



Mt. Calvary Messenger

OCTOBER 2015

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REFORMATION – MORE THAN GOOD INTENTIONS

A common criticism of the Church today is that we focus so much on past tradition and future heaven that we have little to offer people struggling to live in the moment. Are we like the double-faced Roman god, Janus (for whom the first month of the year is named) – one face surveying the past, the other looking into tomorrow, with no vision for the present?

Sometime within the decade after the 1517 Reformation, Martin Luther wrote a remarkable commentary on the “now.” “A Mighty Fortress” has given a musical voice to the faith of Christians ever since. To sing this great composition as a mere “battle hymn of Lutheranism” is to miss its tremendous message for today. “But now a champion comes to fight!”

“Now” means those Monday morning treks into the work week, the Wednesday “won’t the weekend ever come?” afternoons, and the Saturday struggles with the family. “Now” means dirty diapers and sack lunches, long days and lonely nights, tight budgets and visits to the doctor. “Now” means anger at the ravaging effects of cancer; fear of growing older; anguish over the death of a loved one. Ultimately, “now” means all that we face in life and in death.

Who is this “champion”? “God himself fights by our side!” Jesus Christ keeps assuring us: “Innocent! Case dismissed! Justified by faith!” And our attitude toward the “now”? It is more than good intentions and wishful thinking. “We are hard pressed...but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” Justified by faith in Jesus Christ, our time to live the reforming life of grace is “now!”

I thank God so often that Mt. Calvary is made up of people of good intentions put into real action and service now – for the glory of Christ our Lord and the good of his people, always certain and confident that the kingdom of our glorious Lord Jesus is ours forever!

- Pastor Bill Qualman

STEWARDSHIP

The reason we come to Church on Sunday morning, as opposed to Sunday afternoon or Monday evening, is because it is the first day of the week. The first thing you do this week, before you do anything else, is come to Church. You begin your week with the Word of God, Prayer, and the Holy Communion. You give the first seventh, off the top, of your time to the Lord. He blesses that time. In that time, He forgives your sins, cleanses, and purifies you. He then sends you out into the world, into the week, as *His* in all your days and hours and life.

This is also the reason we pray before we eat. We want to establish that food is a gift from God and that He provides for us through it. Before we eat, we pray. This also blesses the food and makes it holy food because you are holy people.

Nonetheless, we have a tendency to compartmentalize our lives, to separate the spiritual and the secular, to put on different masks at work, with our friends, or at home. This is a fantasy. We are who we are wherever we are. We are the baptized and we never go anywhere alone. Everything we do is spiritual — including our use of time and food and money.

Now, you have a Christian duty to support the Church, to give of your time, money, and abilities so that the Ministry would be conducted among us and that the Gospel would be preached beyond us. How much you are to give is not dictated in the New Testament, unless it is everything. But how you are to give is clear. It is sacrificial, generous,

first fruits, and proportional. You are to give a percentage offering—not an amount, but a percentage.

In the Old Testament ten percent was the norm. It's hard to imagine that St. Paul was thinking that "being generous" would be anything less than this. But whatever it is, the point is to set your offerings in comparison to your total income. That is what makes it a sacrifice, a spiritual gift. How much of what the Lord provides do you return?

Next, it is to be first-fruits giving. It comes off the top. You write the check, or pay your offering, before you pay any of your bills. It is your first obligation and sets your priorities. You don't pay your other bills and then give the leftovers to the Church. You make your offering first, in accordance with whatever promised percentage you made. This is not only first fruits, it is also sacrificial.

And you can always give more. Start with your commitment, with your percentage-based, first-fruits weekly offering, then as you have leftovers, give them out as it pleases you. But start with the Biblical model or percentage, first fruits.

