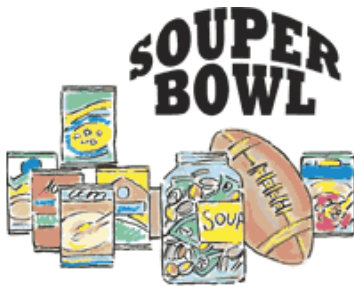


Calvary Comment

February 2025



**Pastor Paul & Phyllis
Zwarich**



Donate non-perishable & canned
food for Project Dignidad until
Feb. 9th.

Special dates

- African American History Month
- Valentine's Day, 2/14
- Presidents Day, 2/17

Calvary Lutheran Church
3231 S. College Hills Blvd.
San Angelo, TX

*Sharing God's word & love
within and beyond Calvary.*



From the Pastor

Do you have a special place that you like to visit again and again? Have you ever said: "I would like to go back there again." A few weeks ago, my family took a cruise to Key West and the Bahamas. And guess what? We all said we wanted to go back. Maybe you have had a similar experience when you went to the park, or to the beach, or to Grandma's house and everyone shouted out: "When can we go back?" When this occurs, you know everyone had a good time.

The Old Testament Reading for Ash Wednesday this year is Joel 2:1-2, 12-17. Verse 12-13 reads "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster."

The prophet Joel is telling the people "Let's go back. Let's return." No, the prophet Joel was not talking about returning to Key West or the Bahamas, he was talking about reuniting with God. For you see, the children of Israel had wandered from God. They began to worship other gods and idols. And they found out that these false gods could not help them. And so, in desperation, they called out to God to find them and bring them back.

The Good News is this. When we get lost and when we wander away from God, the Holy Spirit invites us to say: "Let's go back." After all, sin leaves us lost and lonely. Thankfully the Holy Spirit calls us to go back to God who loves us and forgives us.

Jesus too taught the same thing as the prophet Joel when He told the story of the prodigal son who wandered from his father. You know how it ends. When the father saw the son coming back home, he ran out to him and welcomed him home with both arms wide open.

Just as it is great to go back to that special place where you enjoyed yourself and yearn to return, it is even better to be welcomed back home by God. And that is why we sing during Lent "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." Ash Wednesday this year will be observed on March 5. Come and join us as we return to the Lord at the Ash Wednesday Service. And don't forget Shrove Tuesday. Pancakes, sausage, and King Cake will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

As the words to the Hymn "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" state: "Come Home, Come Home, you who are weary, come home. Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home."

The Season of Lent calls out to us to "Come Home."

Pastor Paul

November 14, 2024, Zoom

Betty called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present:

Betty Thane, President
Joyce O'Connell, Vice President
Ashlyn Scott, Secretary
Leon Thane, Financial Secretary
Manuel Ortegon, Treasurer
Elaine Mitchell, Service and Justice
Diane Ross, Worship
Jill Zuehlke, Fellowship
Paul Zwarich, Pastor

Not Present:

Heidi Wierzoweicki, Education
Ann Helm, Bookkeeper

Joyce moved to accept October's amended minutes, Diane seconded and the minutes were accepted.

Education: Pastor will be taking over youth Sunday school classes until the Christmas youth program

Fellowship: Food and decor are set for the Thanksgiving meal. After decorating the church on December 8, we will serve hot chocolate and have a cookie exchange.

Worship: Diane will soon pick hymns with Pastor for 2025. The Poinsettia sign-up sheet will be up soon.

Worship Committee: Bee Rose and Donna Aguilar

Social Concerns: Christmas tree from good gifts will be up on the first Sunday of Advent. Sign-up sheet for wrapping gifts and cookie exchange for December 8 will be made soon.

Social Concerns Committee: Marie Williams and Ouida Hahn

Pastor's Report: Pastor read over the November Pastor's report and was accepted as presented.

General Information

November 17: Church Thanksgiving Meal
November 23, @10 am: Lee Rose Memorial Service
December 4, 11, 18 @6pm: Advent services
December 8: Decorate the church while having cookies and hot chocolate!

December 10 @5pm: Council dinner at Cotton Patch

December 14: Youth program practice & Chickfila

December 15: Youth Christmas Program

December 24 @7pm: Christmas Eve Service

Coordinating team for church repair: Bob Bluthardt & Tom Miller

Team leader for sewer pump update: Fritz Leifeste

Unfinished Business

Insurance report on church hail damage: Currently awaiting the quotation from Harrison Roofing for the roof replacement. The response from the congregation to the \$5,000 deductible was great!

New Business

No new business this month

Financial Secretary Report

Leon presented the report and it was accepted as presented

Treasurer's Report

November Treasurer's report will be presented at January meeting

Communications

Thank you letter was received from Meals for the Elderly

EICA World Hunger asking for donations

Bob Bluthardt is asking for Christmas trees to be set up at the Fort

Joyce motioned that \$250 max funds for decorations be set aside for Elaine to decorate Joyce's donated tree, Jill seconded, motion carries.

