

# The Grapevine



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

No. 352

November 2021

## Generosity Abounds

Dear Mount Cross Community,

*Our Stewardship Team has been training our eyes this season to recognize, celebrate, and participate in acts of generosity. One shining example of generosity in response to the lavish grace of Christ is Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson's faithful "Yes" to God's call to pursue rostered ministry as a Deacon. Deacons in the ELCA are Ministers of Word and Service whose specialized gifts respond to needs in the church and the world. We are blessed to have Cecelia among us. Read more below about her calling and the next steps for our congregation. In this month of Thanksgiving, I thank God for each of you and for the varied ways you are generous with your families, neighbors, community organizations, and our own congregation.*

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Julie Morris +*

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### **This Is What I am Called To Do by Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson**

I am called to serve Senior Adults. Explaining a call, especially in ministry, is very challenging. When asked, "Cecelia, why are you doing this?" And I answer, "Because God is calling me," it seems really mysterious. We are okay with God's call to Moses, or to Abraham or Samuel, but a call in our technological modern society seems a bit out of the ordinary. The only answer I can give to why I am doing this is because God is calling me. God has painstakingly prepared and equipped me for this call over many, many years. I am called to serve senior adults.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there is an emphasis on eternal youth, but time marches on and we do grow old. Aging can feel like a blessing and a curse. Senior adults see, feel, and experience the transitions in life. What could easily be done one day presents challenges the following day, and some days, the changes seem to be happening at a rapid pace.

My call is to walk this road with adult seniors and their families as we face the transition of aging. The main and primary purpose of my call is to design and grow a Senior Adult Ministry at Mount Cross. A ministry that allows adult seniors to experience the love and grace of God no matter their age, physical, or mental condition. Adult seniors are unique so must be their ministries.

We have already started by revisiting how a worship service might look for adult seniors. A midweek, afternoon, shortened worship service with Communion, favorite hymns, and fellowship was introduced October 14 and called Afternoon Chapel. This service was well attended and greatly appreciated. We look forward to our November 18 Afternoon Chapel. This is just one example of reimagining and sharing God's love and grace. As a side note, I was telling a deacon in our Synod about our Afternoon Chapel service, and this is the reply I received "*Perhaps I can come in November and see one for myself; it sounds like a great idea.*" This is what God's love does, it spreads, it grows, and it is shared. Why am I doing this? Because, I have been called by God.

### **FAQs Regarding Calling a Deacon to Mount Cross**

The Church Council unanimously voted at its October meeting to schedule a **Special Congregational Meeting on November 21 at 2:00 p.m.** on **Zoom** to consider calling Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson to be a Deacon serving at Mount Cross.

#### **Why does this require a Special Congregational Meeting?**

In the ELCA, a Deacon cannot be ordained without first being called. Cecelia has been working toward becoming a Deacon for many years, and is now able to be ordained in that role, so long as she is called by a congregation. Calling a Pastor or a Deacon requires a full congregational meeting, which we will do via Zoom because of the pandemic.

#### **Why are we having our Special Congregational Meeting on November 21?**

Our new Bishop, Brenda Bos, is excited to ordain Cecelia as a Deacon at the earliest opportunity. She has already set aside December 12 for that purpose if Cecelia has a call by that point. We selected a date with enough lead time to provide for an informational meeting (November 7) and all of our constitutionally mandated notices for a Special Congregational Meeting. We also thought it best not to have a meeting on the Thanksgiving weekend.

#### **What about compensation for a Deacon?**

In the ELCA, in the interest of equity and fairness, a Deacon is usually compensated similarly to other full-time, rostered ministers (Pastors). Cecelia did not want money to stand in the way of her service, however, and sought out a rarely utilized alternate path which allows for compensation below the ELCA standard when approved by the full conference of ELCA Bishops. This was approved at the most recent meeting of the conference of Bishops and this allows Mount Cross to pay Cecelia a stipend instead of a salary. A stipend of \$5000/year is being requested in the upcoming budget to accommodate this.

If you have any other questions about the process of calling a Deacon, please feel free to reach out to your Deacon Candidate Support Team of: Craig Blois, Kris Dawson, and Herb Holler.

