

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
86 Plantation Drive/ P.O. Box 948  
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

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Lake Jackson, TX  
PERMIT #36

Pastor.....Pastor Paul Geisler, Jr..... clcpastorlj@sbcglobal.net  
Secretary.....Rachel Wood..... sara6625@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours.....Mon.-Fri.....8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Phone.....979-297-2013

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Web Site.....www.christlutheran-lj.org

Ministers.....The People of Christ

**Missionaries**

- Pastor Dana Nelson/Thomas Osaski.....Serving in Peru
- Pastor Horacio Castillo.....Serving in Guatemala
- Stephen Deal.....Serving in Central America

The Hands of Christ  
Worshiping Learning Serving  
Together



**Worship Schedule**

Sunday at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM  
Sunday School at 9:15 AM

THE TIDINGS is published monthly by  
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, 86 PLANTATION DRIVE, P.O. BOX 948  
LAKE JACKSON, TX 77566-0948

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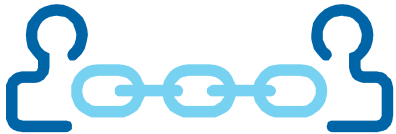
# The Tidings

Issue #269

NOVEMBER 2010

## November 14 .....Stewardship Barbecue

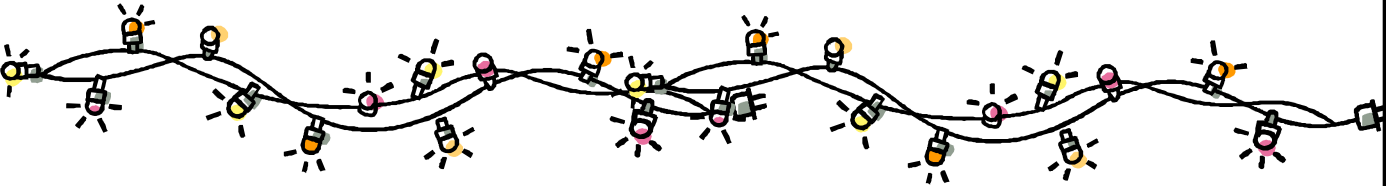
- Election of 2011 Council Members
- Stewardship Barbecue
- Alternative Christmas Market



Look for sign-up sheets in the Welcome Area to help with potato salad and desserts.

### Christ Lutheran will have a float in the LJ Festival of Lights Parade on Saturday, Nov. 20.

We'll be decorating the float that morning at 10:00 in the church parking lot. Everyone is invited to help decorate, as well as ride on the float that night. The parade lines up in the area around First National Bank. If you want to ride on the float, be there by 6:30. If you're a spectator, the parade starts at 7 PM. Be sure to clap and wave at us as we go by!



## Alternative Christmas

Begins at Stewardship  
BBQ on 11/14



10,000 Villages  
Holiday Swap Shop  
SPCA Calendars  
CPS Christmas Tree  
& more!!



*Any Remaining Proceeds go to  
Society of St. Stephens*

### WANTED

Brick masons, carpenters, electricians, painters, civil engineers, lawn keepers, plumbers, strong backs, good with hammers!!

Property Committee will hire you on the spot!!

Pay: Contentment for job well done for the Lord.

If interested, call Duane Rayburn 979 297 4651 or 979 415 4510

Or PLEASE attend a Property Committee Meeting on Wednesday, NOV. 10 at 7:00 PM at the Church.



From the Pastor, to my partners, . . .

We asked you to tell us what you think, and you did! A combined team from our Evangelism and Stewardship committees has met several times to review all the surveys that we received from our congregation. We asked first, “what do we hear?” Then we thought, “what are the main themes?” We can summarize our findings in four areas of concern.

We have adopted the theme “Growing Disciples, Deeper and Wider.” Through all the input, we heard strongly that we see ourselves as loving, giving, caring people who:

- seek to grow deeper and wider;
- seek to interact and participate with others;
- seek to be nurtured and revitalized;
- seek to serve visibly in our community.