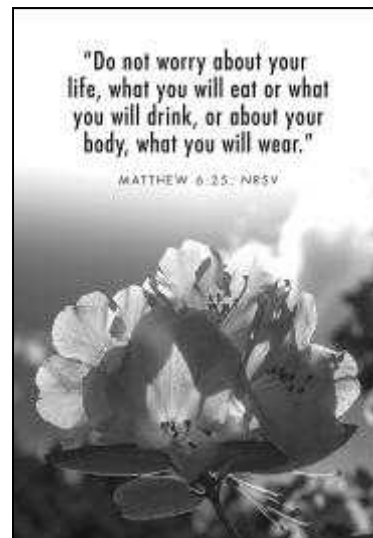
That is how money is to be used and given by Christians. It is to be pressed into the service of the Gospel. It is not actually that hard. Start where you are and work toward greater faithfulness. Start now. Just take what you give now and figure out the percentage of your income and commit to keep that pledge for the year. Over time

you can increase that commitment, that percentage. As your income fluctuates, going up or down, so will your offering amount. Set the percentage, then take that out of your check first each week. Make it a priority. It is the most important thing you do with your money. It is a spiritual exercise.

It will feel a little scary at first. Just do it. Take the risk. Set the money aside for the Lord and trust that He will provide. And over time you will find that you really can give more than 1% or even 10%, and even do so without regret. This kind of Biblical, disciplined, first fruit giving takes the unease out of it. It creates cheerful givers because when they drop the offering in the plate, they are already committed. They decided beforehand what to give. They don't think about it. They are glad to fulfill their promise and to be in God's house where He receives them according to grace.

"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear."

MATTHEW 6:25-34



Calendar Notes:

October 5—LGISD is closed but we are OPEN

October 30— Story book dress up day for students and staff

Thanks to everyone who purchased items for our fundraiser to purchase a shade cover for our playground. The exact date for the arrival of the goodies will be announced soon.

Congratulations to our Mt. Calvary Preschool for winning Best Daycare in Fayette County!

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Diers at the BBQ Pavilion. Ted Wolfram opened the meeting with a devotion. Roll call was answered by 25 members.



Minutes from the regular meeting of August 3, 2015 had been emailed to the members and had been printed in the church newsletter. The minutes were approved. Dr. Randy Albers presented the Treasurer's Report, which showed a Lutheran Hour Fund balance of \$347.79, a General Fund balance of \$7,320.90 and an ending bank balance of \$7,668.69. The treasurer's report was approved.

Gary asked for as many members as possible to be here at 1:30 PM on our workday on Saturday, September 12th to clean the benches for the worship service at 2:00 PM and to begin general preparation work. Gary reported the walk-in cooler had been repaired under warranty and is now running properly.

A thank you note from the Mary Martha Guild was read, thanking the Men's Club for supporting the Guild and for having grilled the chicken breasts for the Senior Citizens luncheon. The Club extended a thank you to Dennis Schnell for having donated and spread gravel to repair the BBQ driveway.

Gary reported that the Sunday School has asked if they could do a bake sale at the BBQ on Sunday. All the club members agreed they could have the bake sale. Gary reported the Sunday School said any donations of baked goods would be welcome.

Various final work details of the September 13th BBQ chicken and sausage fundraiser were discussed, including asking for volunteers to help with the preparation of the cole slaw at the Saturday workday. Heath Hunger has burned off all the BBQ pits, and Shane Smith and James Herbrich have loaded the firebox with wood. Larry Faldyn volunteered to light the fire at 4:30 AM on Sunday morning. The LYF will help with directing the cars and helping with the drive through line. Eight meal tickets were donated to Ted Harbers for helping to install the water line to the storage building. The Club agreed if there were any leftover plates, they would be sold for \$6, and fryers (2 halves) for \$6.

Suggestions were made by various members that the Men's Club make donations to Camp Lone Star, Church Under the Bridge, La Grange Volunteer Fire Department, and for renovations at the Fellowship House. James Pietsch made a motion, seconded by Robert Pavlik, that \$500 be donated to each of the these four. Motion passed. Gary mentioned he would contact representative persons from each of the groups to be available at our next meeting to accept the donations.

The next regular meeting of the Men's Club will be held on Monday, October 5th at the BBQ Pavilion starting at 6 PM. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, and the club members enjoyed fellowship and a meal prepared and served by Team 5.

- Harold Streicher, Secretary

October 11th is Pastor Appreciation Day.



