



Pastor's Reflections

MAY GOD'S BLESSINGS BE WITH YOU ALL!!

Our worship experience is different in the last few months. Two new people are enriching our worship using their gifts. God led Bob Dymond to us. He normally leads worship three Sundays each month. I have been blessed by his messages and worship style. Thank you, Bob.

Bob Welz, who played piano for us has gone to be with the Lord. As you know, we were blessed by his gifts. We are very fortunate to have Delphine Overfield as our accompanist. Her gifts and skills have enabled our worship. Each of you who have not experienced her playing should look forward to returning to worship.

Our ministries in the community continue. Several ministries that come to

mind are Aurora House, North Bridge Elementary School, quilts for various groups, and coats for children which is done in cooperation with the Presbyterian Church in Weslaco. Please think of other ways that Love of Christ, through you, can serve Weslaco.

I have a dream that our congregation will become active in Bible study in our congregation and as an outreach. Please pray about that.

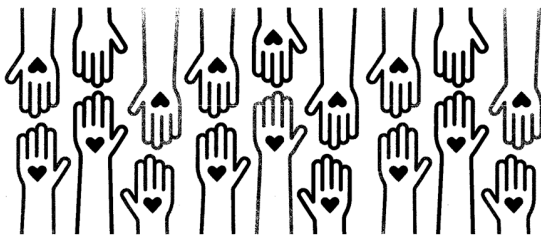
Another prayer concern is Faith Lutheran Church and its people. They have been unable to hold worship services in recent weeks. Pray for them and their outreach into our community.

Remember,

LOVE GOD

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

By John Wilkinson



Sept. 11
2022

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday

What is “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday? Scheduled for **Sept. 11, 2022**, “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is 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 COVID-19 pandemic brought about significant changes to our world, and we continue to witness how communities across the globe are experiencing its impact. But one thing is certain — we continue to be church together. Throughout the ELCA we witness the love and concern God’s people have for one another. Our congrega-

tions continue to support ministries that assist vulnerable people in 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. On “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday we come together to restore and reconcile our communities. You do this kind of work every day — loving your neighbors and making your community a better place. **Love of Christ will have representatives from The Aurora House & WSID giving presentations during our service.**

Why Not Me?

How many times have you asked yourself the question, Lord why not me? I have, many times. I recently lost a younger Sister and a good Friend who was also younger than I am. And I did ask the Lord, "why did you take them instead of me. Their health was as good and even better than my health so why did you take them instead of me?" There have also been good things that have happened to me and again I asked the Lord, why was I chosen instead of someone else who could have been chosen.

As I sat and pondered the question "why not me," I would begin to feel guilty and at loss for any sense of reasonableness. In my heart I knew I was no more deserving than they were, yet I am here, and they are not. At the end of my internal debate, I would just tell myself "Yes I am still here, but they are in a better place."

Yes, we are still here, and it is because God has a plan for all of us. It is okay for us to challenge God's plan. Often, growth comes thru this challenge and who among us can say, "growth is not good." We do not always know what God's plan for us is; but we do know that there is a reason

Coat Closet

We Lutherans and Presbyterians are "working together in the neighborhood" to provide coats for **ALL** Weslaco students in need of warmth, ages pre-K to seniors. Clean and repaired coats, jackets, sweatshirts, and sweaters are accepted. First Presbyterian Church in Weslaco distributes coats to the needy twice during the fall season at their church located here at 709 S Iowa. Donations are needed. You may drop them off at Love of Christ and we will deliver them to First Presbyterian. All donations are deeply appreciated.
SKN

for us to be here. I recently read an article written by Tim Tebow, a notable professional football and baseball player. He summed up the article on God's plan by writing:

God has a plan for your life.

You are here for a reason.

You can make a difference in the life of others.

You have what it takes.

You are loved.

God does have a plan for all of us. I can honestly say that I never thought that someday I would be the President of a Lutheran Congregation. But here I am! What is God's plan for you?

Every Sunday, we hear Pastor John or Mr. Dymond thank us for our offerings. They also tell us it is not only the money we contribute to support our ministry but the time we give to serve others. As we begin to welcome back our many friends from the North let us remember that our many collective talents are needed to support this wonderful ministry that we are all a part of.