One set of verbs (action words!) listed on one survey summed up our group’s feelings as well: “pray, learn, grow, dare, and laugh!”



We have just begun to ask, “what can we *do* now?” We spent one evening on just one of the concerns above and came up with three pages of newsprint, filled with practical action steps. We’ll focus these thoughts into plans, mapped out with resources and time lines, and continue the process with each of the four areas.

The group has found excitement and energy, and has added members along the way, despite the large amount of thoughts and feelings that we have dealt with. We meet again on Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. *You’re invited to join us!*

We have also asked people throughout our community to offer their thoughts and visions about issues that we might address through our congregation’s ministries, with some very interesting and varied responses. We’ll add these surveys to our planning process, especially when we look at ways that reach out beyond our four walls.

We pray for God’s inspiration in all this work, so that whatever the end product, we can say that we seek only to serve God, one another, and our world with the compassion and love we have experienced through our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ.

**The Great Commandment**

*Just as I have loved you, you should love one another.*

*John 13:34*

**The Great Commission**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”  
*Matthew 28:19*

God’s peace, שלום

*Paul*

Pastor Paul Giesler

**Serving in Worship - November 2010**

	<u>Nov 7</u> <u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>	<u>Nov 14</u> <u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
<b>Acolytes</b>		Johanna Geisler Kourtney Gregory	Lane Vogt	Austin Hughes Jeffrey Sims
<b>Readers</b>	Louise Humes	Carrie Hay	Betty Massey	Jennifer Sims
<b>Ushers</b>	Don Schwank Doris Schwank	Floyd Ellington Jose Saavedra	Steve Gluck Don Schwank	Shane Pirtle Cody Pirtle
<b>Greeters</b>	Mark Jessop	Dave Naill	Bob & Barbara Lundahl	Estelle Brubaker
<b>Ppt. Tech</b>	Patty Northam	Sandy Naill	Louise Humes	Kathy Sims
<b>Musician</b>	Mary Morgan	Mary Morgan	Rachel Wood	Linda Pirtle
<b>Money Counters</b>		Jean Warren/Don White		Paul Stanley/Kathy Christ-

	<u>Nov 21</u> <u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>	<u>Nov 28</u> <u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
<b>Acolytes</b>		Hope Furlow Chance Furlow		Riley Matteck Eli Matteck
<b>Readers</b>	Debbie Smith	Jean Warren	Steve Gluck	Linda McCrery
<b>Ushers</b>	Louise Humes Patty Northam	Pat Hudkins Terry Hudkins	Betty Massey Doris Schwank	Donna Tetlow Liz Ellett
<b>Greeters</b>	Veronica Waldrop	Joni Tannenbaum	Margaret Janke	Sharon White
<b>Ppt. Tech</b>	Steve Gluck	Brydon Geisler	Dave McCrery	Carrie Hay
<b>Musician</b>	Sandy Naill	Sandy Naill		
<b>Money Counters</b>		Dave Naill/Julie Saavedra		Don White/Betty Massey



**Safety Officer-Shane Pirtle**  
**Facilities Inspector-Don White**

# November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1  7 PM-Ladies Literary Troupe 130 White Oak  7 PM-Boy Scouts	2  5-6:15 PM-Yoga Welcome Area	3 1:30 Bread for Life-CLC Library 6:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Adult Choir Practice 7:00 PM Evangelism and Stewardship meeting	4  6:30 PM Tiki LICC	5	6
7 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS 10:30 Worship Bring non-perishable food for Brazosport Cares.  Daylight Savings Time Ends	8  7 PM-Boy Scouts	9  5-6:15 PM-Yoga Welcome Area	10 1:30 Bread for Life-CLC Library  6:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Adult Choir Practice 7:00 PM Property meeting	11  Faith in Action →	12	13
14 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS 10:30 Worship Stewardship Barbecue Alternative Christmas Market	15  7 PM-Boy Scouts	16  5-6:15 PM-Yoga Welcome Area	17 1:30 Bread for Life-CLC Library  6:30 PM Confirmation Class  7:00 PM Adult Choir Practice	18  7 PM Church Council Meeting	19	20  Festival of Lights Parade
21 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS 10:30 Worship	22  7 PM-Boy Scouts	23  5-6:15 PM-Yoga Welcome Area	24	25  CLC Office Closed	26  CLC Office Closed	27
28 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS 10:30 Worship	29  7 PM-Boy Scouts	30  5-6:15 PM-Yoga Welcome Area				

