

THE CHURCH BELL
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Member of North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

1764 Meyersville Rd.
Meyersville, TX 77974
361-277-8653



October 2015

VOL. 39 NO. 10

Greetings,

When life is going well for you, it's easy to feel hopeful. But when this fallen world brings trouble into your life, feelings of hopelessness can come in, too. Thankfully, the hope that God offers is much more than a feeling: It's the reality of His presence with you. You can experience that hope in any situation - even if your health fails, you lose your job, your spouse leaves, or some other tragedy hits you.

With the situations in the world today it is not hard to find yourself struggling with one thing or another. But don't let difficult situations stop you from making the best of each day. Remember that life is a gift from God and pray for the Holy Spirit to renew your mind so you can enjoy each day to its fullest.

Don't respond by arguing with God or rebelling against Him. God has promised to turn all circumstances to good in our lives. Often we miss these opportunities and blessings that God has for us because we are too busy arguing with Him or turning away from Him. We wonder where God is. We think because things are not going our way that God has left us. He has promised he will never forsake us. He will never leave us but we sometimes turn away from Him.

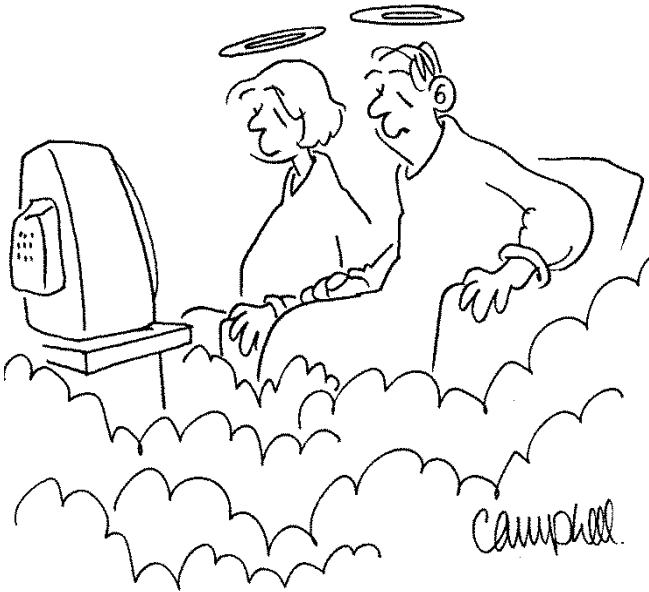
We need to turn to God in prayer. But if He doesn't give you exactly what you want or resolve the problem the way you want it, don't think He isn't answering your prayer. Remember He will give us what we need which isn't always what we want. We always need to remember to bring our desires in line with God's will.

I wish I could tell you that we will never have bad things happen to us, but they will. Please remember that God isn't the only force working in this world. Satan would love for us to turn away from God and do it on our own. But we need to remember the promises of God and always pursue his will and most of all trust in Him.

Peace to you always.

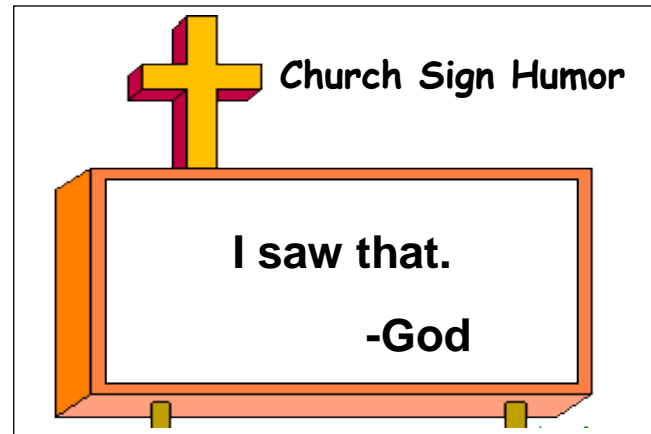
Pastor John

If you or a family member is in the hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the Church office (361/277-8653) or Pastor John Boor at the parsonage (361/275-9895) or on his cell (361/243-0373). Due to the privacy laws, hospitals no longer notify pastors when a member is admitted or treated. If you know of anyone being taken to the hospital (emergency or otherwise), or who is seriously ill please call.



