



## Pastor's Reflections

### God's Work – Evident All Around!

“God’s Work, Our Hands” has been the theme in ministry for the ELCA for 10 years as the church celebrates God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday on September 10. Wayne Wold penned a moving hymn to the same title to the tune of “Earth and All Stars.” In the hymn, examples to the witness we are called to are poignantly spelled out in the first three verses where we, God’s Hands, are at work. The fourth verse declares God’s work. And at the end of each verse is a unifying truth: God’s work is all about,

“sharing the good news of the Gospel.”

You’ve heard me say this in worship many times, but it continues to hold true: The Love of Christ is evident in the work that this congregation puts in – the ministries that continually grow the Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth. You embody God’s Work by what you commit to while using the resources available: “Our Hands.”

Jesus Loves You. And I do too.

- Bob.

What is “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday! Scheduled for **Sept. 10, 2023**, “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. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that 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. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

## Do I Have a Gift?

If you are like me, you have often asked yourself, why I am not gifted like he or she is? Why can't I sing like she can or why can't I play baseball like he can. The answer is, we are all gifted, but we very often don't realize it or don't believe it is a gift from our God.

The reality is that a day rarely goes by that we do not have the opportunity to put our gifts to use. I recently had the opportunity to join Shirley Nelson and Lauren Coyle in meeting the staff at North Bridge Elementary School. I was very impressed with the school and the staff. The school is for K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with an enrollment of 700 students. We met the entire administrative and teaching staff. I was, and I believe that Shirley and Lauren were, impressed with the abilities and the dedication of the staff. We were able to discuss with them the importance and variety of the students' needs and how we can help the staff satisfy those needs.

So, how do our gifts come into play? To start with, God has given us the gift of recognition; that is to recognize that even though the staff of North Bridge is very gifted and talented, their resources are limited and occasionally not all the needs of the students can be met. For years, the Love of Christ congregation has responded to the need to assist the staffs at Rund School and now at North Bridge. Equally important, God has given us the financial resources that we freely give to the school to help the children grow into the plans that he has for all of them.

As we move forward with our Mission at Love of Christ, let us all use the resources that God has given us, to help these Children of our Lord achieve all that they are able to.

You have the gifts to do this.

By Bob Chaloupek



## Coat Closet

Social Ministry/Outreach

The school bells are ringing and the North Bridge Elementary students returned to school August 28, 2023 with a new principal Andy Garcia. Since the WISD did not provide school supplies for all students in the district this year, Love of Christ gave \$2,500.00 to North Bridge for their school supplies. In mid September we will be informed if any students need uniforms and/or shoes. We will continue to meet their needs.

Reminder: We must remember ALL donations to North Bridge go through Ericka Garcia, Director of Parental Involvement WISD.

We Lutherans will continue to support the Presbyterians with the Coat Closet which provides warmth to all students in WISD from pre-K through high school seniors. Coats, jackets, sweaters, etc. are available to all at the Coat Closet. If you have clean, repaired items to donate, please leave them at Love of Christ and we will deliver them to the Presbyterian Church. The Coat Closet is open in November. Thank you in advance for your donations.

SKN



## GUIDANCE

### Dancing With God

When I meditated on the word Guidance, I kept seeing “dance” at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God’s will is a lot like dancing.

When two people try to lead nothing feels right. The movement doesn’t flow with the music and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky.

When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It’s as if two become one body, moving beautifully.

The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word Guidance. When I saw “G” I thought of God, followed by “u” and “I”. “God “u” and “I” dance.”

### God, u and I dance.

As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead. My prayer for you today is that God’s blessings and mercies are upon you on this day and everyday.

May you abide in God, as God abides in you. Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life. Author Unknown





**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

**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

**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.**





# Southwest Texas Women of the ELCA

## 2023 Convention

*1 Day Event*

**Saturday, October 21, 2023**

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Cuero, Texas**



As summer is quickly winding down, not in temperature, but by the school calendar, the SWO Board is working on our annual Convention. Please SAVE the DATE for October 21st in Cuero, Texas. Our theme for convention is "How do you Church?" The registration form is now available and we look forward to seeing you! Pastor Katie Rode is our key note speaker! Registration is now open. We ask you to prayerfully consider attending this one day event!

This one day Convention is not only for voting members but also for every woman in the Southwestern TX Synod! We encourage you to attend - bring a friend and help us create a day of fellowship, leadership, visioning and worship.

