

The Angel's Breath



A monthly publication of
Angel of Joy Lutheran Church
For the enlightenment and edification
Of the people of God

September 2014

ANGEL OF JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH
4003 Daniel McCall Dr.
Lufkin, TX 75904
www.angelofjoy.org
(936) 632-4777

CHANGE OF ADDRESS
REQUESTED

ECLOGUE

As this is written, summer has not yet surrendered to the cooler and more comfortable weather of autumn. By September some, but certainly not all of us, are ready for the change of seasons. School classes are back in session, football season is under way, and department stores are bringing out their fall fashions. The long vacation season definitely takes a toll on church attendance and, although the past months have been good ones with fresh faces and some neat stuff happening, I find myself hoping that September will usher in some of the familiar souls who have been busy elsewhere recently.

There's an old song that Frank Sinatra made a lot of money singing that is known as *September Song*. The lyrics speak of this time of year, albeit with a poetic inference to one's mortal lifetime.

*Oh, it's a long, long while from May to December
But the days grow short when you reach September
When the autumn weather turns the leaves to flame
One hasn't got time for the waiting game*

*Oh, the days dwindle down to a precious few
September, November...
And these few precious days I'll spend with you
These precious days I'll spend with you*

The clock is ticking, as they say, for all of us. There are no guarantees about how many days lie before us (even Frank is long gone now), and in this light, each day is a precious gift. This past month two very talented and beloved Hollywood celebrities departed. Lauren Bacall and Robin Williams. And as I often feel at such losses, the world is an emptier place without them. The news has also been filled with accounts of horrid people in the Middle East who are driven by a truly misguided religious zeal and pure hatred to do atrocious things to anyone who stands in the way of their nefarious goals. Countless lives have been lost to these brutal agents of evil incarnate. And while the sane world must stand up against such wickedness, we especially need to use the time at our disposal to embrace the truth of God's redeeming love and implement it in powerful ways. This is no time to turn our backs to Christ.

And so, as the days and weeks of this fresh new month unfold for us, we really must take advantage of the opportunities to get close to God and to each other. Another Sinatra song that in certain ways was his last will and testament was the extremely popular *My Way*, where he expressed pride that in his lifetime, "I did it my way." For you and me, a far nobler thing is to know that we did it Christ's way!

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

The Gulf Coast Synod is presenting a very useful **Leadership Gathering** on October 11th. This workshop for pretty much anyone who wishes to see their church grow will take place at Faith Lutheran Church in Bellaire, TX, and we are hoping that Angel of Joy people will want to attend. Please check out the information on the bulletin board at the back of the church and then sign up on the page lying on the table. It will be a worthwhile endeavor.

INQUIRER CLASS

We are really excited about having more wonderful people choose to become official members of our church family at Angel of Joy. Quite naturally, folks coming from an other than Lutheran background are anxious to know what the Lutheran Church is all about. Right off it should be understood that we are a Trinitarian (we believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) Christian Church that respects other Christian churches with an ecumenical spirit. But we will be offering an Inquirer Class that will present a more thorough, yet concise, picture of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in general and Angel of Joy Lutheran Church in particular. If this sounds good to you, please contact Pastor Geye and/or sign up on the table at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM

On August 1st, 2014, Minnie Hargrave completed her earthly life and, by the loving and redeeming grace of God, began the extravagant adventures of eternal life in the blessed realm of heavenly glory.

Funeral services were held at Angel of Joy Lutheran Church on August 4th, and the interment was at Union Springs Cemetery in Corrigan, Texas. We remember Minnie with gratitude for her vibrant friendship and deep faith.



ANGEL OF JOY EXISTS TO:

Mission Statement

- invite people into God's family
- nurture Christ's love and God's word among us
- send ourselves out in service

Individual Goals

1. *Grow deeper in faith, love, and joy*
2. *Attend worship regularly*
3. *Study the word*
4. *Involve yourself in ministry for which you are gifted*
5. *Invite unchurched friends and acquaintances to AOJ*



E-MAIL NEWSLETTER:

Newsletters are e-mailed to those individuals that the office has an e-mail address; all others are in the mail slots. If you want a hard copy newsletter to supplement your e-newsletter, they are available at the back of the church for you to take home. E-Newsletters are being sent to reduce cost of paper, printing and stamps. Thank you.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS—Enjoy Your Day!!!

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 3- Krista Mendez | 16-Michael Jinkins |
| 4-Darlene Davis | 18-Miranda Anderson |
| 5-Lilly Post | 19-Pat Weems |
| 7-Mikael Russo | 22-Mike Post |
| 9 -Mike Fulton | 22-Anne Hardy |
| 14-Jim Noland | 28-Bob Stephan |
| | 29-Dana Rosario |



AND CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ANNIVERSARY!!!

