



CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE KING'S HERALD

MARCH 2026



WORSHIP DURING LENT

Joanne Benson-Worship Committee Chair

Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ. Lent is upon us and in full swing. We have been given the cross of ashes on our foreheads to remind us of who created us and blew life into our bones. We have been marked as believers in the one true God Almighty and now we make our way through the walk to the cross. So, how do we "Worship" during this time of solemnity?

During my internet search of differing ways denominations worship during lent, the 5 C's of worship caught my eye. I decided to use it and tweak it for Lent, so bear with me.

1. Call to Worship-Jesus calls us all to follow Him. He called all His disciples not by the holiness of their stations, their occupations, their specific skill sets, or the money in their bank accounts. He called them because He called them. He does the same with us. He takes us as we are, where we are, and who we are-messy and all. Praise God! Therefore, He deserves ALL our worship and praise especially during this season of Lent. So now, let us come and Worship!

2. Confession of Sin-Jesus knows we are sinners and fall short. He chose us to come and see anyway. That is the whole point of Lent. He was chosen to carry the weight of the sins of the world on his shoulders-on the cross-to Golgotha-to ultimately redeem us from our Sins. What more can we say to that? Confess to God and you will be forgiven!

3. Consecration-The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us-Read about Him! There are so many parables, stories, people, and miracles we can read about daily. After reading, go into your quiet place and pray through what you read. You will be pleasantly surprised what God can do. Then share it!

4. Communion-The Last Supper is so famous we almost gloss over it. But Jesus ate and drank with His followers prior to his tortuous death. We also are called to participate in the Body and Blood of our Savior. Let's not gloss over it-let's engage.

5. Commission-We all have been given the great commission to love one another as Christ loved us. Jesus sent His own students out to heal, minister, preach, and spread the Gospel. Jesus expects the same from us. After all we experience in Worship, how can we not be excited to share how we have grown in our faith and what wonderful things God has done for us.

So, as you Worship this Lenten Season, remember: Call-Confess-Consecrate-Commune-and Commission -- through your Worship of our God, son Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

WEDNESDAY DINNER CHURCH – 6PM

We are continuing our Dinner Church worship services for mid-week Lenten worship on Wednesdays through March. Worship will begin at 6pm and dinner will be part of the worship service. Therefore, this new, ancient experiment for worship will occur in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be primarily soup based, but feel free to bring your own dinner if that doesn't appeal to you.

If you would like to make soup to share for dinner, please sign up on the bulletin board, call the church office, or let Susan Abbey know.



FIRST COMMUNION – MARCH 22nd

We are offering a class to learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion for anyone who wants to celebrate First Communion. We will meet on March 22^d from 11:30-2:00 pm (approximately). We invite everyone to eat at Feast & Fellowship at 10:30am and then we will learn about communion and decorate chalices afterwards. (We will have some snacks too.) We ask that a parent or adult attend with your child(ren) for discussion time. **Please RSVP to Pastor Mike or the church office by March 8th to ensure we have enough chalices.**

FISH FRY AT ST. JOHN-MARION – MARCH 6TH

Our friends at St. John Lutheran Church in Marion, Texas will hold a Fish Fry on Friday, March 6th from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Plates are \$15.00 each and it is drive-thru only. If you would like to pick up supper and support our Lutheran neighbors in Marion, head on over.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING DOMINOES?

If you like to play dominoes and would like to start a group at Christ the King, please contact Leona Hietala. She would like to get a group of 4 or 8 together to play regularly at the church. Call her or email.

LUTHERAN LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch is Heading to Willie's Grill & Icehouse! Ready for some good food and even better company? The **Lutheran Lunch Bunch** is back in action, and this time we're taking the party to Willie's Grill & Icehouse at 18210 I-35 North, Schertz!



Whether you're craving a legendary burger, fresh catfish, or just some cold sweet tea, mark your calendars for **Thursday, March 26th at 11:30 AM**. Don't miss this chance to reconnect, share a laugh, and enjoy a meal with your church family. Please RSVP to **Susan Abbey** so we can save you a seat. We can't wait to see you there!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8th this year. Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on March 7th so you will be on time for church!



PALM SUNDAY

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.” Matthew 2:9b-11

On Sunday, March 29th our Lenten journey winds down, but in a paradox – Jesus is welcomed as King, the Son of David, and we wave our palm branches in celebration, and we follow with trepidation knowing that the path leads to the cross.

