

THE BELL January 2021



SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, DIME BOX, TX

*Seek the lost, teach the found, send the taught
to go make followers of Jesus*

8235 FM 141, Dime Box, Texas, 77853

Office: 979-884-4321 <https://stjohndimebox.org/>

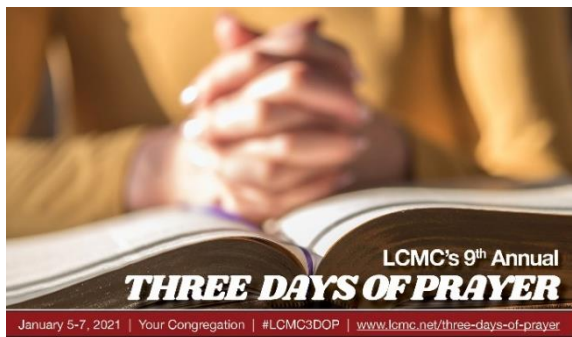
Pastor Joe Leavengood

Saint John's Lutheran Church, established in 1911, is a member of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. The LCMC is a growing movement of 955 independent Lutheran congregations in 40 American states, 4 Canadian provinces and 17 other countries on six continents. To learn more, go online to lcmc.net

In January we worship each Sunday (and with Communion on the first and third Sundays). We take appropriate social distancing precautions for our Worship, Studies and Fellowship gatherings.



NOTE: The Council did not meet in December as a number of members were precautionarily quarantining. Thus, the meeting minutes and financial reports have not yet been approved for publication.



LCMC THREE DAYS OF PRAYER BEGINS TUESDAY, JANUARY 5TH

By Mike Bradley, LCMC Service Coordinator

Prayer is a holy habit of our Christian faith that can position us before the Lord to be with Him, to listen to Him, and to experience His work of aligning our minds and our hearts with His mind and His heart. Intentionally setting aside time for prayer can help us still our hearts as we turn off all our devices and tune out the white noise that constantly surrounds us. “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10, ESV).

Prayer was a holy habit practiced by Jesus himself (see Mark 1:35, ESV). LCMC’s **Three Days of Prayer** on **January 5-7, 2021** is an opportunity for us to follow the Lord’s example and to come together as one across the association with a shared purpose: to pray.

Each congregation or person can structure these days of prayer however seems best. In the past, some congregations put together a prayer vigil—a person signing up to pray in 30-minute intervals for example—for all three days or a few hours each day. Others have offered a prayer service at a set hour on each of the three days. Others have encouraged their people simply to pray at work, home, or school—wherever they are and whatever they are doing. During this time of COVID-19, we encourage you to do whatever works best and whatever is safest for your congregation.

No matter how you structure this time of prayer, let’s come together as an association of congregations across the U.S. and around the world to pray. As Mark Vander Tuig has said many times: “I believe that the church will never rise up until we first get down on our knees.”

PASTOR JOE'S REQUEST FOR SAINT JOHN'S DIME BOX PARTICIPANTS:

For three days, please take 10 minutes to sit quietly with no distractions. Just talk with and listen to God. Do this individually, and if you live with others, a little later in the day take five more minutes to pray together. Some suggested topics:

Tuesday, January 5th - Pray in thanksgiving. Pray for faith (trust) for yourself, for our community, and for others.

Wednesday, January 6th - Pray in awe. Pray for wisdom and humility for yourself, for our community, and for others.

Thursday, January 7th - Pray in hope. Pray for patience and courage and unity for yourself, for our community, and for others. Yes, we sometimes even need unity within ourselves!

You may have noticed that I am not encouraging you to pour out your concerns about yourself or about other people at these times. There will always be time for that later. So often we petition God for help, but don't ask for the resources God offers us to be part of God's solutions to such concerns. Seek first to understand, then to be understood. God already understands you, and prayer, worship, study and fellowship are all efforts on our part to better understand God, who is infinitely more important in the art of living. The first goal of every relationship should be to better understand the other. Faith, wisdom, humility, patience, courage, unity and more are all part of what strengthen our relationships with God and one another.