Joyce motioned to adjourn the meeting, Leon seconded.

Adjourned the meeting @7:15 with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary,
Ashlyn Scott





Thank you for all the birthday cards & well-wishes. God bless you all!
~Ann Helm

Thank you for the Christmas bonus I received in December. I appreciate it very much!
~Pastor Paul



ANNIVERSARIES

2/14/1998
Adam & Kristy Scott

2/26/1983
Terry & Arline Zak

We
love
because
He first
loved us.
1 John 4:19



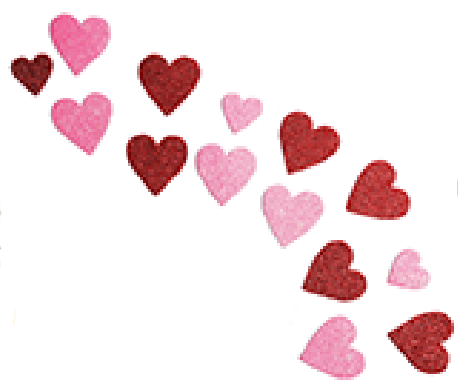
**Love is patient,
Love is kind.**
1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

BIRTHDAYS

16 Jane Cocuzzi

26 Atre Allen

26 Linda Ortegon



Calvary's donations to Project Dignidad from Aug. 6 to Nov. 25 of 2024 was \$688.



Jill Zuehlke
*Fellowship

Thank you to everyone that provided food and drinks for Chet Cooley's memorial service. Also, thank you to everyone that helped to set up, serve and clean up.
If you would like to serve with me on this committee please contact me.
Sincerely, *Jill*

The work of racial reconciliation

Racial reconciliation isn't a new concept. Some 2,000 years ago, the apostle Philip recognized that a man from Ethiopia was just as worthy of baptism into the body of Christ as were the natives of Judea and Galilee.

In *Color-Courageous Discipleship*, Michelle T. Sanchez views racial reconciliation as a personal journey for the greater good. "Jesus seeks to bring about the kind of inner transformation we need to

transform our world God's way," she writes. That echoes Martin

Luther King Jr.'s statement: "Only through an inner spiritual transformation do we gain the strength to fight vigorously the evils of the world in a humble and loving spirit" (*Strength to Love*).



FRIENDS  CHRIST

On Racial Reconciliation Sunday, observed the second Sunday of February, consider how you can address racial issues. Sanchez suggests simple steps such as starting a conversation with someone of another ethnicity or advocating for a friend. Consider how other people's lives and challenges are different from yours. Pray for people of different races and cultures. Ponder how you can come alongside and walk with them — and they with you.

THANK YOU for helping.

You can sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

DATE 2025	Assist. Minister	Reader (Lector)	Tech	Flowers	Altar Guild	Sunday School
2/2 Presentation of Our Lord	Joyce O'Connell	Ashley Scott	Adam Scott		Jo McCormick	Gary Griffin
2/9 Epiphany 5		Bee Rose	Adam Scott	Hank & Bee Rose		Pastor Paul
2/16 Epiphany 6			Marcy Miller			Phyllis Zwarich
2/23 Epiphany 7	Bee Rose		Adam Scott	Bluthardts		

A note from Rosalee...

Greetings to all of you.

I want to thank each of you for the lovely and meaningful Christmas Cards. Also I wish to thank each of you for the lovely and very meaningful sympathy cards and kind words on each one in the loss of my oldest son, Danny McLaughlin.

He had been very ill for some time with various things. Donnie Steve and I barely got to Tucson to see him his last couple of days and talk to him. Thanks to Donnie's boss who owns his own plane and had no plans for the 18th, so he flew us to Tucson in 2 1/2 hours. He is a truly Christian man for I knew his grandparents and his father in my home Church at Lockney, Tx. All of the family was in his room at the time he passed. The Hospice Nurse had called for the Chaplain to come to his room. The Chaplain had been to Danny's room on various occasions, saying some visits were funny and some more solemn but that she had not heard much about his life. I was sitting by his bed holding his hand and talking to the Chaplain, filling her in on Danny's life, where raised, etc. Danny had been fighting for every breath he took and when Jesus came and took his other hand and said come with me my child, his breathing ceased. He went very peaceful, no more struggling for his breath. The Chaplain was such a very sweet loving person. A few days after our loss, she called my daughter Teresa in Tucson and inquired as to how all of the family members were doing, so concerned. He is a great loss to all of us but we do know that he is so much better off. Thank each of your concern and precious words. God bless each of you and I love you all dearly. **Rosalee King, MOM.**

"I am here"

In *Bread for the Journey*, theologian Henri J.M. Nouwen calls consolation — from "to be with" (con-) "the lonely one" (solus) — "one of the most important ways to care." He writes, "Life is so full of pain, sadness and loneliness that we often wonder what we can do to alleviate the immense suffering we see."

