



Newsletter

Love Notes



“Christ living and loving through us!”

Sep Oct Nov 2025

Worship Leader's Report

“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, blessings and greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord!

As this edition of Love Notes goes out, we prepare to bid a fond farewell to summer and usher in the fall – it seems almost as if the start of this year was just a few weeks ago! Where has time gone?

I have enjoyed greatly bearing witness to the growth and sustaining faith that is the Love of Christ. Thank you for being you and doing what you do. Each and every one of you while in the Mission Field that is the community that surrounds us is granted opportunities to share the Love of Christ that is in you with your neighbors. Stranger or not, the smiles you share while on your journeys leave behind marks that will linger far longer than you realize.

My contribution to you for this newsletter is an invitation to prayer. During my time in Children's and Youth Ministries one “tool in our backpack” was to teach our young charges how to pray. I know I don't have to teach you how to pray...but it is nice to be reminded every now and then! Beloved, as you continue in your ministries of faith and love in the mission field remember to pray without ceasing.

5-Finger Prayer:

The thumb is the closest finger to you. Start by praying/expressing gratitude for those who are closest to you. The next finger is the index. Pray/express gratitude for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you. The following finger is the tallest. It reminds us of our leaders and those in authority. The fourth finger is the ring finger, the weakest finger. It reminds us to pray for those in need. And finally, your pinkie reminds you to pray/be grateful for yourself.

(Faith and Wellness: A Daily Mental Health Resource – **Pope Francis five finger prayer** from School Mental Health Ontario and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association)

I encourage you to use the 5-Finger Prayer and you'll always have a guide to your prayer life.

God Loves You and so do I ❤️

Ruling Elder Bob Dymond

President Report

Yes, God answers prayers.

I previously authored an article about prayers. I asked if you ever felt your prayers went unanswered. It may have been a family member's illness, a friend's sickness, your personal health, or ongoing personal financial problems. Whatever the reason, it is likely you have wondered why your prayer went answered.

Well, God has again assured me he does answer prayers. Darla recently became extremely ill and had many concerned about her illness, God answered my prayers, and yours, and there is no doubt in my mind that he assisted the wonderful Doctors and Nurses who cared for her and restored her good health. Thanks be to God!

Late last Spring, we prayed that our Winter Texan Friends would have a safe trip back to the North Country. Now it is time for our Northern Friends to return to the warm sunny skies of South Texas. Please join me in a prayer for their safe return to our community and our Love of Christ congregation.

Bob Chaloupek

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

⁸ The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Psalm 121:7-8

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.

Vice President Report

In February, I was asked to become Vice President on the Church Council. Jon Schwartz, Rest In Peace, was unable to accept due to health reasons. He served many years and was active weekly in LoC. I will never be able to follow in his footsteps but will remember him being one of LoC congregation that changed my life and brought me back to God.

His wife LuRae was instrumental in my “Spiritual Awareness with God”. I was in a very deep place in March and my heartfelt thanks to both of them for being the person I am today. I have totally given my faith to God. My journey has not been easy; however, God is with me all the way. Example: I went on a cruise in July (by myself). My daughter knew I was uncomfortable going because I felt guilty not going to see my family in Minnesota and my brother-in-law in Dallas. She suggested I just continue my trip upon my return from the cruise. Within 3 hours all arrangements were made. It had kept nagging me I need to do this. I didn’t know why, but I knew it had to be done.

As I write this, I now know why. My brother-in-law passed away this past Thursday. I was very close to him and was able to spend 5 days with him and his wife prior to his passing. So, if you get a feeling you need to do something, do it! Either God or one of his angels is telling you to do so. Thank you, God, for giving me this time.

Volunteers – we have lost active several members this year. Our congregation is small but there is so much love and kindness. If you can volunteer, let me know. No matter how small or large your contribution it is definitely needed and appreciated.

God Bless each and everyone one of you and thank you for welcoming me to be part of Love of Christ Lutheran Church.

Judi McClellan, Vice President

Judim1944@gmail.com 651-261-2013-cell

Social Ministry/Outreach Committee

I hope that everyone had a great summer. Time truly does fly by and we look forward to seeing our Winter Texans again.

Northbridge Elementary School Liz Cardenas, the parent coordinator for Northbridge Elementary School has been moved to another school in the Weslaco District. We have worked with Liz for several years and we will surely miss her. We now have a new parent coordinator, Gabby Castillo. I will be meeting with the school Principal, Assistant Principal and Gabby to discuss what continued support like from us. All of these people are new to Northbridge. For sure, they want us to continue to reading to the children. If you are interested in doing so, let me know. Thank you, Lou Vitek, for your continued donations to Northbridge throughout the year.