Pastor's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! May God bless you and yours in 2021. This is the time when many people make resolutions. Have you noticed that when we tell others what our resolutions are, at least the ones that are not embarrassing or whimsical, it sometimes helps us stick to them? Getting others to work with us instead of at cross purposes can keep us moving in the right direction when we are tempted to do otherwise.

We use this principle all the time in faith. For example, you can go get a marriage certificate at the

town hall, and get a clergy member, if required by law, to sign it, but if you get married in front of a room full of family and friends, later on they are more likely to do what they can to reinforce your marriage when it hits rough times. Or consider how we take opportunities all the time in worship to "reaffirm our baptismal promises." These are not just the promises we might make to God, to our children, or to one another, promises to look after and care for one another, but also promises that God makes to us. We live our entire lives differently if we are frequently reminded of God's promises, of God's resoluteness. When Jesus sent his disciples out to preach and heal, he sent them in pairs.

Not coincidentally, this is also the time each year when our association of Lutheran Congregations, the LCMC, holds an event that I've never heard of in any other church, denomination or association of the faithful. We call it "Three Days of Prayer." There's an article about this on page one of this newsletter by the LCMC Service Coordinator, Mike Bradley.

Prayer is important, and prayer is our special superpower. For all I know, other people might be able to travel in a different direction in time than the rest us (we are all time traveling - that away...). Some might be able to fly (without aid of machinery) or become invisible (beyond camouflage and stealth). Some might be able to revive the clinically dead (right now I know of some doctors and medics that have a very narrow window of opportunity to do this under exceptional circumstances, but I cannot afford to pay them to camp out in my living room and follow me around forever. It seems like we are all supposed to die sooner or later anyway). Those kinds of superpowers are exceedingly rare, and are more movie myth than reality.

But the superpower of prayer is underappreciated precisely because it is widely held. Almost all of us have the ability to pray. We can do it deliberately and earnestly, off the cuff while multi-tasking, habitually without great effort, by ourselves, or in great gatherings. Some of us have pets that can communicate a bit with us ('Feed me!' 'Can I come too?' 'Open the door, please'), we don't think they are trying to communicate with God. If they have that ability, it does not ever involve us in the effort. But for our species, when we bow our heads together and "say grace" before our meals, we are making our appeal to God together. We are saying our thanks to

God together, and acknowledging the power and glory of God together. Our creator, who made us social animals, tells us in Scripture that he likes it when we pray together, something all the other species do not apparently do. It is part of how we created.

But prayer does something else - it gets us all thinking and working together. When we hear the concerns and gratitude of the people around us, and realize that we share in them, we become more united. When we learn of the problems of others, we seek solutions for others. When we speak to God together, we try to do so honestly, and our individual and collective integrity cannot help but be strengthened. Even when we are by ourselves, our prayers get us on the same page with ourselves: saying out loud what we think matters, saying it with honesty before God, and saying it regularly, helps us to then fashion our lives with greater purpose and focus.

When we pray, we often say "Thy will be done," but in the act of praying we are also offering up our own hands and feet and hearts and minds to be the tools of God's will. We are saying "this appears to me, or us, to be what should be hoped for, or praised, or resisted, and we'll work on being the means for that, by Your grace, until You guide us in other ways."

We are in the season of resolutions. Consider what healing, transformative, productive, joyful, beautiful powers might be in the very fibers of our resolutions if we are seeking God's resolution - to be both guided and strengthened in our efforts by God, with whom all is already accomplished. So, make your resolutions, then pray about them this week and beyond. Then please join with many Lutherans around the planet in reflecting on and praying for the things we can pray about, and act on, and be thankful for, and be in awe of, together.

When God entrusts us with a superpower, we should resolutely be in awe, and use it wisely for good.

