



The Spirit

Holy Ghost Lutheran Church

February 2017

Being & Making Disciples!

“And It’s Only January!”

2017 began with a bang, and it’s only January! What more might the New Year have in store? With God, the prospects are always plentiful!

The congregation voted on January 15th, 153-6 to purchase the two properties on E. Creek Street that came available to the church at a purchase cost of \$985K. An overwhelming number of persons saw the same value in acquiring these properties that the church council realized when the possibility was presented. With real estate values, particularly those in the downtown historic district, continuing to rise and property in this section of town becoming more scarce, when the option arose and the price was negotiated, the council felt a tremendous responsibility in bringing this rare opportunity before the church to speak on it. And speak, it did!

In the short time that this idea has been known to your leaders, they worked diligently to gather as much pertinent information as possible, and it was relatively a short time for us as a church, for our style is to hold town meetings, congregational forums, and Q&A sessions to cover the waterfront thoroughly as a whole congregation. Yet in this instance it was virtually act quickly, or see this chance in the rear view mirror. Congregational realtors invested dozens of hours in calculating competitive/fair numbers, financial specialists projected numbers, legal counsel was consulted, a building inspector offered his expertise, and prayer people prayed. Due diligence, and more, was done!

Yet there are legitimate questions that were asked at the congregational special meeting which included, “What will we do with it?” The best answer I think I have heard thus far is, “We’ll own it!” Not meant to be sarcastic, but to emphasize that the initial opportunity was to simply gain possession of it for whatever it will be used! With Fredericksburg continuing to grow, people continuing to come, and businesses continuing to expand, not to mention the city’s recent plan in the newspaper last month about the large hotel that is planned to go in between Holy Ghost Church and HEB by January 2019 with a foot bridge extending S. Llano Street to cross the creek, it seems solid wisdom to simply own it even as a buffer to the impending growth of music venues, B&B’s, restaurants, and bars.

This is a primary motivation why the council reconsidered recommending the sale of the Klaerner property and suggested taking that idea off the table, which was agreed upon at the congregational meeting by that item of business not making it to the floor for a vote.

Realistically, back to the questions “What will we do with these two Creek Street properties?” Honestly, that is yet to be determined, but it could help lessen the building program expansion, it could achieve some much-needed off street parking, it could be used as adult Sunday School space, meeting rooms, social ministries—God knows, and we will be discerning that Will.

So now, with the positive vote, the church leaders are most pressingly working to assemble a plan whereby the down payment might be made and monthly payments achieved. That plan will be forthcoming in early February and you will be the first to know! No less, it will involve a renewed pledge program to welcome all Holy Ghosters to support this new acquisition as well as continue sustaining the general ministry budget.

In the time being, please pray. Pray that our leaders will be prudent with the business details at hand in closing the deal, faithful in seeking to build the Kingdom both now and for future generations, and attentive to the whispers of the Holy Spirit who will lead us to utilize all our blessings, properties, staff, members, spirit, and resources to “strengthen the saved and save the lost” to His glory!

With Power from on High,
+Pastor Bobby Vitek



2017 Church Council

Steve Olfers:	President
Kathy Boos:	Vice President
Amy Montgomery:	Secretary
Chuck Jenschke:	Treasurer
Ginger Burow	D.D. Reyes
Mark Moellering	Tricia Herrera
Coy Akin	Greg Henricksen
Carrie Culpepper	Jerry Christensen

Many thanks to off-going council persons:

Mandy Herber, Brian Eckert, Gil Becker and Robert Elder



COUNCIL NEWS January 16, 2017

1. Steve Olfers led the meeting with a prayer.
2. Received an anonymous gift of \$25K to be used at the council's discretion.
3. Heard a report from Pastor David about his summer sabbatical plans.
4. A task force is looking into possible uses for the parsonage that the Viteks will vacate in March due to a home purchase.
5. Council Bible study was on Mark 13.
6. The council retreat is set for Jan. 27-28 at Camp Ebert near Harper.
7. The meeting ended at 8:45pm in praying for joys and concerns of the community.