The month of October is designated as Clergy Appreciation Month.



THE HAPPY SCRAPPERS Quilting Ladies meet at 2:00 PM each Monday in the Fellowship House to work their magic to conform various scraps, fabrics and used materials into useful quilts for Lutheran World Relief. No experience is necessary - just willing hands and minds. **During the past months we have received many outstanding, interesting, useful and exciting donations of fabrics and supplies.** Come check us out and join the group for fun fellowship and service to the Lord. Refreshments are always served.

THE MARY MARTHA GUILD MINUTE

October Meeting – Monday, October 5th – Fellowship at 6:30 PM

Devotion & Business at 7:00 PM

Pantry Item for AMEN Canned Soup – 18 – 26 oz. size

Hostesses Betty Pecora, Sandy Rials, ArtieSchultz

Mission Prayer Betty Pecora

Projects: LWML Sunday

LWML Fall Zone Rally

Election of officers (1st VP; 2nd VP; Treasurer)



Mary Martha
Guild

Birthdays: (6)Janice Teinert, (12)Margie Buscha, (13)Brenda Fischer

Anniversaries: (6) *Frieda Lehmann*, (9) Elva Bohot, (11) *Ruth Williams*,

(12)*Jeanette Huelsebusch & Gladys Teinert*,

(29) Genelda Pavlik, (31) Beverly Newell

Everyone is invited to attend our Guild Meetings in the Multipurpose Room. Volunteers and support of our projects is greatly appreciated. Contact a Guild member or feel free to call the Church Office at 968-3938 for more information.



Sunday School has gotten off to a good start. We had over 30 people in attendance at the Sunday School Kick-Off party at Camp Lone Star. Everyone enjoyed swimming, fellowship and food! (I think I had sent you some photos.)

A big **THANK YOU** to our new helpers and continuing teachers who have volunteered to help minister to our children!

A special thank you to our congregation and community who supported the Sunday School bake sale with baked goods or monetary donations. We appreciate your support and funds raised will go towards our Sunday school project, Operation Christmas Child.

Just a reminder that Church Under the Bridge will be packing on October 8th @ 6 PM at the First Baptist Church. This month we will be going to Church Under the Bridge on October 18th. Please contact Lori Hollek with any questions.

Be sure to attend October Fellowship! Sunday School will be hosting a PANCAKE fellowship. Come and be served by our youth and enjoy a great pancake breakfast!



FROM THE
**DIRECTOR OF
CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

It's time to start planning for the National Youth Gathering!!! The gathering will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana on July 16-20, 2016. **All youth ages 14-19** are invited to attend an NYG Planning meeting **in the education building on Wednesday October 14th, 2015 starting at 7: 30 PM!** We hope to see you there!!

Feel like watching a movie? Don't feel like spending a whole lot of money? Look no further! Jackie and Alan Claude are hosting a Youth movie night at their household (628 N. Monroe - across from LGISD Admin bldg) **on Saturday October 10th, 2015**. We will be building our own tacos that night. It will last from **6:30-10:00 PM**.

Join us for our Wednesday high school youth nights, at the Fellowship House starting at 7:30 PM.

Bring yourself, a drink to share, and a friend for a night of fun and fellowship!

OUR MEMBERS IN THE NEWS!

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD



Photography Best of Department – Courtnie Hueisebusch, Elaine Thomas and Diane Mueller. Not pictured was Megan Brothers, Kyla Pietsch and Marge Rosenberg.

Sherri Coufal Celebrates 30 Years at NBT

Sherri Coufal recently celebrated 30 years of service at National Bank & Trust. Pictured from left to right are Mark Ulrich, Sherri Coufal, and Patsy Janda.



Von Minden Baby

Jordan and Jarrod Von Minden of La Grange, announce the birth of their son, Jensen Lee Von Minden, born Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015 at 11:29 a.m. at St. Mark's Medical Center in La Grange. He weighed 8 lbs. and 3 ozs. and was 20.5 inches long.

Grandparents are Ted and Jean Harbers of West Point and Becky and Kevin Von Minden of La Grange.