Godspeed, - PJ

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Adeline Lindemann
- 13 Jessica Schumann Cargill
- 17 Susan Hannes
- 17 Zeth Smith
- 24 Rick Bage

CONTACTS AT SAINT JOHN'S LC

Current Council, to be installed January 10th:

Council President: Jan Perry 979-777-6888 (New)
Vice President: Michael Wiederhold 979-220-6434
Secretary: Ginger Kubena 979-884-0017
Treasurer: Barbara Hoover 979-884-6762 (New)
Trustee: Linda Kieschnick 979-540-9556
Trustee: Joyce Lerche 713-816-2202
Trustee: Mark Richardson 979-716-4058 (New)
Thanks to Outgoing President Jeff Shows, Treasurer Danita Smith, and Trustee Jan Perry (moving to President)

Pastor: Joe Leavengood, LCMC
MDiv, JD, MBA, MA, Lt Col USAF Ret JAGC
8229 FM 141, Dime Box, TX 77853
Home 979-884-4035 leavengood@gmx.com
Cell 406-366-2611 – best for messages

Cemetery Admin.: Carol Dismukes 979-540-0035
Parish Hall Coordinator: Rachel Gold 979-540-9359
Jehovah Jirah Coordinator: Barbara Hoover
Custodian: Crystal Scott
Groundskeeper: Kasey Kubena
Organists: Virginia Shows, Beth Campbell
Communications: Carol Dismukes, Pr. Joe Leavengood
Librarian: Open
Praise Band Jammers (PBJ): Stewart Hervey, Audrey Kubena, Pr. Joe Leavengood



2020 THANKS TO:

Christmas decorators inside and outside, and Poinsettia sharers; Las Posadas Singers (a great neighborly event); contributors to the Angel Tree and Food Pantry; Council and

Call Committee Members guiding us through pastoral transition, infrastructure work, and pandemic; excelling Christian educators overcoming social distancing; Pastor Bernie Shea and Trinity Lutheran for so often joining community-service efforts; Praise Band Jammers Audrey Kubena and Stewart Hervey, and organist Virginia Shows for their talent, dedication and joy every week in our worship music.



**FROM LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM
THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

– THE SECOND ARTICLE: REDEMPTION

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Martin Luther Writes:

“What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchases and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His body, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

“This is most certainly true.”

Pastor Joe’s Thoughts on Luther and the Creed:

First, as I mentioned last month, Luther gives names to the three parts of the Apostle’s Creed: Creation, Redemption and Sanctification. This is the second part. This is also a good time to mention that our translations of the Apostle's Creed have varied a bit in linguistic format over the centuries, and it is in this second part that it is most apparent. Although we might say these words in various ways, the meaning and substance is very similar.

The more detailed Catechisms tend to devote many pages to this Second Article of the Creed, because it is so crucial to what makes us particularly Christians. There are many people who have a belief in God as creator – most faiths envision a supreme deity that is creator of all, and they usually can agree generally that this maybe the same God of all.

Jumping ahead a bit, people of diverse faiths often agree that this God who creates is also the God that makes things holy – that God sanctifies, which is the subject of the third Article of the Creed, according to Luther. Any faith that has any scripture, that has any

ceremony or acknowledgement of mystery, or that sees certain actions as special responses to God, will have a sense of the sanctifying nature of God.

But this middle Article is particularly Christian: we proclaim a God that also redeems us, and redeems all creation. We proclaim a God that is concerned everlastingly in our lives, in the meaning of our existence, in making sure that all are not crushed down and rendered inert and miserable by the things that are opposed to life.

Digging deeper, if we have knowledge of sinfulness, it can crush us. If we are aware of pain and evil and death, they can each crush us. If we come to see all of existence as meaningless grass waving in meaningless winds, we might just deem it valueless as well. Such thought should remind us of the Wisdom books of the Old Testament, such as Ecclesiastes, which we've just studied in our Sunday Adult Bible Study, or of Job, which I just happened to read in my personal rereading of the Bible. In such scriptures the smart authors lament and wail about how meaningless their lives are in view of God’s great and vast plans.

