



Martin Luther Lutheran Church  
211 Luther LN  
P. O. Box 362  
Carmine, TX 78932

*MLLC's Mission Statement:  
Martin Luther Lutheran Church,  
called by the Spirit to be a  
community of faith, welcomes all  
to a ministry of Word and  
Sacrament, that together we may  
grow in faith, and be equipped for  
service to God and our community.*

## Luther's Letter

a monthly publication of  
Martin Luther Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 362, 211 Luther LN, Carmine, TX 78932  
church office: 979-278-3388; fax: 979-278-3387  
day care/school: 979-278-3380  
Rev. David Tinker, Pastor  
Cell phone#: 979/530-6091  
e-mail: [pastordjt@industryinet.com](mailto:pastordjt@industryinet.com)  
website: [mlccarmine.com](http://mlccarmine.com)  
office hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Nancy Eilers, Carol Carmean, & Nancy Rosenbaum, secretaries

### Worship w/Communion:

Sundays - 9:00 a.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month - 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday School for all -Sundays 10:10 a.m.

Church Council: Shaye Kirts-President; Blake Dooley-  
President-elect; Kayla Peters-Secretary; Samantha Ullrich-  
Treasurer; Jessica Weidemann-Worship Committee;  
Cindy Weidemann-Stewardship Committee; Dana Smith-  
Christian Education Committee; Cheryl Etzel-Outreach/Care  
Committee; Ronnie Siptak-Property Committee



**Not Just Another Story**



# Luther's Letter

Martin Luther Lutheran Church

January, 2017

*O Lord, Our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Psalm 8:1*



## THIS CHRISTMAS WEEKEND:

The LYO's Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve starts at 6:00 p.m. and

Christmas Day, being on a Sunday this year, the Hymn Sing starts at 9:30, and Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion at 9:45 a.m. (There will be no Sunday School this Sunday only).

The Annual Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday, January 15. Annual reports are due to the church office by January 8.

**PLEASE CHECK THE SHARED LUTHERAN MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER included herein.**

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

JANUARY 1 IS A SUNDAY this year, and what better way to start a new year than by attending New Year's Day Worship Service at 8:00 a.m. at Waldeck Church or 9:45 at MLLC. Our theme at MLLC is "The Name of Jesus". Please note: The time schedule stays the same for another month or two.



--The Installation of Auxiliary Officers is set for Sunday, January 1, during the 9:45 a.m. worship service. This includes *Men in Mission, LYO, WELCA, Mary Group, and Ladies Aid*. Please report any changes in officers to the church office by December 25. The installation of Church Council is set for Sunday, January 22, during worship.

JANUARY 6 is The Epiphany of Our Lord, and from Isaiah 60:1 - "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."



--Seminary Scholarship Sunday - January 8, during the Sunday School hour (9:00 a.m.) Lizbeth Johnson of the *Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest* will make a presentation during Adult Sunday School about this Seminary Scholarship Endowment for MLLC members.



And, the Baptism of Our Lord is observed on January 8. From the hymn, ELW 304, "Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's Spirit on you came, as peace as a dove, and yet as urgent as a flame."

Refreshments will be provided. This new endowment has been started by Pastor Bill Derrick, and has been approved by the MLLC Council. It will include information about how to contribute to this fund as well as how to apply for a scholarship.

--Area Lutheran Churches 11<sup>th</sup> Night Concert will be held at MLLC this year on Sunday, January 8, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. A concert of various Christmas musical selections--instrumental, vocal, choir, praise team, bell/tone chime choirs, etc. are invited. This is an opportunity for all of our congregations to provide a musical piece or two for this special concert. For more information and/or to sign up to share a musical piece at the concert, please contact Pastor Marcia Kifer at the Shared Lutheran Ministry of Fayette County office - 979/249-3155. (A sign up sheet to bring cookies is in the narthex.)

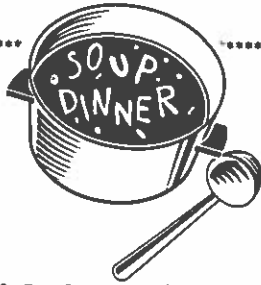
## CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Members of the congregation are encouraged to prayerfully consider serving on our Church Council. We are seeking individuals to serve in the following roles: President-elect, Treasurer, Secretary (for one year to complete this term); and Property Committee. Dana Smith, as Christian Ed chairperson, is willing to serve another term. Please seek the Lord in prayer regarding your participation in leadership. Contact Shayne Kirts or Pastor Tinker with questions or if you wish to have your name put forward for a role.

