

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

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



September 2015

VOL. 39 NO. 9

Greetings,

I am currently reading a book by John Bevere called *Good or God*. It addresses a subject that many of us never think about. The following is an excerpt from the book and I hope it causes you to stop and think as it has me.

‘In our current world good and God are seemingly synonymous. We believe that what is generally accepted as good must be aligned with God’s will. Generosity, humility, and justice are good. Selfishness, arrogance, and cruelty are evil. But is that all there is to it? If good is so obvious, why does Hebrews 5:14 teach that we must have discernment to recognize it?’

Genesis 3:6 reads: *“When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”*

Notice the words good, pleasant, and desirable. Our standard of good is apparently different from the divine standard of good. Proverbs 14:12 reads: *“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”* There is a way that seems right to man, it seems good, wise, beneficial, strategic, acceptable, profitable, and so forth. Yet the warning is clear: what seems good may actually be detrimental, harmful, and nonproductive, the way of death.

The apostle Paul writes, *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”* (Romans 12:2). We cannot discern what is truly good for our lives without first having our minds renewed. Without the transformation that comes through the renewing of our minds, we miss out on the amazing, God-infused life available to us in Christ.

Before the foundation of the world, God designed a plan for your life, one that is overflowing with fulfilled purpose, immense joy, and great satisfaction. His will and plan for you are perfectly and completely good. But there is a counterfeit good that can keep you from embracing God’s best. Sadly, many of us have settled for the knockoff. We’ve unknowingly rejected God in pursuit of what’s apparently good.

The early church leaders repeatedly warned us about this deception (to be deceived is to believe we’re aligned with truth, when in actuality we’re not). Jesus Himself warned that deception would be so cleverly concealed in our time even the elect could fall prey to it.

The good news is that God is not trying to hide His best from us. He’s not in the business of pulling the shades over our eyes. He promises that those who seek will find. If we commit to the journey of seeking truth, we will not be duped by its counterfeit. The question is. Will we look to the source of truth, or will we settle for a superficial knowledge of God and His good will.

In this book John Bevere addresses something we rarely, if ever, think about. He explores how to realize what is God’s will and just our personal desires, and how to deal with the “good” that we are faced with on a daily basis.

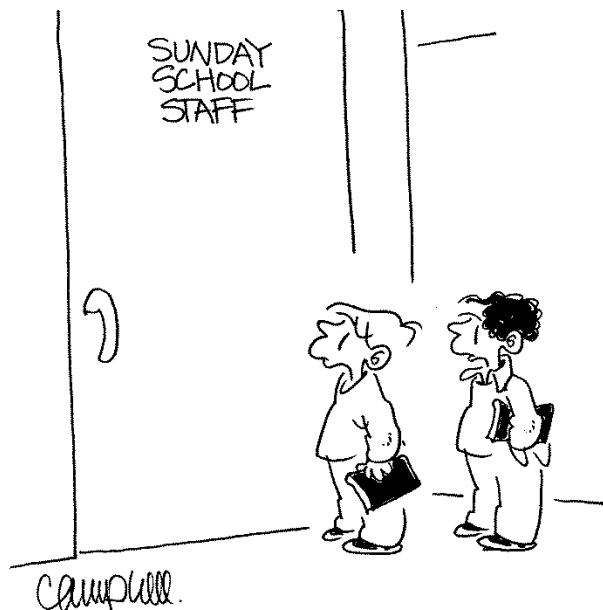
God’s Blessings

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.



Ding-a-ling
Corner



"They meet in there. Some kind of support group."



| 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 | | | | | | 1 | |
| Adult | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | 4 | |
| Total Baptisms | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | 5 | |
| Confirmations | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | 6 | |
| Weddings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Members | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | 1 | |
| Non-Members | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | 1 | |
| Funerals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Members | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | 2 | |
| Non-Members | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | 1 | |
| Counseling Sessions | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | 23 | |
| Transfer Out | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | 0 | |
| Transfer In | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | | | | | | 10 | |
| Home Visits | 6 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 0 | | | | | | 37 | |
| Hospital Visits | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Members | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | | | | | | 18 | |
| Non-Members | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | 3 | |
| Private Communion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Members | 4 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 9 | | | | | | 41 | |
| Non-Members | 34 | 18 | 33 | 28 | 27 | 39 | 36 | | | | | | 215 | |
| PLEASE NOTE: LAST MONTH'S STATISTICS ARE TO DATE AS OF PRINTING TIME | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Release of Membership | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | |
| Restore to Membership | | | | | | | | | | | | | 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.**



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).