Thanksgiving Dinner Our Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Thursday, November 20th at the church. This year we will have the entire dinner catered. The council decided that it would be a nice Thank You to our congregation for all the support and love you show to each other.

January Souper Bowl LoC will once again pair with tacklehunger.org to join the Super Bowl of Caring. Sunday, February 8, 2026 is Super Bowl Sunday. Further details will be provided.

Spring Fling We have reserved the Villa Cortez Event Center for February 19th, 2026. So far, I do not have a theme – any suggestions will be appreciated. The basket raffle drawings were a huge success so we hope that many more will participate. Just let me know if you plan to put together a basket for raffle. We will also have our auction – after all, what would the Spring Fling be without our Peanut Brittle! More information to come. Judi McClellan, Chair Judim1944@gmail.com 651-261-2013

JUST AN ORDINARY DAY

It was just an ordinary day, the sun rose bright and warm at exactly 6:33 as was predicted. It was just an ordinary day, thousand were having breakfast preparing for their day. It was just an ordinary day, school kids were getting ready to catch the bus or some other way to get to school on time. It was just an ordinary day, thousands arrived at their work place doing both mundane and necessary tasks. It was just an ordinary day, coffee was ready in the breakroom and many were having their first cup of coffee.

The ordinary day, September 11, 2001, is on the clock to be a very extra ordinary day.

It was just an ordinary day, American Airline Flight 11 was hijacked at 8:20 am and crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center at 8:46, United Flight 175 crashed in the South Tower of the World Trade Center at 9:03, American flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon at 9:29, United flight 93 crashed in Stony Crest, Pennsylvania at 10:03.

With the death of 2,977 people and hundreds of thousand still suffering, our world was forever changed.

It was just an ordinary day, that each of us have experienced. (Maybe the death of our parents, the death of a spouse, the loss of a child, the loss of a job, the loss of our home, the loss of a fortune.) The list could go on for hours. The important thing is, as America did on that “just an ordinary day” we stood up, shook our head, maybe prayed, cried a lot and continued on. This is what we do and we should be proud that we did exactly that.

For Older Adults, Hurricane Disaster Planning Should Start *Now*

5 Crucial Safety Steps If you have aging family members, it's not safe to wait.

By Lee Ann Rawlins Williams, University of North Dakota Published: May 15, 2025

To prepare for hurricane season and any other disaster, I encourage families to work with their older adults now to create an emergency plan. Preparing can help ensure that older adults are safe; are able to contact relatives or others for help; and have the medications, documents, and supplies they need, as well as the peace of mind of knowing what steps to take.

Recent hurricanes show the gaps

In 2024, Hurricanes Helene and Milton put a spotlight on the risks to older adults.

The storms forced thousands of people to evacuate, often to shelters with little more than food supplies and mattresses on the floor, and ill-equipped for medical needs. Flooding isolated many rural homes, stranding elderly adults.

Power was out for weeks in some areas, and emergency systems were overwhelmed. A tornado tore into a senior community in Port St. Lucie, Florida, during Milton, killing six people. Some long-term care facilities lost power and water during Helene. At the same time, some older adults chose to stay in homes in harm's way for fear that they would be separated from their pets or that their homes would be vandalized.



These events are not just tragic, they are predictable. Many older adults cannot evacuate without assistance, and many evacuation centers aren't prepared to handle their needs. Helping older adults prepare for emergencies should involve the entire family so everyone knows what to expect. The best plans are personal, practical, and proactive, but they will contain some common elements.

Here are five essential steps:

1. Prepare an emergency folder with important documents

Disasters can leave older adults without essential information and supplies, such as prescription lists; financial records; medical devices; and — importantly — contact information to reach family, friends, and neighbors who could help them. Many older adults rely on preprogrammed phone numbers. If their phone is lost or the battery dies, they may not know how to reach friends or loved ones, so having a hard copy of phone numbers is useful. Consider encouraging the use of medical ID bracelets or cards for those with memory loss. Critical documents like wills, home deeds, powers of attorney, and insurance records are frequently kept in physical form and may be forgotten or lost in a sudden evacuation. Use waterproof storage that's easy to carry, and share copies with trusted caregivers and family members in case those documents are lost.

2. Have backup medications and equipment

Think about that person's assistive devices and health needs. Having extra batteries on hand is important, as is remembering to bring chargers and personal mobility aids, such as walkers, canes, mobility scooters, or wheelchairs. Do not forget that service animals support mobility, so having pet food supplies will be important during a hurricane or evacuation. Ask doctors to provide an emergency set of medications in case supplies run low in a disaster. If the person is staying in their home, prepare for at least 72 hours of self-sufficiency in case the power goes out. That means having enough bottled water, extra pet food, and human food that doesn't need refrigeration or cooking.