(Continued on next page)

## ★ ★ PASTOR'S VACATION:

Pastor Tinker will be on vacation December 26-January 2. Pastor Glenn Hohlt of New Ulm and Pastor Denise Seymour of Rehburg will be on call. If you are in need of a pastor during this time, please call the church office, or Pastor Hohlt at 979/250-1525, or Pastor Seymour at 979/451-5052. Pastor Sam Brannon leads the January 1 service. ★ ★



--Waldeck Lutheran Church's to-go-only turkey stew on Sunday, January 15, is served from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Gallon-\$25; ½ gallon-\$15. Bring your own container. Desserts available. To pre-order, call 979/249-5416.

## ANNOUNCEMENT RE: MLL SCHOOL



At the special congregational meeting of November 27, 2016, it was voted to close the Day School.

An exploratory committee has been formed by the Church Council to consider options for a future school ministry. Please contact the Pastor, Council Chairperson, or church office for more information.

Christ is  
BORN  
Counselor  
RIGHT GOD  
WIFE OF JESUS

## OTHER REMINDERS:

✓ **A.M.E.N. bags and envelopes** with non-perishable food items and monetary donations for the food pantry in La Grange may be returned at any time.

✓ An **Altar Guild meeting** is set for Sunday, January 22, at 9:00 a.m.

✓ **Carmine Cemetery Association** meets Sunday, January 22, at 8:45 a.m. at Carmine Lions Building. All members are urged to attend.

✓ **Confirmation Classes** will start in January, on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, from 4:15-6:45 p.m. in the Mission & Ministry building.

✓ The **2017 Flower Chart** has been placed in the narthex. Please sign up for a Sunday or other special occasion. As of this printing, flowers are needed for January 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

✓ There is food left over from the Day School. Lists of food items, canned, frozen, and boxed, are available in the church office and the school lunch room. If anyone would like to purchase any of these items, please place your name next to the item and the quantity you'd like.

✓ The **chrismon tree, the wreaths, and banners** will be dismantled on Sunday, January 8. Also, the outside nativity scene. Thanks to all who can help!

✓ **Next Choir practice** is set for Sunday, January 1, at 9:15 a.m. in the back of the sanctuary. The song will be "*The First Noel*". Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome!

✓ **Tone Chimes** will rehearse on Sunday, January 8, at 9:00 a.m.

✓ **Semi-Annual Blood Drive** is set for Sunday, January 29, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in our fellowship hall.

✓ And, the **2017 Offering Envelopes** are being mailed to everyone.

## WELCA NEWS:



Please Note: The Unit Planning Committee and General meeting has been changed to Monday, January 9, 6:00 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend. This is also the yearly planning meeting for 2017.

Next Quilting day: Monday, January 9, 9:00 a.m.

Next regular meeting date:  
Thursday, January 12

Bible Study Theme: Reformation  
Bible Study  
Session 1 - No other Gospel  
(Galatians 1:1-2-2:21)

Ladies Aid meets at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall  
Bible Study by Pastor Tinker  
Servers are Thelma Hinze and Nancy Eilers

Mary Group meets at 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor  
Opening devotion by Sedalia Ullrich  
Bible Study by Pastor Tinker  
Offering meditation by Edith Flinn  
Hostess is Sedalia Ullrich

**Thankoffering envelopes** are in the pews for anyone who would like to give a donation until December 31. The blue envelopes are for this purpose.

### Items needed for Baby Care Kits:

- Two lightweight cotton t-shirts, sizes up to 24 months
- Two long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers without feet
- Two receiving blankets
- Four cloth diapers
- One sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket with hood or include a baby cap
- Two pair of socks
- Two bath-size bars of gentle soap
- Two diaper pins or large safety pins
- One hand towel, dark color recommended

(Wrap all items in a receiving blanket and secure with diaper pins).

Shared Lutheran Ministries  
January 2017 Happenings  
Waldeck Lutheran Church – St. Paul Lutheran Church – Shelby  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Round Top – Martin Luther Lutheran Church - Carmine

**Martin Luther Lutheran Church – Carmine**

211 Luther Lane; P O Box 362

Carmine, TX 78932

Located at the corner of Luther Ln  
and Augsburg Ave, just a block south of US 290.

<http://mlccarmine.com>

Also on Facebook

Worship on Sunday – 9:45 a.m.

Worship on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month –  
6:00 p.m.

Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.

