

When you consider some of the people Jesus called to be His disciples, the word dysfunctional comes to mind, but Jesus wasn't put off. Jesus knew them because He created them. It wasn't about what they could become, it was about what Jesus could form them into. That's our story too, isn't it?

Jeremiah 18:1-6 (ESV) says, ¹The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²"Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." ³So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. ⁵Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁶"O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."

God is the potter and we are the clay. Striving to be obedient to God He continues to work and rework us as necessary. He never stops. It's not about us and who we are it's all about Jesus and whose we are.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:3 (ESV), ³And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Other people don't write your story – not even you. The Spirit of the living God is writing it. That means your best days are still ahead!

An old Bible lay on a bargain table along with hundreds of tattered books. A lot of people had picked it up and thumbed through its pages. It wasn't in very good shape - certainly not worth two dollars - so it was cast aside. Then a man picked it up, stifled a shout, and rushing to the counter he paid the trivial asking price. Turns out it was an original Gutenberg estimated to be worth more than a million dollars! How many times did that old book change hands before it was redeemed? How many times did the world cast it aside, unaware of its value? The truth is, we were all passed over by everyone except Jesus. He values us. Rather than paying a bargain price, Jesus paid the highest price possible for our redemption. He gave all His blood, all His breath, and

Prayer Requests



Those who are ill:

Elaine Adams, Pamela Andrews, Alicia Briskey (acute leukemia), Steve Collins (Linda Butt's son-in -law), Payton Cowan, Marie Gehrke, Sherry Gehrke (for wisdom with farm dealings), Rose Hartwig, Evelyn Hertrich, Karen Johnson, Ernst Kohn, Daniel Kowalski. Linda Mandell. Paul Mills, Dave Neisendorf, Dan Powell (close friend of Bette Wine's, in recovery after being attacked and shot), Dennis Roush, Robert Schneller -(cancer, Marilyn Eaves' cousin), Andy Schuring, Norm Schuring, Shaquita (Nakaila Slaughter's mother), Karen Stojan, Marilyn Thompson, Kathy Voog, Joe Watzlawick (Bobby Watzlawick's father-cancer), Gloria Wine (Bette Wine's sister-in-law, having radiation treatment), and Andrea Zachotina

Those residing in healthcare centers: Elaine Adams (Heritage Woods), Dave & Carol Relaction (Heritage Adams), David (Heritage

Bahr (Highland Oaks), Donna Butts (unknown), Walt Claus (The Sheridan at Tyler Creek), Marie Gehrke (The Pearl of Elgin), Meta Meyer (The Pointe at Eastgate), Ellen Nelson (The Sheridan at Tyler Creek), Bill Mikesell (Crescent Care), and residents at Deer Path Assisted Living

Those serving in our military: Aidan Buttrum, Ally Mills, Steven Schaar (Pastor and Marilyn's son -in-law)

Attendance



Attendance

January 7: 49

January 14: No service

January 21: 48 January 28:

True Practice of Faith

Giving back to God from what He has given you is a question not of reason or convenience or what God will do for us but of faith in God as our Creator. Giving back involves complete trust in His providential promises.

Altar Guild



Altar Flowers are always, first and foremost, given for the glory of God.

January 28

Given in honor of Ruth Ann Kowalski and Meta Meyer's birthdays, January 25 and 31, respectively.

Marie Gehrke's new address:

The Pearl of Elgin 2355 Royal Blvd. Rm. #302 Elgin, IL 60123

Lutherans for Life

Life Quote - January 28, 2024

"The Holy Spirit teaches us and enables us to be more effective with our body language, to hold the hands of those who are afraid of walking alone, to hug the ones who are falling apart for whatever reason, to lift those who sinned against God and against their brothers. We do all this by sharing the forgiveness that is found in Christ." Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe, guest speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Life Thought - January 28, 2024, Epiphany IV

Gospel-motivated voices have the privilege – and the responsibility – to proclaim the whole counsel of God. Those who speak otherwise dabble in judgment and condemnation (Deuteronomy 18:20). The Scriptures and the Savior have graciously made clear – with "shalls" and "shall-nots" – His jealous devotion to the survival and salvation of every human life. We get to repeat and rejoice in it, especially for the sake of the weaker ones (1 Corinthians 8:12).

all His life for us. Romans 5:8 (ESV) says, ⁸but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. When you're having a bad day, look in the mirror and remind yourself, God loves me so much He sent His Son Jesus to die for me. Then go out and try to see others as treasures God couldn't live without; sinners just like you and me that Christ died to redeem.

Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Christ has died! Christ is risen! He will come again!

