

# LADIES DEPARTMENT



## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

*Women in Mission - Zion Lutheran Mission Valley*



### **Bible Study times each month....**

Esther Circle-2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month-9 am  
Ladies Aid-1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month-2 pm  
Rebecca/Ruth Circle-1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month-10 am. Each Bible study group or circle has ongoing activities they are involved in, such as the kits, quilts, Ladles of Love, etc. *But to participate, you do not have to belong to a circle...*



### ESTHER CIRCLE

Esther Circle met on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. for its regular monthly meeting. Present were Iris Heller, Carolyn Seifert, Bettye Pribyl, Shelley Sharp, Judy Faulkner, Barbara Schmidt, Kay Lagal, Eva Cooke, Darlette Mathisen, Darla Sifford, Michelle Wendel, and Sherilyn Arnecke.

**Host** was Carolyn. **Bible Study** was led by Barbara from *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, "God's Story For You" [Winter, 2025]

**Business: Sewing** is February 18. **Ladies' Retreat** is March 7-8. **Lenten Meals** will be served on March 19 by Esther A (Soups); and March 26 by Esther B (Chili). **Daylight Savings Time** is March 9, *SPRING FORWARD!*

**Cards** were sent to Miller Family, Dornburg Family, Ken Sifford, Steve Lee, and Pastor.

**Offering:** \$120.00

All ladies of Zion are invited to join us on the second Tuesday of each month as we study the Word of God! Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Sherilyn Arnecke, Secretary/Treasurer

### REBECCA/RUTH CIRCLE

Rebecca/Ruth Circle met Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> with 10 members present: Gloria Buchhorn, Shelvy Schneider, Winona Klacman, Sharon Alex, Julie Heinold, Debbie Meyer, Seda Weaver, Pat Harper, Bea Fuchs, and JoNell Martin. It was very nice to have Julie and Bea come and join us.

Bible Study was led by Sharon Alex, "God Sees Our Story: Therefore Rejoice?" from Lutheran Woman's Winter Quarterly Magazine. Opened Study with a prayer and closed Bible Study by reading song, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light".

**Business meeting** led by Debbie Meyer: Rebecca/Ruth Circle will do **Ladles of Love** on March 3<sup>rd</sup>; **Sewing Day** will be February 18<sup>th</sup> at 9am; **Spiritual Retreat** is March 8<sup>th</sup> cost \$100 for Friday night and Saturday or \$75 for Saturday only; We drew **Prayer Partners** for February; Lent starts **Ash Wednesday**, March 5<sup>th</sup> with a meal at 6pm and Worship at 7pm.

Cards were sent.

Rebecca/Ruth will meet March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am. Sherri Bluhm will be Bible Study Leader from Lutheran Woman's Winter Quarterly Magazine on page 20-21.

Closed meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Rebecca/Ruth Circle meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month at 10 am. Everyone is invited to come join us, would love to have you.

Secretary Winona Klacman.

### LADIES AID

Ladies Aid met on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at church. The members attending were Kay Lagal, Winona Klacman, Gail Woytasczyk, Barbara Schmidt and Eva Cooke.

Barbara was hostess and Bible leader, "God's Story for You".

**Business meeting** was reminded of Sewing on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Cards were sent "Thinking of You" to Jim Krause, Alissa Blount, Priscilla Dornburg, Carol Watkins, Ken Sifford. "Sympathy" card to David & Sherita Miller.

Ladies Aid will meet on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at church for our monthly meeting. Hostess will be Winona and Barbara will be Bible leader.

Eva Cooke, President



**LADLES OF LOVE**

Rebecca/Ruth Circle is in charge of Ladles of Love in March. If you would like to participate in a group or form your own group, please talk to Sherilyn Arnecke.

Sherilyn Arnecke, Chairperson



Each month the ladies of the church are collecting a different item as one of their projects for Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry (VCAM). For the month of **March**, LWML is collecting **1# bag of Rice**. We are asking the congregation to help with this project. It would be very much appreciated. There is a box in the **Narthex near the Ladies Restroom** for your donated item. Please help restock the shelves at VCAM. If any questions, contact Eva Cooke, project chairperson.