"Oh no! I dropped the remote."

Ding-a-ling
Corner



STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2015														
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	
Infant/Child	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0					1	
Adult	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0					4	
Total Baptisms	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0					5	
Confirmations	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0					6	
Weddings														
Members	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1					2	
Non-Members	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2					3	
Funerals														
Members	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0					2	
Non-Members	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					1	
Counseling Sessions	4	3	4	2	3	3	4	3					26	
Transfer Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	
Transfer In	0	0	5	0	3	0	2	0					10	
Home Visits	6	5	7	6	6	7	0	4					41	
Hospital Visits														
Members	2	2	0	2	2	6	4	0					18	
Non-Members	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0					3	
Private Communion														
Members	4	5	4	6	6	7	9	4					45	
Non-Members	34	18	33	28	27	39	36	18					233	
PLEASE NOTE: LAST MONTH'S STATISTICS ARE TO DATE AS OF PRINTING TIME														
Release of Membership		0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	
Restore to Membership		0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	

ST. JOHN EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT NUMBERS

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor John Boor 275-9895 (Cell) 243-0373
Council President Marvin Sager 275-6029
Vice President Obert Sagebiel 275-5087
Secretary Mitchell Jank 572-9365
Treasurer M'Liss Moore 275-8069
Financial Secretary Sandy Gohmert 275-9117

OTHER CONTACTS

Trustee - Vance Egg 277-5937
Deacon - Don Wendel 277-9862

TEAM LEADERS

Worship Team - Johnny Jank 575-6813
Parish Education - Kathy Dunn 277-9592
Mission/Evangelism - Linda Ruschhaupt 275-2059
Property Team - Dickie Bettge 277-3096
Finance Team - Glenn Ruschhaupt 275-2059
Parish Life Team - Terri Jank 572-9365
Women of the Church - Cathie Bettge 277-3096

Church Secretary - Heather Roeske (956) 655-1950

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday-Thursday
9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

****Please check the calendar and bulletin for any changes.**



ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER/NAME CHANGES

Please notify the Church Office as soon as possible of any change in mailing addresses, and/or phone numbers, and/or name changes. Thank you!

If any elderly person, or youth, needs a ride to Church or youth events, please notify the pastor so arrangements can be made to accommodate these needs.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the November 2015 Church Bell is Thursday, October 22, 2015 by 9a.m.

You can drop off your articles at the church office, or e-mail them to stjohnelutheran@juno.com. Thanks!



Do you have an idea?

Is there something at the church that you think needs fixing or changing? The Church Council and Committee Members would like to have your input. Please

feel free to use the 'suggestion box' in the Narthex to pass on your ideas, suggestions, and concerns. Remember, this is your church and your opinion matters. We are eager to hear from you!



If you have a request for the Prayer Chain, contact Evelyn Diebel. And please update your request at least once a month so the list can be kept current. If you wish to receive the Prayer Chain requests, please contact Evelyn Diebel (275-5979).



Our Military and their families:

Nicholas Jacobs - deployed to Afghanistan
Russell Copeland - reserves, preparing to deploy
John Otto - USMC, Camp Pendleton, CA

Nursing Homes: Ruth Moore - Yorktown Nursing & Rehab

Recovering: Bette Jo Haun - Recovering at home.
Gene Grafe - Warm Springs, Victoria

Homebound: Cleo Wendel, Janie Rangnow, and Helen Mae Egg

ATTENTION ACOLYTES

Please see the acolyte sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Volunteers are needed for the upcoming months!



BUSY BAGS IN CHURCH

Busy Bags are available in the Narthex for all children to use. These bags have quiet activities for children to enjoy during Worship. The tote bags have items that younger children might be more interested in while the zipper bags have items for slightly bigger kids. Grab a bag on your way in to church, but please "bee" sweet and return it after the service.

St. John's Mission of the Month:

And the winner is...

Warrior's Weekend

Last month the Mission/Evangelism Team asked the congregation to vote for their favorite mission. The votes were counted, and the winner was Warrior's Weekend.