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week begins on the last Sunday of March and concludes with Easter on April 5th. More details will come in the April newsletter, but here is the basic schedule.

- **Palm / Passion Sunday – March 29th, 9:15 am**
- **Maundy Thursday – April 1st, 7:00 pm**
- **Good Friday – April 2nd, 7:00 pm**
- **Easter Sunday – April 5th, 9:15 am**

FEAST AND FELLOWSHIP ON THE FOURTH

Feast and Fellowship will be held on Sunday, March 22nd after worship. All are welcome to stay for good food and fellowship. For more information, or if you would like to help with set up, serving or clean-up, see Susan Abbey.



SPRING CARDS AND CRAFTS SALE

The Spring Cards and Crafts Sale will be held at CTK on Saturday, March 7th beginning at 10:00 am until 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This sale will feature hand made crafts for Spring and Easter, and it is also a good opportunity to stock up on your greeting cards for the year. The women of the church have many hand decorated cards for sale at very reasonable prices. Stop by to shop and support our women's organization and their ministries.

FAITH FORMATION

WEDNESDAY MORNING WITH PASTOR MIKE and JOANNE - 10:00AM

The Wednesday morning Bible study class will continue watching "The Chosen" TV series. The group meets at 10:00 am to watch the episode and begins discussion afterward (approx. 10:45 am). You can join the group each Wednesday in person in the Disciples Room or via Zoom. If you need the Zoom link, please contact Pastor Mike. Bring your Bible and join the discussion. **Everyone is welcome.**

The
CHOSEN

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School classes for all ages will be held on Sunday, March 1st. This will be the only class time during the month of March. On March 29th, Palm Sunday, the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held after worship. The school year is winding down, and classes will be held in April on April 12th and 19th. Pre-School ages meet in the Joy Room, Elementary ages meet in the Faith/Hope Rooms, and the Jr. High/High School ages meet in Building 3.

Class is also held for adults interested in Bible Study on Sunday mornings. The class meets in Building 3 with Al Boos, IV.

CTK BOOK CLUB

Patsy Meyers

CTK Book Club meets Monday, March 2nd at 6:00 pm at the American Legion in Universal City. We will be discussing *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman, selected by Louise Cruz. For future planning, the format on April 6th will be slightly altered. Instead of everyone reading the same title, you are encouraged to read a book by a Native author. Presentation format will be determined by the number of books represented. Some possibilities include *Crooked Hallelujah* by Kelli Jo Ford, *Stolen* by Ann-Helen Laestadius, *Wandering Stars* by Tommy Orange, and *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley. More options are mentioned in the annual calendar, but a google search will list many more, so have fun browsing.



KINDNESS CUPBOARD - - Warming Center 2026



From 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 23, 2026, through noon on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 13 individuals (11 men and 2 women) found warmth, safety, and care during our fourth Warming Center event. This was made possible through CTK's partnership with the Bexar County Office of Emergency Management.

In addition to essential resources, Bexar County provided four staff members at all times, including reception staff from National Emergency Management and Response, law enforcement from the Bexar County Sheriff's Office, and EMTs from county or city fire departments. This partnership allows the Warming Center to operate safely and consistently, 24 hours a day.

Once again, the surrounding community responded with extraordinary generosity, providing food and much-needed supplies. At the close of the event, nothing was wasted. Kim Buck of Immaculate Hearts Food Ministry collected all remaining food that could not be used by our food security programs, along with soft goods not needed for future openings.

Mayor Tom Maxwell and Kathy Williams from Communications visited the Center and provided warm food for both staff and residents. In addition, a UC police officer stopped by to learn more about the event.

Three employees from Bexar County Social Services, including the director, visited the Center on two separate occasions to speak with residents and learn more about their needs. On the day of closing, one employee returned specifically to assist a resident with their particular needs.

The residents expressed deep gratitude for all that was offered—especially the warm welcome they received.

LOVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS

EASTER EGG HUNT

Even though we are knee deep in Lent, the Easter Egg Hunt will be here soon. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, March 29th after worship, during the normal Sunday School time. Bring your kids, their baskets, and your best egg hunting skills!



FRIENDLY VISTORS/CARE MINISTRY ACTIVITY

Joyce Lucas

Friendly Visitors were busy as always staying in contact with our members who are sick, homebound, or unable to attend church regularly. In February, the following contacts were made:

- Number of Cards/Letters Sent: 42
- Number of Emails/Texts Sent: 9
- Number of Phone Calls: 10
- Number of Personal Visits: 8
- Number Served Communion: 2



If you would like to become a part of this important ministry, contact Joyce Lucas.