Want to thank everyone for contributing food for all these people in need.

Eva Cooke, Chairperson

**Thank you, thank you. For the month of January, 84 lbs. Cans of Beans were collected for VCAM!**



**SEWING DAY**

Sewing Day was rescheduled for **Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>** due to the weather. Nine ladies tacked 4 quilts, Kay Lagal, Pat Harper, Shelley Sharp, Barbara Schmidt, Darlette Mathisen, Judy Faulkner, Eva Cooke, and Irene Heinold. We had a guest tacker, Diane Heller.

Also, laid out squares on the big table so Judy could sew it together for another beautiful quilt.

Thank you for all your input and help. Please anyone who would like to tack and have good fellowship, join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 9am.

Sewing Day met on **Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>** at 9am. 7 ladies were tacking: Darlette Mathisen, Barbara Schmidt, Diane Heller, Judy Faulkner, Irene Heinold, Kay Lagal and Eva Cooke.

We were busy bees today. We tacked a lap quilt for the Church Picnic, then tacked a burn out quilt and also, put together materials for a Graduate quilt. Thanks for everyone's help.

Anyone is welcome to join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Our next regular Sewing Day will be **Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**, at 9am in the multi-Purpose Room.

Eva Cooke & Irene Heinold, Chairpersons



**BAKE SALE**

On Sunday **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League ladies will host a bake sale before and after Church. We are planning to send several ZION Church women to the 2026 Texas District LWML Convention held in Austin, Texas, June 11-13, 2026. With this and future endeavors we plan to raise funds to increase the opportunity for more women to attend. **A sheet is available in the Narthex if you desire to provide an item for sale.** For convenience, you may drop off your donated item in the kitchen on **Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup>**. **Please have your sale item pre-priced.** Any questions please call Peggy 361-550-8665. Thank you in advance.

Leaders of Christian Life,  
Peggy Lee and JoNell Martin



**LWML 2025 MID COAST ZONE SPRING RALLY**

The ladies of St. Paul, Wallis invite the ladies of Zion to the 2025 Spring Rally that will be held on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Registration will be at 10am with a salad luncheon. The speaker will be Alissa Elley, Financial Secretary for LWML Texas District.

We are collecting items for the Sealy, Tx Pregnancy Resource Center. Needed items are diapers (any size), baby clothes (infant to 3 yrs. new or used), maternity clothes (new or used), professional work clothes for when the mothers go to work (new or used).

we *Learned* about the true story of St. Valentine, a priest who risked caring for people who were considered unlovable. For *Laughs*, Pastor told the story about how his dad arranged a date with his mom by paper airplane. The Little Disciples then had a paper airplane contest to see whose airplane would fly the farthest. Courtney’s airplane flew far past everyone else’s plane, consistently flying more than 30 feet! We think she has a real future in aeronautics! Our *Leading* activity was decorating Valentine’s Day cards to mail to people who have a hard time getting out and about.

Our next Little Disciples event will be March 2 after church. We provide a light lunch and spend about an hour together, learning, laughing and leading together. Kids will learn to grow in their Faith and serve others through the “4 L’s”: Lunch, Lead, Learn, and Laughter. It’s open to kids ages 4-10, with a parent or grandparent also present.

**YOUTH DEPARTMENT**



Please join us for Sunday School and Adult Bible Study at 9am.



**LITTLE DISCIPLES**

Our February Little Disciples gathering was centered around the theme of "Love" for Valentine's Day, based on 1 John 4: 7-9, especially this sentence, “We love because [God] first loved us.” After *Lunch*,



Mark your calendar! Vacation Bible School is right around the corner – June 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>! “Trusting Jesus in a Wild World”. Ultimate Alaskan adventure and point kids to Jesus, a faithful friend we can always trust. He’s our **True North**.

**Volunteers** are needed! There is a signup sheet in the Narthex to help.

**Insert: flyer and registration form. Register on website too.**



We have 14 campers going to Camp Lone Star in La Grange on June 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.

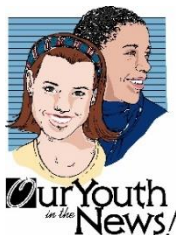
This year's theme, "Defined", is inspired by *Isaiah 43:1*: "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you. O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel, 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.'"