3. Map evacuation routes and shelter options

Identify nearby shelters that will likely be able to support older adults' mobility and cognitive challenges. If the person has pets, make a plan for them, too. Many areas will have at least one pet-friendly shelter, but not all shelters will take pets. Figure out how the person will get to a shelter and have a backup plan in case their usual transportation isn't an option. Decide where

they will go and how they will get there if they can't return home after a storm. If your loved one lives in a care facility, ask to see that facility's hurricane plan.

4. Create a multi-person check-in system

Don't rely on just one caregiver or family member to check on older adults. Involve neighbors, faith communities, or local services such as home-delivered meals, transportation assistance, support groups, and senior centers. Redundancy is crucial when systems break down.

5. Practice the plan

Go through the evacuation steps in advance so everyone knows what to do. Executing the plan should be second nature, not a scramble during a disaster or crisis. Planning with, not just for, older adults. Emergency planning shouldn't be done *for* older adults — it should happen *with* them. Elders bring not only vulnerability but also wisdom. Their preferences and autonomy will have to guide decisions for the plan to be successful in a crisis. That means listening to their needs, honoring their independence, and ensuring caregivers have realistic plans in place. It's an important shift from reacting to a storm to preparing with purpose.



Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully. **Scheduled for Sept. 7, “God’s work. Our hands.”** is our annual day of service and an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor.

The ELCA’s first dedicated day of service in September 2013 was held to celebrate the church’s 25th anniversary. Through the years we have embraced “God’s work. Our hands.” as a way to be church together. On this day we bear witness to the love and concern God’s people have for one another. Our congregations do this work every day — loving their neighbors and improving their communities. These acts of service allow us to explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions: All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. This year we are especially mindful of the challenges faced by our Lutheran social service organizations and other faith-based and human service organizations due to the reduction in federal funding.

Love of Christ will donate the offering from Sunday, September 7th to local community outreach.

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.

**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



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 of Membership except voting rights.

Prayers of Intercession

Bill & Gail Brandt
(Faith Lutheran Church)
Carolyn Buswell
Darla Chaloupek
Renate Chamberlain
Raye & Richard Chandler
The Family of Jo 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)
Riley Higgins
(great grand daughter of Lauren Coyle)
Karen Reij Johnson
(sister of Lois Tanula)
Nancy & Rod Karg
Helen Lamson
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)
Anne Renkly
CJ Robinson
Precious Rodriguez
(friend of Lou Vitek)
Helen Schultz
The Family of 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.



OBITUARY **Joyce "Jo" Marie Petersen Coyle**

13 MAY, 1937 – 28
JUNE, 2025

Born on May 13, 1937, passed away June 28, 2025. She was the daughter of Leonard and

Ethel Petersen. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter Julie, sister Constance "Connie" Meoni and her great granddaughter McKenna Louise Mead.

She is survived by her loving husband of 69 years, Lauren, her daughters Jody Bruen (Ronnie), Patty Bishop (David), Melanie Jackson, grandchildren Joshua Bruen (Shawna), Jennifer Busch (Doug), Michael Bruen (Amber), Sarah Rongstad (Andy), Nicole Mead (Doug), and Danielle Konrad (Ben) and great grandchildren Kenzie, Savannah, Cole, Hunter, Rylee, Andrew, Emma, Caleb, Kinley, Boston, Charlotte, Blake, Hayden, and Theodore. She is also survived by her nieces Brandi Meoni, Kristin Carson and nephew Brian Meoni.

Jo worked for Travelers Insurance from 1965 to 1991 and retired after 26 years. Jo and Lauren moved to Hackensack in May of 1999, became Winter Texans living in Donna and Weslaco from 1999 to 2012, and moved full time to Weslaco, Texas in 2012.

She was dearly loved by family and friends and will be greatly missed by all.

A Memorial service for Joyce Marie Coyle will be held September 13, 2025 visitation 1:00pm – Service 2:00pm reception to follow at King of Kings Lutheran Church – 1583 Radio drive, Woodbury, Minnesota 55125.

Service will also be live streamed and can be found at
KingofKingswoodbury.org
scroll down to Worship online box
click on the box
click on watch services online
you will see the service listed





OBITUARY **Jon Schwartz**

January 22, 1952 —
August 1, 2025

Weslaco- Jon Paul Schwartz, age 73, of Weslaco, Texas, peacefully passed away on August 1, 2025, at Knapp Medical Center in Weslaco, surrounded by his loving wife.