RACAP NEWS



Month in Review: January 2026

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 88 Families (244 People) Assisted | 176 People Fed |
| 63 Pantry Orders Prepared | 34 Utility Pledges |
| 30 Rent Pledges | 45 Repeat Clients |
| 46 New Clients | |

Estimated Value of Food Given: \$14,289.00
 Paid toward Utility Bills: \$5,274.91

Current Pantry Needs

When you are out and about doing your weekly grocery shopping, current needs are the following: Meat Helpers; Dry Rice; and Canned Tomato products. This will help replenish the shelves during Spring Break.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
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Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
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Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
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Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
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Sunday of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14—27:66
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WOMEN OF THE ELCA at Christ the King

Dinah Halopka-Ryson, Leadership Team

Thank you to all who have shown interest in participating in Christ the King's Women of the ELCA! We have a busy line up for spring and hope to see you at our activities! Our 2026 information and activity calendars are available in the Narthex.

The Spring Cards and Crafts Sale is Saturday, March 7th in the Fellowship Hall from 10 am to 1 pm. We will have an assortment of Easter and Spring cards and gifts to choose from. Invite your friends and come to the church ready to shop!

Our Cibolo Creek Conference event is April 11th at St John Lutheran Church in Marion. The registration forms are on the WELCA bulletin board. Come join us! Meet women from other congregations in our conference and share food, fellowship, Bible study, and worship!

Bold Women's Day is Sunday, April 19th. This is our opportunity to recognize women in our congregation who make a difference at Christ the King. Deacon Darcy Mittelstaedt will be delivering the message. How do you act out your faith? Are you a Bold Woman for Christ?

The annual Yard Sale is coming! Set up will be May 26-29th with the actual sale starting on Friday, May 29th, and continuing Saturday, May 30th. Please contact the leadership team if you would like to help set up or have items to donate.

Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering is July 16-19th in Des Moines IA. Information is on the bulletin board. There is still time to register if you are interested.

Our next business meeting will be April 27th at 6:45 pm. Location will be announced as the date gets closer. Come and see what we are up to!

WANT TO LEARN TO CROCHET?



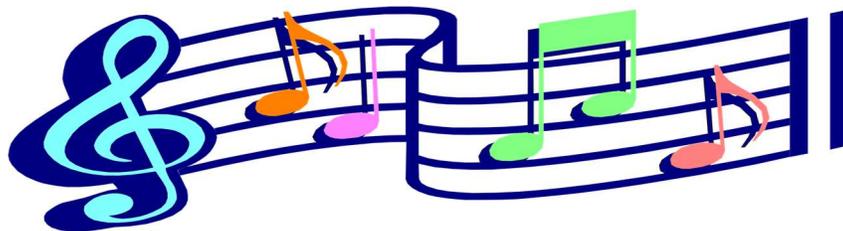
The Women of the ELCA at Christ the King is sponsoring a "learn to crochet" session on Sunday, March 22nd in the afternoon, after Feast and Fellowship (approximately 11:30 am). The group will meet in Building # 3. If you are interested, please sign up on the WELCA bulletin board in the church hallway. Depending on how many sign up, we may have another session later, as a small group is preferable. Questions? Call Erika Robeson.



March is Dolphin Awareness Month. 😊

WORSHIP AT THE ARMY RESIDENCE COMMUNITY

On Sunday, March 22nd at 4:00 pm the Lutheran worshipping community will gather at the ARC located at 7400 Crestway Rd. The message, "You Are Loved", based on John 3:16 will be given by Chaplain Bruce Betker. Music is led by Carol Huebner. *Stay for amazing conversation with friends -- and goodies!* This is a good opportunity to visit those of CTK who are home bound at the ARC. All are welcome to worship with the ARC community and bring your news of home to share with the residents.



Choir and Worship Band News

Sally Walters, Choir Director and Band Director

Our Choir will rehearse on Wednesdays, March 3, 11, 18 and 25 following the Lenten Dinner Church.

Our Worship Band will rehearse on Thursdays, March 4, 12 and 19 at 5:00.

Please come join us as we prepare music to enhance the worship services. You're sure to enjoy the music making and merriment!

To God be the Glory!

