



# The Shepherd's Voice

JANUARY 2026

439 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy, Hernando, FL 34442

Our  
Interim  
Pastor



## Pastor's Devotion

What's New? That's a question we hear all the time, isn't it? Whenever we meet someone in the store or at school, or even in church we automatically ask, "What's new with you?"

That's a good question for us to ask ourselves, especially as we enter another new year. Many people think about losing weight, exercising more, eating better, quitting smoking, saving money, being nicer and more respectful of others, volunteering at church, school, or a community service, reading a book of the Bible every week....the list goes on and on. All of these are good things to do, but how difficult it is to follow through and keep our New Year resolutions. By the time March rolls around a lot of times we've even forgotten what we resolved at the New Year.

How do we keep our resolve when we're so busy and a growing number of demands are placed upon our lives? How can we concentrate on what changes we want to make in our lifestyles when there seems to be so little time?

Solomon, "The Teacher", who wrote Ecclesiastes, reminds us that there is a time for everything: ***a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to break down and a time to build up...I have seen the business that God has given us to be busy with. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover it is God's gift that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in their toil. (Ecclesiastes 3:2-3,10-13).***

Solomon is wise enough to know that if we center our hearts, minds, and lives upon God's will and the work he has set for us, there is enough time to get things done and to keep our resolve. God will set our priorities straight and bless our efforts as he gives us abilities and opportunities to work so that we can use our time well. It is when we try "to take on the world" and "follow our own will" that we loose the joy of doing what we know is right.

As we do the work that God has set for us, we will be able to take pleasure in all our toil as we see the fruit or our labors as a gift from God.

***God's Joy, Peace and Love in this New Year 2026***

***Pastor Bob***

# President's Message



I hope you all had a Merry Christmas. As we start the new year, we have some exciting things coming up.

The big news is that we were approved for the Building Bridges grant. Building Bridges will help us reach out to our Latino community. This is a \$10,000 grant that we will utilize throughout the year. Tom Stickler and I will be attending a mandatory orientation in Orlando later this month. The Outreach Committee deserves a huge thank you for putting this grant and application process together! Watch for more updates from Tom on this exciting new program.

The new year also brings an old request for volunteers. Every committee has a need for more volunteers. If you have any questions about the committees, their role, and how you can best serve, feel free to reach out to any of the committee chairs or me. With very few paid staff, it is crucial that we have enough volunteers to help keep things running smoothly.

We, unfortunately, need to reschedule our movie night that was originally scheduled for January 17th. Stay tuned for the new date. We expect it to be shown in February or March.

Finally, I personally want to thank both Gladys Kean and Dan Cashman for their service on the Council. They both wanted to take a well-deserved break and did not run for re-election. They deserve our thanks for the many contributions they have made serving in any role they have held.

Grace and Peace,

Joe

# Church Council News



The Council met on December 11<sup>th</sup> and took the following actions:

- One page bulletin – have Pastor continue to guide Congregation to pages and Hymns
- Suggestion from Gladys Kean for Joe to reinforce to the Congregation the Office role and responsibilities of the Administrator, Lucia
- Plans to hold another joint breakfast of Council members and Committee chairpersons
- Finance Committee recommendation – approved Kathleen Swartz and Sharon Maxwell as new committee members
- Establishment of a “Youth Representative” on the Council as a voting member.
- Synod approved Constitution
- Special Thanks to Gladys Kean for her many years of service on the Council
- Sheriff Star Program Emergency Notification emblem located near front door. Motion
- Semi Annual Congregational Meeting to be held January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- Committee Annual Reports due to Church office Not Later Than January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- Approved the 2026 budget as presented.



# WELCA NEWS

*As a community of women create in the image of God called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.*

Happy New Year 2026

January 6th board meeting.

Resuming Lunch/Bible studies on the Third Tuesday of every Month:

January 20th, Bible study at noon. We'll meet at the Cattle dog, 210 B Tompkin Street Inverness FL ;

February 3rd Bible study at noon in the Classroom at Good Shepherd;

Sock drive to Support Graceway Village. This project starts soon. Socks sizes from Infant to Adult. We'll let you know dates and times.