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 October 2015 Church Bell is Thursday, September 24, 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!



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 - Warm Springs, Victoria
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:
Bibles 4 Peoples**



Bibles 4 Peoples is a non-profit organization in Cuero dedicated to spreading the Word of God to all people. Bibles 4 Peoples exists because not everyone around the world has a Bible. We know that by having and reading a Bible one's life can be dramatically changed for the good.

So many Christians around the world have never even seen a bible. With countless mission groups and church leaders spreading the Good News of Jesus, we at Bibles 4 Peoples know that by coming along side and providing Bibles in the language of the day, we can further the cause of the gospel. We are looking forward to the day, when none are without.

MISSION UPDATE FROM LWR :

Dear Members of St. John Ev. Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your gift to Lutheran World Relief in response to the Nepal earthquake.

Because of your quick response, LWR has been able to care for the immediate needs of families in the hardest hit areas. Your gift also allows us to stay in Nepal, rebuilding lives and communities for the long-term.

Thank you again for your partnership.

God's Blessings,
Becca Tumm
LWR Philanthropic Associate



St. John Youth Group
Daren & Dawn Otto



School has started and so will our Youth Group gatherings where we like to combine our love of Christ with youthful fun in a safe Christian environment. We welcome St. John youth as well as youth from the Meyersville community, whether in another congregation or not.

Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 9th 6-8 p.m. @ the Church. Our regular meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise announced. Youth Group is open to all 6th - 12th graders. Dinner will be served.

We look forward to seeing the kids on the 9th!

MEALS FOR YOUTH GROUP:



The Youth Group meets the second Wednesday of each month and a delicious meal is always waiting for them. If you would like to help by volunteering to provide a meal for the Youth Group, please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please see Dawn or Darren Otto if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting our youth!!



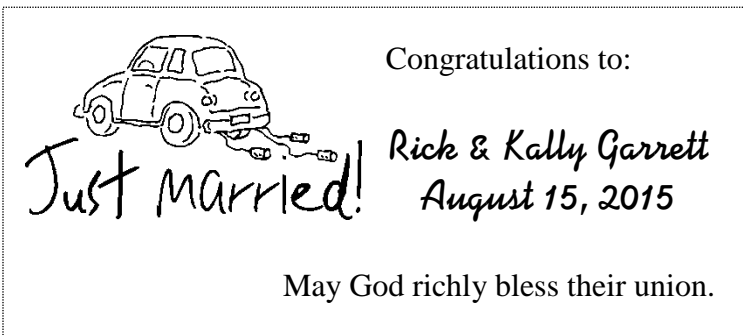
Students in grades 6-8 are invited to participate in the confirmation program which is taught by Pastor John. Confirmation classes are held each Sunday at 9 a.m. If you have any questions about this year's classes, please contact Pastor John.

Parents, please note: our first class will be held on Sunday, September 13th at 9 a.m. During this class, Pastor John will go over his rules and expectations. All students wishing to join Confirmation this year will need to attend this meeting with their parent(s).

FYI FROM THE PROPERTY TEAM:

Following is a detailed breakdown on the expenses for our new sign. We hope you have been enjoying the messages and information we have been able to pass on to you as you drive by.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Sign Works for the LED portion of the sign | \$14,295 |
| Mason for the rock work | \$4,764 |
| Electrical | \$1,750 |
| Guard pipes | \$175 |
| Cover | <u>\$260</u> |
| Total | \$21,244 |



Gospel Concert at Trinity Lutheran with Grammy/Dove Award Winner

Trinity Lutheran Church at 106 N. DeLeon in Victoria invites you to see Cynthia Clawson in concert on Sunday, September 13th, at 2 p.m.

Called "The most awesome voice in gospel music" by Billboard Magazine, Cynthia has received a Grammy and five Dove awards for her work as a songwriter, vocal artist and musician. Her career has spanned over four decades with over twenty recordings to her credit.

You may be familiar with Cynthia's recording "You are Home" which was featured on the soundtrack for the movie *Heaven is For Real*. Cynthia's performance is sure to be something you won't want to miss.

There is no charge for the concert, a love offering will be received.



Classes are available for everyone!

Join us each Sunday at 9 a.m. for Sunday School classes. We have a class that's just right for you.

Children, Pre K - 5th grade meet in the Parish Hall dining room for a high energy opening before heading to their classes.

Confirmation meets on the stage with Pastor John.

Junior High (confirmed) and High School meet in the old office.