Founded in 2007, Warrior's Weekend is a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 Corporation dedicated to the support of U.S. veterans with an emphasis on those wounded in The Global War on Terrorism. This is accomplished through holding an annual fishing event for wounded military personnel in May in Port O'Connor, Texas as well as donations to veterans and veterans-based causes.

Warrior's Weekend will be the MOM for the first 3 Sunday's in October. On October 25th, Mission Feast Sunday, we will give our Mission offerings to the NALC Seminary in honor of our guest speaker that day, Dr. David Wendel.



Worship Team hosting tryouts for "The Voice" of St John

The Worship Team has had some requests for someone to lead the congregation in song during worship. This could be one or two persons who are able to lead our singing, especially on those songs that may not be as familiar. Please consider this ministry and if you are called to this please contact Johnny or any member of the Worship Team.

The Worship Team is also considering the possibility of reviving our choir. There is definitely interest in getting it started again but we need at least 8 – 10 folks willing to give of their time and voices to this worthy part of our worship. So if the last time "The Voice" aired on TV and you thought, "I could do that," consider how many contestants said they started singing in church. Here's the chance to start on that road to Nashville or maybe just enjoy singing with some of us in Meyersville.

MISSION FEAST



Sunday October 25, 2015 is our annual Mission Feast Sunday. This year we will also have our Fill the Church event on the same day. Worship will be followed by a delicious luncheon. The church will be providing meat and drinks, and the congregation is asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Our guest speaker for the day is Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel, STS, who is currently serving as NALC Assistant to the Bishop for the Ecumenism and Ministry. Be sure to make plans to join us, and bring a friend.

A little about Dr. Wendel: The Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel, STS, was born and raised in Columbus, Indiana, graduating from Columbus High School in 1977. His home congregation is First Lutheran Church, Columbus, Indiana. He graduated from Indiana University, Bloomington IN with a bachelor's degree in Speech Communication. He is a 1981 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, having served his internship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Los Alamos, N.M. He earned a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching degree from the Association of Chicago Theological Schools in 2001. He served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hobbs, N.M. from 1981-1986 before being called to Saint Luke's Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs in 1986. After serving as pastor of Saint Luke's for 25 years, he was called to serve as Assistant to NALC Bishop John Bradosky, relocating to Columbus, OH in January, 2012. As Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Wendel assists congregations and pastors in the call process, serves as the ecumenical officer of the denomination, and assists the bishop as needed. Pastor Wendel and his wife, Susan Riches, have two adult children, Christopher of Ambridge, PA, and Rebekah of Ft. Bliss, El Paso, Texas. They have two grandsons and two granddaughters.

St. John Youth Group

Daren & Dawn Otto



WOW, what a great start to a new Youth Group year! We had 22 youth attend our September meeting. It is a blessing to see our mission growing.

We enjoyed getting the youth together and introducing our newest members to the purpose of the group and the events we will participate in through the year.

On the 26th, KAVU 25 came out to video our group saying the Pledge of Allegiance by the flag pole at the cemetery. This will be aired on their morning show during the week. Keep watch for St. John Youth Group's television debut.

Our next meeting will be on October 14th, 6-8 p.m. Brighton & Marlee will be sharing a Bible verse and we will have our usual food, fellowship & fun. All 6th-12th graders are welcome. Please join us!



QUILT LITANY & THANK OFFERING SERVICE

Join us on Sunday, October 11th for our Quilt Litany and Thank Offering. Along with the litany, we will have a display of the beautiful quilts the quilters have been making for needy people throughout the world. As we speak the words of the Quilt Litany, we will be asking for God's blessings on those who will be receiving the quilts. We will also have a time to bring our Thank Offerings forward during this service. Any woman in the church who would like to bring an offering forward is encouraged to do so during this time.



Our deepest sympathy to the family of

Geraldine Moritz Pullin
1942-2015



Welcome to our newest members!

Archie & Virginia Abrameit

**Morgan, Sharon, & Morgan
Mackenzie Goebel**



These two families were welcomed during Worship on Sunday, September 13, 2015.

BI-ANNUAL ALTAR GUILD MEETING:

The Altar Guild will be holding its bi-annual meeting on Tuesday, October 13th at 7 p.m. At least one member from each team needs to attend this meeting.