March 7th at 9:00 am, spring gathering at Hope Lutheran Church, 250 Avenida Los Angeles Street in the Villages. Sign up sheets are in the lobby.

WELCA Board

Nancy Gomes Circle and Event Coordinator

Aagot Green Treasurer

Cindy Gaertner Secretary



## **Vision to Action**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was approved for a \$10,000 grant by the Florida-Bahama Synod for a Vision to Action grant. More details will be available in the February newsletter.

## **A Heartfelt Thank You to the Art Center Singers**

On Saturday, December 13, 2025, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was blessed with a joyful afternoon of Christmas music performed by the Art Center Singers under the direction of MaryBeth Van Sickle, Chairperson of Performing Arts at the Citrus Art Center.

Their beautiful selection of carols and seasonal ballads filled our sanctuary with reverence and festive spirit, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. The music lifted hearts, brought people together in fellowship, and made our Christmas Gala a truly memorable celebration.

We extend our deepest thanks to MaryBeth and the talented performers for sharing their time and gifts with our congregation and community. We look forward to welcoming them again and commend the Citrus Art Center for its ongoing contribution to the arts in Citrus County.

# Fellowship



Our Fellowship Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 1:30 PM. We are asking our committee members to attend if their schedule allows.

Happy New Year to our congregation at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Our wishes for peace, good health and love to all.

Beginning on the second Sunday in January and every second Sunday of the month during the year, the Fellowship ladies will offer ONLY COFFEE, TEA AND HOT CHOCOLATE and cold drinks after our worship services. The lack of volunteers to serve coffee and clean-up is the reason. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Elaine Giammasi, Chair  
John Giammasi, Co-chair



*Happy New Year from the Call Committee – what an exciting time in the life of Good Shephard Lutheran Church. As we announced on December 15, 2025, the call committee received a call list from the Florida-Bahamas Synod on November 20<sup>th</sup>. In mid-December the Call Committee held an initial interview with each candidate by Zoom. Both candidates are impressive and unique. As the call committee continues through the discernment process, we are listening for guidance from the Most High.*

**Next Steps:**

*Call Committee completes their interview process*

*Call Committee identifies a primary candidate for the GSLC council to interview*

*Primary Candidate meets the congregation*

*Congregation votes to extend a call*

*Candidate accepts or declines the call.*

*Pastors are typically quite busy during the Advent and Christmas season, and thus we all need to be patient. Also having more than one candidate to juggle, in addition to the call committee member's travel schedule we are moving forward but taking our time to allow the committee and the candidates to be prayerful and deliberate with all our actions.*