Bell Choir News

Cindy Bonaccorsi, Bell Choir Director

Rehearsals are every Wednesday at 4:30 pm in the Disciples Room. Please note the time change during Lent. Please consider visiting a practice and join in on the fun and fellowship! We look forward to seeing you there!

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Articles for the **April 2026** Newsletter are due no later than **March 20th**. You may send your articles to ctkadm@ctk-uc.org or bring them by the church office.

Thank You

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On behalf of my family and myself, words cannot express enough the gratitude and love we felt and the comfort and peace given by you after the death of our mom/grandmother, Helen Widner. Time and again, friends and family commented on how kind and loving the congregation is. (Obviously, I have known this before now, but I still wanted to lift it up because others noticed it and it is good for y'all to hear.) Y'all are living examples of what I so often preach about – the importance of community and relationships and caring for one another in the ups and downs of life. I greatly appreciate all the cards, prayers, notes and comments y'all have offered for me. As I have said to a few of you already, I know you love me as your pastor, but your response at her death and funeral was a direct correlation to her ministry with each of you through her cards, letters and crocheted items. I know she will be missed by more than just our family and I am so grateful that we have each other to rely upon; that is one of the **greatest benefits** to being in a family of faith like ours. As we hear in Romans 8, nothing separates us from the love of God in Christ and as I have said at many funerals, we, likewise, are not separated from the love we have experienced in life from those who have passed away. The memories of that love linger in our lives and our actions. I am so thankful that God blessed me with my mom. And I am likewise thankful that y'all got to experience her as well. Thank you again for all that y'all have done for me and my family in these days.

Held in God's embrace,

Pastor Mike, Violet and the Widner family

Thank you to the church council and to the Women of the ELCA for the gifts and kind words as I completed 30 years of leadership for Lutheran World Relief at Christ the King. So many people participated over the years not only in the quilting group but all those who contributed to our kits (school supplies, soap, toothbrushes, towels, etc.) and the money donations for shipping expenses. Thank you to all of you who have made LWR a success at GTK.

Erika Robeson

Beloved family, Church Family, friends, and neighbors: I am writing this with a heart full of gratitude as I begin my recovery at home. Undergoing cancer surgery is a daunting journey, but your incredible outpour of love made the path much easier to walk. The surgeon informed me that a tumor about the size of a golf ball was successfully removed. They also started chemotherapy, and I have been ordered not to do anything for two weeks to heal and recuperate.

To my family and friends, thank you for the endless check-ins, and for being my strength when I felt weak. Thank you to my neighbors and church congregation for your cards and prayers during my difficult times. Knowing I had such a dedicated community behind me allowed me to focus entirely on healing. I am truly blessed to have you all in my life. Your support has provided me with immense peace during a difficult time. "I thank my God every time I remember you." — Philippians 1:3.

God bless,

Ed Sauseda

MARCH 2026 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND VOLUNTEERS

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Liturgist	Katharine Barden	Kathy Staley	Joanne Benson	Rich Patterson	Joyce Lucas
Reader	Joanne Benson	Steve Lerum	Susan Abbey	Cindy Patterson	Ann Krahn
Communion Assistants	Delilah Barden Leona Hietala	Leona Hietala Dinah Halopka-Ryson	Susan Abbey Leona Hietala	Delilah Barden Joyce Lucas	Luis & Tina San Román
Ushers	Sissie Mirhashemi OPEN	Ray & Julie Trent	Cindy Bonaccorsi Kathy Hanley	Luis & Tina San Román	Alfrieda Anderson Sissie Mirhashemi
Media Slides	Susan Abbey	Joanne Benson	Luis San Román	Jill Schulz	Susan Abbey
Acolyte	Delilah Barden	OPEN	OPEN	Delilah Barden	OPEN
Safety Monitor	Cindy Nutt	OPEN	Jim Benson	Carol McClelland	Cindy Nutt

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jeanette Lowell	3
Corey Faulkner	5
Thomas Faulkner	5
Ulli Judkins	6
Kaycee Herrera	11
Sherry Mahoney	11
Tylee Hale	14
Bryan Theiss	14
Marion Weishaar	15
Katelyn Rode	16
Vicky Chavez	17
Joyce Elkins	20
Nora Garner	21
Avery Deil	22
Ray Lopez	22
Carol DeNoble	23
Pat Killingsworth	24