This theme focuses on the powerful truth that our identity is not defined by our actions, but by who God is and our relationship with Him.



### CAMPERS' BAKED POTATO FUNDRAISER

On **Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**, the campers will have a Baked Potato Lunch after church. It will include a potato, chili, cheese, sour cream, bacon bits, a dessert and a drink. The cost will be \$7.50. **There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex starting February 16<sup>th</sup> for attendances** so know how many to prepare. Please plan to attend to help fund our campers. If any questions, please contact Ann Heller.



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE RECENT AREA LIVESTOCK SHOWS**



If your children have any news like school recognitions, honors, sports, achievements this year that you would like to share, please submit them to the church office. Throughout the year, please submit special happenings. We love to hear about our children.

### **COMMITTEE NEWS**



### CHURCH WORSHIP SECURITY

**Save the date!** The Safety and Security Committee will meet **Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**, in the Multi-Purpose room. Members of the congregation are urged to attend.

David Pribyl, Team Leader



## Board of Fellowship



Laura, Megan, Pastor

Board of Fellowship hosted a “Surprise Birthday Party” for Pastor Meyer for his birthday in the Fellowship Hall, which was January 29<sup>th</sup>, with cake and punch.



I want to thank you all for the kind birthday wishes and cake & punch party after church January 26. I appreciate that you took the time to celebrate my 51<sup>st</sup> birthday with me. Blessings to all. Pastor Meyer



## BOARD OF ENDOWMENT



The Endowment Fund Committee members are Irene Heinold, Chairperson; Darlette Mathisen; Taylee Lester and Marvin Janak, Elder rep.

As was determined by last year’s investment funds from Cetera the amount of funds available for this year’s distribution will be \$2,700.00. **The grant applications will be available March 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Narthex or in the Secretary’s office through March 31, 2025.**

**Deadline March 31<sup>st</sup>.** The committee will announce allotment of funds at the Voters’ Assembly Congregation meeting on **April 13<sup>th</sup>**. Any Zion Lutheran department, group or individual is encouraged to apply for all or any portion of these funds. These funds could be a good way for certain groups to cover expenses for activities or for non-budgeted items. Contact an Endowment Fund Committee member for additional information if any questions.

## CONGREGATION NEWS



### OUR SYMPATHY

Our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Ryan DeLatte of New Orleans, Louisiana, who passed away on January 27, 2025. He was the son of Sherita (David) Miller. He was also the brother to Samantha Miller and Rachel (Alex) Innes and uncle to Adam Innes.



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

On **Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**, daylight saving time begins. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour.



**ZION PICTORIAL DIRECTORY**

Pictures for the 2025 Pictorial Directory will be taken on this last date: **Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Our directory is in the planning stage. We want to see your smiling faces there so please plan ahead and get ready on these dates. We can do this before or after service. Thanks. I will be there.

**Note:** This will be a family/individual pictures taken by Judy. We have a nice backdrop. I can give you the poses from my phone right after we take them.

Judy Faulkner



Lent 2025: Telling the Good News in 7 Words  
Imagine that a friend or family member who is unfamiliar with your Christian faith asks you to summarize the gospel. She isn't looking for a laundry list of doctrines. She has no interest in hearing you recite the Apostles' Creed. She wants to get to the heart of the matter. "In seven words or less," she says, "tell me what you believe as a Christian." What would you say? How would you put it? Are you prepared to confess your faith in Jesus?

To be a Christian is to "believe with your heart" and "confess with your mouth" the good news of God's love for us in Christ (Romans 10:9-10). Peter calls us to be prepared always to give a reason for the hope we have as Christians (1 Peter 3:15). Christians have the best news in the world to share. But are we prepared to share it? During this season of Lent, we're going to prepare to celebrate Holy Week by sharing why Holy Week is so important. The sermons in our midweek worship services will be something a little different: a back-and-forth conversation as we work together to formulate faithful Christian confessions. Come prepared to contribute to the conversation!