#### **Deacon Information Meeting: 11:00 a.m., Sunday, November 7, under the Pavilion.**

All are invited to learn more about what it means to be a Deacon in the ELCA, how Dr. Travick-Jackson understands her emerging ministry, and the process and timeline for calling and ordaining a Deacon at Mount Cross.

For those unable to attend in person at 11:00 a.m, we will repeat the Deacon Information Meeting on Zoom in the evening of November 7 at 7:00 p.m. Here is the Zoom information:

<https://bit.ly/DeaconInformation>

Meeting ID: 824 9898 4733

Passcode: 093551

#### **Special Congregational Meeting: 2:00 p.m., Sunday, November 21, on Zoom**

We ask all members to attend a special Zoom Congregational Meeting for the purpose of calling a Deacon to serve at Mount Cross, **Sunday November 21, at 2:00 p.m.** Please contact the church office if you are in need of technical assistance to access the meeting. Here is the Zoom information:

<https://bit.ly/MountCrossMeeting>

Meeting ID: 893 9256 5994

Passcode: 804544

# Spiritual Growth at Mount Cross

## Adult Education

There are several opportunities at Mount Cross to study the Bible along with your siblings in Christ. You are also invited to study on your own or gather a group to meet with you. Here is a link to an easy-to-follow study focusing on our Sunday Gospel readings: <https://bit.ly/GospelGuideB>

### Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

- † We meet Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Reach out to Pastor Julie ([pastorjulie@mountcross.com](mailto:pastorjulie@mountcross.com)) with questions.

### Wednesday Evening Bible Study for All

- † We study the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m. Reach out to Pastor Julie ([pastorjulie@mountcross.com](mailto:pastorjulie@mountcross.com)) with questions.

### 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays Men's Bible Study and Breakfast

- † We will have a buffet breakfast at Marie Callender's (185 E. Daily Drive, Camarillo). A \$15 donation covers breakfast and a tip, but don't let the cost prevent you from attending. What matters most is that you join us. No RSVP necessary, but reach out to Randy Churchill ([hrchurchill@verizon.net](mailto:hrchurchill@verizon.net)) if you have questions.
- † This month, we will meet November 4 and 18.

## THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE AND PIE SOCIAL



Holden Evening Prayer  
Wednesday, November 24  
7:00 p.m.

In person and live streamed at  
[facebook.com/MountCross](https://www.facebook.com/MountCross)  
followed by our annual  
pie social in the  
Parish Life Center

See you there!

### Are You Reading *Living Lutheran*?

The theme of the October issue was Connecting Generations. There are several good articles for modern day parents to ponder, as well as a look at Luther's parenting style.

I especially recommend "Generations of Faith," pg. 18, and the how-to that follows. The author reminds us that "all generations are part of the body of Christ." An Ohio pastor says his least favorite saying is that children are the future of the church. He believes that they are the church, now. Kids need adults (in their church) to connect with them, specifically adults who aren't their parents.

Could we do better as the Mount Cross community? Could you do better individually? Think about it. Read this article. Act on it. Introduce yourself to a Mount Cross member who is from a generation younger than you.

One more thing—we are all aware that we are to be welcoming to visitors. How about being welcoming to each other?

- The Welcome Team

### Peace & Justice Team and Anti-Racism Check-In

All are welcome to join our combined Peace & Justice Team meeting and Anti-Racism Check-In on Tuesday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m.

We will meet on Zoom. The link is <http://bit.ly/MCPeaceandJustice>

We look forward to continuing our discussion about supporting at-risk and incarcerated youth. Please contact [peaceandjustice@mountcross.com](mailto:peaceandjustice@mountcross.com) for more information.



# Service & Missions

“There can be no happiness if the things we believe in are different from the things we do.”  
- Freya Stark, *The Lycian Shore*

## Bagged Meals for Harbor House

Every day at 5:00 p.m., Harbor House hands out bagged meals to our homeless neighbors in Thousand Oaks. You can sign up here to bring 10 meals on any day that is convenient for you at [www.harborhouseto.org](http://www.harborhouseto.org) (scroll down to the info about lunches and click the link).