Pastor David Tinker

**Seminary Scholarship Sunday**

On January 8, 2017, during the Sunday School Hour (9:00 a.m.), Lizbeth Johnson of the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, will be making a presentation about the Seminary Scholarship Endowment for MLLC Members. Refreshments will be provided. This new endowment has been started by Pastor William Derrick, and has been approved by the MLLC Council. This event will include information about how to give to this fund as well as how to apply for a scholarship.

**11<sup>th</sup> Night Concert**

Sunday, January 8, 4-6 p.m.

See notice on either side of this newsletter insert.

**Campus Ministry Sunday**

January 29 – students from Treehouse – the Lutheran Campus Ministry of the Brazos Valley – Blinn and Texas A&M – will be our guest preachers on this special day.

Worship at 9:45 a.m.

**Building Rent Fee Changes**

We invite people of the community to use our facilities for events. The Church Council has decided on new fees for renting either the Fellowship Hall or the Mission & Ministry Building for an event. These may be rented for \$50 plus a \$25 refundable cleaning fee. If the building is cleaned, the \$25 will be refunded by mail. This fee is the same for both members and non-members, beginning January 1, 2017.

**Waldeck Lutheran Church – Waldeck**

6915 Waldeck Church Ln

Ledbetter, TX 78946

Located at the intersection of  
FM 1291 and FM 2145

(979) 249-3802

Find us on Facebook

Worship on Sunday – 8:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Pastor David Tinker

**Turkey Stew Fundraiser**

**To Go Only**

Sunday, January 15                      10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Bring your own container:

\$25/gallon or \$15/half gallon      Desserts available

979-249-5416 to pre-order

**Healing Service**

Sunday, January 29

At the regular 8:00 a.m. worship service  
An opportunity for prayers and anointing for  
spiritual, physical, emotional healing and  
wholeness.



**For all area Lutheran Churches**

**11<sup>th</sup> Night Concert**

A concert of various Christmas Musical pieces,  
instrumental, vocal, choir, praise team, bell/tone  
chime choirs, etc.

Sunday, January 8, 4-6 p.m.

**At Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Carmine**

This is an opportunity for all of our congregations  
to provide a musical piece or two for this special  
concert.

For more information and/or to sign up to share a  
musical piece at the concert, contact Pr. Marcia  
Kifer at the Shared Lutheran Ministry of Fayette  
County office - 979-249-3155.

Shared Lutheran Ministries  
January 2017 Happenings  
Waldeck Lutheran Church – St. Paul Lutheran Church – Shelby  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Round Top – Martin Luther Lutheran Church - Carmine

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Round Top**

412 S White St  
Round Top, TX 78954  
(979) 249-3686  
Find us on Facebook

Worship on Sunday – 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at 8:30 a.m.  
Noisy Offering on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday monthly  
Pastor John David Nedbalek

First Thursday of each Month  
9:30 a.m. Ruth Circle Visitors Welcome

Second Tuesday of each Month  
9:00 a.m. Sewing Circle Visitors welcome

**St. Paul Lutheran Church – Shelby**

6814 Skull Creek Road  
Fayetteville TX 78940  
Located just a few blocks east of FM 1457  
(979)836-8972

www.stpaulshelby.org  
Find us on Facebook  
Regular Sunday Service time – 8:00 AM  
– Sunday School @ 9:45 AM  
Pastor John David Nedbalek

Quilting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month

Noisy Offering – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month

**PLEASE TAKE  
NOTE:**

**For February: Please  
send your notices to me  
by January 15 for  
inclusion in the next  
joint newsletter insert.  
*Pastor David Tinker***



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11<sup>th</sup> Night Concert**

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County office - 979-249-3155.



What guidance is God giving  
For my living of this day?  
Will I help someone who's needy?  
Will I have kind words to say?

—by Peggy Ferrell, Poems, Prayers and Hymns

Will outrageous acts of kindness  
Be the gifts that I can share?  
Let YOUR will, God, be mine today,  
Help me to love and care!

☪☪☪☪  
**NOISY OFFERING REPORT**  
**for January 1-December 21,**  
**2016**

A total of \$1,681.33 has been collected for the 2016 recipient - The ELCA's companion synod of the Central African Republic.

This synod has an estimated 55,000 members in 300 congregations. The church has a seminary, a Bible school to train catechists, a strong women's organization, and a youth program. The church helps meet the urgent need for safe drinking water and adequate food, and more. Our synod has been involved with this program since the 1990's.

The 2017 Noisy Offering recipient is Fayette County Habitat for Humanity.

