appreciated congregation members coming to the school to read. Other ideas were discussed a sock hop, participate in Spring Fling, maybe community service with the kids, etc.

Reading to Children


I worked with the school librarian to determine what books might be good to read. There were 20 books. I personally purchased the books. After they were read to the class, they were given to the school library. There are still a few books left. Lou Vitek also read to the classes using her own books.

Annual Feast of Thanksgiving Dinner

31 attended (3 people from North Bridge)
\$1,582.000 was raised. Funds were dis-
persed in the form of 20,
\$100 Christmas gift cards to
designated North
Bridge Elementary School
Families. I included a
Christmas card with a per-
sonal note to them from
Love of Christ Lutheran
Church.



Souper Bowl



Super Bowl-February 9, 2025. LoC paired with tackle-hunger.org to join the Super Bowl of Caring. Our Non-Perishable Food Pregame Collections started on January 5th and will continue through February 9th the actual day of the Super Bowl. All items donated will benefit the Aurora House Foundation.

Annual Spring Fling

Spring Fling is a fundraiser for North Bridge Elementary School. This is a complimentary dinner for the congregation with RSVP by February 2. This year it will be held on February 13, 2025. The theme is "Love one Another" JOHN 15:12. We will have a live auction,



Being part of Love of Christ Lutheran Church has been very rewarding for me. My humble

thank you for your trust in me. Each of us needs a purpose in life especially when you are not sure of what your purpose is. God continues to lead the pathway to my journey in life

A very special thanks to Lu Rae Schwartz and Julie Knutson for their help and guidance and all the volunteers who have made this past year a huge success. This committee cannot function without all of you. I sincerely thank you.

Judi McClellan

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

Helen Lamson

Rich Learned

(son of Sam & Bette Learned)

Alice Lichman

Elaine Magnuson

Richard Newcomer

(brother of Tom Newcomer)

Tom & Sharon Newcomer

The Family of Bill Niemann

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

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.



**Rev. Dr. Ricardo Jimenez-Reyes will
be our Guest Visitor on April 6.**



We are pleased to welcome **the Rev. Dr. Ricardo Jimenez-Reyes** to the staff of the SWT Synod as Bishop's Associate for Community Networks and Latine Ministry, effective January 8, 2025. His portfolio includes the Colectiva Latina for lay and rostered Latine ministry leaders, the Rio Grande Valley Network (the evolution of Valley Metanoia Network) and coordinating our synod storytelling initiative. He will be available to visit congregations; in his first months here that will be primarily focused on visiting our existing Latiné ministries.

Pastor Ricardo has lived in San Antonio since 2019. He served as pastor at MacArthur Park Lutheran Church & Iglesia Luterana San Pablo. He is a third generation Lutheran from Puerto Rico. He has more than 20 years of experience as a clinical psychologist and received his MDiv from Luther Seminary. Pastor Ricardo enjoys being out in nature, music, reading, and cooking, and spending time with family and friends. 

Have you ever considered how many small unnoticed ministries are offered to God? Have you ever considered the small things you do are a ministry? While thinking of this, I thought of my first husband. As long as I could remember, he always had some bills in his wallet. Now remember there was a time when just buying groceries was a challenge. During all of those years, he never passed up a homeless person or a beggar without opening his wallet and passing on a bill. Of course, I complained. He would reply, I am not responsible for how it is used, I am only responsible for providing it. As you go on your way this month, consider how small ministries are as important as opening you wallet and sharing a bill.

Matthew 25:45—"Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me."



March Birthdays

11 Mike Shull
12 Janell Hanson
20 Lauren Coyle
20 Lou Vitek
25 Linda Kirchhoff
26 Julie Knutson
29 Marilyn Garnett

April Birthdays

04 Barb Puder
06 Richard Chandler
11 Julia Cruse
14 Samantha Fritz
26 Rod Karg

May Birthdays

07 Linda Aune
09 Ross Rounds
10 Sharon Newcomer
13 Jo Coyle
14 Bev Wolff
29 Gail Pierce
30 Jerry Aune
30 Don Van Deest

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

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.

March Anniversaries

21 Bev & Chuck Wolff
31 Lauren & Jo Coyle

April Anniversaries

06 Linda & Jerry Aune

May Anniversaries

10 CB & Jerry Shields

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 For a Strong Nation

Thank you that in our nation today, we are free to worship. We are free to pray. We are free to read your Word. We are free to speak. We are free to share. For this, we are incredibly grateful. Yet, we understand how quickly these freedoms can be taken away. Give us an increased awareness of the spiritual battle we're in. Help us to stand strong in you and for your purposes.

Thank you that as believers, we can be assured, you will never leave us, and are with us always, in this life, and the next. Thank you for your truth that says, who the Son sets free is free indeed! We know that in you alone, true freedom is found. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

(by [Debbie McDaniel](#))



March 2025 is dedicated to a month long “shower” to help the **Aurora House** replenish their stores. We focused on a food drive in February. In March, let's fulfill the other nonperishable needs. Love of Christ has a box in the Narthex to place items in and a jar available to include cash donations

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
- Bath Towels (large and small)
- Twin linen/blankets

Office

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

Aurora House

Aurora House is a hospice facility located in Weslaco. The patients are NOT charged to stay there. They operate entirely on donations of money, food, paper goods, adult diapers, and other needed items. Goodwill Offering Jars are located in the back of the sanctuary where you are invited to drop in your loose change or bills after the service on Sunday. All of this money goes to the Aurora House to help with their costs and we have been told by a member of our congregation that donations are down this year and there is GREAT need.

There is a box in the area between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall where you are asked to donate any items you may wish to go to the Aurora House. This is a wonderful asset for this part of the valley and it is vital that we help in any way we can. Thank you.

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 Betty Bentson 701-371-6631 or email 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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Corner of Border & Third Street

We worship in the Facilities of Faith Lutheran Church

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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