## Worship & Music Notes

### November Worship and Events

November 7<sup>th</sup> is **All Saints Sunday** – We give thanks for all the saints who have been “promoted to glory” as well as the saints with whom we interact every day! If you’d like to remember a special saint (or certainly more than one), please bring a photo to be included in the Art Corner display.

November 14<sup>th</sup> is our **Stewardship BBQ & Alternative Christmas Market**. At this time of Thanksgiving and reflection on our blessings, we gather, we hear the Word, we share in the meal (Communion and BBQ!), and we are sent to be Christ’s hands in our community. The readings reflect images of the end times, yet we are encouraged to keep on furthering God’s kingdom here on earth.

November 21<sup>st</sup> is **Christ the King Sunday**. On this Sunday, we celebrate the life of Christ, from the prophecy of a Messiah in the Old Testament, through the coming of Jesus, his ministry, his death, resurrection and his ascension to the right hand of God. God’s Kingdom has come!

In celebration, we will put up the Chrismon tree after 10:30 service and prepare our building and hearts for what comes next!

November 28<sup>th</sup> is the **First Sunday of Advent**. This begins a new church year, the year of Matthew, whose gospel is commonly referred to as “the church’s gospel”. Matthew focuses more on shaping and challenging disciples to active discipleship. In worship, we replace the hymn of praise and instead light the first Advent candle with prayer asking that we be ready for the dawn which is coming near.

We will not schedule a Thanksgiving Service here at Christ Lutheran, but encourage you participate in a community Thanksgiving service as your personal schedule permits.

### Bread for Life Study Group

This group meets on **Wednesdays @ 1:30 p.m., in the church library**. We have been discussing the *Daily Discipleship* study questions for the upcoming Sunday lesson. (*Daily Discipleship* can be printed from the ELCA web site, or you can pick up a copy on the table in the church parlor.) The first page is a lesson on the scriptures; the second page is how it can be applied in our lives. Lunch is optional, chocolate is mandatory. Join in!

### Library Lines

*Advent* devotionals are readily available within the shelves of the library. Whether you’re looking for a daily devotional, spiritual growth, additional thoughts on prayer, Bible study, or Christian fiction to curl up with on a cold, rainy day--we’ve got it!



**Hope Furlow** won 2nd Reserve Grand Champion for the 6th grade division at the County Fair for her drawing of her cousin, Carter's eyes. And.....**Joy Stanley's** dog's picture won Grand Champion for the 9th



# Happy Birthday

1	Terryl Browning	18	Don Schwank
	Maurice Marks	19	Jean Warren
6	James Waldrop	24	Barbara Lundahl
8	Allie Callaway	26	Jose Saavedra
10	Haley Hughes	27	Jason Haskins
12	Danielle Weirich		Betty Marshall
17	Allen Shelby	29	Mark Jessop
	Mary Darnell		

## Faith in Action-Nov. 13 & 14-CLC

Kids who have completed 6th grade can participate AND we are always looking for adults for a variety of positions: work team, safety, registration, program committees, etc. Forms can be found at [www.faithinactionofbrazosport.com](http://www.faithinactionofbrazosport.com)

Also, this weekend will be sponsored by us, CLC! If we can garner enough interest, we'd like to provide the Saturday evening meal. Interested parties can contact Linda Pirtle.