What is God's plan for you?

By Bob Chaloupek



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:

Pastor John (319) 481-2970-c

or the 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.



September Anniversaries

- 9 Pat & Wayne Winter
- 8 Jan & Robert Slade
- 27 Leola & Paul Anderson
- 30 Donness & Marvin Dietz

October Anniversaries

- 3 Doug & laurel Blanshan
- 13 Joyce & Rich Klindt
- 21 James & Kathy Whitney

November Anniversaries

- 9 Jenna & Michael Gutierrez
- 18 Helen & Orville Schultz
- 22 Linda & Rex Kirchhoff
- 26 Margaret & Richard Twait
- 26 Jon & LuRae Schwartz

Love of Christ has some items that are for sale:

Thirty-two white choir robes with 2 sets of reversible collars, and wooden cross neck pieces. Do you know of a church or school or organization that may be interested in these robes? Our contact person is Jon Schwartz, phone 712 540 3555. Thank you.

The Sweet Adelines will be performing at our Service on Sunday, November 13th!

September Birthdays

- 1 Amy Van Deest
- 2 Leola Anderson
- 5 Raye Chandler
- 5 Gloria Jensen
- 10 Anne Baker
- 11 Orville Schultz
- 13 Jim Magruder
- 14 Thelma Dutenhoeffer
- 15 Sam Learned
- 17 LuRae Schwartz
- 19 Dean Garnett
- 22 Carolyn Buswell
- 23 Beverly McKibben
- 25 Pat Winter
- 26 Lyle Jaegler

October Birthdays

- 3 Renate Chamberlain
- 7 Shirley Nelson
- 9 Jerry Shields
- 12 Bob Degener
- 16 Paul Anderson
- 19 Sylvia De La Garza
- 23 Barbara Krambeer
- 24 Darla Chaloupek
- 28 Margaret Twait
- 28 Forrest Zemlicka
- 28 Jim Thalacker
- 29 Elaine Magnuson
- 30 Betty Piper

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



November Birthdays

- 2 Rex Kirchhoff
- 5 Tom Dannelley
- 6 Michael Gutierrez
- 9 Bette Learned
- 12 John Wilkinson
- 16 Gene Nielsen
- 18 Lynn Hedlund
- 22 Isabella Waldschmidt
- 27 Alice Lichman
- 29 Helen Schultz

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.

Arllys Buland sends greetings to the church family! They are both doing as well as can be expected.

Southwestern Texas Synod Women of the ELCA
35th Annual Convention September 23-25, 2022
Disciple Oaks Camping & Retreat Center, Gonzales, TX

CHURCH SERVICE OFFERINGS received will be divided 50% W-ELCA church-wide, 25% SWT Synod and 25% to Project Radical Hospitality.

PHYSICAL OFFERINGS will be donated to Norma's House, The Gonzales Regional Children's Advocacy Center. They provide services and programs to children who are alleged victims of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, children who have witnessed a violent crime, and drug-endangered children. Their needs include:

Socks, Underwear, T-Shirts, Small lotion, soap, shampoo, Snacks, Toilet Paper, Tissues, Trash Bags (13 & 33gal. size), Copy Paper, HP ink (902), Stamps, \$20 Gift cards (HEB & Walmart) We have a collection box at LoC.

SILENT AUCTION please bring items such as – but not limited to – gift baskets, baked goods, homemade crafts, jewelry items, etc. Proceeds will be divided 50% to Golden Crescent Food Bank, and 50% to Project Radical Hospitality. Deadline to contribute is **September 20th**. Bring offerings to Love of Christ Lutheran Church.

Our Story From its conception in 1997 and over the next 3 years, the primary goal of the Gonzales Regional Children's Advocacy Center was to provide local and timely recognition of child abuse and treatment of victims while minimizing the trauma they experienced. The charter members joined forces with local team members from various disciplines across Gonzales County including DFPS, local law enforcement, the District attorney's office and medical and mental health professionals.