Ladies, It's Bunco Time!

Monday, October 26, 2015
St. Mark's Lutheran, Cuero
Registration begins at 6 p.m.

RSVP by October 23rd:
Church Office: 275-2845
Marlene Fromme: 275-3754
Gladys Dieringer: 275-5202



* * * * *

Sunday, November 1, 2015
Our Savior's Lutheran
4102 N. Ben Jordan, Victoria
Registration begins at 1:30 p.m.

RSVP by October 26th:
Church Office: 575-4305
Mildred Johnston: 575-4921
Susie Breeden: 573-6637



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

August 25, 2015

By Church Secretary, Mitchell Jank

Members present: President Marvin Sager, Pastor John Boor, M'Liss Moore, Dickie Bettge, Cathie Bettge, Kathy Dunn, Mitchell Jank, Terri Jank, Obert Sagebiel, Glenn Ruschhaupt, Linda Ruschhaupt, Sandy Gohmert, Johnny Jank and Kathy Dunn.

CALL to ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Marvin Sager at 7:00 PM.

DEVOTION: Led by Mitchell Jank.

MINUTES: Minutes were reviewed and approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Reviewed and approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- First I would like to thank the council and the congregation for sending me to Lutheran Week in Dallas. It was a very rewarding experience. Prior to Lutheran week the leaders of the NALC met with religious leaders from Europe. I had an opportunity to speak with some of them and they were all very excited about what is happening in the NALC and all expressed an interest in working with us to spread the Good News of Christ.
- As of August 1st the NALC became a self-paying health insurer. I am not knowledgeable of all of the implications of this nor do I understand how it all works but I do now that it has resulted in a rate reduction for Brenda's health insurance of approx. \$43 per month.
- I have heard many favorable comments about our contemporary service on August 9th. The comments have come from all age groups and I know of one family that was visiting that Sunday for the first time and they have been here every Sunday since.
- This Saturday, August 29th I will be performing a wedding of Brenda's sister in Wimberley. It will be a private ceremony.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Old Business

- Reminder for all members to get their information turned in so the NALC Congregational report can be submitted.

Finance Team Report

Members present at the August 10th meeting were Glenn Ruschhaupt, M'Liss Moore and Marvin Sager.

- REVIEW OF LATEST FINANCIAL REPORTS- Reports were reviewed along with relative additional information from M'Liss. M'Liss gave an update on memorial fund balances and communications with beneficiaries' families regarding use of monies.
- NALC'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION FOR 501 (C) (3) APPLICATION - Subject documentation has been forwarded and sufficiency acknowledged by NALC.
- CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS/RED BOOK – M'Liss has been working with Heather on entry of archival records from the Red Book into the Sheppard Staff computer program. Team consensus is that the Red Book should continue to be kept up to date with that information which has historically been recorded in it.
- OLD FINANCIAL RECORDS/FILES RETENTION AND STORAGE – Still-pending, evergreen project. As time allows for team members to physically review and categorize related data, efforts will be ongoing.

Mission/Evangelism Team report

Members: Pastor John, Marvin Sager, Cheryl Bramlette, Pam Haun, Candice Cowley, Lloyd and Karon Copeland and Linda Ruschhaupt, Team Leader.

- St. John's Mission for the Month of September – **Bibles for People.** Bibles for People is a 501 C 3 nonprofit Christian organization that focusses on providing God's Word to those who are in need. They distribute Bibles locally as well as nationwide. Colby Sturm of Bibles for People will speak to our congregation on August 30, 2015.
 - Results of the vote for October Mission:
33 votes cast
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Warriors Weekend | 9 |
| CAMAL House | 5 |
| Bibles for Peoples | 3 |
| NALC Seminary | 3 |
| Lutheran World Relief | 2 |
| Boys and Girls Club | 2 |
| Lutheran Bible Translator or Elam | 2 |

Receiving One Vote Each:

Lutheran Braille Workers
American Family Association
Blue Bonnet Youth Ranch
Christian Warrior's Wives Retreat
Christian Warriors Retreat

Fischer House (San Antonio)
Samaritan's Purse

Parish Life Committee Report

Members: Cindy Egg, Candy Cowley, Beth Reinecke, Terri Jank-Team leader, and President Marvin Sager.