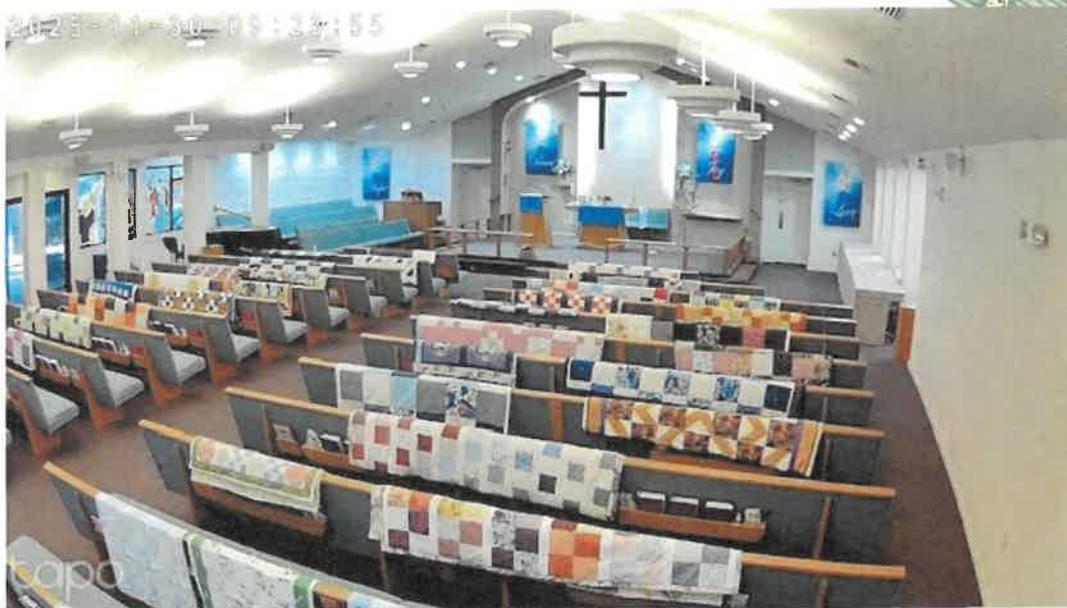
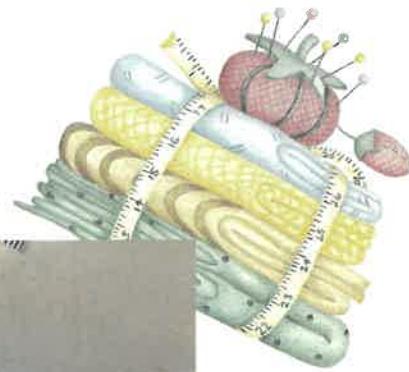
*As has been mentioned, we are not at liberty to discuss who the candidates are, and similarly we have requested that they not discuss their status with others, this is for the benefit of the candidates and GSLC.*

*However if you have a question, please ask a Call Committee member and we will endeavor to provide an answer to the best of our ability.*

*Thank you for your continued prayers and support.*

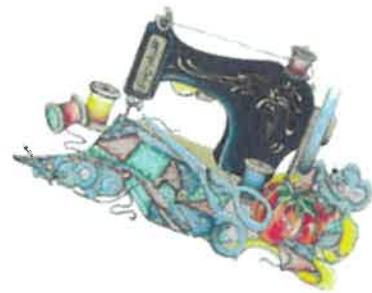
*John Lepore, ZoAnn Weimer, Mel Pease, John Reichert, Lenore Deck, Nina Giglio*

# QUILTERS



**OUR VERY OWN QUILTERS GROUP GOT THEIR MAGNIFICENT WORK BLESSED  
BEFORE IT WAS DISTRIBUTE DURING THE SOS FOOD DRIVE ON DECEMBER  
4TH**

## Craft & Share



Ms. Bonnett Washington will be heading our Craft & Share meetings. If you are interested please feel free in contacting her.

They will be meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the Month from 10-2

## Serving Our Savior

**DONATE  
NOW!**

## SOS NOVEMBER DISTRIBUTION REPORT

WEEK ENDING	FAMILIES SERVED	PERSONS SERVED	FOOD WEIGHT	WEIGHT PER FAMILY
11/6/25	168	452	7,560	45lbs
11/13/25	173	531	8,650	50lbs
11/20/25	172	440	10,320	60lbs
11/28/24		closed for Thanksgiving		
TOTALS	513	1423	26,530	



SCAN TO  
DONATE



## Memorials and Special Gifts



## Property Committee



The Property Team would like to thank our church members who volunteered to Green The Church Friday December 5 th. Many hands make the project much easier and a job well done.

Thank you to : Angela Busler

Betty Sanger  
Alma Day  
Renate Williams  
Elaine Giammasi  
John Giammasi  
Ann Serafin  
Carol Colson  
David Lewis

Hopefully I didn't miss anyone.