In 2001, the Center was accepted as an Operating Member of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc. (CACTX). In December of 2001, the Center adopted the name "Norma's House" as the new business name in recognition of the contributions of a Charter Member of the Board of Directors, Norma Ehrig. It became a member of the National

Children's Alliance (NCA) in 2002. In September 2013, Lavaca County was added to our service area and a satellite office was opened in Hallettsville in 2014.

Pediatric Forensic Interviews Pediatric forensic interviews with child victims of sexual assault and child abuse are conducted by specially trained professionals. This video-recorded interview serves as the voice of the child to reduce the number of times he/she must describe the details of their abuse.

Family Advocate Trained advocates provide accompaniment for clients to law enforcement agencies, the hospital, the prosecuting attorney's office and during all court proceedings to provide and to ensure that the client's legal rights and needs are being met.

Post-Crisis Counseling Services Counseling for victims of violent crimes is essential to provide much needed understanding and support and to reduce trauma. Counseling is provided by licensed counselors.

Information and Referrals Information and referrals are provided including available resources how to obtain a protective order safety planning to assist victims of domestic violence in taking precautions and staying safe and Crime Victim Compensation.

Coordination of Multi-disciplinary Team Investigations Our MDT is composed of Norma's House staff, medical professionals, hospital administrators, law enforcement investigators, prosecutors, counselors and Department of Family Protective Services. An established and effective MDT is essential for the accomplishment of comprehensive investigation management and prosecution of cases.

Community Education & Training Education and training is provided to local employers, community groups, organizations, law enforcement, criminal justice personnel, medical staff and individuals on topics including the dynamics of child abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence and Norma's House's services.

BREATHE

Do you know what a brain worm is? It is when you get a song or melody in your mind and it will not seem to go away. That is what has happen to me lately. My brain keeps singing the old hymn, BREATHE ON ME. Let me assure you, not even my brain can carry a tune. But it did get me thinking about the word BREATHE.

Did you know that the word breathe is a verb and defined as “to take air into the lungs and let it out again. The result of the word breathe is breath a noun. (Notice only one letter difference.

So let’s for a minute consider the noun form of BREATHE, breath. Do you remember some of the following things: the first breath of your children, the last breath of a loved one, the breath you exhaled after your first kiss, the breath you exhaled with your first or last love, the sweet breath of a child after eating an ice- cream cone, or even someone saying to you, take a deep breath.

I found there are at least 39 passages in the scriptures relating to breath or breathe.

The first is:

Genesis 2:7 - Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

One I found most interesting is

Job 32:8 But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand.

Now back to my brain worm—it seems to me if we are singing about the breath of God, we are asking what the first verse of this old hymn reads:

**Breathe on me, breath of God:
fill me with life anew,
that I may love as you have loved
and do as you would do.**

My prayer for me and for each of you is that the holy breath of God would fill me anew.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray especially for:

Carrie Andersen (Cousin of the Garnett’s)
Reb & Heather Baker (son and daughter-in-law of Will & Anne Baker)
Asher Bernards
Bill & Gail Brandt (Faith Lutheran Church)
Arlys & Harold Buland
Renate Chamberlain
Jo Coyle
Arlene Crawford
Pastor Sylvia De La Garza
Dean Garnett
Marilyn Garnett
Jerry Gieseke
Peg Kapke (niece of Bette Learned)
Jean Karaba
Nancy Karg
Rod Karg
Maria Mendoza
Evelyn Nelson
Gene Nielsen
Sue Nielsen
Tom Newcomer
Betty Piper
Ed Puder
Gwen Rose (niece of Thelma Dutenhoeffer)
Ross Rounds
Regan Simpson
Roger Simpson
Betsy Sutton
Staff and children of North Bridge Elementary
Amy Van Deest
Don Van Deest
Barbara Wilkinson
Elaine & David Wisely (daughter and son-in-law of Lou Vitek)
Cecilia Young
The Family of David Young
Tom Young
people experiencing violence in their lives, all the men and women of the police, fire, EMS, and all the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families.

A collective witness

Celebrating 25 years of the Formula of Agreement

By Karris Golden August 18, 2022



ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton points to full communion agreements as a beacon of hope during uncertain times.