Evelyn Morris	24
Pearl Sauseda	25
Penny Smith	25
Joanne Swansiger	25
Brenda Torres	27
Chris Herrera	29

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Ryan Agrella & Maggie Boos	12
John & Cindy Hatzel	15
Gene & Sherry Bielke	24
Jared & Katelyn Rode	28



MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15am Worship/Communion Bold Women's Sunday 10:30am Faith Formation/All Ages 11:00am CALEB AME Zion Worship 11:30am Church Council Meeting	2 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	3 9:30am Text Study for A/CC Pastors 12:00pm Homeschool Class (Math)	4 10:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Dinner Church 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5 4:00pm Music Preparation in Disciples Room 5:00pm Worship Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Hermann Sons Life	6 <i>Pastor Vacation</i> 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	7 10:00am Cards and Crafts Sale
8 9:15am Worship/Communion Daylight Saving Time Begins (Spring Forward) 11:00am CALEB AME Zion Worship	9 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	10 9:30am Text Study for A/CC Pastors 12:00pm Homeschool Class (Math) 6:00pm HR Committee	11 10:00am Bible Study 1:00pm LWR Quilting 4:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Dinner Church 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 4:00pm Music Preparation in Disciples Room 5:00pm Worship Band Rehearsal 7:00pm DAV/DAVA	13 <i>Pastor Vacation</i> 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	14
15 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:30am Feast and Fellowship on the 4th 11:00am CALEB AME Zion Worship	16 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	17 9:30am Text Study for A/CC Pastors 12:00pm Homeschool Class (Math) 5:00pm Stewardship Team	18 10:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Dinner Church 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19 4:00pm Music Preparation in Disciples Room 5:00pm Worship Band Rehearsal	20 <i>Pastor Vacation</i> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	21 9:00am Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
22 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:30am Feast & Fellowship 11:00am CALEB AME Zion Worship 11:30am First Communion Class 4:00pm Worship at the ARC	23 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	24 9:30am Text Study for A/CC Pastors 12:00pm Homeschool Class (Math) 6:00pm HR Committee	25 10:00am Bible Study 1:00pm LWR Quilting 4:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Dinner Church 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26 11:30am Lutheran Lunch Bunch 4:00pm Music Preparation in Disciples Room	27 <i>Pastor Vacation</i> 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	28
29 9:15am Worship/Communion/Palm Sunday 10:30am Easter Egg Hunt after worship 11:00am CALEB AME Zion Worship	30 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	31 9:30am Text Study for A/CC Pastors 12:00pm Homeschool Class (Math)	1 10:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00pm Maundy Thursday worship w/communion	3 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00pm Good Friday worship 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	4

**Christ the King Lutheran Church
1129 Pat Booker Road
Universal City, TX 78148**

(210) 658-2254

Office Email: ctkadm@ctk-uc.org

Website: www.ctk-uc.org

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

Staff

Pastor--Rev. Mike Widner
Administrative Assistant--Dawn Young
Choir & Worship Band Director--Sally Walters
Bell Choir Director--Cindy Bonaccorsi
Pianist--Vanessa Jackson
Nursery--Rachel Ball
Bookkeeper--Suzanne Schroeder
Financial Secretary--Leona Hietala
Treasurer--Joy Brown
Media Team-- Thomas Hawkins, Shannon Lopez,
Ray Lopez, Dale Meyers

Church Council

President--Jamie Dunevant
Fellowship (Vice President)--Susan Abbey
Education (Secretary)--Maggie Boos
Mutual Ministry--Lisa Lopez
Finance--Dobie Garner
Property, Building, & Ground--Edward Sauseda
Shepherding--Luis SanRomán
Worship--Joanne Benson

Education / Faith Formation Ministries

Sunday School—Maggie Boos
Wednesday Bible Study--Pastor Mike Widner
Sunday Adult Bible Study--Al Boos IV

All Other Ministries

Women of the ELCA--Susan Abbey
LWR Quilts—Joanne Benson
LWR Kits – Erika Robeson
Prayer Shawls--Kathy Hanley
Bereavement--Barbara Kovacich
Mission Endowment Fund--Jill Schulz
Stewardship Committee--Dinah Halopka-Ryson
HR Committee--Susan Abbey
Care Team – Joyce Lucas

Fellowship Ministries

Fourth Sunday Breakfast--Susan Abbey
Lutheran Lunch Bunch--Susan Abbey
Book Club--Patsy Meyers

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