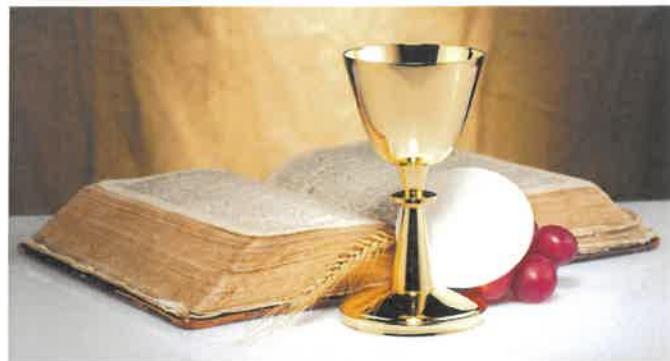


Harv Johnson



## Eucharistic Ministry

Volunteers are always needed to assist at Services held at assisted living facilities. Compass Rose is the first and third Mondays. Quality Care is on the second Monday. The Reserve is the fourth Monday. All services start at 10 AM and volunteers



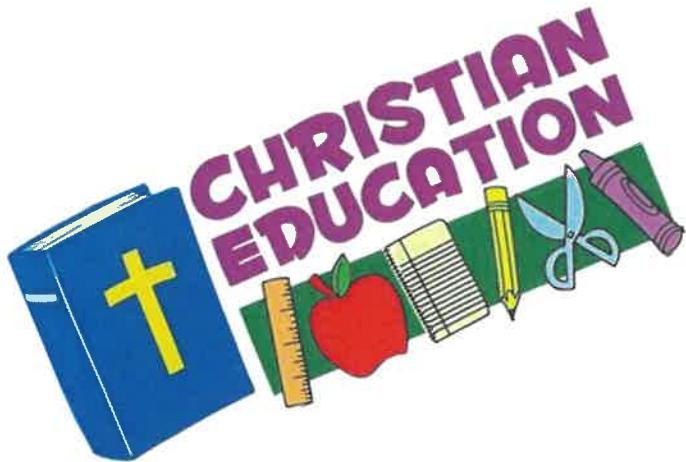
## Health Ministry

Your Faith Community Nurse is Kathy Metz, she can be reached @ 352-746-1911 and the Health Team Members are: Barb Lauer, Donna Pease, John Colson, and Leith Masters. We provide blood pressure screenings on the last Sunday of the month after worship.

We always take donations for Hygiene kits.



*Publix Bread Pick-up:  
Sign up in the Narthex  
Deliveries to: CUB*



## Christian Education

How quickly did 2025 pass? I blinked, and it was over. As I take a moment to reflect upon what Christian Ed has done this past year, it brings a smile to my face. We may not have accomplished all that we originally set out to do, and did some things we did not plan, but overall, this was a wonderful year. We finished strongly with our part in the Christmas program. When we first heard Pastor Bob was willing to be the Old Sheep, there were a few laughs. Pastor Bob, we would like to thank you for always making things FUN!

We are continuing to work toward getting our podcast up and going. The children are very excited to do the podcast. We are looking for any adults who would be willing to help participate in the broadcasts. We wanted this to be an inter-generational program so that each generation would be able to connect and gain a better understanding of the other. Please let me know if you are interested.

Sunday School is currently on hiatus as school is out and many go away during this time. I am taking this time to reconsider our area of study for the remainder of this school year.

***Yours in Christ***  
**Sue Fowler**  
**Christian Ed Chairman**



Technology is such a big part of our everyday life that we feel it is important to try to use it in our spiritual life. The podcast idea is a great start. We think it will be a great way to talk with adults about our concerns, problems, fears, ideas without judgment. We cannot wait for this to start. We have already come up with 5 or 6 topics that we are interested in talking about.

Through faith, our lives may be driven in service to Him.

**Isaiah 54:13:** "All your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace."

**Proverbs 22:6:** "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."



# JANUARY

As we had 90 plus names listed on our “**Relatives and Friends**” prayer list in our “Monthly Newsletter” instead of listing all the person(s)’ names, we offer the following “Options” so that you/we can regularly lift up your/our “**Relative and Friends**” in prayer.