- August 30th - We will be serving pancakes during Sunday school for Rally Sunday.
- October 25th – Mission Feast & Fill the church Sunday. There will be a meal with the meat provided by the church and families will be asked to bring a side dish and or a dessert.
- November 22nd – Polka Sunday. We will have refreshments following this service.

Parish Education report

- GREAT NEWS: LeAnn Jander has agreed to Co-Teach Kindergarten-First Grade!!!!!!
- Backpack Blessing at Sunday school seems to have been very good. There were 22 students, mostly elementary age, with a few older ones to help us.
- There were 18 in the adult class, including some new parents. Wilma Peiwitz and her children and 2 grandchildren, and Erin Cornett Collins brother, Jared Grigsby and girlfriend, Becky Cessor, and 2 children. Special thanks to Norrean Sager and Wanda Hays for the food. And Kally & Rick Garrett for the ice cream and decorations!
- Rally Sunday is next Sunday – hope we get at least this many back. I am trying to get non teachers to be in charge of parts of this. (cake walk –treat walk) (fishing station) (craft station) (Game station). I have asked Johnny to be able to use the whole parish house for this day. Parish Life is providing breakfast pancakes! (instead of the hot-dogs lunch)
- Wanda and Heather and I are the only staff/teachers that have been coming. Jackie Parsons says she will continue to teach, but her jobs have kept her away often. (Diane Chavez and Leslie Wunch declined, Michelle Wendel retired, Toi Rangnow no response)

The Property Team

Items Complete.

- Concrete bench was purchased and set up under tree near Reuben's grave.
- New sign was added to our insurance at a value or \$22,000. Annual premium is \$69.00.

- Eagle Scout project: Tables & fire rings are set. They plan to get a trash can and umbrellas.
- Mailboxes have been installed in parish hall.
- Chris Gohmert performed maintenance on the church computer.

Old Business.

- Window pane replacement – 9 @ \$140=\$1,260
- Solar screens - 14 - 30x60 @ \$60 = \$840
- 2 - 30x48 @ \$54 = \$108
- 2 - 30x36 @ \$48 = \$ 96
- Sign Cover - 1@ \$260=\$260
- Total Ideal Aluminum \$2,564

Approved by council and contract signed and emailed to Ideal Aluminum.

- Crushed limestone for road improvement. The proposal from Dunn Services, Inc. for placing 3 loads of crushed limestone to connect the cemetery road with the parking lot and touch up in parking lot is \$3075.25. Approved by council and Dunn Services notified.
- Bid from Superior Rain Gutters on guttering for the parsonage and garage to keep the roof water away from the parsonage slab is \$1204. Approved by council and Superior notified. Since there was a sewer line and electric line in near proximity, Glenn Ruschhaupt installed the drain for the gutters and Superior installed the gutters. The gutters are installed and the drain is in progress.
- A water hydrant is being installed near the parish hall.
- Basement Renovation: Patrick Ohrt met with the property team and discussed progress on the basement renovation. He provided us with the first drawing on possible lift layout and awnings with lift on the east side of the church. Our first step is to identify possible contractors for demolition of the basement.

New Business:

- Watering cemetery trees. Clay will take care of weekly watering of cemetery trees.
- Water sample. Marv will check on the uranium component and check if they took a depth measurement.
- Rust is appearing on the new refrigerator. Clay will check refrigerator warranty.

Project List:

- Revision of cemetery rules. We discussed downloading cemetery rules used by the Catholic Churches as a guide to revising our rules. Dickie will download.

- Signage to close cemetery at night. Clay had pictures of signage at a Victoria cemetery. Will continue to investigate.
- Inventory of furniture and equipment & report to Church Council. Dickie
- Winterize plumbing at trees. Dickie.
- Volleyball light fixtures and fencing. Corner posts were set on Aug. 6.
- Install holders in parking lot for crosses.
- Fertilize grass at playground. Clay.

Women of the Church report.

Submitted by Cathie Bettge

- Brenda Boor attended the Women's NALC meeting in Dallas this month both as president of the organization and our delegate.