THE FEBRUARY ANNUAL REPORT MEETING

The meeting will be held on Sunday, February 12th after the 10:30am worship. The main item of business is to receive all the 2016 reports, but also on the agenda will be updates on the Creek Street property and the building program. All are encouraged to be part of the ministry business of the church!



CHOIR DIRECTOR CHANGES

CHOIR DIRECTOR We have been blessed by Larry Reavis who served in the Sanctuary Choir position for some sixteen years. Before the beginning of the new year choir rehearsals, Larry offered his notice of stepping aside. We thank Larry for his heart, passion, gifts and love for Holy Ghost Church and the many people he served in the choir and the blessings that his leadership provided. Deanne Moellering has accepted the offer to be the new choir director, and we pray for her leadership in this new venture as well as her many other places of leadership in church music.



HOLY GHOST LUTHERAN WOMEN OF FAITH

THE 17th ANNUAL EPIPHANY TEA was held January 8, 2017 at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall with 248 ladies, little princesses and young ladies of our church and community attending. Special thanks goes to Liz Hohenberger, chairperson, who did a marvelous job, as well as the ladies who furnished their china and decorations for the tables and to the ladies who provided food, helped with set up, kitchen duties and clean up. This function would not have been possible without all the work our ladies did. A special thanks goes to the men who helped with returning tables and chairs to the Education Building. A short devotion was given by Pastor Bobby. We hope to see you next year.

SPRING GENERAL MEETING will be held February 26, 2017 at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lydia Circle is responsible for the program and Evening Guild will be the hostess. Kim Thorton from the Wellness Center will be our guest speaker. The topic will be "The Importance of Exercise & Stretching" All ladies are invited to attend this meeting.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF HEALTH CARE KITS – February is the month to collect items for our LWR health care kits. There will be a display of red hearts on an easel in the entry of church with the items needed listed on the hearts. Each kit will consist of a 27x52 inch lightweight dark towel, 2 bars of soap (4-5 oz. each), one adult toothbrush, one sturdy comb and one metal nail clipper (attached file optional). Please take as many hearts as you are able to fill. After the items have been purchased, bring them back to church and place them in the collection box by March 15.

CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS are still being collected. The labels are sent to the Navajo Indian Mission for their needs. Please include the entire label which includes the UCR bar code. The collection boxes are located in the Fellowship Hall and in the old Sunday School building.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb. 4 & 5 – Fair Trade Products Sale – Lydia Circle
- Feb. 9 – Lydia Circle Meeting – 9:30am – Fellowship Hall
- Feb. 9 – Katherine Luther Circle – 1:00pm -- Fellowship Hall
- Feb. 13 – Evening Guild Meeting – 6:00pm – Fellowship Hall
- Feb. 26 – Spring General Meeting – 2:00pm -- Fellowship Hall
Program – Lydia Circle /Hostess – Evening Guild
- Mar. 3 – World Day of Prayer – 9:00am
Memorial Presbyterian Church
- Apr. 8 – WNALC South TX Mission District Spring Gathering



Holy Ghost Sanctuary Choir

Greetings! With the start of a new year, have you been thinking about taking a more active role in worship, and do you love to sing? Please consider joining our Holy Ghost Sanctuary Choir. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 7pm-8pm in the church basement. It is a wonderful way to worship God and a great opportunity for fellowship. For more information, please contact Deanne Moellering, Sanctuary Choir director at 992-9391. "O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation."

Psalms 95:1

Creation Care

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
Colossians 3: 17 NSRV*

New Year's Resolutions That You Can Keep:

January: If you turn down your thermostat by 10 degrees when you leave or go to bed you can save energy. One can save as much as 1 percent of your heating for every degree lowered for an eight hour period.

February: Pull your refrigerator away from the wall and clean off the dust from the condenser and coils to prevent the refrigerator from overheating.

March: Have your air-conditioning system inspected to be ready for the summer. This insures that the system is running as efficiently as possible.

April: Once every 10 years you should have your home's electrical wiring system inspected by a licensed electrician.

