Atonement Lutheran Church

*Living in God's love -- Reaching out with hope*

# Voice of Atonement

November 2026

*Please note: The Newsletter will look a bit differently this month, as our wonderful Newsletter editor/compiler Cathy Ayers is "out sick", and will not be able to do her usual stellar job this month. We continue to pray for her continued health and recovery- Audrey*

## Pastor's Message

*Dear Friends in Christ,*



November has a way of slowing us down just a bit. The leaves are falling, the days grow shorter, and the whole country turns its heart toward gratitude. This month we honor and thank our Veterans on November 11th (and on November 15th during both worship services at church, so if you are a veteran, please attend worship!). This month, we also gather around Thanksgiving tables to feast and fellowship with one another, and to count our many blessings. As people of faith, we know these two things belong together.

Jesus said, *"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends"* (John 15:13). Jesus spoke these words about his own sacrifice on the cross, yet they also help us understand the cost of service. Our veterans answered a call. They left families, missed birthdays and holidays, endured hardship and danger, and carried wounds, seen and unseen, that they still carry today. Many did not even come home at all.

Their love for neighbor and country reflects, in a similar way, the self-giving love of Christ. This month, I encourage you to do more than say "*thank you for your service*" in passing. Sit down with a veteran in our congregation, or in your own family, and listen to their story. Write a letter to a service member. Visit a veterans' home. Pray by name for those who served and for the families who waited for them, or are still waiting for them. Gratitude becomes real when it is spoken, written, and lived out.

In Luke 17, Jesus healed ten people with leprosy. All ten were cleansed, but only one turned back, praising God with a loud voice and falling at Jesus' feet to give thanks. Jesus asked, *"Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine?"*

That question still reaches us. Every one of us has received more than we deserve: life and health, family and friends, daily bread, a roof overhead, a church family, and above all the forgiveness, love, and hope we have in Jesus. It's easy to receive and keep walking. The one leper shows us another way. He stopped, turned around, and gave thanks, and Jesus told him, *"your faith has made you well."* Gratitude doesn't just honor God; it deepens our faith and opens our eyes to how much God has already done.

How about we challenge ourselves during November? Each day this month, name three blessings before you go to sleep, or when you wake up. Write them down if you can. Then take one extra step: thank someone face to face, whether a veteran, a family member, a church member or visitor, or a neighbor or stranger who's helped you along the way. By Thanksgiving Day, I believe you will find your heart fuller than any table.

Let us do as the psalmist invites: *"Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and into God's courts with praise. Give thanks to God, and bless God's name"* (Psalm 100:4). Let us each show our thankfulness to God by weekly entering "*God's gates (the church) with thanksgiving,*" and by giving back generously to God with our time, talents, and financial treasures.

Personally, I am very thankful for each one of you! You are a blessing to me and to one another. Wishing you and your family a joyful and grateful November!

With gratitude, *Pastor Kristi*

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## Thank You Notes:

Thanks to Tom, Molly and Max Rupprecht for transporting our old red chairs to Habitat store.

Thanks to those who visited shut ins for God's Work Our Hands project .

Thanks to Prince of Peace Lutheran, who donated chairs, office chairs and other supplies, available due to their holy closure.

Thanks to Paul Meeker, Pastor Kristi and Bernie Lopez for hauling Prince of Peace's donated furniture to Atonement.

Thanks to Jay Guenther and Mike Brack, who worked on updating our sprinkler system this summer.

Thanks again to Jay and Mike for yard work and clearing out old brush from our grounds.

# In Our Prayers:

## Recent

Ramona (Pam Peschell's aunt), Marjory Sandoval, Krista Strunc (Mary Campe's sister); Jeanette and Ralph Hill, Will and Luke; Sandy Doe (Mary Campe's friend), Dave Strott (Donna Zentners son in law),Amanda Lackey (Strasser's niece), Judy Ogren (Kari Bland's aunt), Lanie Maes (Strasser's cousin), Lee Eisert (Mary Abbott's brother), Kris (Liz Kelpis' sister), Karen Strott (Donna Zentner's daughter), Adam Howard (Katy Brackeen's son), the family and friends of The Rev. Dr. Roger Fjeld, founding pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church

### Ongoing

Jean (Mary Campe's friend), Jean Viste, Marin (Annie & Charles Adkisson's daughter), Nancy Henning; Grace Gillette, Mary Alice and Tom McDougal, Melanie, Sharon Krebs, Walter Beekman, Randy Updike, Vonnie Jones (prayers for faith and healing; Pam Peschel's cousin).