This year the church celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Formula of Agreement, a 1997 declaration of full communion between the ELCA and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (PCUSA), the Reformed Church in America (RCA) and the United Church of Christ (UCC).

“We give thanks to God for 25 years of visible unity among our churches and the mission and ministries we share,” Eaton said. “We appreciate the wisdom of those whose faithful dialogue resulted in the Formula of Agreement, offering us a way forward as Lutheran and Reformed churches through mutual affirmation and admonition.”

According to “The Vision of the ELCA,” the “characteristics of full communion are theological and missiological implications of the gospel that allow for variety and flexibility.” These stress that the church acts ecumenically for the sake of the world, not for itself alone.

“In a deeply divided world, [the agreement] is a countercultural witness of acknowledging difference without becoming divided, of seeking unity in our God-given diversity,” Eaton explained.

This, in turn, encourages creativity.

“[The agreement] has strengthened our collective witness, helped us to think more broadly, hear from others who may have different views, and at the same time, we’ve learned how to live and love together,” said J. Herbert Nelson, stated clerk of the General Assembly for the PCUSA.

Full participation from each church body is essential, added John C. Dorhauer, UCC general minister and president. “Each of the participants has brought something of great value and worth to the relationship,” he said. “Even when tensions were present in dialogues that were not easy to navigate because of our differences, we bore witness to the power of Christ’s love by staying at the table and maintaining deep respect for one another.

“In a world torn apart by theological and political divides, the modeling of this kind of love and respect in the presence of such division is a balm to a wounded body of Christ. I covet our agreement and promise to it the ongoing support of a grateful and transformed United Church of Christ.”

Fellowship despite differences

As the church bodies celebrate the 25th anniversary of the agreement, several ministries exemplify a growing tradition of cooperation, said Kathryn Lohre, ELCA executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations.

This includes shared resources and partnerships as well as federated congregations, which occur when two churches join as one while maintaining distinct denominational identities, she said.

According to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, federations began in the 1890s as a solution for everything from clergy shortages to struggles with worship space and attendance.

Faith United Church in York, Pa., was born from St. Paul Lutheran and Ickesburg UCC. They previously shared pastoral services for more than four decades before merging officially in 2009. Since then, Faith United members have maintained denominational affiliations and adhered to both ELCA and UCC policies. They also honor traditions of their predecessor congregations.

Truckee (Calif.) Lutheran Presbyterian Church (TLPC) also is a successful federated congregation. Founded as an ELCA congregation in 1993, TLPC later added Presbyterian members. The congregation offers “inclusive, casual [and] traditional” worship and ministries that emphasize social justice, youth and community outreach.

“Transformative work”

The Formula of Agreement also affords representation of the ELCA on partner boards and committees, said Christopher Olkiewicz, a member of the PCUSA General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations. As a pastor of Windsor Heights (Iowa) Lutheran Church, he finds ecumenical work vital and “transformative.”

“When we enter into relationships with other denominations, we effectively proclaim and serve the gospel,” he said. “We are led into new ways of being

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 pray-ers with them. Contact Betty Bentson 701-371-6631 or email bettybentson@aol.com

THE LIBRARY

Come and check out the Love of Christ Li-brary! Folks have donated some great read-ing, 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.

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

A collective witness

Celebrating 25 years of the Formula of Agreement Continued from pg. 6

and new service opportunities. In our working to-gether, we have grown in our capacity to share the gospel.”

Eddy Alemán experienced this directly. When the agreement was adopted in 1997, he was an emerg-ing leader in his Toronto-area RCA congregation. He’s now RCA general secretary. “I think [a] sense of disu-nity and poor witness is what was being lamented as conversations began and eventually led to the 1997 [agreement],” he recalled. “This example of fellow-ship despite differences gives me hope amid growing polarization in the North American church.”

Nelson said an emphasis on the continuation of Lu-theran-Reformed partnerships has provided an op-portunity to “share the experiences we might need to struggle [with] throughout our denominations.”