Brazosport Cares Food Pantry and CLC Servant Ministry

**Starting in November, CLC Servant Ministry will collect non-perishable foods the first Sunday of each month.**

Bring any non-perishable item. The food buggy will be placed in the Welcome Area as you enter for you to conveniently place your food item in. During the offering time, our offerings of non-perishable foods will be presented to the Lord at the altar along with our monetary offerings.

**You're invited to come play Tiki, Thursday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m.**

Thank you to Georgia Clark for the October snacks and thank you to Sissy Waldron for the November snacks. Sissy and Marge Janke will be trying to hold onto their medals. For a fun time, play Tiki.



## Ladies Literary Troupe

**1st Monday of the Month-November 1st  
130 White Oak, Lake Jackson  
Pot Luck Tapas**



## Note from Wayne & Becky Lewis

Hi everyone,

I finally had an opportunity to sit down and write a note to give you our new contact information. Here it is:



**Wayne and Becky Lewis  
604 Golfview Drive  
Richmond, TX 77469**

Home phone: 832-363-1620

e-mail: [rlewis1525@comcast.net](mailto:rlewis1525@comcast.net)

Soon, I will be getting a PO Box, so I will give you that address when I get it.

Thanks, and I look forward to hearing from all of you!!

Becky Lewis

## A Challenge for Us All

With a goal to increase our worship attendance, we challenge ourselves to increase worship attendance by an average of ten worshipers for the last three months of this year (October, November, and December), compared to the non-holiday, non-summer average from earlier in the year. We can do this! Invite your family and friends! Invite members you have not seen recently at worship! Invite folks who have never been to our church!

Blank note cards are available (*with postage!*) in the Welcome Area, for your use if you'd like to send a note to someone. Also use phone calls, e-mail, texts, facebook, and even face-to-face contact! Each one, bring one (or two, or three, or ...)!



**Join the Parks Department on November 5th and 6th.** We will be planting beach grasses along the Follett's Beach dune line. This is a great project for boys and girls, as well as for high school seniors looking for Community Projects to add to their college applications!! Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP by email with the days that you are available and the number of people in your party. Thank you in advance for your support!



## 2011 Summer Schedule -- Love Wins

Registration Now Open!

- June 12-17** - Alpha's, Youngn's, Yearling's, Sr. High Texas Adventure
- June 19-24** - Adventurer's, Confirmation, Sr. High Service Experience
- June 26- July 1** - Adventurer's, Confirmation, Jr High Service Experience
- July 3-8** - Family Camp
- July 10-15** - Adventurer's, Confirmation, Explorer's, Sr. High Texas Adventure
- July 17-22** - Alpha's, Youngn's, Yearling's
- July 24-29** - Yearling's, Adventurer's, Confirmation, Sr. High Texas Adventure
- July 31- August 5** - Alpha's, Youngn's, Yearling's, Jr. High Texas Adventure
- August 7-12** - Alpha's, Youngn's, Yearling's



## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) coming to Christ Lutheran Church

The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income (generally, \$49,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Certified volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. We have joined a broad coalition involving various volunteers and representative from corporations and social service agencies that has selected our congregation as the VITA site for southern part of the county. *You can help!* If you have some time to volunteer in February, March, or early April (mornings, evenings, or weekends), you can become certified to assist folks to file their taxes and get their deserved refunds, without having to pay large fees to tax preparers and loan companies. Contact Pastor Paul for more details.





Deepest Sympathy

We extend our arms in Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of **Vera Hedge**, who died October 19<sup>th</sup>. Vera was a charter member of our congregation and celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday last February.

Congratulations!

**Alison Lange and Guy Blevins**, married at Christ Lutheran Church on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Alison is the daughter of **Dennis and Ella Smith**.



**Matthew Elijah Bloomhuff**, born October 19<sup>th</sup> to **Destin and Ann Bloomhuff**. **Greg Bloomhuff** is Matthew's proud grandfather.