Although consoling doesn't necessarily remove someone's pain, Nouwen notes that it serves a deeper purpose: To console means "to be there and say, 'You are not alone, I am with you. Together we can carry the burden. Don't be afraid. I am here.'" That is consolation. We all need to give it as well as to receive it."

Love makes us worthy



Unlike God, who loves unconditionally, humans often make choices and set limits when doling out affection. But Thomas Merton reminds us, "Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy."

As for how to develop and maintain that type of love? Merton shares, "It is in deep solitude that I find the gentleness with which I can truly love my neighbors."

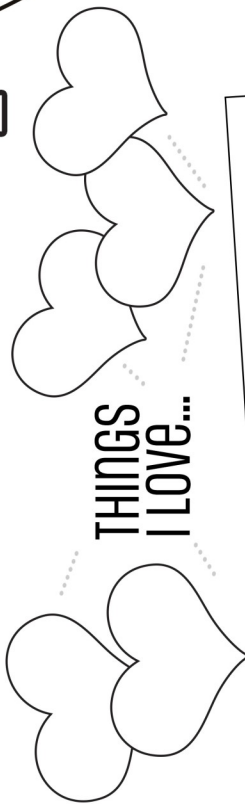
A friend
loves
at all times.

Proverbs 17:17

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Presentation of our Lord Synod Council	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	AA group 5:30pm Adult Bible Study 6pm	Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Epiphany 5 Souper Bowl of Caring	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	AA group 5:30pm Council Meeting 6 pm Zoom	Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm 	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Epiphany 6	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off Newsletter Deadline 	AA group 5:30pm Adult Bible Study 6pm	Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm Soup Kitchen 9:30-1	
23	24	25	26	27	28	
Epiphany 7	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	AA group 5:30pm Adult Bible Study 6pm	Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	

JESUS LOVES ME

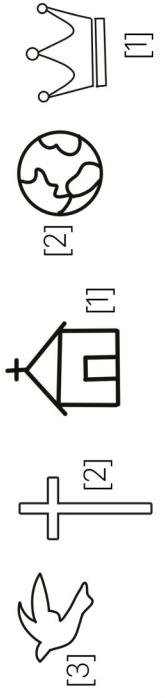


THINGS I LOVE...

REJOICE	Y
HEART	A I H
LOVE	N B K Y H
FOLLOWS	F R O Z J Q R D L I N H O P
ANGEL	E R J E C J L O V N D S E S
HOPE	T Y S G O L O I W C S E S
GENTLE	H A N S J O E T F L A E
JESUS	J Q U R E F L N A
KIND	W X H L L
JOY	T W X H L L

SPY...

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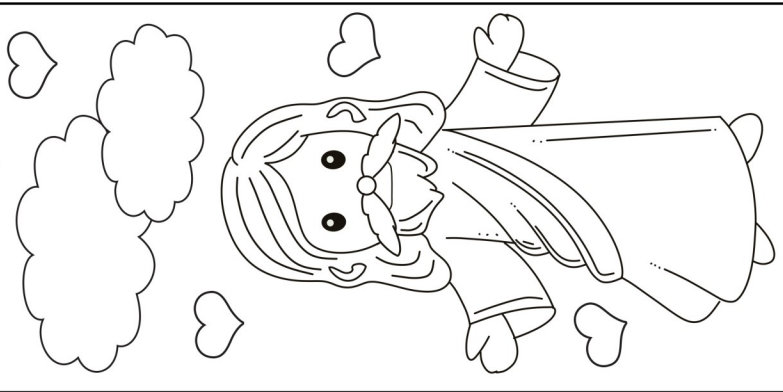


How many can you find on the page?

a. 12 b. 14 c. 9

AS THE FATHER HAS
LOVED ME,
SO HAVE I LOVED YOU.
NOW REMAIN IN
MY LOVE.

John 15:9, NIV



COLOR THE BOOKMARK
& THEN CUT IT OUT.

Calvary Lutheran Church
3231 College Hills Boulevard
San Angelo, TX 76904

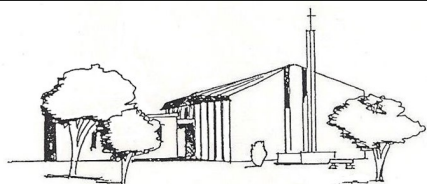


A prayer for Presidents Day

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all.

Remind us of the psalmist's teaching: "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled "from sea to shining sea." Amen.



*Sharing God's word & love
within and beyond
Calvary.*

Phone: 325-944-1116
Website: calvarysa.org
E-mail: secretary@calvarysa.org

Calvary Lutheran Church

We strive to recognize and nurture the Christ in ourselves and each person that we encounter along the way. Our church is a thriving community of believers and lovers of the word of God. Calvary Lutheran has a long tradition of outreach and service to its members and the community. We hope you will join us for service on Sunday to experience for yourself the fellowship of Christ.