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# From The President

It's hard to believe we are through the heat and moving into snow time! Larry and I are back in town for a while. During our travels, we enjoyed a new experience with our daughter and son-in-law: an escape room! I had heard about them, but this was a first for both of us. The four of us tackled a medium-level room. What a blast—and very humbling! I probably should have started with a pre-beginner room, but luckily, the "kids" were quick.

That got me thinking: could we put together an escape room at church? I explored some ideas with ChatGPT, and it sounds like a fun winter activity, especially when the days feel long and slow. If you would enjoy helping put something together, let me know!

Our Tech Team recently met with Dane from ListenUp to fine-tune our soundboard and receive another round of instruction. We really need two people working together during worship: one managing sound and the other running Proclaim and the camera. Volunteers of any age are welcome to help adjust sound during services. We also hope to find someone who would enjoy learning the system more fully and serving as our Sound Tech. This is a wonderful way to support worship both in person and online. Please check in with Julie, Lisa, or Eileen if you are interested.

We now have several groups renting space for meetings, services, and worship. Please help us extend a warm welcome to everyone who shares our building. If a scheduling mix-up occurs, please help us work together to find a solution so everyone feels welcome. These rentals bring in needed revenue to support our ministry and create opportunities to build relationships. Some of those sharing our space may also join us for worship.

In my role as Financial Secretary, I have sent giving statements to members reflecting their year-to-date contributions. Please take a moment to review yours. As you are able, please consider your pledge, tithe, or a year-end gift to Atonement. We know this has been a difficult year for many, with rising costs affecting both families and the church. Thank you for the many ways you continue to support our ministry through your gifts, time, and care for one another.

We are heading toward the end of the year with lots of energy, new worship experiences, fun fellowship opportunities, and special music. Check your email regularly and watch the E-Blast for details so you can join in! The *Voice of Atonement* newsletter is being emailed, and printed copies are available at church. If you would prefer to receive a copy by mail, please let the church office know.

**With Gratitude, Eileen**

## Drop in the Bucket Benevolence Ministry



**New Beginnings Worshipping Community: A Prison Ministry Making**

**Christ Known Inside the Walls**

New Beginnings Worshipping Community is a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community of the ELCA that meets inside the walls of the Denver Women's Correctional Facility (DWCF), a prison for women in Denver, Colorado. The Mission of New Beginnings "is to restore shattered lives to wholeness through the love of Jesus Christ."

New beginnings has regular worship services and welcomes visitors over 18 of any gender. Visitors remind the women that they are not forgotten by people on the outside, and can expect to be warmly welcomed and included in the service. If you are interested in visiting, please contact New Beginnings to find the next available opportunity and get clearance.

Please prayerfully consider giving to this worthy cause , to benefit those in New Beginnings Worshipping community.

## In and Outreach Committee

Thank you to the folks that have donated gently used eyeglasses to be re-purposed by the Lions Club and those that plan to donate some before the next delivery to them. It is such a worthwhile cause and definitely clears up some space in the drawer by donating!

By the end of October, 107 birthday cards will have been sent to members this year. But I know that some people's birthdates are still missing so please let me or the church office know if you have not been receiving cards.

As always, we are grateful to the volunteers who help set up and clean up the coffee cafe each Sunday morning and to those that donate goodies to share - some on a regular basis!! The more volunteers we have the better - sign up sheets are near the coffee pots on Sunday.

~ Barbara Krug

## Stewardship

**Stewardship of Your Whole Life**

Before you read further, stop and list the top five things you value most in life? Then rank them by importance. Go!

All done?

If you're like most people, your top-five list includes family, health, time, God, friends, job, home or community. Does money even show up? For many of us, it doesn't, and yet most of church talk about "stewardship" involves how we use our gifts of money.

Yes, we are "stewards," or caretakers of the material wealth with which God has blessed us, but we are also responsible for nourishing and cherishing all the OTHER blessings that God has put into our lives. That goes especially for the things we value most.

Now refer back to your top-five list. For each, consider these questions:

· Why is this item in the top five?

· How well am I caring for this?

· Am I treating it as one of the most valuable items in my life? Why or why not?

· How could I care even more for this item?

· How would God want me to care for this, and why?

· How would my life change if I really cherished and nourished this gift?

Being a good steward of all the blessings and opportunities God gives to us opens our lives to the full joy and potential that God intends for us. How can you be a better steward of what God has given you?