-- update on Brinly Pirtle --

Her prognosis for full recovery continues to be excellent! She is off the steroids for 6-8 weeks, so has much more energy and is losing some of that swollen look. She continues the weekly chemo treatment; this will hopefully end in March 2011. She is excited about Halloween -- she is going to be a ladybug! :-)  
Thanks to you for all your prayers!!!

**Carpet** has been installed in the classroom section of the Life in Christ Center. Come, take a look! Thanks to **Linda McCrery** for all her efforts in painting and spearheaded the fund raising. This renewal project also was made possible by funds donated in loving memory of **Nancy Dean**.

Look for us on Facebook!



Thanks to **Steve Gluck** for his technical assistance. Please e-mail the church office ([sara6625@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sara6625@sbcglobal.net)) if you have information or pictures for our web site or our Facebook page.

**Helping Hands and Hearts Hospice** will celebrate the lives of their clients who have recently died with a memorial service on All Saints Sunday – November 7<sup>th</sup> – at our congregation at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend and support the families.

Also, Helping Hands and Hearts Hospice will sponsor a 5K run and a one-mile fun run at McLean Park on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Packet pick-up begins at 6:30 a.m., kids run at 7:45 am, and the 5k run/walk at 8:00 a.m.



Please remember these people in your prayers.

Staci Ayers	Helen Hudkins	Jim Pickens	Van Tetlow
Taylor Bedrich	Linda James	Brinly Pirtle	Pastor Roy Timaeus
Dr J H Bertheau	Mary Johnson	Gary Pyle	Bradley Thomas
Bill Bowden	Dennis Jones	Sue Rieschick	Dora Updike
Patricia Bradburn	Betty Keith	R. B. Runnels	Clara Veatch
Pastor Horacio Castillo	Doug Magnussen	Karen Schubring	Stanley Wall
Royce Church	Macel Magnussen	Kim Shelton	Viola Watson
Kenneth Dean	Brock Massey Fam	Kathy Sims	Lauri Webb
George Ellis	Steve Miller	Bill Stoerner	Pauline Zabel
Mary Ellis	Becky Moorefield	Ginger Stoldt	
Don Graham			

Lord's Work	Income	Net Expenses	Budget
September	\$13,462.05	\$17,132.71	\$17,217.75
Year to Date	\$139,375.80	\$150,172.82	\$154,959.75

Mission Trip to Guatemala Planned for late June, 2011

Contact Jose Saavedra or Pastor Paul for more information

Founded in 1991, the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala ([Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala - ILAG](#)) is the youngest of the Lutheran churches in Central America. Since its inception, the ILAG has accompanied marginal communities on the periphery of Guatemala City and rural villages of indigenous peasants, many of whom lived as refugees in Mexico during the country's long civil war and returned to Guatemala after the signing of the 1996 peace accords.

The ILAG now has close to 2,000 members organized in 18 congregations and missions. Its committed team of pastors, teachers and evangelists work holistically to offer spiritual sustenance to people living in poverty and to improve overall living conditions in poor communities. Church programs include securing land titles for the landless, educating poor children (at two elementary schools in Guatemala City), enabling youth and adults to pursue secondary/higher education, community-based development projects and help for communities affected by natural disasters.





After the Haiti Earthquake -- *Walking with Rural Communities*

By Nikki Massie, Lutheran World Relief Staff Writer

Cantave Jean-Baptiste remembers *exactly* where he was on January 12, when a massive earthquake struck his native Haiti. "I was in my car, on my way home. My wife and three children were in Montreal, Canada, but there were four other people living in my home at that time," he recalls.

Recently Cantave, Director of Partnership for Local Development (PLD), a Lutheran World Relief partner organization in Haiti, made it back to his house the day of the earthquake and found it heavily damaged by the 7.0 magnitude quake. He spent the next few nights as many other Haitians did: under the open sky until he procured first a plastic sheet, then a tent, to sleep under. "In some ways, I can say I know what it is to live in a tent," he says. "But it is very different from living in the camps."