If you would like to sponsor this ministry, if you would like to form a group to start making these meals once a month, please contact Mary Goodenough (805-484-5273 or [mwgoodenough@gmail.com](mailto:mwgoodenough@gmail.com)) for more information.



## Lutheran Disaster Response Matching Opportunity

We know you all have been paying attention to the world news - fires, hurricanes, earthquakes and flooding are happening in too many places to name. Lutheran Disaster Response has been there, helping our neighbors, providing a little bit of hope along with food, water, and basic care. And you may have already taken the time to send a donation to them—but if you haven't, now is the time to do so. Your Service & Missions Team would like to offer you a MATCH for any donations given through the church, for up to \$1,000, during the month of November. You can use the special offering envelope in your box, or just write it on the memo line of your check and the outside of your regular giving envelope.

## Thrivent Members -

### Use Your "Choice Dollars" to Help!

If you are a Thrivent Member, you may have Choice Dollars or unused Action Team Grants that may be able to help with the many of the recent disasters, including helping a school. Lots of members have not used these benefits that will expire at the end of the year. If you have questions, please contact Gordon Henry—a fellow Thrivent Member (not a sales rep) to see if we can fill a need. 805-279-9250

or [ghenry33@hotmail.com](mailto:ghenry33@hotmail.com) Thanks!



**THRIVENT**  
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## Monthly Fair Trade Sale

We continue to offer fairly traded coffee, tea, olive oil, chocolate, and other foods for sale on the first Sunday of the month—and chocolate is back in stock. Come visit the tables on the patio to check out the products we offer, or contact Melissa Henry.

Your Service & Missions Committee appreciates your support of this work. The next sale is November 7.



**FAIRTRADE**

## Join Service & Missions Team - for a Night!

Have an idea for a project you'd like to see Mount Cross accomplish? Join us for our monthly meeting—the first Monday of each month (November 1) at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Gordon Henry or the church office for the link.

## Gifts of Hope

The alternative Christmas gift program is coming soon! Our Service & Missions Team has chosen Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) as our organization this year. There will be more information towards the end of the month—keep watching the bulletins and emails. But it works fairly simply—in place of gift buying for someone, you make a donation through SAM and we give you a Christmas card and note to give to your recipient, explaining the donation to them.

Dear Mount Cross Family,

*Thank you for your amazing support for Lutheran World Relief projects again this year. The blessing of quilts and kits on October 17 was so moving. Together we made more than 110 backpacks and more than 130 personal care kits. And our small but dedicated group of quilters made 66 quilts. All these items are now loaded on a truck and headed for the warehouse, where they will go out into the world as a tangible gift of love and hope to our neighbors when they need it most.*

*What a blessing they will be!*

*We are so proud of your generosity and heart.  
Love, Your Service and Missions Team*



### Mount Cross Generosity Campaign

October 17 began our Generosity Campaign, which will continue until Commitment Sunday, November 21, at which time the pledges will be blessed. It is important to receive your pledges as well as the Time and Talent form in order to properly plan for the new year at Mount Cross.

"Generous giving flows from the heart dedicated to God." In the book *Embracing Stewardship* by Charles Lane and Grace Pomroy, Grace states, "Stewardship is the way we use the abundance God has entrusted to our care to love God and our neighbor whether that's financial abundance or time and talent, stewardship encompasses all of life."

We have accomplished so much in the last year and are blessed and thankful for our wonderful staff, Church Council, technology expertise, those who donate their resources, all committee volunteers, and many more who help make Mount Cross a caring church. It takes a continual commitment on the part of the whole congregation.

If you haven't picked up your Generosity/pledge packet, they will be available Sunday mornings after worship and during drive-through Communion, or at the church office weekday afternoons. You can also fill out the Pledge card and Time/Talent forms online at the church's website ([www.mountcross.com](http://www.mountcross.com)).