Great-grandparents are Lyn-dell Harbers of West Point and Doug Richter, Annie Cook and Annazell and A.C. Von Minden, all of La Grange.



Members of the La Grange HEB management, along with Leslie Sweet, HEB's director of public relations for the Central Texas region, presented a check for \$25,000 to members the LEP5 Foundation for technology improvements at LGISD.

Photo by Andy Behien

For Your Information



HELP WANTED!

MEALS ON
WHEELS is
desperate for

drivers. This takes about 1 hour a day, 10:30 - 11:30. They need 2 drivers each day, 1 for the north side of town and 1 for the south side. Please contact Meals on Wheels at 979-968-6301 if you can spare a few minutes to help with this worthwhile effort. The meals delivered to shut ins may be the only meal some of these people receive in a day AND you might be the only contact they have on a daily basis. Please pray and see if you can find in your heart the call to help these shut in elderly. *"Meals on Wheels—so no senior goes hungry."*



Mt. Calvary's team came in 4th in donations, out of 17 teams, and we exceeded our goal. Thanks to everyone who supported our team in this cause!



I am happy to report that CUB is off to a great start this fall! We made it through the summer with many friends and family members joining us to help out and even made some new friends. I would like to note that in October, Mt. Calvary will be going on the third Sunday, October 18th, instead of our usual first Sunday of the month. Also, if anyone would like to make a monetary donation in the form of a check, it can now be made to Go Fish Ministries. This is a special fund that we have set up with the sole purpose of funding CUB. In addition, we are always accepting toiletry donations: shampoo, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, lotion, hand sanitizer, soap, Q-tips, band-aids, and baby wipes. We have also started to collect blankets and sleeping bags for

the winter. You may leave any donations in the Narthex of the church or bring them to the Science room in the preschool. We can't thank everyone enough for your generous donations towards this project. We feel very fortunate to be a part of this church and be surrounded by so many generous families.

DATES: Hand out items under the bridge: October 18, November 1, December 6

Packing up for 1st & 3rd Sundays: 6 PM at First Baptist Church: September 24, October 8, October 22, November 5, November 19, December 10

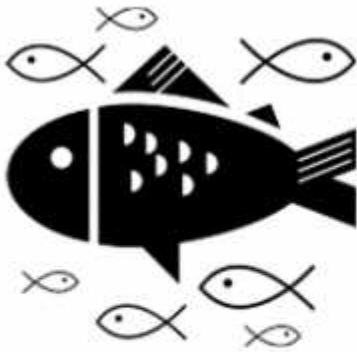
NEWS FROM THE MISSION BOARD



National Night Out: Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, Oct. 6**, for National Night Out, which will be held 5:30 - 7:00 PM (come and go), at the Mt. Calvary BBQ pits. Come meet with Mt. Calvary's neighbors and members; also, the Mayor of La Grange, the EMT, police, and the firemen of the city! *Bring a lawn chair*, and be ready for fellowship, friendship, sausage wraps, chips, cookies, and iced tea. You might win a door prize, too!

Reminder from the Mission Board: Sunday, Oct. 4, is the deadline for turning in your "I Wish. . ." lists. Forgot yours? Extras are on the Narthex table. "You get out of things what you put into them" - don't miss out on your chance to get involved; you'll receive information, and names of contact people.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SWIM PARTY



Mount Calvary LYF Annual Turkey and Dressing Sunday, November 1



Date: SUNDAY, November 1, 2015

Time: 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Location: Mt Calvary Lutheran
Church-Educational Building

Tickets can be purchased at the church office at 800 N Franklin, 979-968-3938, or from any LYF member for \$9.00 each. Note: Plates will be available
DRIVE THRU ONLY!

Proceeds from the dinner are used by the LYF to fund service projects, scholarships, and 2016 National Youth Gathering. Thank you for supporting our LYF!

We need your help!