Adults meet in the Parish Hall dining room.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

July 30, 2015

By Church Secretary, Mitchell Jank

Members present: Marvin Sager, M'Liss Moore, Dickie Bettge, Kathy Dunn, Mitchell Jank, Obert Sagebiel, Glenn Ruschhaupt and Linda Ruschhaupt.

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

- August is shaping up to be a busy month. I will be on vacation until 8-4 and at the convocation from 8-10 until 8-14.
- I have two weddings in August. On August 15 I will marry Kally Wendel and Richard Garrett Jr. with rehearsal on August 14 and on August 29 I will be marrying my wife's sister Jennifer Wauson and Ray Miramontez at a private ceremony in Austin.
- Archie and Virginia Abrameit have requested membership at St John and we have received a letter of transfer from their previous church. I need approval from council to officially accept them as members. Dickie moved and M'Liss seconded to accept the transfer. Motion passed.
- I hope to have a reception of new members for them and Morgan Goeble on the 23rd.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Old Business

- Convocation – Obert Sagebiel, Johnny Jank and Bruce Weise (delegate) will be attending.
- Reviewed the summary of Council telephone poll presented by President Marv Sager. Linda motioned and Obert seconded to accept the document as minutes of that poll.

Finance Team Report

Finance team meets on a bi-monthly schedule.

- No report

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 August – **Christian Warriors Retreat.** Christian Warriors retreat will be held for the second time at the end of October. It will again be held at the El Shaddi Retreat Center in Yorktown. The retreat is a 72 hour spiritual renewal through Jesus for Veterans by Veterans. This year the veterans who went last year will serve as team members. This will be St. John's third year to support this retreat which has grown to include a retreat in the spring also.
- Mission requests for October - We would like for the congregation to vote on their favorite mission. You may vote for a mission that we have had in the past or you may nominate a new mission (we ask that you vet any new missions and provide that information to the mission committee). We ask that the members wishing to vote sign their nomination sheet. The mission committee will canvas these proposed missions and the mission receiving the most nominations will be our mission for October which is Mission Month traditionally in our congregation. Mission Nomination Sheets will be available in the back of the church from August 2nd to August 16th. We ask that all nominations be turned in to the church office (you may fold and put in offering plate) by August 16th. The Mission Meeting is August 19th.

Parish Life Committee Report

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

- No report.

Parish Education report

- Summer Sunday school is almost nonexistent, but since I'm usually around anyway, I can be there for the few that show up. Next Summer I think I will agree to closing for the summer. If any kids show up, one of the adults could supervise them?
- I sent you the new roster – The confirmation

class could be as many as 15!! Seems like we'll need a helper in order to keep that many kids attention.

- We aren't adding very many younger students, so our Jr. Dept. is dwindling... I need to get information on families that have joined our church or are considering joining our church, so I can get them on my SS mailing list and roster.
- SS Teachers – I don't have anyone for the Pre K and K class, and not sure about others... I am considering ordering instant material and give everyone in the congregation an assigned Sunday to teach
- August 23 – Back Pack Blessing Sunday.
- Rally Day August 30th

The Property Team

Items Complete.

- The Church Sign is up and running.
- Plaques for Dan Dentler, Mildred Metting, Quinton Haun, Charlene Ruschhaupt Magee, and Chad Boyer have been installed.
- Microwave purchased.
- Old sign pulled.
- The back door on the parsonage was modified by Britton Blain so it closes in wet weather.
- Florescent light bulbs were replaced in parish hall and the hall light was replaced.

Old Business.

- The Architect was authorized to work on the following:
 1. Check into handicapped requirements for basement.
 2. Explore options for elevator placement.
 3. Provide a drawing of basement without walls.
 4. Design handicapped bathroom in church.
 5. Check into requirements for church return air ducts. Two entire rooms in the basement are currently being used for return air ducts.
 6. Availability and functionality of room dividers in basement.
 7. Design awnings at wing entrances and drive thru to elevator.
 8. Specifications, bid package, and cost estimate for removal of walls in basement. He has been busy on other projects so he hasn't started on our project.

New Business.

- Aletha Blain requested that we use some of Reuben Gohmert's memorial money to purchase a concrete bench with plaque and install under one of the new trees near Reuben's grave. The bench has been set under the tree near Reuben's grave.
- Mini work day has been scheduled for Aug. 6 to install pipe posts for the playground fence.
- Insurance for the church sign. Cost information for the sign was sent to Church Mutual.

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.
- Eagle Scout Project. The gate is hung and some weed eating done.
- 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.
- Install mailboxes at church office
- Volleyball light fixtures and fencing. Work day set for Aug. 6.
- Install holders in parking lot for crosses.
- Fertilize grass at playground. Clay.