### Help Wanted: Card Ministry Volunteers

Persons interested in sending cards or notes on a regular basis to another Mount Cross member are encouraged to volunteer for the Card Ministry Program. This program currently has over 30 such matches and others await assignment. Cards strengthen the connection to Mount Cross for recipients and have created some new relationships.

Everyone enjoys receiving mail and knowing someone cares! Help make this happen. This service opportunity is suited to people of all ages and is a great family activity. Contact Gayle Johnson for more information or to volunteer at [cygaylej@verizon.net](mailto:cygaylej@verizon.net) or 805-388-3293.



# Care Team

## Batteries and Bulbs – Replacement Assistance in your Home

The Care Team is promoting the **replacement of batteries in smoke/CO2 alarms** and/or **bulbs in ceiling light fixtures** on **Sunday, November 7**. If you are not comfortable making these changes due to ceiling heights in your home, let us know. We also continue to recruit members willing to assist. Contact Susan Prosser to request assistance or to volunteer with a message at 805-657-6222 or [prosser1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:prosser1@sbcglobal.net).



## “ThanksGIVING” Day

As Christians, we can claim Thanksgiving by giving thanks to God. That does not mean we don't enjoy the traditions associated with Thanksgiving that often include interacting with family or friends. In reality, and particularly when COVID concerns and restrictions continue, for some who live alone or in a small household gathering with others is not going to happen.

Tips for Those Alone at Thanksgiving (from the Mount Cross 2020 Holiday Newsletter):

- ✦ Plan with friend(s) or family member to eat at the same time and share dinner conversation over the phone or by computer connection. (Care Team Tech Assist can help in advance, if needed.)
- ✦ Order a takeout or delivery meal and enjoy the convenience of not cooking!
- ✦ Share recipe(s) ahead of time with family or others and know that you will all be eating the same meal or at least in part.
- ✦ Find someone else who will be alone and eat together “potluck style” IF you can establish a COVID-safe eating environment.

Check with the Mount Cross Volunteer Coordinator ([serving@mountcross.com](mailto:serving@mountcross.com)) for any members receiving Meal Support that you might deliver Thanksgiving food to.

Dear Lord, help me when I start letting details of the holidays, annoying frustrations, or unmet expectations distract me from all the reasons I have from You to be abundantly and eternally grateful. Help me have a heart full of thankfulness every day, but especially on the specific day set aside to be grateful for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen. - Tracie Miles

# Notes 'n' News

See below for scheduled children and youth activities! If you have any questions, please email Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)).

**Sundays at 6:00 p.m:** High School Youth Group (on site)

**Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m:** Fun with Faith (on site)

**Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m:** Confirmation Class (on site)

*(no programs on Wednesday, November 24)*

**Check out the CYFM newsletter insert for more information!**



## Hospitality Sign-Ups Now Online!

Feel like putting out coffee and refreshments during Fellowship in the church pavilion following the service on a Sunday morning? Sign up on the Mount Cross website ([www.mountcross.com](http://www.mountcross.com)). Helpful hints and basic instructions are provided. Thank you for your service!

## Afternoon Chapel

Afternoon Chapel will be on November 18 at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This will be an abbreviated worship service with communion. For more information, please contact the office.

## Advent/Christmas *Lectio Divina*

Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. All are welcome to come to St. Columba's Chapel (1251 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo, 93010) on Monday evenings at 7:00, November 22 through December 20, for *Lectio Divina* on the upcoming Gospels for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas. This ancient practice of reading, meditating, praying, and contemplating the scriptures helps us enter into Sunday worship more fully, especially in this holy time when we are preparing to celebrate the Incarnation.

## Amazon Smile

If you haven't already done so, choose Mount Cross Lutheran Church as your non-profit to support on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) so 0.5% of purchases will go to Mount Cross. Thank you!



## Daylight Saving

Time is coming to a close, meaning we'll get to turn back the clocks an hour and catch up on sleep!

This year's time change happens on **Sunday, November 7**, at 2:00 a.m., shifting back to 1:00 a.m.