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Lloyd Zwernemann (recently hospitalized); Gladys Roemer (recent surgery); Jennifer Schulze Baker (friend from Burton); Dale Walker (friend of Susan Bathe); Paula Watkins (Carmine resident, RV park owner, cancer); Jayne Knox (Carmine resident, knee replacement); Marilyn Wagner (sister of Leonita Sanders, recent knee replacement surgery); Kalisa Pomykal (former member, for strength and peace); Jim Mattocks (recent heart valve surgery); Kaitlyn Fritz (teenage friend of Bill Derrick from Brenham, rare disease); Erwin Thiel (Andy Eckert's father-in-law, cancer); Dianne Sager (recent surgery); Nettilu Kmiec (Karen Roemer's mother, recent knee replacement surgery); Jimmy Alvarado (friend Missy Weidemann's grandfather, in hospital with pneumonia); Perry Crow (friend of Cherrie Wines, needs liver and kidney transplant soon); Roy Koehl (former member Mark Koehl's father, health concerns); Russell Zickler (former band director and friend of the Weidemanns, cancer); Kenneth Bishop (Carmine City Council member Ginger Pscencik's, son-in-law, cancer); Paula Barrick (for strength and peace); Josephine Canik (Carol Hall's sister-in-law, cancer); Dave Barney (Paula Barrick's daughter, Bobbie

Hughes' boyfriend, treatment for cancer); Bobbie Hughes (Paula Barrick's daughter, for strength in difficult times); Steven Pratt (Bernice Pratt's son, cancer); and Joey Pomykal (Paula Barrick's step-nephew, medical concerns).

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Bertha Ruether (Esther Kelley's mother); Paul Viertel (declining health); Don Steinbach (former member, stem cell trans-plant); Michael (Butch) Schulz (Barbara Schulz's husband; health concerns); Milton Poehls (Pauline Peetsy Fischer's brother, cancer and heart trouble); Jimmy Flinn (eye problems and stroke); Herman (Ham) Kovar (Rick Kovar's father, back problems); Mary Edwards (Linda Kovar's sister, battling lupus); Nelson Neutzler (friend of Alvis Mueller, health concerns); Josh Dow (15-year-old friend of Wade & Nancy Eilers, cancer); Amanda Sebastian (friend from Blue Bell Creameries and Randall Kohring's cousin, brain tumor); Lisa Mayer (health concerns); and Delores Oppermann (niece of Joyce Eilers, cancer).

DON'T FORGET THOSE WHO ARE HOSPITALIZED, in ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES, OR HOMEBOUND AT CHRISTMAS TIME WHO MIGHT LOVE TO RECEIVE A CARD, CALL, OR VISIT!!

Members in Care and Assisted Living

Facilities: Joyce Lehmann (at private care facility in Giddings); Verline Schulte (Brenham Rest Home); Elvera Limmer, Shirley Mueller, Paul Viertel, and Joyce Eilers (Brenham Nursing & Rehab); Lynda Kominczak (Mission Nursing & Rehab in Cuero); Elvira Dallmeyer (at Argent Court, Brenham).

Homebound Members: Nevilee Marburger (in Houston), Mamie Roemer, Judith Yarborough, Peetsy Fischer, and Elvera Rudloff (in Houston).

**AND DON'T FORGET THOSE IN THE MILITARY WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:**

Military Personnel: MLLC members: Joseph Vogel and Bryan Miller.

Family and Friends: Rowdy Chaddock, Michael Martin, Wacey Lanier, Jonathan Noak, Justyn Bearden, Wade Friedrich,

James Dunham, and all those who serve, known and unknown, in harm's way.

† **Our Christian Sympathy to the friends & families of:**

Vera Clepper (Eugene Muehlbrad's sister); Virgine Rosenbaum (Carol Sommerfeld's mother); Marie Nelius (friend from Round Top); Charlotte Guile (friend of Bill Derrick); Franklin Eckert (friend from Brenham and Ronnie Eckert's cousin); Paul LaRoche (friend from Brenham); and Mavis Grief (former active 2<sup>nd</sup> president of our Synod WELCA Board and member of Peace Lutheran, Pasadena);



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:**

Lloyd Zwernemann	01
Helen Georges	02
Clarence Jaster	02
Autumn Lehmann	02
Sybil Matthews	03
Jennifer Tinker	03
Reagan Williams	03
Makayla Smith	04
LaVerne Kunkel	05
Todd Dooley	06
W. T. Marth	06
Kirby Tappe	07
Valerie Moore	08
Travis Schiwart	08
Jill Eilers	09
Tess Eilers	09
Paul Viertel	10
Michelle Pratt	11
Brayden Scheffer	11
Colter Siptak	13
Jennifer Mohr	14
Ronald Mueller	15
Terry Roemer	16
Ashley Weiss	18
Aaron Frank	19
Thelma Hinze	20
Eugene Muehlbrad	20
Emily Wright	21
Hannah Pawlak	22
Dawn Miller	24
Cherrie Wines	24
Mandy Schoenst	25
Beth Carmean	26
Dianna Gerland	26
Patricia McCanlies	27
Michelle Kohring	28
Gaylon Mueller	28
Jimmy Loewe	29
Esther Kelley	30