**NEW MEMBERS/BIBLE CLASS**

If you would like to learn more about what it is to be a Lutheran, to become a member of Zion, or just review for yourself what you learned a long time ago, please let me know! **We meet at 7pm in the Adult Sunday School room off of the library but feel free to join us.**

**\*\*\*Change of day\*\*\* We will meet weekly every Thursday starting **March 6<sup>th</sup>** due to **Lenten Worship on Wednesdays**. Any questions, please contact me. Pastor Meyer**



**LENTEN SERVICE AND MEALS**

We continue to serve meals before our Lenten Wednesday Services. Meals begin at 6 pm and Lenten Worship Service begins at 7 pm. The following schedule of Lenten meals & services:

- Wed., March 5 Ash Wednesday - Council
- Wed., March 12 Ladies Group
- Wed., March 19 Esther A
- Wed., March 26 Esther B
- Wed., April 2 Elders
- Wed., April 9 Rebecca/Ruth Circle



**CONGRATULATIONS!**



Congratulations to Laura Meyer on being recognized for the Texas Education Agency's Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) program. Laura teaches high school English in Yorktown. TIA rewards high-performing teachers for their effectiveness and impact on student growth and excellence in the classroom.

Yorktown ISD is incredibly proud of all their TIA-designated teachers and grateful for the leadership that made this possible.

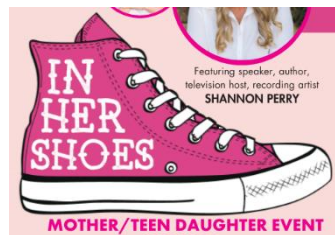


Thanks to Justin Heinold and Edward Heller cutting down the dead tree on the property next to Pastor's house. Also, for changing out light next to playground.



**CHURCH ANNUAL PICNIC**

Zion is seeking the position of Picnic Coordinator for after Easter. You and your committee have the opportunity to decide on events, create the fun, and designate the recipient of the proceeds. Everyone can get involved and make it a time of celebration. We all join in to help. In our history, we were known as the friendly church under the oaks and renown for our picnics. Thank you for your considerations. Please contact the church office.



First English Lutheran Church is hosting an event on **March 8<sup>th</sup>** called "In Her Shoes" from 8:30am to 3pm. This is a non-denominational Christian Mother/Daughter retreat for girls (12-18) and their mothers. The speaker of the event is Mrs. Shannon Perry. Tickets are \$22 per person and that includes all retreat supplies, breakfast and lunch. Tickets are limited and can be purchased online as well as purchase from our church office. If you have questions, feel free to call First English Lutheran Church. **See flyer.**



Connecting faith & finances for good.®

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

**Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars.** Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire. Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2025, to direct any remaining 2024 Choice Dollars. Help support Zion Lutheran Church. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice after the prompt."

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who directed Choice Dollars to Zion. Thrivent Financial and its members, we thank you for your support!

**In 2024 we received \$767.00 in Thrivent Choice Dollars grant funding. Thanks again.**



**RECYCLING INK CARTRIDGES**

**How do we get rewards for recycling ink cartridges?** As a Reward Member of Office Depot, the church gets \$2 back in program rewards for each ink cartridge that we recycle, up to 10 cartridges per month. Qualifying purchases include any product or service purchase made in store or online. All brands of ink qualify for recycling rewards. This helps with the rising cost of supplies for the church. There is a basket on a shelf in the Narthex between the Men's & Ladies' Restrooms for your cartridges.



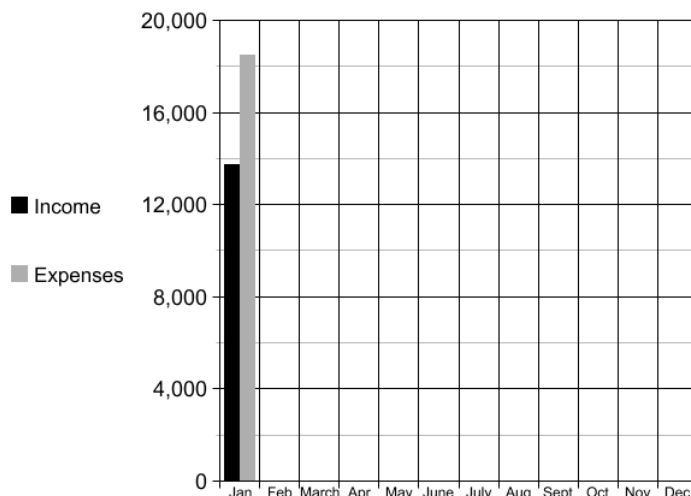
**MISSION VALLEY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND**