Perhaps they are in the Bible at least in part to show us how despairing we can be, and are a set up for us to more fully grasp the jubilation that comes later in the Bible when God’s plan, meaning for us, and amazing love for us becomes more apparent. Into such a world full of despair and doubt, God reminds us that God finds value in it all, in all of us, and in each of us.

We profess in this Article of the Apostle's Creed that God came to us in a form that we can understand and relate to: a living, breathing human. This form then tells us, and more importantly, shows us that being living and breathing is not existentially as limiting as we might think it is, and we start thinking those limiting thoughts when we are caught up in the despair that sin, evil and death lead us to.

In others words, when we are tempted in life to deem ourselves or others as worthless in the great scheme of things, God says emphatically that he is redeeming us all, as His truly beloved. Good news indeed!

- PJ



Pray for God's Glory, & Act Accordingly:

- Churches & ministries of service, scholarship, & care.
- The unemployed, and all who seek their callings.
- The ill, injured, hospitalized, addicted, infirm, in pain or dying.
- Those in spiritual need, burdened by sin, or unrepentant.
- Those in conflicts, crises, wars, disasters, epidemics, & violence.
- Emergency responders, medical workers, military, & leaders.
- Wise political, business, & institutional leaders, and families.
- Unity, love, & industriousness, in our community, state & nation.
- All we need to live out God's ideals, and to rejoice in the Lord.
- Children, parents, and all families, that they be filled with love.

Pray for Some of God's Great People:

- Covid19: James & Linda Walker, Dawn Klecak, Bonnie Wenke.
- Beth Campbell - Billy Gillum - Brooklyn, Janelle, and Jerry Gold
- John David Mikulin - Laura Perry - Arnold Prazak - Peggy Ott
- Brenda Reeves - Julia Spitzenberger - Kevin Wang
- Judy Westbrook - Carisa Woodward - Ruth Wiederhold
- Mitchell Bage, Sherry Bage's brother
- Amber Brockenbush, the Prazaks' granddaughter
- Wesley Banks, Lola Wiederhold's brother
- D Caldwell, Audrey Kubena's uncle
- Tyler & Annie Collins & family, friends
- Kimberly Hervey, Virginia Shows' daughter-in-law
- Dee Hitchcock, the Campbells' neighbor
- Allison Hoover, Barbara Hoover's Granddaughter
- Gene Walsh, Arnold & Ruby Prazak's son-in-Law
- David Weaver, Neighbor
- Darby Whitaker, Adeline Lindemann's daughter
- Kenneth Whitaker, Adeline Lindemann's son-in-law
- Jalane Wiederhold, Douglas Wiederhold's sister-in-law
- Students missing too much school due to the pandemic
- Those mourning the deaths of Bobbly Hale, CW and Mary Hales, Brian Kelly, Vicki McClure, Vera Tillery, & Doug Wood
- Our Newborns: Marcia/Blake Kocerek & Lynlee, Lindsay/Adam Matthiessen & Karter, and Expecting Mom: Sharon Supak
- Sunday School Students of all ages and all seeking wisdom
- College Students: Grant Gold & Kellyn Hervey
- Military: Dylan McCartenly & Josh Spitzenberger