Born on January 22, 1952, in Glenwood, Minnesota, Jon was the son of Gerald and Francis Schwartz. He graduated from Lidgerwood High School in North Dakota in 1970 and continued his education at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota, where he was an active member of the college golf team. Jon earned a two-year degree in business before proceeding to acquire his bachelor's degree in business management from Moorhead State University. While attending the university, Jon was a proud bar manager of The Gaslight.

After completing his education, Jon began a successful 38-year career with Bernard Foods, where he initially worked as a salesman and later advanced to regional manager, covering multiple states. His dedication and commitment saw him traveling extensively to secure sales in schools, nursing homes, and correctional facilities.

In 1979, Jon married Mary Sundermeyer, and they welcomed two children, Matthew and Sarah, while residing in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. They shared 14 years of marriage until Mary's untimely passing due to illness.

In the wake of this loss, Jon's faith led him to meet and fall in love with LuRae Lockrem, and he wed "the love of his life" on November 26, 1994. Embracing his desire for a larger family, Jon welcomed a daughter, Lisa, and a son, Ryan, into his life.

Pursuing a lifelong dream, Jon and LuRae purchased a Dairy Queen franchise in Storm Lake, Iowa, on April 1, 1996, marking the beginning of a new chapter for their family. While LuRae managed the DQ, Jon continued his career with Bernard Foods, balancing both endeavors.

Upon retiring in 2013, Jon and LuRae relocated to the Southern Comfort Resort in Weslaco, Texas, where they became active members of Love of Christ Lutheran Church. Jon's contributions to the congregation included serving as council president, vice president, purchasing agent, communion assistant, and lector.

In his younger years, Jon cherished time spent outdoors, particularly enjoying bird hunting and golfing with friends and family. Jon was an avid sports fan, and his loyalty to his favorite Minnesota teams was unwavering. You could always find him cheering passionately for the Gophers, Twins, and Vikings. His love for grocery shopping began at a young age, a trait influenced by his parents, who owned a Red Owl grocery store. A familiar phrase you would often hear him say was, "I'm going to the grocery store; if you need anything, put it on the list." He relished the art of grilling, and chicken wings were his specialty.

Jon took immense joy in spending time with his nine grandchildren. He could often be found sharing stories and jokes, filled with playful teasing that brought laughter to their hearts. His ability to connect with his grandchildren created cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

Jon is survived by his beloved wife, LuRae; children, Lisa DuBeau of Rosemount, MN; Ryan (Holly) Lockrem of Nemaha, Iowa; Matthew (Shannon) Schwartz of Osceola, WI; and Sarah (Nick) Felder of Sioux Falls, SD. Nine grandchildren: Kennedy Geller and Landry DuBeau; Justice, Calvin, Gus, and Liberty Lockrem; Zachary Schwartz; Griffin and Hadley Felder. Sister Carole (Bill) Fust of Circle Pines, MN; Brothers-in-law Larry (Terry) Blomster of Buffalo Center, IA, and John (Sher) Blomster of Buffalo Center, IA, and several nieces and nephews.

Jon was preceded in death by his parents, Gerald and Francis Schwartz; mother of his children, Mary Schwartz; parents-in-law Bob and Virginia Blomster; his brother Richard (Toby) Schwartz; his sister Maxine "Mimi" (Kenny) Roeder; and nephew Randy Roeder.

We will dearly miss Jon's passion for sharing the love of the Lord, his infectious sense of humor, and his warm spirit. No matter where he went, he never knew a stranger, leaving a lasting impression on everyone who crossed his path. Jon's legacy of love, faith, and commitment will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He will forever remain in our hearts.

Isaiah 43: "I have called you by name."





September Birthdays

1 Amy Van Deest
2 Leola Anderson
5 Raye Chandler
14 Thelma Dutenhoeffer
17 LuRae Schwartz
19 Dean Garnett
22 Carolyn Buswell

October Birthdays

3 Renate Chamberlain
7 Shirley Nelson
9 Jerry Shields
12 Bob Degener
16 Paul Anderson
19 Sylvia De La Garza
23 Barb Krambeer
24 Darla Chaloupek
29 Betty Piper

November Birthdays

2 Rex Kirchhoff
9 Bette Learned
16 Gene Nielsen
18 Lynette Hedlund
22 Isabella Waldschmidt



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.