**ATTENDANCE AND CONTRIBUTION REPORT:**

date	attendance	general	school	building
11-24	68	980.00	175.00	70.00
11-26	13	200.00	-0-	-0-
11-27	113	2,510.95	50.00	-0-
11-30	40	389.00	-0-	-0-
12-04	63	3,259.85	-0-	25.00
12-07	51	341.00	50.00	-0-
12-10	21	750.00	-0-	-0-
12-11	148	5,956.95	56.00	160.00
12-14	44	329.00	-0-	-0-
12-18	80	2,841.00	605.15	27.00

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**† Baptism Remembrance for December:** The following persons were remembered on December 10 & 11. *(The Baptism Remembrance days will continue on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday and Sunday of each month.)*



*Kelli Meinholdt, Drayton Oakes, Jordan Weidemann, Kennedy Flinn, Cindy Hinze, Andy Eckert, Vickie Schroeder, Kevin Hinze, Theresa Garlin, Stuart Markwardt, Susan Bathe, Danielle Nelson, Ryan Smith, Jake Smith, Tanner Jacob, Lauren O'Malley, Jason Schroeder, Ann O'Hara, Wade Eilers, Mark Kunkel, Dale Pawlak, Kalli Wellmann, Glenn Treude, Chance Waak, Nancy Eilers, Bailey Wunderlich, Gary Mueller, Shelby Vaughn, Clarissa Wright, Melissa Wickel, Elvira Dallmeyer, and Kyle Pawlak.*

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**A New Year as Disciples of Jesus, By Pastor David Tinker**

We are beginning a new year. Part of anything

new is the opportunity to revisit what is truly important in our lives. By God's grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as followers of Jesus Christ we are invited to strive to grow in our discipleship. We are invited to invest in our faith life in ways which connect us with God and with one another.

All Christians are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ. This is not just something which 12 men did nearly 2000 years ago. Disciples are Christians who are learning to do

things the Jesus and Christian Way by doing those things.

There are six common Christian practices which help us grow in faith and build up our service to others. I have noted these in some way previously, but it is good for us to revisit these in this New Year. These are referred to as "The Six Marks of Discipleship".

In response to God's Grace I will strive to...

- 1) Pray daily
- 2) Worship weekly
- 3) Read the Bible daily

These first three especially help us hear the Good News and be connected with God's grace. The second three are more about how we live daily life in response to the great things God has done for us through the ministry of Jesus Christ. These are:

- 4) Serve at and beyond Martin Luther Lutheran Church
- 5) Be in Relationship with others to encourage spiritual growth.
- 6) Give of my time, talents and resources in a generous manner and to the glory of God.

We may do some of these well, while struggling with others. That is normal. We are invited to invest in our faith. With this New Year you are invited to start with one of these that is not going as well for you. Then work on others as time goes by.

Let's look at each of these briefly.

- 1) Pray daily.

We are called in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances..." Prayer is our opportunity to connect with God and to seek the benefit of others throughout our days. If you are not praying daily, then plan a time each day to offer some form of prayer. It could be at morning, mealtime, bedtime or some other time. It may just start with offering the Lord's Prayer. It may be a listing of things for which you are thankful. What matters is that you pray.

- 2) Worship weekly.

Worshipping with the community of faith on a weekly basis has been a centerpiece of Christian life since the beginning. This gives us the opportunity for hearing God's Word, receiving Holy Communion, connecting with one another, and being sent forth in service for the week. Even in the early church Christians struggled with this discipline of the faith.

In Hebrews 10:24-25, we read, "24 And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." So, with this we encourage you to schedule worship participation into your life.

(Continued on next page)

## (Pastor's Article continued)

Each week our Shared Ministry offers worship at these times: Every Sunday – 8:00 a.m. at Waldeck, 9:45 a.m. at Carmine; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. at Carmine. If these times truly don't work due to work, health, etc., contact me to see how we can be creative about connecting with God and each other at worship.