May: Have your windows washed inside and outside and open the drapes to allow the sunshine to brighten your rooms.

June: Trim your shrubs, hedges and trees that may be overgrown and shade your windows so next winter the sunshine can warm your rooms.

This information is taken from the January 2017 issue of Texas Co-op Power.



Submitted by Jerry Christensen of the Local Missions Team

Thanks to all for the prayers, love and care.

Sincerely,

Virginia Clark

*IN
Everything
GIVE
Thanks*

*In everything give thanks; for this is
the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

SAVE THE DATE!

It's time to clean out those closets, sheds and garages and get rid of all that unused "stuff."

Saturday, April 29, 2017



TWO SPECIAL GIFTS!

Edna Fritz remembered the church in her last will and testament by leaving \$77K to be used as the leaders see most fit. Also received was an anonymous gift of \$25K to be used at the Church Council's discretion. God knows the giver's heart and intentions, and praise be to Him whose Spirit moved these and others who give above and beyond their regular giving! Such gifts enable the Church to move in directions that otherwise are not possible! May all consider how God's Spirit may lead us in our giving!



Dear church family,

We want to thank you for all the love and support thru prayer, money and food that you have blessed upon our family in a time of need. The miracles of recovery are none the less than God blessed.

Thank you,

Victoria, David, Isabella and Nathan

*Thank
you*



WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

*Saturday, 6:00pm offers an informal service;
Sunday, 8:00am is a traditional service; and
Sunday, 10:30am is a varied format.*

"Come, let us worship the Lord!"

The New Year Sermon Series is *"The Kingdom of heaven is like....."* Each week in February will continue to center on Jesus' parables from Matthew 13 giving insight into how God works in this world and in the hearts of believers. These parables will explore the mystery of God in our lives.

Sat & Sun, Feb. 4 & 5: The focus for this weekend's message is the comparison of the Kingdom of Heaven to leaven or yeast! This is not a recipe for making bread but a recipe for how we share the Grace of God. A little can go a long way in touching people's lives with God's love. How might we, on a daily basis, intentionally find ways to make a difference in people's lives?

Sat. & Sun., Feb. 11 & 12: *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like....."* Jesus tells the stories of the great treasure and the pearl of great price, and how the individual sells all he has to own that field and that pearl. What do you value most? For what are you willing to give everything? We know what Christ was willing to sacrifice in order to buy back our souls! May we, in faith, learn and obey. Read Matthew 13:44-45.

Sat. & Sun., Feb. 18 & 19: Matthew 13:47-50 is compared to a net that catches a variety of fish. The parable is about the end times. But it reminds us that we are not the judge and jury; God is! Like the parable of the seed that is sown, we are to continue to cast the net out by sharing the Good News of the Gospel with all people. We catch 'em. God does the rest.

Sat. & Sun., Feb. 25 & 26: *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like...."* Jesus speaks of the old and the new. This is no less than the Old Testament and the New, our old ways and Christ's new ways for us, old leading to death and new leading to eternal life! Read Matthew 13: 51-53.



Lent begins March 1st with services offered at 11am & 6:30pm. This year's theme is based in Ecclesiastes 3, *"There is a time for every matter under heaven."* Communion is served, ashes distributed, and faith strengthened.



FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFERING

The special offering for February is the Building Fund: paying off the Fellowship Hall note of \$90K and then accumulating toward the down payment for the Creek Street properties. Please give above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings.