***If you are not receiving emails from Mount Cross, please contact the office so we can add you to our email list or add you to our call list! Make sure you also doublecheck your spam folder and add [office@mountcross.com](mailto:office@mountcross.com) to your contacts so you have the most up-to-date information possible. Thank you!***

## Sunday, November 7, All Saints Sunday and a Baptism Day!

On Sunday, November 7, we'll celebrate All Saints Sunday and will have an opportunity during our 9:30 a.m. worship to light a candle in memory of our deceased loved ones. We're also celebrating a Baptism that day. If you or a family member are interested in receiving the sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, November 7, at our 9:30 a.m. worship service, please contact Pastor Julie at [pastorjulie@mountcross.com](mailto:pastorjulie@mountcross.com) or call the church office at 805-482-3847 for more information.

## Upcoming Committee Meetings

### Service & Missions Committee:

Mon., November 1, 6:00 p.m. on Zoom

### Learning Committee:

Mon., November 1, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

### Peace & Justice and Anti-Racism Check-In

Tues., November 2, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

### Re-Opening Committee:

Thurs., November 4, 7:00 p.m.

### Executive Committee:

Thurs., November 4, 7:30 p.m.

### Church Council:

Tues., November 16, 7:00 p.m.

### Care Team:

TBD

### Fellowship Committee:

Tues., November 23, 7:00 p.m. in the PLC

### Property Committee:

Tues., November 23, 7:00 p.m.



### Our Prayer List

### PRAYER CONCERNS

We pray for an end to the coronavirus, for doctors, nurses, and caretakers, for researchers, all involved in the vaccine efforts, and for the families grieving the loss of each victim. We pray for peace, unity, and understanding in our country.

We pray for **Bob Anderson, Tom Andino** (friend of Carol Browning), **Alice** (friend of Barbara Burke), **Jenny** (daughter of friend of Barbara Burke), **Linda** (friend of Barbara Burke), **Lorraine & Mike Carpenter**, **Bonnie** (sister of Karen Cherry), **Steve Doshier** (brother-in-law of Paul Crockett), **Beth Downard** (friend of the Rowleys), **the family of Bob Edell**, **Natalie Faltin, Doria & Vladimir Fanning** (sister & brother-in-law of Barbara Burke), **Scott Frezieres** (son-in-law of Wendy & Mike McClary), **Bill Greason, John Grennan, Charles Hilley, Jo Holler, Jordan Kessler** (granddaughter of Janet Kessler), **Michelle Kolder** (daughter of Karen & Joe Diehl), **Rick Mahlke** (son of friend of Barbara Burke), **Marie DeVere McClain** (daughter of Jody DeVere), **Lucille Miley, Arturo Morales** (brother of Anne & Gil Valencia's neighbor), **Karen Nelson, Lynn Nelson** (mother of Julie Fernandez), **Michael and Mercedes Olivera** (brother of Courtney Burke), **Gloria Saldano** (mother of Lisa Saner) **and the Saner family, Larry** (brother of Lisa Saner), **Marlene** (sister of Lisa Saner), **the family of Walter** (friend of Denise Sobolik), **Maria Swartz** (sister of Jo Holler), **Chris, Wayne & Maria Truchan** (friends of the Burke family), **Jacob Wengreen** (Angie Churchill's nephew), **Howard Wullschlegler**.

*Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests remain in the bulletin for four weeks. If you would like to add or remove someone to or from the prayer list, please e-mail the church office at [office@mountcross.com](mailto:office@mountcross.com) or call (805) 482-3847.*

### Music Ministry Notes

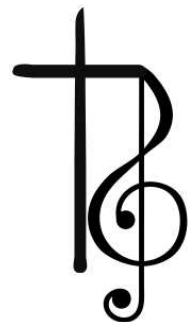
I hope you can all come to the sanctuary on **Sunday, November 7, at 2:00 p.m.**, for our **"For All the Saints" concert**. Our wonderful Handbell Choir is busy rehearsing a program of music honoring the saints and commemorating the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Borderline shooting, including a couple of solo handbell selections from one of our ringers, Linda Young. (If you'd like to help with set-up or clean-up or provide some refreshments after the concert, please let me know – [office@mountcross.com](mailto:office@mountcross.com)).