3) Read the Bible daily. St. Paul teaches us in Colossians 3:16a: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..." We are invited to keep connected with God's Word throughout our days. Some people read a passage or chapter of a book each day. Some use a daily devotional book or email service, etc. to provide scripture readings and reflections. Some use a guide for extensive daily reading. What matters is that you are getting into God's Holy Word each day.

4) Serve at and beyond Martin Luther Lutheran Church. Our service to God always includes serving within the congregational context, but it is not limited to what we do together at the church building. As we express our love for God and love for neighbor we will always find this includes our ministry in daily life. We get to serve others in ways that just won't happen at the church building, and this is good. When we serve others in work, school, home, family, neighborhood and beyond, we are doing God's will. We get to be a neighbor in how we serve. As we serve our neighbors in need, it is part of how we show our love for God.

5) Be in Relationship with others to encourage spiritual growth. This includes our connections with fellow Christians and our connections with people who don't yet know Jesus. As we serve, learn and enjoy fellowship together we get to build one another up in Christ. As we seek to be a blessing to others through word and deed, we get to help others know Jesus better. What matters is that we love, serve and encourage others as true friends. Our faith is

passed on to others, one person at a time. When we live out God's love to those we know we will encourage a connection for others with Jesus as well.

6) Give of my time, talents and resources in a generous manner and to the glory of God. This is often a struggle for many, because it involves generous relinquishing of material possessions, along with time and abilities. When we give it away, we don't control it anymore, but that is where spiritual growth can happen. When we realize that God is God and we are not, we begin to see our lives transformed. Also, Jesus tells us in Luke 12:34, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." If we treasure our relationship with God and our connection with the ministries of His Church, then generous giving of weekly offerings will help us connect with that eternal treasure. Those who give a tithe (10% or more of one's income to God) find it is a good source of joy and spiritual growth.

So, as you enter into 2017, I invite you to find one of these areas which is not your strongest. Then, inspired by God's loving Grace, take action for growth on one of these Six Marks of Discipleship. As time goes by, let's keep in touch about how you are growing or needing help with one of these areas.

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**THANK YOU'S!**

☆ Thanks to all those who made this Advent/Christmas Season meaningful for us all:

--The members of the MLLC LYO for conducting the Christmas Eve Candlelight service, and to Mia Williams for directing.

--All those who helped decorate the chrismon tree on November 27, and Mary Group for serving.

--Volunteers who helped assemble the outdoor nativity scene and placed wreaths and banners.

--Amy Dooley (director) and Jolene Wickel (music) who led the Sunday School children in their program, "Simply Christmas" and celebrated Jesus' birthday with a meal on Sunday, December 11. Thanks to those who brought extra food.

--Thanks to Jessica Weidemann and Nancy Eilers for arranging the Carol Service "The Sounds of Christmas" on December 18. Thanks also to Jessica for her direction of Tone Chimes.

--Thanks to Jadon Weidemann, trumpeter; Singers: the MLLC choir, the Weidemanns, Dennis Smith, Cindy & Janette Weidemann; Jennifer Tinker, instrumentalist; and members of Tone Chimes for their selections.

☆ Thanks to the *Office Helpers for December: Dianne & Ted Sager* assembled the January newsletter, *Jessica Weidemann* sent bulletins to shut-ins and cards to visitors, *Blake & Amber Dooley* put supplies in pews, and *Melissa Wickel* folded bulletins.

☆ We wish to thank the Church Council and the congregation for the very generous Christmas Bonus for 2016. We continue to be thankful for our ongoing partnership in ministry here in Carmine.

*Pastor David, Jennifer, and Miles Tinker*

☆ The MLLC Men in Mission want very much to thank all of you, congregation members, for the gracious and generous donations that you again made to our Port of Houston Seafarers Shoebox Christmas project.

Basically, as a group, we exceeded last year's donations with 49 boxes. Last year, we sent 54; however, this was with the extra effort of Mrs. Dianne Sager, who had gotten a \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant for this project.

(Continued on next page)



(Men in Mission's thank you continued—)

We definitely want to thank several MIM's wives who volunteered to assemble and wrap the boxes. The ladies included Carol Carmean, Bev Cucuzza, Debby Peele, and Jennifer Tinker. Miles Tinkers was a "go-for".

And lastly, thanks to Brick Peele for delivering the boxes to the Port site. There will be a challenge next year, but our congregation will be up to the challenge.

Yours in Christ,  
Alvis Mueller, Chairman MLLC MIM



**CONGRATULATIONS**

...to Lauren & Jackson O'Malley on the birth of their daughter, Sawyer Ray, born December 13, 2016. Sawyer weighed 7 lbs., 6 oz., and measured 19-1/4 inches. She is welcomed by her big sister, Reese. From MLLC, grandmother is Cindy Hinze and great-grandparents are Jocie & Floyd Braun.