- 6-Newton & Anita Lemke
- 11-Pastor Paul & Inge
- 28-George & Pam Rose



DATE: SEPTEMBER 27. TIME: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Please join us and help make plans for the best Oktoberfest yet! We have booked Auf Geht's, a Bavarian band from Conroe, to perform that day (Sept. 27). Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to help with our annual fundraiser. Please check the sign-up sheets at the back of the church, if you haven't already done so, and volunteer wherever you feel called to do so. It will be a fun, rewarding day.

We are asking for donations from the congregation for any of the following items: 12-packs of Coke, Diet Coke, Dr. Pepper, Diet Dr. Pepper, Sprite, or root beer; gifts for our door prizes (ex.- gift cards, gift baskets, etc.); items for the car show door prizes ("man things"-see Derek for ideas), and items for the church bake sale booth. If you would like for us to do the running around town, we will also graciously accept monetary donations for food or door prize purchases.

BAKE BOOTH:

Dear family of Angel of Joy, well it is almost time for Oktoberfest again. As chairman of the bake booth, I'm asking you for a favor. If you could bake something for the bake booth, I would be most appreciative of your effort. I know that we all have busy lives and not much free time, but I need the help. All proceeds go to the church and since everything is donated, it is all profit. Any and all goodies are accepted—cookies, cakes pies, breads, coffee cakes or anything else you can think of. If you make cookies or brownies, please bag them for individual sales. Also, please put a price on your items. We have hurt people's feelings in the past by putting a price on the goods that the baker thought was too low. If you can't bake something and I do understand, then please come out and buy lots of goodies to support us. I would also ask that you think about donating your time to work at the booth, even for a half hour. This year, we are going to set upright inside the doors of the church, so you won't be in the sun, and we will have chair to sit in when we aren't helping customers. Anything you can do will be most gratefully accepted. Thank you.

Yours in Christ, Kathleen Geye

(We ask for your assistance: Please notify the church office of any incorrect or missing birthdays or anniversaries so we can keep our lists current.)



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Your church council met recently and discussed several items of church business. The transfer of membership of Pat and Cindy Weeks was approved (sadly). They are now members of Quiho Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hondo, Texas. Pat and Cindy were long-time, committed members at AOJ and they will surely be missed. We hope they will visit as often as possible. You will be hearing about several new local mission projects in the near future. Our first project will be in regard to Lufkin's Mosaic Center. Stay tuned for more information about this! Sunday School will resume in September...anyone interested in teaching a class (perhaps on a rotating basis) please contact Tracy Mitchell or Julie Jinkins. Please note that the Family Tree at the church entrance has been updated...thanks to Kathleen Geye for taking care of this! Please continue to pray for Angel of Joy...you are loved and we need YOU!!!

Charlotte Squyres



OUR PRAYER LIST:

To add someone to the prayer list please contact—Inge Geye
paulundschoerch@aol.com Her cell/414-9698 Home 829-5227

Daisy Oehler, Anita & Newton Lemke, Elizabeth & Tom Lamb, Jo & Oran White, Ruth Martin, the Wagner family, Mark Stewart, Joshua Toliver, Doug Ashburn, Austin Harvey (armed forces), Chuck Hickman, Mike & Sheila Kerls.

PRAYER CHAIN and HOSPITALITY CARE: *(These are voluntary positions and can be relinquished at any time.)* “Devote yourself to prayer...”Colossians 4:2a.

AOJ’s Prayer Chain is made up of people in the congregation who believe in the power of prayer and who are willing to pray for the needs of others.

If you want to be a member of the prayer chain (you are willing to pray for others in need) please feel free to contact Inge Geye

The purpose of the **Hospitality Care program** is to meet the needs of congregational members who are hospitalized or homebound and to assist their families as needed. They will also assist those who have a death in the family. Please contact the church office if you would like to be a member of the hospitality care program.

(Stewardship, continued)

where God calls you to put it, and your heart will follow. Your hearts will be set on things above, for these things—family, society, and church—are of God. “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all this will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

So, do not be anxious, but trust in the mercies of God. All you need will be given by your Father in heaven. “For it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). The Father can easily out-give what any thief can steal. And the beauty is: He not only can, but does. There is nothing ironic about that.

CHURCH PHOTOGRAPHER SOUGHT

Since Cindy Weems has moved to Hondo, we need someone to serve as our official church photographer. We especially need to document special events at AOJ, such a new member reception, baptisms, celebrations (Sisters In Christ, Oktoberfest, etc) for newsletters and albums. Please contact Pastor Geye (414-9587) and/or President Mark Greene (366-8959) if interested

MILITARY OUTREACH: Changing lives – one soldier at a time

As a congregation, we have the opportunity to partnership with Faith Comes By Hearing in reaching people with the Word of God in audio form. A BibleStick is pre-loaded with the New Testament and selected Psalms. It was been created and provided to chaplains in every branch of our armed forces. Chaplains continue to request these BibleSticks and there is a large backlog.