**We invite you to raise up the person(s) name silently or aloud at our Sunday Morning Worship Service during the “Intercessory Prayer” as we pray “*The Prayer for Healing*” as we give the congregation the opportunity to lift up our name(s) of concern “*aloud or silently in our hearts.*”**

**We invite you to share your prayer concern(s) by writing the person(s)’ name and concern on the back of the “Welcome”/Prayer Request” card found in the pew rack and then place it in the offering plate. Your prayer request(s) will be specifically lifted up during our “Wednesday Morning Prayer Service.**

**We invite you to attend our “Wednesday Morning Prayer Service” beginning at 9:00 am. It is a simple prayer service at which you can personally raise up the person(s)’ names and concern either “silently or aloud.”**

**We invite you to place your “Relative or Friend” name(s) on our “Prayer Chain” by contacting Marcia Reichert at [mreichert55@gmail.com](mailto:mreichert55@gmail.com)**

**We offer the following “General Prayer” that you may regularly use as you pray for your “**Relative and Friends**” for the Lord’s blessing, compassion, healing and wholeness:**

**“Compassionate God, look with favor upon those who are sick, suffering, grieving or have any need (especially.....INCLUDE NAME(S) and grant them healing, comfort, wholeness and your peace that surpasses all human understanding. In Jesus’ name. Amen**

**God’s Blessing Always!**

**“The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in Truth.” (Psalm 145:1)**

# Newsletter Editor



## MESSAGE FROM FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Happy 2026!

Year-end financial statements for 2025 will be available shortly. If you would like to receive your statement, kindly notify me.



1.- Send an email to [financial-secretary@gslchernando.org](mailto:financial-secretary@gslchernando.org)

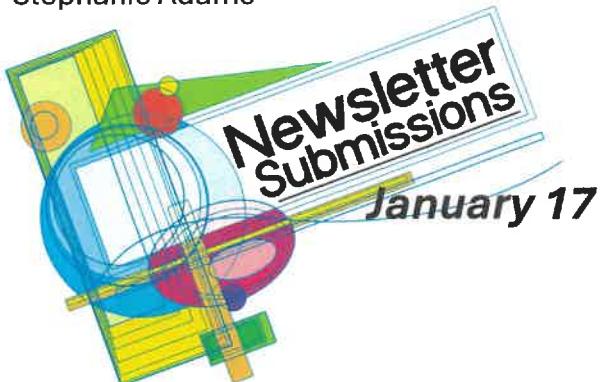
2.- Drop a request off in my mail box.

3.- You may write a note on your church giving envelope that you would like a statement.

4.- Call me or leave a message with the office.

Don't forget to let me know if you want your statements by email, by mail, or if you would like to pick up a hard copy. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,  
Stephanie Adams



God's work. Our hands.

## CHURCH STAFF

**Pastor Bob Yankovitz**

Office: 352-746-7161

Fax: 352-746-5013

Email: [pastor@gslchernando.org](mailto:pastor@gslchernando.org)

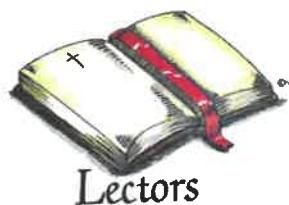
**Administrative Assistant**

**Lucia Bertrand**

Phone: 352-746-7161

Email: [admin@gslchernando.org](mailto:admin@gslchernando.org)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL/NURSERY— SUE FOWLER**