Calendar

Church Website

Ministry Schedule

Excel Spreadsheet

Altar Guild:

February: Donna Rees, Debra Duecker, Linda Kneese & Teresa Schneider

March: Barbara Grona, Helen Scoggs, Laverne Boos, Pamela Meyer & Kay Pressler

Women of Faith Study Leaders:

<u>Circles</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Evening Guild	Royce Ann Baethge	Roslee Lochte
Lydia Circle	Jan Unger	Laverne Cuddy
Katherine Luther	Helen Balcar	Sandy Birdleough

Nursing Home Comm.: Zion

Wednesday, 2-1	9:30am	Knopp Assisted
Wednesday, 2-1	10:00am	Knopp #2
Thursday, 2-2	9:30am	Heritage Place
Thursday, 2-2	10:00am	Paige House
Thursday, 2-2	10:30am	Tri-Star
Wednesday, 2-8	9:30am	Windercrest
Wednesday, 2-8	10:30am	Fredericksburg
Thursday, 2-9	9:30am	Knopp Retirement
Thursday, 2-9	10:30am	Knopp #1



Birthdays:

2/4/20	Esther Sagebiel
2/7/20	Levy Ersh
2/8/27	Cliftine Solbrig
2/10/26	Charles Dahlstrom
2/18/27	Evelyn French
2/28/24	Virginia George



Anniversaries:

2/8/64	Temple & Jeanie Klett
2/12/56	Rudy & Betty Olfers
2/27/55	Clayton & Ora Knopp

(If we missed your 90+ birthday or 50+ anniversary, please call the church office, 997-2288.)

Pastoral Acts:

Funerals:

12/23/16 Peggy Dahlstrom

Baptisms:

1/15/17 Margot Celeste Priem

Holy Ghost Financial Report:

Gen. Fund Balance, December 1, 2016: \$59,330.13
 December Receipts: \$81,630.08
 December Expenses: -\$59,054.38
 Gen. Fund Balance, December 31, 2016: \$81,905.83

Special Offerings For Dec.:

TV-Gemechis Buba	\$100.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$723.29
Operation Christmas Child	\$10.00
Mexico Mission Trip	\$1,929.30
Funeral Pantry Fund	\$80.00

Financial Barometer:

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Dec.	\$81,630.08	-\$59,054.38	\$22,575.70
YTD	\$751,353.36	-\$704,447.53	\$46,905.83

Building/Debt Retirement Fund:

Dedicated Fund Balance, December. 1, 2016: \$928.42
 Receipts: \$20,206.66
 Expenses: -\$11,500.00
 Balance December. 31, 2016: \$9,635.08

Fellowship Hall Loan Total Due:

Loan Balance Dec. 31, 2016 \$98,510.41

Donations for Endowment Fund December 2016: \$15,301.67

We want to thank the pastors for their visits to Atley and their prayers.

We also want to thank the ladies who served the meal at the funeral and to all who brought food, sent memorials and cards and the kind deeds and words.

May God bless all of you in a special way this New Year and always!

The Family of Atley Usener





In celebration of the Super Bowl, HGLC is collecting "soup" for the FBG Food Pantry! So any types are welcomed to be stacked in front of the altar. We'll be collecting until February 5th.

*Happy Valentine's Day
From Kinderneest!*



From the 'R Team: Read your Bible daily. February has been long associated with Valentine's Day, a celebration of love. Love at all levels and in many different forms is an important part of the Christian experience, and the following Bible verses address this topic. Happy Valentine's Day!

<i>Luke 6:35</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 13:13</i>
<i>Romans 12:9</i>	<i>Ephesians 4:2</i>
<i>Mark 12:31</i>	<i>1 Peter 4:8</i>
<i>Romans 13:10</i>	<i>1 John 4:7</i>
<i>1 Corinthians 13:4-8</i>	<i>1 John 4:18-19</i>
<i>Colossians 3:14</i>	<i>Proverbs 10:12</i>
<i>John 3:16</i>	<i>Psalms 18:1</i>
<i>Song of Songs 8:6</i>	

Praying Through
God's Word



1 Peter 4:10 - Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

The Christmas Dinner was a huge success for our team and the forty-five volunteers who made this a special event for our community. We delivered thirty meals to shut-ins, served seventy guests at the beautifully decorated tables in the Omega Room, and fed some of the volunteers, for an estimated 130 total meals.

Special thanks to Virginia Clark, Betty Sagebiel, and Karen Lochte for the additional time and expertise in the kitchen. Each guest received a Christmas card, a place mat, and a small gift. HEB donated the turkeys and cash gift cards to help defray some of the cost of the event. Thanks to all who participated in this unique serving opportunity. We hope to expand next year.