Worship Team report

The Worship Team met on Tuesday 7th July. Members in attendance were Johnny P Jank, Virginia Jank, Norrean Sager, Beverly Bodden and Carol Ann Sagebiel, organist Bruce Weise, Council President Marv Sager, and Pastor John Boor.

- **Communion Sunday** – Previously to address concerns about the length of service, we have opted to forego the reading of the Psalm lesson and singing the 3rd and final hymn. We discussed these changes and input we have received and decided to put the responsive Psalm reading back into the service. We will continue to leave off the final hymn and see how our time is affected.
- **Pastor John vacation** – 2nd August 2015, Bruce Billstein supplied in Pastor John's absence. We discussed the pros and cons of Bruce Billstein's supply service.
- **Wedding Policy review** – Pastor John and Marv has revised the current Wedding Policy to meet the NALC Guidelines. We are meeting to finalize. Johnny moved that we approve the finalized version presented. Dickie seconded. Motion passed.

Other Old Business –

New Business –

- **Contemporary Service** – Team discussed alternatives in light of John Sprigg with "Drummer Boy" canceling. We agreed to use recorded music to accompany the service.
- **"Fill the Church Sunday"** – Scheduled for 25th October 2015.
- **Assign Songs for Worship** – 13th September

through 4th October 2015

Council New Business

- The Youth Group has requested approval to have the group tape the 'Pledge of Allegiance' to be used by KAVU-25 during the morning news. Obert made the motion to approve. Cathie seconded. Motion passed.
- Heather has requested that her office hours be amended to Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. This would allow her the same hours and only be in the office three days. Glenn made the motion to approve her request. Johnny seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned and closed with The Lord's Prayer.



From The
CHURCH OFFICE

NEW OFFICE HOURS:

The church office will now be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thank you.

Keep up with St. John online



St. John Meyersville

<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnmeyersville>

Or visit our website at stjohnmeyersville.org

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH:

October 4

- Greeters** - Alfred & Marlene Rangnow
Reader - Beverly Bodden
Acolyte - *Volunteer Needed*

October 11

- Greeters** - Cheryl Bramlette
Reader - Jeffery Bennett
Acolyte - Cole Alcorn & Will Green

October 18

- Greeters** - Candace Cowley
Reader - Marlene Rangnow
Acolyte - Caroline Roeske & Brooke Wendel

October 25

- Greeters** - Dickie & Cathie Bettge
Reader - Caden Jander
Acolyte - Jeri Ficklen & Justin Ficklen

October Communion Assistant

Dickie Bettge

October Altar Guild

Betty Diebel & Virginia Jank

October Nursing Home Visitors

Joan Wendel

LOOKING AHEAD...

November 1

- Greeters** - Cathie Bettge
Reader - Trish Hood
Acolyte - *Volunteer Needed*

November Communion Assistant

Wanda Hays

November Altar Guild

Carol Ann Sagebiel & Cathie Bettge

November Nursing Home Visitors

Mary Wagner

Volunteers: If you are down for a service, you are responsible for getting a substitute if you cannot make it. Please let the church office know if you have switched so the correct names can be in the bulletin.

Happy Birthday to:

- 2 - Jason Brewer
3 - Justin Ficklen
6 - Karen Brewer
8 - Cheryl Bramlette
9 - Pam Haun
11 - Lovel Blain
12 - Joan Gohmert
Lynn Lueckemeyer
14 - Obert Sagebiel
19 - Caroline Roeske
20 - Sandy Gohmert
21 - Cole Robert Rains
Laurie Pokluda
23 - Don Wendel
Dwight Jander
26 - Rion Moeller
27 - Jennifer Coates
Kimberly Brewer
28 - Eran Krause
31 - Gordon Gohmert
John Lloyd Gohmert



Anniversary Greetings to:

- 7 - Carl & Crystal Eichorn
8 - Bill & Tammy Boehl
Kevin & Beverly Bodden
15 - Roger & Tamany Brown
20 - Trandon & Nicole Leist
22 - Kyle & Tracy Fuchs
Randy & Malinda Wendel
29 - Merton & Marjorie Ideus

Our apologies if we have missed your special date. Please contact the church office to help with corrections. Thank you.