LOVE OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

has adopted North Bridge Elementary for a mission project this year. The school is north of Lowes, has over 600 low- economic students (PK3 through 5th) and over 40 staff members. The Principal, Dr. Yanez, shared two needs some of our residents might be willing to do. One is a need to read with individual students. The other is to provide small incentives for teachers to give to individual students when they are successful or have completed a task. If you are interested, please call me (Lou Vitek) at 956-968-5607 or text me at 956-330-0951. We have a collection box in the entrance of LoC.

READING MACHINES

If you, or a loved one, have a vision diffi-culty that could be helped by the use of our reading machines, please contact Julie Knutson at the Church office (956) 447-1337. Three reading machines are availa-ble 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!

“I have been gratified to be able to turn to col-leagues in ministry in other denominations that are going through similar struggles that we are going through,” he said. “It has given us an opportunity to look beyond the United States—and our own selves—as we have engaged in many issues with regards to foreign countries and how we see some of the atrocities that may be happening in those countries and how we have been able to stand to-gether on issues of justice.”

Alemán agreed: “The urgent work of reconciliation and cooperation requires renewed strength and courage, which we can only find in God. It necessi-tates trust in, and openness to, the Spirit. It de-mands an unqualified, intentional and prayerful commitment to heal the brokenness of the body of Christ.”



GELMAN

STAINED GLASS MUSEUM

The Gelman Stained Glass Museum in San Juan, Texas, is home to the most comprehensive collection of stained-glass windows in the United States. This 16,000 square foot state-of-the-art museum, replicates the Latin-cross cruciform architecture of European medieval cathedrals, providing a sacred setting for these antique stained-glass windows salvaged from deteriorating churches around the country. The windows on display represent the most renowned manufacturers of 19th and 20th Century American and European stained-glass art. With over 170 antique windows, the collection consists of works from Tiffany Studios, John LaFarge, Lamb Studios, Mary Tillinghast, and pieces from the German Munich styles by Franz Meyer and F. X. Zettler. This museum has also rescued other religious relics such as antique altars, baptismal fonts, and statues, giving a sacred church-like ambiance for the public to experience.



Phone: (956) 601-0838
Email: info@gelmanmuseum.org
Address:
411 Virgen de San Juan Blvd
San Juan, TX 78589

Museum Hours

Wednesday through Friday | 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday | 12:00 - 6:00 pm

Admission is by appointment only.

General Admission

Adult (12 +) \$20

Veteran, Military, First Responder, Teachers, College Student w/ID \$15

Child (under 12) \$10

Group Admission

Reservations for groups of 10 or more need to be approved before the visit to ensure appropriate accommodations. To plan your group visit, call us at (956) 601-0838. Please have the following information available:

- your group name and contact information
- preferred and alternate dates and arrival times for the visit
- estimated number of attendees
- any special needs

Special pricing is available for groups of 10-20 and 20 or more. Reservations should be made at least 2 weeks in advance to receive group benefits. Groups will be given a two-hour window to visit the Museum. The arrival and departure times will be discussed with our Museum Representative.

Review by Edward D

Breathtaking. Must see. Worth a special trip.

I couldn't believe my eyes when I walked into the window room. It is overwhelming. I had to sit down to just experience the effect the windows have on you. There are no words to describe the collection. I am an accomplished word traveler and spent 20 years living in Europe, Asia and Latin America. This compares to some of the world sites I visited.

Fall Fun

Can you find these 19 hidden objects?



Illustrated by Marilee Harrauld-Pliz



needle



snake



glove



crescent moon



fish



toothbrush



ax



clover



crown



elf's hat



slice of pie



canoe



muffin



mug



fan

Hidden Pictures



carrot



envelope



tent



fried egg



**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

PASTOR JOHN WILKINSON
BOB DYMOND

319 481-2970-C
956 873-5902-C

2022 Church Council

President - Robert Chaloupek 501-253-1232- c

Vice President - Jon Schwartz 712-540-3555- c

Secretary - Kent Campbell 612-787-7966- 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 - Dean Garnett 956 463-5941- c

Social Ministries & Outreach – Lou Vitek 956-330-0957-c