Cantave headed to the countryside to see how rural communities were coping. "Most of the people living in Port-au-Prince are from the countryside," he explains. Many people chose to return to rural areas following the quake. He encountered many households, like that of Pierre Gilles Velienne, in desperate need of help. "My family hosted six earthquake survivors from Port-au-Prince," Pierre explained. She and her family were more than willing to help, but they were already struggling and the addition of more people put even further strain on their resources.



Project participants Yolette Jean, Desilia Rene, Estany Bernard, Suza Aristide, Bluetie St. Fleur and Pierre Gilles Velienne. All have hosted many displaced earthquake survivors in their homes and have benefited from LWR's cash-for-work program to help them support their families.

Through the LWR/PLD partnership, members of Pierre's household participated in a cash-for-work program where they earned money to help them survive while also repairing the future food supply through soil conservation work. This program gave displaced people a way to help their host families, while also providing funds to return to Port-au-Prince to begin rebuilding their own lives.

"Five of the six have returned to Port-au-Prince," says Pierre.

Right after the earthquake, many rural people exhausted their seed supplies to help feed the displaced. LWR and PLD helped replenish seed banks so people could grow a variety of food to eat and sell, such as beans, peanuts, corn and sweet potatoes.

While these projects are helping families cope and begin to move forward, Cantave says more help is needed to sustain the positive impact. That's why he came to the U.S. to urge the government to include rural communities in long-term reconstruction plans. "Lack of basic services, like education and health care, caused people to leave the countryside and go to the city. We need to improve conditions in rural areas to make it possible for people to really live there."

Families participating in the project are glad to have the opportunity to grow food and earn income. But more than that, they are happy to be active participants in their own recovery. "Other organizations are just giving things away, but PLD works with farmers and lets them participate," says Novert Bernadette, an LWR/PLD project participant.

Overall, Cantave stresses, the support of the people in the U.S., and particularly that of LWR supporters, is making a difference in Haiti. "I would like to tell the Lutheran World Relief donors that LWR is doing a good job in Haiti. I encourage them to continue to support LWR as they continue to impact lives," he says.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our donors, LWR has made a \$6 million commitment to long-term recovery in Haiti. Help us respond to the next disaster quickly and efficiently with an unrestricted gift today at [lwr.org/giving](http://lwr.org/giving).



Spiritual Growth - What is it?

Spiritual growth is detailed in 2 Peter 1:5-8:

"...make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Four simple, but essential steps for spiritual growth:

**Step 1** – Read your Bible daily. Find a Bible reading plan that's right for you. A plan will keep you from missing anything God has written. Furthermore, if you follow the plan, you'll be on your way to reading through the Bible once every year! The easiest way to truly grow in the faith is to make Bible reading a priority.

**Step 2** – Attend church services regularly. The Bible encourages us to meet together regularly with other believers: "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another..." Hebrews 10:25. This is also fundamental to spiritual growth. If you're having trouble finding a church, check out these resources on how to find a church that's right for you. How else will we grow spiritually unless we interact with other believers? We learn humility, gentleness and patience, developing the character of Christ as we relate within the body of Christ.

**Step 3** – Get involved in a ministry group. Most churches offer small groups and ministry opportunities. A weekly Bible study group is a good place to begin. Pray and ask God where you should "plug in." Those who "get plugged in" find their purpose and soar in their walk with Christ. Sometimes this takes a little time, but most churches will help you find the place that's right for you. Don't get discouraged if the first thing you try doesn't seem to fit.

**Step 4** – Pray daily. Prayer is simply talking to God. You don't have to use big fancy words. There are no right and wrong words. Just be yourself. Pray for others in need. Pray for direction. Pray for the Lord to fill you daily with the Holy Spirit. You can pray with your eyes closed or open, while sitting or standing, kneeling or lying on your bed, anywhere, anytime.

Other helpful Bible passages:

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

<http://gulfcoastsynod.org/SpiritualGrowth.html>