Everyone is invited to learn more about this program during the Adult Sunday School class on October 5.

Louise Humes

UGLY QUILTS—MONDAY NIGHT QUILTERS

The Monday Night Quilters will begin meeting again on Monday, September 8 at 7:00PM-8:30 PM to make the “ugly quilt sleeping bags” we give to CISC to distribute to the homeless and needy.

The New Director for CISC is Yolanda Richards. I met with her during August to discuss our project. She stated unequivocally that our outreach mission to the homeless and needy was important and needed to be continued.

Anyone who can tie a knot—men or women—are invited to come on Monday nights. We have good fellowship and we also serve a snack for our sweet tooth.

Sandy Noland

MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP ARTICLE:

The Gospels are filled with irony. Death itself is defeated by the death of Jesus. Jesus, the Son of God the Father, is given to Pilate in exchange for Barabbas, which means “son of the father.” But one particularly puzzling bit of irony is that Judas was given charge of the moneybag.

In response to Mary Magdalene’s lavish gift, when she poured out almost a year’s wages to anoint Jesus’ feet, Judas replied, “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor” (John 12:5)? And then John tells us, “He said this, not because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it” (John 12:6).

So, why is Judas put in charge of the money? Jesus could have put any of his disciples in charge of it. He could have put Nathaniel in charge, of whom Jesus said, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit” (John 1:47), or John, “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 21:20), or Levi, the tax collector, who was financially savvy (Luke 5:27). But he didn’t. He chose Judas, whom He called “a devil” (John 6:70). Why?

Jesus put His money where his mouth was. “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal” (Matthew 6:19–20). Our Lord put not His trust in earthly treasures, but in the word and will of His Father. The Lord will provide.

In Judas, we see the heart and gut-wrenching end of one who treasured the wrong thing. “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34). “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). It’s an alarming example, a visceral image, of what loving money and hating God can look like.

But no one, save Jesus, was the wiser. During Jesus’ three-year ministry, Judas looked, talked, and acted like the other eleven. He seemed to be about the right things. But “love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs” (1 Timothy 6:10). And this craving led Judas to sell Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, which the chief priests used to buy his own grave—an ironic transaction indeed.

All of this is to say that money is a good thing but it is not God. Use it for the purpose which God gives it. Spend it on providing for your family. Spend it on support of your community. Give it to support and provide for the work of God among you in church, the ministry of Word and Sacrament, through which you receive forgiveness, life, and salvation. Invest in all these things. Put your treasure

**RESPONSIBILITY LIST
SEPTEMBER**

	9/7 Communion 13 Pentecost	9/14 14 Pentecost	9/21 Communion 15 Pentecost	9/28 16 Pentecost	10/5 Communion 17 Pentecost
Assisting Minister	Derek Garrison	Inge Geye	Daniel Greene	Mike Post	Terry Mize
Acolyte	Dawson Greene	Ethan Hammond	Autumn Greene	Eric Rose	Kaitlin Jinkins
Ushers/ Greeters	Bill Berry/ Inge Geye	Mark Greene/ Terry Mize	Jim Noland/ George Rose	Diana Russell/ Mark Greene	Bill Berry/ Jim Noland
Hosts	Terry Mize	Ann & Frank Hardy	Jim & Sandy Noland	Don & Yvonne Garrison	Terry Mize
Altar	Sandy Noland	Ann & Frank Hardy	Jim & Sandy Noland	Don & Yvonne Garrison	Sandy Noland
Lector	Dana Rosario	Mark Greene	Jim Noland	Daniel Greene	Tracy Mitchell
Comm. Bread	Sandy Noland		Kathleen Geye		Charlotte Squyres
Offering Counters	George Rose/ Bill Berry	Mikie & Daniel Greene	Mark & Mikie Greene	Terry Mize/ George Rose	Dennis Oehler/ Mike Post

MUSIC: Mr. Jeff Perkins



**OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE SPECIAL TO US.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE SERVICE TO A&J!!!**



SEPTEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <i>Labor Day</i>	2	3	4	5	6 9:00 AM monthly cleaning day
7 13 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Sun. School 10:15 am Worship Holy Communion	8 7:00 pm: Ugly Quilts	9	10	11 <i>Patriot Day</i>	12	13
14 14 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Sun. School 10:15 am Worship	15 7:00 pm: Ugly Quilts	16	17 <i>Citizenship Day</i>	18	19	20
21 15 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Sun. School 10:15 am Worship Holy Communion	22 7:00 pm: Ugly Quilts 7:00 pm: Council Meeting	23 <i>Fall begins</i>	24	25	26	27  10:00 am-4:00pm
28 16 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Sun. School 10:15 am Worship	29 7:00 pm: Ugly Quilts	30				