Items for Council approval:

- Window pane replacement – 9 @ \$140=\$1260
 - Solar screens - 14 - 30x60 @ \$60 = \$840
 - 2 - 30x48 @ \$54 = \$108
 - 2 - 30x36 @ \$48 = \$ 96
 - Sign Cover - 1 @ \$260= \$260
 - Total Ideal Aluminum \$2564
- Kathy made the motion to accept this bid.

Linda seconded. Motion passed.

- 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. Dickie made the motion to accept this proposal. Glenn seconded. Motion passed.
- Bid from Superior Rain Gutters on guttering for the parsonage and garage to keep the roof

water away from the parsonage slab is \$1204. Dickie made the motion to accept this bid and Mitchell seconded. Motion passed.

Women of the Church report.

Submitted by Cathie Bettge

- Microwave purchased for kitchen.
- Plastic containers were purchased to store kitchen utensils etc. in the cabinets and drawers.

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.

Old Business –

- **Contemporary Service** – Talked to John Sprigg with Praise band (same one that we had last year) and they are on schedule for August 9th.

New Business

- **“Quiet Bags”** Revised name **“Busy Bags”** Were approved as presented by Heather. They are in place and being used.
- **Polka Service** was discussed and planned for 22nd November. Ronnie Bruns was contacted and we are on his schedule.
- **Wedding Policy review** – We reviewed the current policy and Pastor John, Marv, and Johnny will incorporate changes to update policy.
- **Top 10 hymns** – List was reviewed and added to summer’s services.
- **Pastor John vacation** – 2nd August 2015, Bruce Billstein (ordained Lutheran pastor and member of Our Savior in Victoria) has agreed to supply. He has assisted us some years back prior to Pastor John’s tenure.
- **Length of service** – was discussed and in an effort to attempt to keep the communion services on the 1st & 3rd Sundays to somewhere around 75 minutes we agreed to try eliminating the Psalm reading and the final hymn.
- There being no other new business we assigned songs for 12th July through 9th August 2015.

New Business

- Heather Roeske has requested to create/maintain a ‘Facebook’ page for the church. Guidelines were addressed and possible positive results given. Kathy motioned and Linda seconded to allow Heather to proceed. 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:

September 6

- Greeters** - Kernell & Elaine Moritz
Reader - Trish Hood
Acolyte - *Volunteer Needed*

September 13

- Greeters** - John & Margie Swannack
Reader - Jeffery Bennett
Acolyte - *Volunteer Needed*

September 20

- Greeters** - Youth
Reader - Marlene Rangnow
Acolyte - *Volunteer Needed*

September 27

- Greeters** - Darren & Dawn Otto
Reader - Wanda Hays
Acolyte - *Volunteer Needed*

September Communion Assistant

Brian Wendel

September Altar Guild

Pam Haun & Nikki Nagel

September Nursing Home Visitors

Margie Swannack

LOOKING AHEAD...

October 4

- Greeters** - Alfred & Marlene Rangnow
Reader - Trish Hood
Acolyte - *Volunteer Needed*

October Communion Assistant

Dickie Bettge

October Altar Guild

Betty Diebel & Virginia Jank

October Nursing Home Visitors

Joan Wendel

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:

- 1 - Cindy Egg
Robert Moore
William Henry Boehl, II
3 - Bruce Gohmert
4 - Karrington Haun
7 - Christine Haun
Patrick Hays
8 - Kyle Fuchs
9 - Mike Rangnow
11 - Will Roeske
13 - Kayla Egg
14 - Justin Bishop
15 - Arlen Mueller
Johnny Paul Jank
16 - Derek Noack
Jordan Egg
17 - Brent Gohmert
19 - Barbara Mueller
Brieson Egg
Carl Eichorn
Dillan Jacob
20 - Kimberly Pare
21 - Daniel R. Moeller
Peyton Diebel
22 - Trevor Bodden
23 - Terry Haun
25 - Dana Egg
Jeri Ficklen
Mackenzie Blain
Shawn Diebel
26 - Kenneth Diebel
Kyle Jank
Diane Chavez
27 - Meri Cay Diebel
28 - Garrett Egg
Michelle Wendel
Johnna Kethan
29 - Brian Wendel
30 - Carly Waters



Anniversary Greetings to:

- 1 - David & Kristine Schroeder
3 - Cliff & MayDell Jacob
7 - Johnny & Virginia Jank
14 - Robert & Cindy Kainer
17 - Brian & Laurie Wendel
Bruce & Donna Gohmert
19 - Blake & Kathy Dunn
29 - Zachary & Johnna Gohmert