**Lectors**

**January 4th** Brenda Landfried

**January 11th** Tom Kranauer

**January 18th** Margot Berger

**January 25th** John Gianniasi



**Ushers**

*Please be at church by 7:15 am for 10 a.m., service*

**January 4th and 11th**

Ann Serafin, Sue Buldiger and Lois Lenhart

**January 18th and 25th**

Mike & Angela Busler and Vera Swade



**Soundroom**

FRAN STETSON, JOHN GIFFORD, JOE ADAMS DAN CASHMAN



**JOHN COLSON—DEACON**

**DONATE QR CODE CLICK FOR LINK**



## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

## COUNCIL LIASONS

### **Building/Property**

Harv Johnson 352-270-3391

### **Christian Education**

Sue Fowler 352-464-0571

### **Enduring Gifts**

Dan Cashman 352-400-6024

### **Outreach**

Tom Stickler 610-659-5553

### **Fellowship**

John & Elaine Giammasi

352-527-8706

### **Finance**

TBD

### **Social Ministry**

Vera Swade 352-637-5308

### **Stewardship**

Mike Busler 860-906-8234

### **Technology**

Fran Stetson 352-419-7727

### **Worship & Music**

Renate Williams 352-228-7809

### **Building/Property**

John Colson 352-634-5470

### **Christian Education**

John Giammasi 352-527-8706

### **Enduring Gifts**

Kathleen Swartz 352-422-6661

### **Outreach**

Sue Buldiger 908-303-2021

### **Fellowship**

Gladys Kean 352-514-6998

### **Finance**

TBD

### **Social Ministry**

Karen Monsen 727-858-0265

### **Stewardship**

Dan Cashman 352-419-4356

### **Technology**

Fran Stetson 352-419-7727

### **Worship & Music**

Martha Zacharczyk 732-740-6486



# Kid's Corner

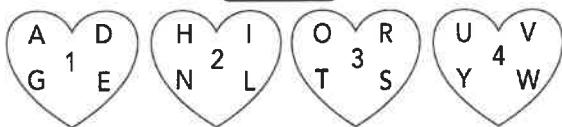
JANUARY 19

# Puz~~z~~le!

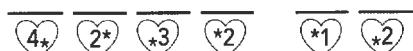
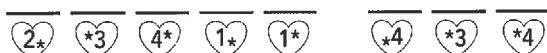
We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.

Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

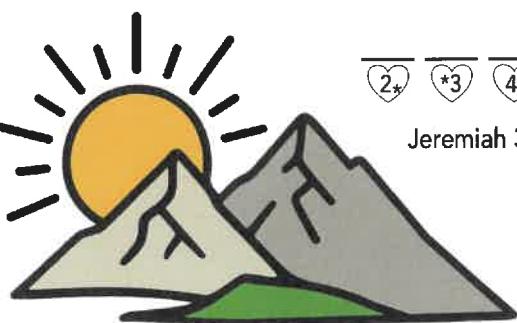
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Jeremiah 31:3



Answer: "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



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19th

# JANUARY 2026



## WEDNESDAYS A TIME FOR PRAYER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	2 8:00 AM GROUNDS	3 10:00 – 2:00 Sp. Lang Church
4 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Installation of the Council	5 10:00 AM EM Compass Rose 1:30 PM Social Ministry	6 8:30 AM Weight Watchers 1:00 PM Worship & Music 6:30 PM Bells 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	7 9:00 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Quilters 2:00 PM Citrus Newcomers 6:30 PM Choir Practice	8 7:30 AM SOS 9:00 AM CCFQG** 9:30 AM Executive Meeting 1:00 PM Outreach 2:00 PM Stewardship 	9 8:00 AM GROUNDS	10 10:00 – 2:00 Sp. Lang Church 9:00 AM Citrus Hills Women's Club
11 10:00 AM Worship	12 10:00 AM EM Quality Care 1:30 PM Fellowship	13 8:30 AM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Bells 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	14 9:00 AM Prayer 6:30 PM Choir Practice	15 7:30 AM SOS 3:00 PM Council Meeting 	16 8:00 AM GROUNDS END OF THE YEAR REPORTS 	17 10:00 – 2:00 Sp. Lang Church 
18 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School	19 10:00 AM EM Compass Rose	20 8:30 AM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Bells	21 9:00 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Quilters 6:30 PM Choir Practice	22 7:30 AM SOS 10:00 AM Christian Ed. 11:00 AM CCFQG 	23 8:00 AM GROUNDS	24 10:00 – 2:00 Sp. Lang Church
25 10:00 AM Worship Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting	26 10:00 AM EM Reserve	27 8:30 AM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Bells	28 9:00 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Craft & Share 6:30 PM Choir Practice	29 7:30 AM SOS 	30 8:00 AM GROUNDS	31 10:00 – 2:00 Sp. Lang Church
	<b>Breakfast at Mama's Kuntry Kafe</b> Every Tuesday @ 7:30 a.m.			<b>Lunch at Angelotti's</b> First Thursday @ Noon		
	**EM EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY			** CITRUS COUNTY FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS GROUP		