Please send updates to Pr. Joe at 406-366-2611 or leavengood@gmx.com

January 2021 at Saint John's LC, Dime Box, TX		NOTICE: Annual Meeting, 14 February <i>January Altar Guild: Mary & Julia Spitzenberger</i> <i>Ushers: Aaron Hervey & Christ Kieschnick</i>						
Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
³ 2nd Xmas LBW II Worship 9:00am W/ Communion Fellowship & Sunday School Follow. Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-15, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12 Reader: Kim Shows Acolyte: Carisa Woodward Comm. Asst: Jan Perry	⁴ Wo-men's Bible Study 6:30 pm	⁵ ⁶ Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	⁷ Food Handler Class 6:00pm Annex			⁸ ⁹		
¹⁰ Epiphany Sunday Worship 9:00am, Council Installed Fellowship & Sunday School Follow. Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-15, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12 Reader: Crystal Scott Acolyte: Kadence Wiederhold	¹¹ WBS 6:30 pm	¹ ² ¹³ ABS 9:30 am MBS 6:30 pm	¹⁴ Council Mtg 6:30 pm			¹ ⁵ ⁶		
¹⁷ 2nd Epiphany Worship 9:00am Annual Chicken Dinner Fellowship & Sunday School Follow. Readings: Genesis 1:1-15, Psalm 29, Romans 6:1-11, Mark 1:4-11 Reader: Roger Wubbenhorst Acolyte: Stewart Hervey	¹⁸ Rev. MLK Jr. Holiday WBS 6:30 pm	¹⁹ Helping Hands 9:30 am	²⁰ ABS 9:30 am MBS 6:30 pm		² ¹ ² ³			
²⁴ 3rd Epiphany Worship 9:00am With Communion Fellowship & Sunday School Follow. Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20), Psalm 139 1-10, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51 Reader: Barbara Hoover Acolyte: Blake Scott Comm. Asst: Barbara Hoover		²⁵ WBS 6:30 pm	² ⁶ ²⁷ ABS 9:30 am MBS 6:30 pm		² ⁸ ⁹ ⁰			
³¹ 4th Epiphany Worship 9:00am Fellowship & Sunday School Follow. Readings: Jonah 3:1-5,10, Psalm 62, 1 Corinthians 7:29-35), Mark	¹ WBS 6:30 pm	²	³ ABS 9:30 am MBS		⁴ ⁵ ⁶			
A Bible Verse: Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. - Romans 12:2								

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16			17				
18				19		20				21		
			22		23		24		25			
26	27	28				29		30		31	32	33
34					35		36		37			
38				39		40			41			
			42		43		44					
45	46	47		48		49		50		51	52	53
54			55				56		57			
58					59				60			
61					62				63			

Across

1. Jezebel's Spouse.
5. Wildebeest.
8. Zeus' wife and sister.
12. Miami's County.
13. Electrically charged particle.
14. Prophet from Tekoa.
15. Landed lightly.
16. Cupbearer to King Artaxerxes.
18. Where _____ (plural) and rust doth corrupt. (Matt. 6:19)
20. Lay not thine hand upon the _____. (Gen. 22:12)
21. The fire shall _____ every man's work. (1 Cor. 3:13)
22. Ignited.
24. Agra's mausoleum.
26. The Hebrew name for _____ is *Bereshith*.
30. Saul's elder daughter.
34. Esau's spouse.