The Ventura County mask mandate for indoors has been extended and we're being cautious but moving forward in singing together as a choir. Last month, we began meeting on Wednesday evenings after the handbell rehearsals (in the sanctuary with the doors open and everyone wearing masks and distancing), to review the music for Sundays and sing through some choral pieces. **For November**, we're going to swap the choir / handbell choir times. The choir **will meet from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays**, and the handbell ringers will begin setting up shortly after that, giving Guy and me a short break between the rehearsals. Due to the logistics of singing as a choir with masking and spacing as well as placement of microphones for the livestream, it may be some time before the choir resumes singing as an ensemble in worship, but everyone is enjoying just singing together, even in our limited capacity. Additionally, by the singers reviewing the Sunday songs, they help to lead our communal sung prayer. All are welcome to come, no matter whether you were in choir before or not.

The Worship & Music Committee has recommended that we offer a Christmas program, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 19, at 4:00 p.m., and involving various groups and individuals, including the choir, praise band, various instrumentalists, youth, etc. With the choir's help, we've identified a couple of anthems to offer. Stay tuned for more info!

The last couple of months of any year tend to get very busy with holiday and other plans and this year is no exception, despite COVID restrictions. I'm grateful for the generosity of time and talent from our many song leaders for worship, our choir and handbell choir members, for our instrumentalists, especially Guy Ervin, and for our technical support, especially Bill Dawson and Justin Thai! What a blessing you all are!

Gratefully,  
Carol Browning, Interim Music Director



**Mount Cross Lutheran Church**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
102 Camino Esplendido  
Camarillo, CA 93010-1717

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**The next newsletter deadline is Thursday, November 18, 2021.**  
Please send all articles to [carina@mountcross.com](mailto:carina@mountcross.com).

# November Birthdays and Anniversaries

## Happy Birthday to...

- 1 Roberta Harder  
Samantha Kienitz  
Sharon Korzan
- 2 Reagan Burke
- 3 Kenneth Lewis
- 6 James Jaeger
- 7 Karen Vieira
- 8 Linda Frantz  
Allison Johnson
- 9 Lucien McCormick  
Donald Stevenson
- 10 Gordon Russell  
Claire Sheller  
Tom Tryforus

## 11 Jaimie Marroquin

- Julie Morris
- 12 Katherine Rose  
Jean Tillotson
  - 14 Ian Broderick
  - 15 Barbara Burke  
Whitney Fajnor
  - 16 Rachel Grennan
  - 17 Shenoah Rueckert  
Keith Selbrede
  - 21 James Davis  
Nathan Schmeichel
  - 22 Madison Burke  
Mateo Carpenter  
Mary Ann Miller

## 24 Kimberly Avery

- Lindsay Vieira
- 25 Richard Avery
  - 26 Marcus Friederichs  
Tom Neuhaus  
John Pitsch
  - 27 James Ostrem  
Logan Riley
  - 28 Kathryn Artuso  
Mandy Lu
  - 29 Debbie Boross  
Karen Cherry  
Michelle Kienitz  
Mike McClary
  - 30 Katelyn Abernathy  
Andrew Johnson  
Marlys Waldron

## Happy Anniversary of Baptism to...

- 1 Cooper Priest  
Anne Bensen  
Teri Crawford  
Tracy Blois  
Twila Moraga
- 2 David Bouchard
- 3 Kylan Blois
- 5 Katelyn Kienitz  
Nils Rueckert  
Lindsay Vieira
- 7 Gene Leiter  
Alec Hoffman  
Nichole Brickley  
Sedona Brickley
- 9 Benjamin Fisher
- 12 Brianna Davis  
Kevin Fickenscher  
Carina McVeigh
- 20 Beverly Rueckert  
Bradley Boyer
- 21 Jan Gerk
- 26 Scott Fajnor
- 27 Melissa Sobolik
- 29 Aaron Bergh
- 30 Andrew Johnson



## Happy Anniversary to...

- 6 Ron & Lisa Higginbotham
- 24 Marsha & Bret Niedens
- 30 John & Jaimie Marroquin