LWML

Shining Christ's Light in the Darkness of Disaster—\$50,000

Mission Grant #5 Disaster Response Team *Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, TX* Serving those affected by natural disasters is what the Disaster Response Team from Trinity Lutheran Church in Tyler, Texas, is all about. The team of 40 trained volunteers respond when the need arises, bringing comfort, peace, and healing to the troubled hearts of victims of natural disasters. This mission grant will help maintain current equipment and purchase needed new equipment. Paid in full - \$50,000

Forged by Fire Services, Gulf Coast Region, U.S. — \$85,000

LWML Mission Grant #6 Mobile Kitchen

Forged by Fire Services strives to actively make known the love of Jesus Christ through its actions and words by providing warm meals, bottled water, and spiritual care to people in times of need following a disaster or economic downturn. They pray with those in need and offer resources such as devotionals and Bibles. This grant will allow the purchase of a mobile, self-contained kitchen trailer unit to provide meals in communities affected by disaster. Over 130,000 meals have been served in the Gulf Coast region. The mobile kitchen will benefit smaller communities in need that are often overlooked by larger organizations. When serving, Forged by Fire Services strives to connect local LCMS congregations within the communities and shares the mercy and grace of Christ, one plate of food at a time. Partial payment \$42,500, remaining owed \$42,500.

Danny Hall serving in DeRidder, Louisiana after Hurricane Laura

Worship Assistants							
	Elder	Ushers	Greeters	Reader	Altar Guild		
1/28	Steve Sporleder	Christy Petersen	Dave & Pam Neisendorf	Fern Petersen	Cindy Kuschel		
2/4	Jeff Pergande	Fred Rackow	Paul & Darlene Tegtmeier	Bette Wine	Fred & Linda Rackow		
2/11	Bob Felbinger	Nancy Heine	Beth Jack & Betty Kurtz	Jeff Pergande	Fred & Linda Rackow		
2/18	Steve Sporleder	Fern Petersen	Marilyn Eaves	Sonja Sporleder	Fred & Linda Rackow		
2/25	Jeff Pergande	Christy Petersen	Bette Wine	Paul Tegtmeier	Fred & Linda Rackow		

Birthdays					
1/29	Michael Bensko				
1/31	Owen Kuhlman-Trimble Meta Meyer				
2/2	Nicole Bensko				
Baptism Anniversaries					
1/31	Meta Meyer				
2/1	Marcia Mikesell Linda Rackow				
2/2	Claudia Andrews				

Lutheran Hour

January 28

"Forgiveness Is a Gift from Far Away" Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola Forgiveness is a gift Christ won for us on a cross, thousands of miles away and two thousand years ago.

February 4

TBD

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Broadcast Stations & Times: Sundays

WGN 720 AM, 6:30 am WGSL 91.1 FM, 4:30 pm WKKD 1580 AM, 9:30 am

This Week		
Sunday, 1/28	Worship Sunday School (Lesson: Ananias Helps Saul, Acts	9:00 am 10:00 am
	9:1-31) Adult Bible study	10:30 am
Tuesday, 1/30	Outreach meeting	6:30 pm
Wednesday, 1/31	Chapel - Deer Path	10:00 am
Thursday, 2/1	Ladies' Aid meeting Midweek Bible study Elders' meeting	12:00 pm 1:30 pm 6:30 pm
Friday, 2/2	Prayer Shawl ministry Little Saints Preschool Family fun night	1:00 pm 6:00-8:00 pm
Saturday, 2/3	Pew Sisters (Bible Study-Waiting) *Zone 8 Spring rally planning meeting (Trinity, Genoa, LWML)	10:00 am 2:00 pm
Looking Ahead		
Sunday, 2/4	Worship—Donut Sunday (hosted by church officers) & LWML* Mites	9:00 am
	Sunday School (Lesson: Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus, Acts 8:26-40)	10:00 am
	Adult Bible study	10:30 am
Wednesday, 2/7	Chapel - Deer Path	10:00 am
Thursday, 2/8	Midweek Bible study	1:30 pm
Saturday, 2/10	Pew Sisters' Bible study	10:00 am
Sunday, 2/11	Worship Sunday School (Lesson: Peter Visits Cornelius, Acts 10:1-48)	9:00 am 10:00 am
	Adult Bible study	10:30 am
Monday, 2/12	LWML Quarterly Bible study	6:30 pm
Wednesday, 2/14	Chapel - Deer Path Chapel - Little Saints Preschool Ash Wednesday Worship	10:00 am 11:45 am 1:30 & 7:30 pm
Thursday, 2/15	Chapel - Little Saints Preschool Pinochle Midweek Bible study Preschool board meeting	11:15 am 1:00 pm 1:30 pm 6:30 pm

^{*} Lutheran Women's Missionary League

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