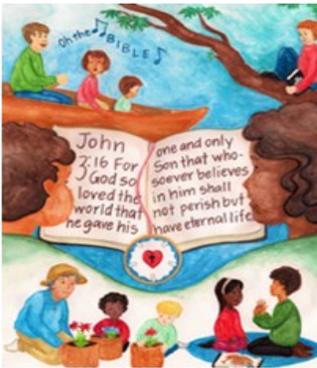


Christ invites us to follow him... *Daily!*



**Daily Discipleship**  
Bible studies based on the Sunday worship Gospel Lessons.

**As members of the ELCA, we all share a commitment to spreading God's word—and sharing God's love—in the world. To live our lives in and for Christ in both church and society—that's at the heart of discipleship. But it doesn't just happen on its own. In this section, you can learn about big and small ways we can pray, participate and provide—to share faith with others.**

**Daily Discipleship and Daily Faith Practices are online downloadable Bible studies based on the lectionary used at Sunday worship. Use these Bible Studies for small group discussions, personal devotions, or sermon preparation. These two-page Bible Studies connect the Word of God with daily life experiences. Explore ways to deepen faith practices in everyday living.**  
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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# Mission Interpreters Newsletter

**Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana  
Mission Territory**



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FEBRUARY 2012

**"We cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard!" Acts 4:20**

## First Temple, TX

About seven years ago a grass-roots movement in Temple, Texas caused the community to begin a discussion concerning the need for respite care for people suffering from Alzheimer's disease. It was noted that Alzheimer's care-givers become exhausted while caring for their loved-one who is suffering from this disease. Such care-giving is a 24-7 job. Since First Lutheran Church is centrally located it emerged as the perfect location to establish a new community ministry called "Thursday's Club" which would provide a place for care-givers to drop off their loved-one, and then enjoy a 4-hour respite themselves.

Volunteers from First and throughout the community are there to welcome the guests every Thursday morning at 9:30. They offer one-on-one care, coffee and snacks, devotions, a program, singing, lunch, chair-exercise, and crafts or dominoes. The happy sounds that come from the church's Fellowship Hall are delightful and inspiring! On the third Thursday of each month, there is also a support-group provided for the care-givers. The care-givers meet to share their worries and their joys. They offer encouragement and support to one another, and share a meal together. A retired social worker from Covenant Lutheran, Temple, and a retired geriatric-care nurse from First Lutheran lead the support-group.



**DILIGENT HANDS  
GRACIOUS HEARTS**

## San Gabriel Alvarado TX



During the National Assembly of ELCA, Pastor Jesus Escamilla shared a table with Pastor McMillan from Iowa and during the conversation they were talking about the

terrible drought in here Texas and how it was affecting Alvarado as well. Because of the drought, there hasn't been enough food for the cattle; the families were in serious crisis since now the roll of grass was on a price of \$60.00 that was later increased 130%, we are talking about \$150.00 per roll of grass. Unfortunately because of the crisis, the ranchers were forced to sell one of their cattle so they can feed the rest of them, every rancher will take almost 3 years to recover this cow, which says that since the ranchers sold their cows, that the price of meat will fall but within 3 years when there is a shortage of cows then obviously this price will increase. We are saying that the drought not only affects the animals or the livestock, but it affects all of us.

After opening my big mouth, comments the Pastor Jesus, the bishop of Iowa communicated with our bishop Kevin Kanouse to coordinate a donation of 5 trucks of pasture; this was complicated for the Logistics but the ELCA World Relief was in charge in paying for transportation. When we received those rolls in Alvarado that same day we gave them out, each roll weighs 1500 pounds and measures 6 feet tall X 5 feet wide.

This donation of Pasture will benefit 5 families that have cattle and 30 families that have horses, taking into account that each roll can be



enough to feed 15 cows for half a month, this was a huge relief for the families benefited now that they have enough food for their cattle and horses for a few months. Yes, it was worth opening my big month, God brought a blessing directly from Iowa to Alvarado.