**JANUARY 2021
CROSSWORD**

35. Hawaiian dish.
 37. They which are accounted to _____ over the Gentiles. (Mark 10:42)
 38. Plural of "woman."
 40. Whose children were Joel and Abijah? (1 Chron. 6:28).
 42. The Sabbath was made for _____. (Mark 2:27)
 44. Moments (slang).
 45. Damsel, I _____ unto thee... (Mark 5:41).
 48. An extinct bird.
 50. The beginning of Nimrod's Kingdom
 54. Twentieth Old Testament book.
 57. God is _____. (1 John 4:8)
 58. And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were _____ to hear it. (Mark 4:33)
 59. Bind them continually upon thine heart, and _____ them about thy neck. (prov. 6:21)
 60. Lamb's nom de plume.
 61. Arise, and _____ up thy bed. (Mark 2:9)
 62. Headgear.
 63. Mix thoroughly.
- Down**
1. The pride of God's creation.
 2. Angelic corona.
 3. Mine entrance.
 4. City of David.
 5. The _____ shall take him by the heel. (Job 18:9).
 6. Christmas.
 7. Doff one's hat in respect (archaic).
 8. Son of Noah.
 9. To send forth.
 10. Will a lion _____ in the forest? (Amos 3:4)
 11. Deathly pale.
 17. Dutch cheese.
 19. Bro's sibling.
 23. That he may dip the _____ of his finger in the water. (Luke 16:24)
 25. The City of Peace.
 26. British variant of "God."
 27. Former name of Tokyo.
 28. Manufacturer's organization.
 29. Naval distress signal.
 31. For ye tithe mint and _____. (Luke 11:42)
 32. He hath done _____ things well. (Mark 7:37).
 33. Egyptian God of pleasure.
 36. YHWH, Literally.
 39. My _____ is Legion. (Mark 5:9)
 41. Rabble.
 43. And he will stretch out his hand against the _____, and destroy Assyria. (Zeph. 2:13)
 45. He _____ on the ground. (John 9:6)
 46. the city of _____ the father of Anak (Josh. 21:11).
 47. Yellow part of an egg.
 49. Rehoboam's son.
 51. The trunk of a tree.
 52. Why, what _____ hath he done? (Mark 15:14)
 53. Can the blind _____ the blind? (Luke 6:39)
 55. The letter v.
 56. A certain man planted a vineyard, and _____ an hedge around it. (Mark 12:1)

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

THE SAINT PHILLIP WINDOW

[from our files] - PJ

Saint Bartholomew "is seen in this window carrying his symbols of two loaves of bread and a patriarch's cross. The loaves appear as his symbol as a result of his response to Our Lord as recorded by Saint John (6:7). The association between Saint Phillip and the patriarchal cross has ancient but obscure origins. As his name in Greek and when "certain Greeks" wanted to see our Lord, they went to Saint Phillip, it may well be that Phillip was of Greek ancestry. According to tradition he was martyred in Phrygia. His feast day is May 1, shared with Saint James Minor. This window is presented to the glory of God in thanksgiving by Odell and La Verne (Michalk) Cancak, Russel Dancak & Judy Dancak. This window was created by Robert & Elizabeth Foster of Foster Stained Glass Studio, Bryan, Texas."

WORD SEARCH JANUARY 2021

QUALITIES TO LOOK FOR IN 2021		QUALITY
BEAUTY	INDEPENDENCE	RESOLUTION
CHASTITY	INDUSTRY	RESPECT
CLEANLINESS	INNOVATION	SELF CONTROL
COOPERATION	INTEGRITY	SILENCE
ENDURANCE	JOY	SINCERITY
FAITHFULNESS	JUSTICE	STRENGTH
FORGIVENESS	KINDNESS	TEAMWORK
FRUGALITY	LOVE	TEMPERANCE
GENEROSITY	MODERATION	TRANQUILITY
GENTLENESS	ORDER	UNITY
HONESTY	PATIENCE	VISION
HUMANITY	PEACE	WISDOM
HUMILITY	PERSPECTIVE	YEARNING

In God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me? - Psalm 56:10-11



GREEK BIBLE WORD OF THE MONTH

προσευχή = Proseuxe
 = Pro - SOOK - se = Prayer



SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
8235 FM 141,
Dime Box, Texas, 77853

Reminder: Food Handler Training is Thursday, January 7th at 6pm in the Annex

FESTIVAL DAYS_ January 15th (Observed on the 18th in 2021) – Martin Luther King, Jr., Renewer of Society, remembered as an American prophet of justice among races and nations, a Christian whose faith guided his advocacy of vigorous, yet nonviolent action for racial equality. A pastor of churches in Montgomery, AL and Atlanta, GA, his witness was taken to the streets in such other places as Birmingham, where he was arrested and jailed while protesting against segregation. He preached nonviolence and demanded that love be returned for hate. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he was killed by an assassin on April 4, 1968. Though most commemorations are held on the date of the person's death, many churches hold commemorations near Dr. King's birth date of January 15th, in conjunction with the American civil holiday honoring him.