September Anniversaries

22 Al & Janell Hanson
27 Leola & Paul Anderson

October Anniversaries

13 Rich & Joyce Klindt

November Anniversaries

2 Rex & Linda Kirchhoff
28 Marv & Lynette Hedlund
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

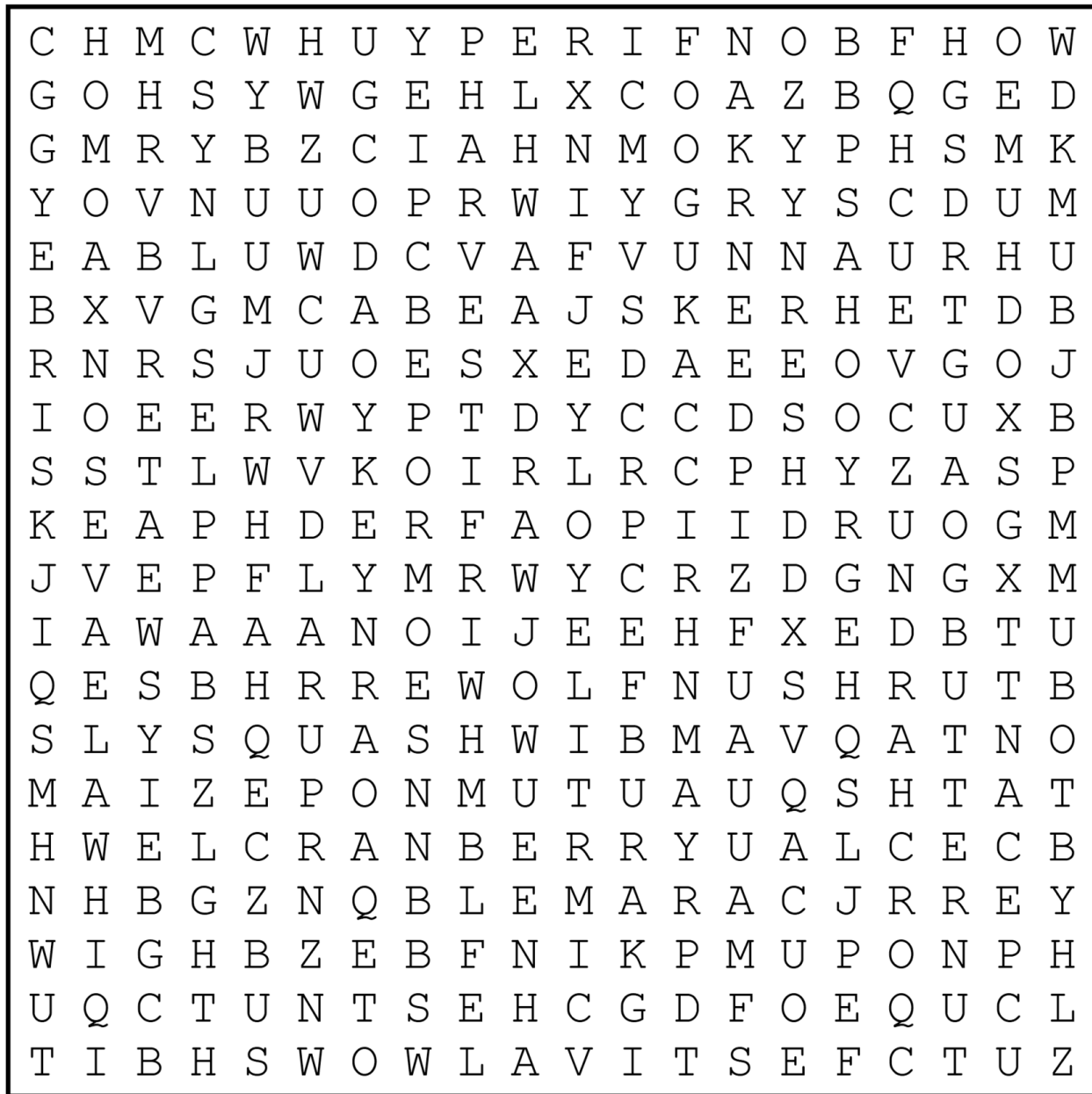
Prayers are offered while shawls are created. Then the shawls are given to the sick and those needing comfort. Shawls have been distributed to many the community and they have been mailed to numerous locations within the United States and Canada as requests for those needing prayers and comfort are filled.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

Fall Word Search



Word list:

ACORN
APPLES
AUTUMN
BONFIRE
BRISK
BUTTERNUT
CARMEL

CHESTNUT
CIDER
CORN
CORNUCOPIA
COZY
CRANBERRY
FESTIVAL

GOURD
HARVEST
HAYBALE
HAYRIDE
LEAVES
MAIZE
ORCHARD

PECAN
PUMPKIN
SCARECROW
SPICE
SQUASH
SUNFLOWER
SWEATER





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



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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

2025-2026 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