As the congregation knows Zion and Mission Valley School have experienced a long enduring partnership as "neighbors". We have shared such things as parking space and Fellowship Hall usage. Occasionally, it has been asked if our congregation can utilize the school's playground which is currently located on our leased property. Verification came from Randy Meyer VISD Deputy Superintendent on March 1, 2024, stating, "Zion Lutheran Church is

welcome to utilize the campus playground after school hours and weekends. As with any public school property, the district cannot be held liable for injuries that happen on school property. VISD is pleased to be able to work together for the good of the Mission Valley community." So yes, you have permission to use the playground at your own risk.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE	
Sunday, January 26 <sup>th</sup>	107
Sunday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	87
Sunday, February 9 <sup>th</sup>	75
Sunday, February 16 <sup>th</sup>	100

General Fund - 2025 Income vs Expenses



In the above chart, you can see our expenses and offerings. Our expenses totaled \$18,504.79; our offerings and other income totaled \$13,733.63 resulting in a budgeted "loss" of \$4,771.16. If you were to go back and look at these numbers for the last 8 months, you would notice the trend that our expenses were greater than offerings and income. In large part, this is due to the incredible increase in our property and liability insurance early in 2024. We share this with you so you are aware of how this is continuing to impact our overall ministry. Even as we continue to thank God for the many blessings He gives to Zion, including those of the financial offerings of His people, the Church Council and Church Office are being as mindful as possible about the stewardship of the church budget.





**BLOGS**



**WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!**



**PODCAST**

Did you know Pastor podcasts his sermons on-line at <https://podpoint.com/woodencrosses>? You can listen on-line or download a sermon and listen later. If you prefer a written copy, he also blogs his sermons (and other miscellaneous writings) at <https://crossesandwoodshavings.blogspot.com/>. Feel free to use and share these resources with friends and family!

Entire Service on: Zion's Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/zionmissionvalley/>

**\*\*\*\*\*We are trying to "boost" our social media (Facebook) and internet presence. If you are a Facebook user, go ahead and give us a "Like" at facebook.com/ZionMissionValley. We are posting several times a week with various memes, quotes, Q&A, and interesting articles. "Like" and share what you see, whether it's Sunday's service or a goofy meme! Also, be sure to click on the church webpage, <https://zionlutheranmv.org/> and let it load up. You don't even have to read it! It drives the algorithms to keep us closer to the top when people do searches for churches in the Victoria area.**



**VICTORIA CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE**  
**MINISTRY**

Visit our website at: [www.vcamvictoria.org](http://www.vcamvictoria.org) or our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/vcam.org/> for VCAM services or news.

Services Provided for January 2025

Households Served – 1520, Total Number in households – 3854, Food Boxes – 1389, Basic Needs – 3704, Home Delivery – 23 Homeless Served – 162, Homeless Visits – 892, First-time VCAM clients Served – 60

Last month's Monthly Update, information included the Total Number Services that VCAM provided in 2024, the number of VCAM Clients Affected by Services & First-time VCAM Client Households.

Some financial numbers for 2024 that go along w/ the numbers served:

Food Bank Costs		\$ 58,061.94
FB Pounds	385,768 lbs. (purchased, free)	
<i>*Costs were greatly aided by a \$28,000 commodities grant from Jesus Christ Church of Latter Day Saints</i>		
Retail Costs (mainly H-E-B/Sam's)		\$ 20,444.64
Retail Pounds	16,462 lbs.(purchased)	
<b>TOTAL FOOD COSTS 2024-</b>		<b>\$ 106,506.58</b>

Many of your donations go a long way in supporting our pantry's causes & our numbers served consistently rises each month, please consider continuing or increasing help us keep up w/the demands of the hungry. Staple inventory items currently in dire need in the pantry:

**Rice (1 or 2 lbs. bags – uncooked), cereals (box or bag), pastas, tomato sauce, canned veggies or fruits.**

The homeless population served at VCAM also increased. Our daily's (homeless) needs for perishable foods are not always the most cost-effective, so donations in this area to help meet the increased need are greatly appreciated:

**Small Canned Meats & other proteins, peanut butter or cheese crackers, breakfast/granola bars, fruit/jello cups.**

Blessings...*Marc*

Clients come on a once-a-month basis, while our homeless population is served on a daily basis.