Our next event will be the Freecycle, happening on the weekend following Easter. We have the chance to clean out some closets, rooms and the garage. Collections will be on the day preceding the event.

More information to come!



Stewardship Minute

A huge thanks to all of you for your support for God's Kingdom work in 2016. The church ended up well in the black thanks to your tithes and offerings. We are on solid financial footing. That doesn't mean that we can rest on our laurels. God's kingdom work continues of Being and Making Disciples. More challenges lie ahead for us in 2017 as we seek to expand our campus and continue to grow disciples in Jesus' name. We invite you to journey with us as we allow God to guide us into the future!

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."
(1 Peter 4:10)

BUILDING PROGRAM PLANS

With the purchase of the Creek Street properties, the question has been asked about the building program that was presented in early December. The team has continued to meet to discuss how the new acquisition impacts the plan. The "Town Meeting" on January 29th has been postponed as leaders determine the next steps in the overall campus. Along these lines, plans for the Klaerner House are also under discussion since the decision was made to hold onto that property. Please keep these leaders in your prayers that God may grant wisdom, counsel, and might in the Church's discernment.



Adult Class Opportunities



"THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD" studies Isaiah, Hebrews and Revelations led by Alton Klier, Jim Paige, Norm Nevins, and Travis Jones. (Sundays, 9:15am - FH)

Luther's Small Catechism: The Fundamentals of Our Faith. Anyone who would like to learn more about the Lutheran Church and the basics of their faith is invited to join. Pastor David leads the class. (Sundays, 9:15am - FH)

Book Study: Pastor Bobby has a new book study that begins February 5th titled "*Intentional Living*" by John Maxwell. The class will meet Sunday mornings only.

Men's Breakfast Devotion: On the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30am, a group meets for food, fellowship, and a devotion at Jalisco's Restaurant.

Ladies' Lunch Study: The ladies lunch study meets every other Wednesday from noon – 1ish in the FH Alpha Room. The book study is, Trust Without Borders by Arabah Joy. All ladies welcome! Bring your lunch and share Christian fellowship! Contact Mary Eckert 998-4337 or instep@austin.rr.com and/or Barbara George bdgeorge@beecreek.net.

Men's Community Bible Study meets every Thursday at 7:00am in the fellowship hall. Leading the class is Pastor Bill Counts. Mike Birdlebough is the contact (998-4504).

Feeding John Program



NEW FEEDING JOHN OPPORTUNITY!

We would like to expand Feeding John to include some of the members of our own congregation who are shut-in or have trouble getting out. If you know of a family member or friend who would like a meal delivered once a month and you are willing to deliver, please call Sandy Birdlebough at 830-998-4504. We are able to accommodate special diets. Thanks for your generosity.

Feeding John will be February 19th.

The Spirit is the official news publication of Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, Fbg., Texas, which is wholly responsible for its content.

The Ministers, the Congregation
 Bobby Vitek, Pastor David Priem, Pastor
 Clint Pluenneke, Pastor of Youth & Family Ministries
 Daniel Hofmann, Minister of Children & Young Families

Shanese Lochte, Office Manager
 Jennifer Juenke, Office Assistant
 Blake Neffendorf, Office Assistant
 June Woerner, Finance Secretary
 Alan Williams, Visitation Minister
 Jan Unger, Visitation Minister
 Marti Jennings, Ministry Facilitator
 Kim Bonillas, Kindermost Preschool Director
 Jim Parker, Maintenance Technician
 Deanne Moellering, Music Ministry Coord.
 Carol Brinkmann, Fellowship Hall Supervisor
 Arnold Schlueter, Pastor Emeritus
 Paul & Marie Senff, Missionaries Emeritus

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Friday: 8:30 a.m. - noon

Telephone: 997-2288 / Fax: 997-7869
 Email: holyghost@austin.twcbc.com
 Website: www.holyghostfbg.org

Bobby Vitek - pastorbv@austin.twcbc.com
 David Priem - pastordp@austin.twcbc.com
 Clint Pluenneke - clintp@austin.twcbc.com
 Daniel Hofmann - danielh@austin.twcbc.com

Kindermost Montessori Preschool
 113 E. San Antonio Street
 Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
 Telephone: 997-8939



Please keep us informed

There are many times when your phone call to the church office is the only way we may discover that someone is in the hospital, ill, or in need of a pastoral visit. Please let us know if you have special needs outside the regular office hours.