....the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Texas A&M and Blinn College (MLLC's 2015 Noisy Offering recipient):

**Campus Ministry Sunday 2017**  
By Pastor Mindy Roll

**Howdy Lutherans!** Thank you for welcoming our Treehouse students to your pulpit on January 29. Students are excited to be there (and nervous, of course!), and eager to share how the Good News has been alive and kicking through Lutheran Campus Ministry. It's been a phenomenal year.

Here's a little background: This will be Treehouse's fourth Campus

Ministry Sunday, and we will be sending 32 students to 17 churches this year! **As we Aggies say, Whoop!** Last year, through very generous congregational offerings, just over \$10,000 was raised to support Lutheran Campus Ministry at Texas A&M and Blinn College. We're tremendously grateful. Nearly our entire budget is fundraised, and each gift literally makes ministry happen. Thank you for your generosity.

So what are we up to this year? Well, here's a few things you might hear more about:

**It's tight!** Treehouse meets at the Student Center behind Peace Lutheran in College Station. This year, so many students have joined the ministry that we are almost shoulder-to-shoulder many nights, and we've often been scrambling for extra chairs and space. It's a wonderful problem to have! Students are deeply hungry for a warm, gracious, loving faith community on campus where questions are welcomed and community is formed – and that's exactly the need that Treehouse meets.

**New Staff!** As the ministry has grown, we've realized a need for more staff. So we were pleased to welcome Deaconess Jennifer Clark Tinker to the Treehouse staff this year, whose work is dedicated to continuing to build a faith presence at Blinn College in Brenham. She has been doing a fantastic job! We also have five student interns this year, who work at both Blinn campuses (Brenham and Bryan), as well as Texas A&M.

**Faith Formation!** When students begin in Treehouse, we let them know what we are up to: helping them grow beyond the simple faith of childhood to the questioning faith of adolescence to a deeply mature, trusting, nuanced, prayerful faith that can follow Jesus into the world. Our students will tell you that this is a challenging, hard, life-changing process. It most certainly is! It is also one that students are hungry for and what keeps them engaged beyond college. It's a powerful thing to witness.

There's so much more we want to tell you about the phenomenal ways that the Spirit is moving at Texas A&M and Blinn College! So please join us

for worship on January 29 at your regular 9:45 a.m. worship service.

With gratitude for your partnership in ministry, Pastor Mindy Roll, Treehouse, mindyroll@yahoo.com Lutheran Campus Ministry, Texas A&M and Blinn College



**A Volunteer Opportunity:**

Hospice Brazos Valley is seeking volunteers in the Giddings area on January 10 for those adults who would like to make a difference in the last days of a person's life. Hospice volunteers provide companionship to patients and caregiver relief to their families. There are no special skills involved as there is no medical/nursing or hands-on care involved.

For questions, please contact Lodie Massey, the La Grange Volunteer Coordinator, at 979/968-6913.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING,** Super Bowl Weekend - February 5, with Collection dates: January 29 & February 5.

- \* Look for the LYO members holding the large soup pots after worship on the last Sunday of January and the first Sunday of February.
- \* Bring in monetary gifts for A.M.E.N. Place these in the "soup pots" located in the sanctuary entrances. Make checks payable to: MLLC LYO; memo line: Souper Bowl.
- \* You may give using a designation on your regular offering envelope; note: Souper Bowl.
- \* If you are unable to attend worship on the designated dates, or you simply forget to bring something to give on those dates, feel free to mail or drop off your Caring gifts to the church offices by February 10.



# MASON JAR nightLight

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.



### What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

### What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.



# Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?  
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.  
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:



" \_ \_ M TH \_ L \_ GHT \_ F

TH \_ W \_ RLD. WH \_ \_ V \_ R

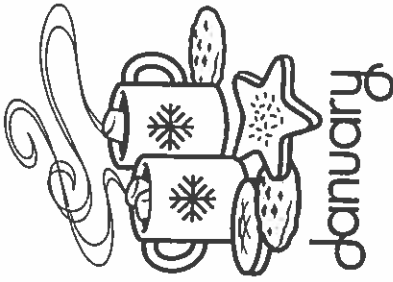
F \_ LL \_ WS M \_ W \_ LL N \_ V \_ R

W \_ LK \_ N D \_ RKN \_ SS."