*All services are provided free.*

Please continue to refer those who require our services to VCAM & please continue to support.

***"Providing hope when things seem hopeless..."***



**VISITATION**

If you are in the hospital or would like a home visit, please call an Elder, Pastor or Church office.



Due to the privacy laws, hospitals no longer notify pastors when a member is admitted or treated. If you know of anyone being taken to the hospital (emergency or otherwise), or who is especially ill, please call an Elder, Pastor Meyer or contact the church office.



**PRAYER LIST**

To add another person's name to our prayer lists, you must be a member or active worshipping guest of Zion and identify yourself as the one requesting prayer for someone else. It is your responsibility to gain this permission! The church office reserves the right to edit prayer requests for publication.



**REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS**

1. Bill Lagal
2. Cole Ohrt – friend of Zion
3. Holly Corey
4. Patricia Gonzales – friend of Richard & Joy Alex
5. Loma Chandler – Karen Wood's sister
6. James Morris, Sr.
7. JoNell Martin
8. Clemmie Cooley – friend of Bettye Pribyl
9. Ann Pantel – wife of Curtis Pantel
10. Doug Mendenhall – Alexis Mendenhall's dad
11. Leonard Denton – friend of Pastor Meyer's
12. Maudi Garcia – friend of Jacki Cooke
13. Jeanette Laza – cousin of Irene Heinold
14. Mary Lee – friend of Cass Martignoni
15. Lisa Roman – niece of Cass Martignoni
16. Kamryn McDavid – granddaughter of Pribyl's
17. Mai Harwell
18. Dianne Laser – Laura Meyer's friend
19. Rose & Dalhardt Goebel
20. Derek Depine – step-son of Terry Depine
21. Allie Faulkner – Faulkner's granddaughter
22. Ken Sifford
23. Julie Heinold
24. Kay Lagal
25. Richard Bludau – friend of Reinecke's
26. Alissa Blount
27. Jodie Schaefer – friend of Barbara Schmidt
28. Lynn Reiman – friend of Irene Heinold
29. Becky Debore – friend of Irene Heinold
30. Glennie Bednorz – friend of JoNell Martin
31. Travis Weaver – brother of Ronny Weaver
32. Ava Soliz – Ann Heller's friend's daughter
33. Jim Krause
34. Priscilla Dornburg

35. Narmina Ibraghimova – friend of Faulkner's
36. Pauline Janak
37. Emily – friend of Ann Heller
38. Charles Krueger – Cass Martignoni's brother
39. Gail Hogan – Barbara Schmidt's cousin
40. Kenneth & Nancy Hahn – Faulkner's friends
41. Kathy Lyssy Bancuch – friend of Sherilyn Arnecke & Bea Fuchs
42. Cindy & Jennifer Henderson – Randy Carter's sister & niece
43. Alan Wendel – brother of Mark Wendel
44. Steve Lee
45. Marvin Janak
46. Holly Kersten -SIL to Peggy Polster
47. Christina Crosser – relative to Peggy Polster
48. Dennis Kowalik – friend of Pribyl's



**SHUT-INS**

Please continue to keep our shut-ins in your prayers and enliven their lives through visits, letters, and cards or phone calls.