Nursery

Childcare is available on Sunday mornings from 7:45am-noon so that parents might attend worship and/or Sunday School. Children ages 8 months through 4 years old are welcome. Penny Ersch and Carol Bottlinger are the childcare providers. Penny Ersch also coordinates the volunteers. Additional volunteers are always needed and welcome!

MINISTRY TEAMS:

Barnabas Team	JoAnn Durst	997-2245
Bread of Life	Charles Feller	997-8006
Building Comm.	Kory Keller	210-213-7035
"C" Team	Virginia Clark	997-3494
Cemetery Team	Carey Bonn	997-7215
Cemetery Team	Laverne Boos	997-5759
Feeding John	Sandy Birdleough	998-4504
Float Team	Jennifer Helfrich	998-5207
Fishers for Christ	Debbie Klaehn	997-7234
Health Care Team	Carla Herbig	992-1865
Holy Ghost Quilters	Helen Usener	997-7945
Holy Ghost Quilters	Irene Crutcher	997-7072
Hospitality Team	Kat Jacoby	210-391-4407
Investment Team	Jamie Runnels	992-2019
Kindermost Team	Tammy Staedtler	998-7031
LWR Quilters	Roslee Lochte	997-1536
Landscape Team	Gary & Lisa King	456-4463
Local Missions	J&L Christensen	309-361-3970
NH Comm. Coord.	Verdie Pezzaro	210-722-4754
NH Devotions	Windy Duecker	997-2983
"P" Team	Donald Pressler	830-329-3603
Passion of Christ	M&D Akin	997-4630
	K&B Sagebiel	997-9519
Property Team	Greg Henricksen	990-8138
Prayer Team	Laverne Cuddy	456-0782
"R" Team	Mary Beth Bauer	864-4201
Resource Mgmt.	Corrine Jung	889-8640
Stewardship Team	Dwayne Boos	456-7218
Welcome Patrol	Sandy Poole	997-9098
Worship Decorating		

WORSHIP TEAMS:

Altar Guild Coord.	Adela Wunderlich	456-1958
Altar Guild Coord.	Donna Rees	210-355-6971
Communion Servers	Corrine Jung	997-3310
Disciple Team Leader	Glenna Hartman	257-2469
Disciple Team Leader	Marjorie Otte	644-2655
Disciple Team Leader	Polly Zenner	997-5701
Nursery Child Care	Penny Ersch	997-9747
Nursery Child Care	Carol Bottlinger	998-2857
Nursery Vol. Coord.	Penny Ersch	997-9747
Organist/Pianist Coord.	Bernice Basse	669-2380
Readers Coord.	Lois Weidenfeller	997-8455
Video Tech Coord.	Linda Adams	889-3250

CHOIRS:

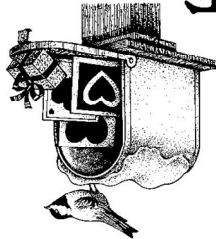
Bell Choirs	Deanne Moellering	990-8410
Sanctuary Choir	Deanne Moellering	990-8410

GROUPS:

Church Council Pres.	Steve Olfers	669-2462
Men in Mission	Ron Cuddy	997-7068
Sunday School Supt.	Kay Melcer	992-9779
Women of Faith	Carol Feuge	997-3071
Women of Faith	Polly Zenner	997-5701
Youth Group	Brook Nevins	992-9424

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FEBRUARY



HOLY GHOST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 78624-4135
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Love

Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee. - Psalms 25:21

O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever! - Deuteronomy 5:29

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. - John 5:24

Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. - Psalms 145:2