The Southwestern Texas Synod is filled with Bold Women of Faith. Our history shows strong and effective leadership and participation. Nominate a Bold Woman today! The form is attached. All nominees will be recognized at Convention in October. Let's celebrate together the actions of faith we have witnessed!

Looking forward to seeing you in October!

### **Monetary Offering:**

50% Women of the ELCA, Churchwide  
25% Women of the ELCA, SWT Synod  
25% CAMAL House Food Pantry, Cuero Texas

### **Silent Auction Proceeds:**

50% Katie's Fund



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

### Let us pray especially for:

**Bill & Gail Brandt** (Faith Lutheran Church)  
**Carolyn Buswell**  
**Renate Chamberlain**  
**Jo Coyle**  
**Arlene Crawford**  
**Pastor Sylvia De La Garza**  
**Thelma Dutenhoeffer**  
**Dean & Marilyn Garnett**  
**Rick Grider** (brother-in-law of John Wilkinson)  
**Rita Halvorson** (sister of Raye Chandler)  
**Marian Johnson**  
**Nancy & Rod Karg**  
**Pauline McIvor-Szmutko** (sister of Bob Dymond)  
**Maria Mendoza**  
**Tom Newcomer**  
**Betty & Debra Piper**  
**Ed Puder**  
**Marilyn & Ross Rounds**  
**Chuck & Kathy Sornson**  
**Staff and children of North Bridge Elementary**  
**Amy & Don Van Deest**  
**Elaine & David Wisely** (daughter and son-in-law of Lou Vitek)  
**Cecilia & Tom Young**  
**And to all people experiencing violence in their lives.**



### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayers are offered while shawls are created. Then the shawls are given to the sick and those needing comfort. Shawls have been distributed to many within the community and they have been mailed to numerous locations within the United States and Canada as requests for those needing prayers and comfort are filled. We are pleased to fill requests. Contact Betty Bentson 701-371-6631 or email [bettybentson@aol.com](mailto:bettybentson@aol.com)



# BIBLE CHARACTERS

M A T Q R T F O Y F Y N G W A A H  
O A L E I N A D H M G W D M F H F  
V S T F S B C X V Q A Y F N H V T  
L H Y T A G V H K H P D E G L C I  
E E V L H S Z P N O X K A I K P R  
B L Q P N E E E F A U A P A U L J  
A M L Q V Z W S N N T J H L T L E  
D S D J U V A O K D B D I V A D H  
F D J U S X I J V A S A M U E L O  
K E T D P D S U S E J C N J H Y V  
M S V M T I Y K M W C B A A D S A  
M O Q E A O I A I C T R N X R Q H  
S L Y F Y H R B O J C O M N X T W  
C O M Y K Y A T X V J O L M B I D  
Z M Z U I S A R M C S V P I E A Z  
M O Q K T U F U B E R E T E P V N  
Y N H B V Q V W S A X X M X R B Z

**ABEL**

**ABRAHAM**

**ADAM**

**DANIEL**

**DAVID**

**EVE**

**JEHOVAH**

**JESUS**

**JOB**

**JONAH**

**JOSEPH**

**MARY**

**MATTHEW**

**MOSES**

**PAUL**

**PETER**

**SAMUEL**

**SOLOMON**

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

### 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](mailto: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.

### 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 the Church office (956) 447-1337. Three reading machines are available 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!

# You might be Lutheran if...

1. Your idea of an affirmation is "This is most certainly true."
2. Change means wearing your brown suit instead of your blue suit to church
3. The most mail you receive all year is from the Stewardship Committee.
4. Doughnuts are in the official church budget.
5. They have to rope off the last pews in church so the front isn't empty.
6. You hear something really funny and smile as loud as you can.
7. The only mealtime prayer you know is "Come Lord Jesus."
8. Sharing the peace during the service takes more time than the sermon.
9. All your relatives graduated from a school named Concordia.
10. The pastor skips the last hymn to make sure church lasts exactly 60 minutes.
11. You only serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color for the season.
12. During the entire service you hold your hymnal open but never look down at it.
13. You sing "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" while sitting down.
14. A midlife crisis means switching from the old hymnbook to the new one.
15. You can actually come up with responses to this.