J \_ H N 8:12, NIV


Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV

**SERVERS for:**



- Assisting Ministers: Dianna Gerland (01-01, 01-22); Jessica Weidemann (01-08, 01-28); Susan Bathe (01-14); Dana Smith (01-15); Bobbie Weidemann (01-29)
- Prepare Communion for shut-ins: Dean & Joyce Ullrich
- Send Bulletins to Shut-ins & Cards to Visitors - Nancy Eilers
- Acolyte organizers: Parents of January Acolytes
- Bulletin Folder: Cherric Wines
- Put supplies in pews: Bobbie Weidemann
- Offering Counters: Karen Dooley, Melissa Wickel, Jessica Weidemann
- February newsletter assemblers: Sara & David Eilers  
(the weekend of January 27 or 28)

date	acolytes	ushers	readers	flowers	communion assistants	communion set-up
01-01	Kennedy Flinn	Team #5-LYO	Kayla Peters	Sedalia and Samantha Ullrich		Susie M.
01-08	Rylan Stork	Team #6-Jeff Flinn, capt., Mia & Buck Williams, greeters; Lisa Mayer, Susan Leppard, Emma Leppard, Carson Flinn	Leonita Sanders		Susan Ray	Debbie E.
01-14		Volunteers				Jadon W. (green paraments)
01-15	Miles Tinker	Team #7-Diana Wunderlich, capt. & greeter, Cole Garlin, Hayden Garlin, Ricky, Kelli, Faith & Emily Meinholdt	Amy Dooley	Debby & Brick Peele	Dana Smith	Jadon W.
01-22	Ryan Smith	Team #8-Tim Weigelt, capt., Ann O'Hara, greeter; Lori Weigelt, Justin Roemer, Claire Mayer, Hannah Roemer	Bobbie Weidemann		Vickie Schroeder	Karen D.
01-28		Volunteers				Connie P.
01-29	Janette Weidemann	Team #9-Eldon Mikeska, Jr., capt., Mason Mikeska, Stuart Markwardt, Jimmy Loewe, Randall Zwernemann, René Zwernemann	Dana Smith	Mike & Terry McIntosh	Darlene Etzel	Connie P.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas New Year's Day 9:00 am-Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study/Pastor Tinker on vacation/Pastor Sam Brannon leads service 9:15 am-Choir practice 9:45 am-Worship with Holy Communion/Installation of Auxiliary Officers 5:00 pm-AA meeting	<b>2</b> MLLC office closed Pastor Tinker's last day of vacation	<b>3</b> 6:00 pm-Worship Committee meeting	<b>4</b> 4:15-6:45 pm- Confirmation class	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Epiphany of Our Lord 	<b>7</b> REMEMBER TO COLLECT YOUR LOOSE CHANGE FOR THE NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY
<b>8</b> Baptism of Our Lord 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am-Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study (Liz Johnson to speak during Adult Sunday School) 9:45 am-Worship with Holy Communion led by Praise Team/Tone Chimes practice/Noisy offering collected/Tone Chimes practice <u>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE to the church office/Christmas tree dismantled after worship</u> Property Committee, time TBA <u>11:10 am-Christian Ed Committee</u> <u>4:00-6:00 pm-11<sup>th</sup> Night Concert</u> 5:00 pm-AA meeting	<b>9</b> 9:00 am-Quilting 6:00 pm-WELCA Planning Committee & General Meeting 6:30 pm-Stewardship Committee Meeting	<b>10</b> Council agenda deadline	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 2:00 pm-Ladies Aid 6:30 pm-Mary Group	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:00 pm-Worship w/Holy Communion/
<b>15</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am-Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9:45 am-Worship with Holy Communion/ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP (10:30-1:00 - Waldeck's Turkey Stew-to-go) 5:00 pm-AA meeting	<b>16</b> 1:30 pm-Sr. Citizens' Domino party 6:15 pm-Church Council	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 4:15-6:45 pm- Confirmation class	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Newsletter deadline	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am-Sunday School/Adult Bible Study/Altar Guild meeting 9:30 - Hymn Sing 9:45 am-Worship with Holy Communion/Installation of Church Council Acolyte Training after worship IVO meeting (8:45 am-Carmine Cemetery meeting-Lions Bldg.) 5:00 pm-AA meeting	<b>23</b> 7:00 pm-Men in Mission	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:00 pm-Worship w/Holy Communion/ Baptism Remembrance
<b>29</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am-Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9:45 am-Worship with Holy Communion/Baptism Remembrance/Students from Teehouse Ministries give message 9:30-2:00 - Semi-Blood Drive in fellowship hall 5:00 pm-AA meeting	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			December 2016 S M T W T F S 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	February 2017 S M T W T F S 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