Dalhardt & Rose Goebel  
P O Box 127  
Cuero, Tx 77954

James Morris, Sr.  
3472 FM 447  
Victoria, Tx 77905

Dan & Doris Nugent  
5404 FM 236  
Victoria, Tx 77905



**CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH**

- March 1 – Emma Heller
- March 2 – Alex Innes
- March 4 – Jacky Lee Clay, Jr., Megan Meyer
- March 8 – Cody Bishop
- March 9 – Russell Krause
- March 10 – Leighton Bues, Beth Reinecke
- March 11 – Irene Heinold
- March 12 – Seda Weaver, Abagayle Faulkner
- March 15 – Edward Heller
- March 16 – Stella Hickman, Kelsey Wendel
- March 17 – Britney Rogers, Jacki Cooke, Karen Wood
- March 24 – Becky Weiser
- March 25 – Carol Johnston
- March 28 – C. J. Eaves
- March 30 – Harper Patterson



**BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES FOR MARCH**

- March 4 – Candice Clay
- March 8 – Homer Harryman
- March 10 – Amber Arispe, Dianna Zmeskal
- March 12 – Michael Gras
- March 13 – Denise Afflerbach
- March 14 – Judy Garman
- March 15 – Charles Lassmann
- March 17 – Doris Krueger
- March 19 – Bettye Pribyl
- March 20 – Pat Harper
- March 21 – Jordan Klesel
- March 22 – Drake Brannan
- March 24 – Anistyn Cain
- March 25 – Heather Thomas
- March 27 – Lance Woytasczyk
- March 28 – Sherri Bluhm, Kaden Ramirez
- March 29 – Ericka Knudson, Koltyn Russell
- March 30 – Brandon Dornburg, Jackie Chaput



**ERRORS AND/OR OMISSIONS**

The Messenger Staff wants to correct any errors and/or omissions. Please let the church office know promptly.



**THE LENTEN DESERT**

During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, “O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.”

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. “This is what Lent is meant to be,” writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. “Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other.”

**RESTING IN JESUS**



An old hymn declares:  
I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.  
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad.  
I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)

Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are “weary, worn, and sad” need to hear Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.”

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God’s love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God’s goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



### GOOD ST. PATRICK

On March 17, many churches, especially those with a large Irish population, will celebrate the life of St. Patrick. He grew up in a Christian home in Britain, but wasn't very religious until a major event changed his life. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, but escaped to Gaul (France) after six years. The years of enslavement strengthened his faith. He later wrote, "In that strange land [Ireland], the Lord opened my unbelieving eyes." He was led by God's voice to return to Ireland where he converted people to Christianity tribe by tribe.

Because Ireland is called the Emerald Isle, those who celebrate St. Patrick's Day will wear something green. Some Christians will even color food or drink green. Many Christians will also eat corned beef and cabbage and decorate tables with shamrocks. Shamrocks are actually three-leaf (not four-leaf) clover plants. Legend has it that St. Patrick used the three leaves to teach about the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### IN LIKE THE SPIRIT



In many places, March is notoriously windy: "In like a lion ...!" Though I don't like the damp chill

that's often part of the transition to spring, I love windy days. Something about the air's movement — a gentle breeze or ferocious gale blowing through trees, against the house, in my hair — breeds excitement in me, anticipation that something new is astir.

How fitting that in conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus said, "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8, NRSV). Like Nicodemus, we fail to comprehend the Spirit of God. But Jesus reminds us that though we can't see the Spirit, we feel his love, see his actions of justice and hear his sounds. These include kind words, bold preaching, weeping for another, shared laughter and songs of praise.

—Heidi Mann

## **FYI**

### CHURCH CONTACTS

Sunday School – Board of Education/Youth  
Lutheran Youth Fellowship – Board of Education/Youth  
Altar Guild, Pauline Janak  
Blood Drive, Church Office  
Leaders Of Compassion, Shelley Sharp  
Peggy Polster  
Ladles of Love, Sherilyn Arnecke  
Library, Sherita Miller  
Memorials, Seda Weaver  
LWML President, Debbe Meyer  
Esther, Iris Heller  
Ladies Aid, Eva Cooke  
Rebecca/Ruth, Debbie Meyer  
Worship/Music Bd., Hilbert Nagel  
Church Secretary, Seda Weaver  
Sound System, David Miller  
Kitchen Cartel, Darla Sifford  
Board of Elders, David Miller  
Board of Trustees, Pauline Janak  
Board of Outreach, Judy Faulkner  
Board of Education/Youth, Jacki Cooke  
Candice Clay  
Board of Fellowship, Priscilla Dornburg  
Security & Safety, David Pribyl

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