#### A Reminder:

We Lutherans and Presbyterians continue to work together to provide warmth to ALL students in the WISD (pre k through high school) by providing clean , repaired coats, jackets, sweaters. Drop your dona-tions off at church and we will deliver them. Thank you.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◇ Council Meetings:  
Thursday September 7th 2pm. In October & November, the meetings will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month.
- ◇ Collection of Socks for North Ridge children.
- ◇ Feast of Thanksgiving on November 16th.



# FIND 10 HIDDEN OBJECTS IN THE PICTURE



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Be sure to wish the Garnett's safe travels as they make the big move to Arizona at the end of this month. They will be missed!



CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY  
**FALL FESTIVAL**  
 Fredericksburg Marktplatz

**SEPT 16**

9 AM  
 3 PM

CRAFT VENDORS | FOOD VENDORS | MUSIC | RAFFLE  
 KIDS GAMES | FUN RUN | QUILT AUCTION

RAISING FUNDS FOR THE EBERT RANCH POND  
 Visit [crosstrails.org](http://crosstrails.org) for more information



# 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](mailto: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.

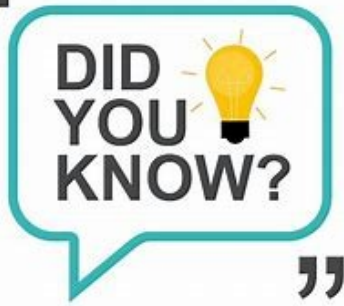
### **Review by Edward D**

#### **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.



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One of the defining characteristics of most Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavors is the texture—many of the company's numerous flavors have nuts, fruit, chocolate chunks, or other highly textured items in them. A big reason behind this is the influence of co-founder Ben Cohen's anosmia (inability to smell) and near-loss of taste, as Ben prefers chunky foods with distinct textures.

If there's a debate in your household on the proper way to hang rolls of toilet paper, you can settle it in this fashion. In the drawings enclosed with the 1891 patent for the first toilet paper roll with perforated sheets, the roll is illustrated with the toilet paper hanging over the roll (towards the user) and not dangling down under in the rear of the roll.

The nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb" is based on a true story. The girl in the rhyme is Mary Sawyer who, as a young girl, hid her pet lamb in a basket under her desk after it followed her to school. The rhyme was later written down, as a poem, by one of her classmates.

The popular schoolyard game Tug of War was an Olympic event until 1920.

Green bell peppers aren't a different kind of bell pepper, they're simply the unripened form of red, yellow, and orange bell peppers, which also explains the price. Green bell peppers are cheaper because they can be harvested sooner and require less growth time and overhead.

Famed biologist Charles Darwin and U.S. President Abraham Lincoln were born on the same day: February 12, 1809.

The earliest surviving example of socks dates back to around the 3rd-5th century AD and were intended to be worn with sandals (the design of the sock features a split-toe to accommodate the sandal thong).

In 2006, William Shatner sold his kidney stone for \$25,000, then donated the money to Habitat for Humanity.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



**Love of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**914 W Third Street**  
**Weslaco, TX 78596**  
 Corner of Border & Third Street  
 We worship in the Facilities of Faith Lutheran Church  
 Phone: **956-447-1337-Office**  
 Email: [locmailbox@yahoo.com](mailto:locmailbox@yahoo.com)  
[WWW.LoveofChristelca.com](http://WWW.LoveofChristelca.com)  
 Office Hours: Tues-Fri 9:00am-2:00pm  
 Office Administrator: Julie Knutson 956-447-1337 - o

**RULING ELDER BOB DYMOND 956 873-5902-C**

**2023 Church Council**

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| <b>President - Robert Chaloupek</b>                           | <b>501-253-1232 - c</b> |
| <b>Vice President - Jon Schwartz</b>                          | <b>712-540-3555 - c</b> |
| <b>Secretary - Rich Klindt</b>                                | <b>501-605-3636 - c</b> |
| <b>Treasurer - Lauren Coyle</b>                               | <b>651-434-1694 - c</b> |
| <b>Associate Member at Large - Rex Kirchhoff</b>              | <b>402-469-0176 - c</b> |
| <b>Finance/Property Stewardship - C.B. Shields</b>            | <b>956-330-7426 - c</b> |
| <b>Music/Worship &amp; Discipleship/Prayer - Dean Garnett</b> | <b>956-463-5941 - c</b> |
| <b>Social Ministries &amp; Outreach - Shirley Nelson</b>      | <b>956-358-6690 - c</b> |
| <b>Associate Member At Large - Rex Kirchhoff</b>              | <b>402-469-0176 - c</b> |