The LYF will hold their **ANNUAL TURKEY AND DRESSING DRIVE-THRU MEAL** on **SUNDAY, November 1st. Drive-thru only between 11:00 am -12:30 pm.** As usual, we are looking for people who are interested in baking a turkey, and/or cornbread for the dinner. We also need volunteers to help with preparing, serving, directing traffic and selling tickets. If you can help, please fill out the form below and leave it in the church office, Lorri Sanchez's church mailbox and or email: LYF@mtcalvary-lcms.org. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used for the 2016 LCMS National Youth Gathering, servant events, scholarships, and other events.

If you would like to provide your valuable assistance this year, **please check all that apply below, and return the form to the church office or email lyf@mtcalvary-lcms.org as soon as possible.** Please note that most people who volunteer to bake turkeys bake 2 turkeys and 2 pans of cornbread. However, if you wish to bake more or less, please indicate so in the special instructions. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Even if you do not wish to bake turkeys, other assistance is appreciated.

God's Blessings,
Mt. Calvary LYF

Please check all that apply.

- _____ I **volunteer to bake 2 turkeys.** The plan is to have you pick up your turkeys at the church on a date to be announced shortly. If you volunteer to bake turkeys, you will receive additional information. Please provide special instructions (more or less than 2 turkeys) here: _____
- _____ I volunteer to bake 2 pans of cornbread.
Special Instructions. _____
- _____ I volunteer to provide 1 roaster the day of the dinner for keeping food items warm.
- _____ I volunteer to assist in preparation of dressing, noodles, turkey, etc. the day of the dinner.
- _____ I volunteer to work the serving line or direct traffic the afternoon of the dinner.
- _____ I volunteer to wash dishes.
- _____ I volunteer to sell tickets. Please provide me _____ tickets.

Please provide your name: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Email (optional): _____

Thank you!

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Wes Diller	2 Cameron Kruse	3
4 Lynsey Bamsch Dawn Sedlar <i>Ted & Barb Wolfram (69 yrs)</i>	5 Gavin Cook Dennis Winkler	6 Janice Teinert <i>Leroy & Laverne Wittmann (64 yrs)</i>	7 Joe McCoy Robert Pavlik <i>Eugene & Gladys Mach (65 yrs) Paul & Geraldine Teinert (48 yrs)</i>	8 Tammi Cook	9 Victor Bohot Madelyn Terral <i>Victor & Elva Bohot (65 yrs) Carrie & Jonathan Harbers (5 yrs) Lee & Pegi Knippel (27 yrs) Eddie & Amanda Moulder 5 yrs)</i>	10 Calvin Bohot Brad Harbers Pegi Knippel <i>Herbert & Rosalie Moerbe (51 yrs)</i>
11 Kaleb Hensley Edna Hoefer <i>Blake & Candace Koether (7 yrs)</i>	12 Margie Buscha Cody Kruse	13 Brenda Fischer Theresia Karstedt Joe Stephens Marilyn Trlica <i>Susie & David Polasek (31 yrs)</i>	14 Deb Conway <i>Jeremy & Jessica Pietsch (9 yrs)</i>	15 Harvey Dippel Kim Filla	16 Jennifer Huelsebusch	17 Lisa Caridi
18 Jacob Jackson Donald Roensch	19	20	21	22	23 Calvin Lange	24
25	26	27 Grant Hollek Jeannette Sullivan Robert Vanek <i>Tim & Jennifer Tarnowski (14 yrs)</i>	28 Dennis Schnell	29 Charles Koepke Don C. Pietsch <i>Robert & Genelda Pavlik (49 yrs)</i>	30 Jeremy Pietsch	31

CONGRATULATIONS AND CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family and friends of Rev. Loren Krout (Joan Miertschin's cousin), who passed away on September 7th.



Congratulations to our Fayette County Fair winners:

4-H Photography Department - Junior Division Grand Champion Kaylee Hensley
 Culinary Department - Grand Champion Quick Breads Jeanette Huelsebusch
 Culinary Department - Grand Champion Pecan Pie Jeanette Huelsebusch
 Culinary Department - Grand Champion Oops B J Ullrich

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

800 N. Franklin St.
La Grange, Texas 78945

Change Service
Requested



"Committed to Reaching Out With The Love Of Jesus"