January 26th – Timothy, Titus and Silas, Missionaries. On the two days following the celebration of the Conversion of Paul (January 25th) his companions are remembered. Timothy, Titus and Silas were missionary coworkers with Paul. Timothy accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey and was commissioned by Paul to go to Ephesus, where he served as bishop and overseer of the church. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, accompanied him on the trip to the Council of Jerusalem, and became the first bishop of Crete. Silas traveled with Paul through Asia Minor and Greece and was imprisoned with him at Philippi, where they were delivered from captivity by an earthquake.

February 3rd – Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, Missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865. Ansgar was a monk who led a mission to Denmark and later to Sweden, where he built the first church. His work ran into difficulties with the rulers of the day, and he was forced to withdraw into Germany, where he served as Bishop in Hamburg. Despite his difficulties in Sweden, he persisted in his mission work and later helped consecrate Gothburt as the first Bishop of Sweden. Ansgar had a deep love for the poor. He would wash their feet and serve them food provided by the parish.

- From Sundays and Seasons

REGARDING RESOLUTIONS

New Year's Resolutions [According to Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Year%27s_resolution] A New Year's resolution is a tradition, most common in the Western Hemisphere but also found in the Eastern Hemisphere, in which a person resolves to change an undesired trait or behavior, to accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve their life.

Religious Origins

Babylonians made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. The Romans began each year by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named. In the Medieval era, the knights took the "peacock vow" at the end of the Christmas season each year to reaffirm their commitment to chivalry.

At watchnight services, many Christians prepare for the year ahead by praying and making these resolutions. This tradition has many other religious parallels. During Judaism's New Year, Rosh Hashanah, through the High Holidays and culminating in Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), one is to reflect upon one's wrongdoings over the year and both seek and offer forgiveness. People can act similarly during the Christian liturgical season of Lent, although the motive behind this holiday is more of sacrifice than of responsibility. In fact, the Methodist practice of New Year's resolutions came, in part, from the Lenten sacrifices. The concept, regardless of creed, is to reflect upon self-improvement annually.

Participation

At the end of the Great Depression, about a quarter of American adults formed New Year's resolutions. At the start of the 21st century, about 40% did. In fact, according to the American Medical Association [(AMA)], approximately 40% to 50% of Americans participate in the New Year's resolution tradition from the 1995 Epcot and 1985 Gallop Polls. A study found 46% of participants who made common New Year's resolutions (e.g. weight loss, exercise programs, quitting smoking) were likely to succeed, over ten times as much as those who decided to make life changes at other times of the year.

Success Rate

The most common reason for participants failing their New Years' Resolutions was setting themselves unrealistic goals (35%), while 33% didn't keep track of their progress and a further 23% forgot about it. About one in 10 respondents claimed they made too many resolutions.

A 2007 study by Richard Wiseman from the University of Bristol involving 3,000 people showed that 88% of those who set New Year resolutions fail, despite the fact that 52% of the study's participants were confident of success at the beginning. Men achieved their goal 22% more often when they engaged in goal setting, (a system where small measurable goals are being set; such as, a pound a week, instead of saying "lose weight").



Some Common Resolutions:

Get in Shape and be Healthy

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body. - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Don't Procrastinate – Get Things Done

⁶ In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hands be idle; for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good. - Ecclesiastes 11:6

Be Positive

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Spend Less and Save More

² On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. - 1 Corinthians 16:2

Spend More Time with Family

⁶ Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray. - Proverbs 22:6

KNOCK-KNOCKS

Knock, Knock.
Who's there?
Matthew.
Matthew who?
Matthew lace has
come undone.

Knock, Knock.
Who's there?
Jethro.
Jethro who?
Jethro the boat and don't
ask so many questions.