-Rob Blezard
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## Faith in Action

**Denver Art Museum Field Trip**

Join Faith in Action on Wednesday, November 11 for a visit to the art museum to see the exhibit *Storytellers: the Blackfeet Nation and Charles M. Russell.* This presentation features over 80 artworks including oil paintings, watercolors, and bronzes by Charles M. Russell and ancestral artworks from the Blackfoot Confederacy (Nitsitapii), especially the Kainai (Blood Tribe) and Amskaapii Pikanii (Blackfeet or South Peigan), from the late-19th to mid-20th centuries.

General admission tickets are available, and some FIA members have dual memberships that can cover a few attendees. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Meet at the church at 10:30 to carpool.

If you haven't already, be sure to vote and **drop your ballot in a drop box!**

A lively conversation, appropriate to an engaging and mind-blowing (whoosh!) book by Simon Winchester—-Breath of the Gods, was enjoyed September 27. Keep it in mind for a future read, it's worth the effort.

**FIA Picks:**




**"Though billed for young adults, this is a book that every adult should read." --*The Washington Post***
**Join former CIA analyst Cindy L. Otis as she unveils the true history of fake news and provides tips on how to avoid falling victim to it.**

In our modern information age, it's impossible to escape fake news. Whether it's coming from the mouth of a politician or the suspicious article shared in your family group chat, fake news is everywhere. But the truth is, fake news is not a new phenomenon. From the ancient Egyptians to the French Revolution to Jack the Ripper and the founding fathers, fake news has been around as long as human civilization. But that doesn't mean that we should just give up on the idea of finding the truth.

In *True or False*, former CIA analyst Cindy Otis takes readers through the history and impact of misinformation over the centuries, sharing stories from the past and insights that readers today can gain from them. Then, she shares lessons learned in over a decade working for the CIA, including actionable tips on how to spot fake news, how to make sense of the information we receive each day, and, perhaps most importantly, how to understand and see past our own information biases, so that we can think critically about important issues and put events happening around us into context.

As new technologies like social media and AI create new avenues for misinformation to spread, it is more important than ever to understand how to critically examine the information we receive. Highly informative and immensely engaging, *True or False* continues to serve as an essential guide to determine fact from fiction in the news, on the internet, and in the world. (publisher promotion, recommended by Suzanne Rousso)




**WORRIED ABOUT THE STATE OF MEDIA IN AMERICA?**

Had it "up to here" with fake news and political grandstanding? Take steps to fix it!

The League of Women Voters of Jefferson County is sponsoring a five-week series entitled "Is Media Ruining America?" It covers the history of fake news and how to counter bias, propaganda, and even deep fakes generated by Artificial Intelligence. A panel of experts who can offer solutions to our political divide ends the series. The series will be presented multiple times at various locations throughout the year and is available on the LWVJeffco youtube channel.

**Session 1: The History of Media, or How We Got Here**
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgTklwtUHxE&t=5s)
**Series Session 2: Understanding and Confronting Bias**
**Series Session 3: Propaganda and Polarization: Surviving the Avalanche of Fake News**
**Series Session 4: AI Its Potential to Change our Lives and our Democracy**
**Series Session 5: What Can We Do Panel Discussion**

Panelists in the youtube session include:

- Dr Phillip Chen, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Denver
- Chris Jennings, Ed.D, Chair and Professor in the Department of Journalism and Media Production at Metropolitan State University of Denver.
- Dr. Angelica Kalika, PhD, Teaching Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado Boulder
- Larry Ryckman, Co-Founder and Publisher, The Colorado Sun
- Bob Steele, retired journalism professor and expert in journalistic ethics.

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## *The Corner Desk*




It is time to give thanks- November is here! We can all be grateful for all the wonderful blessings we garner from attending Atonement Lutheran Church.

In October , Pastor Kristi began a new bible study featuring the book of Matthew, which are being read in worship services. It has been very well attended and well received! Join these classes on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, at 1:00 pm.

And of course, don't miss the Queen City Jazz Band worship service, one service only at 10:00 am on Sunday, November 1st. A huge thank-you goes out to Cliff and Sharon Wink, who have dedicated this special service in memory of Vi Beltz (Cliff's sister), and Richard DeNezza (The Wink's Son In Law's father). This service promises to be a wonderful and sacred time. Join us for refreshments afterwards.

Atonement Birthdays are now being celebrated on the first Sunday of the month! This month, we will be celebrating November Birthdays on November 1st. Join us for a fun birthday party during fellowship time after services!

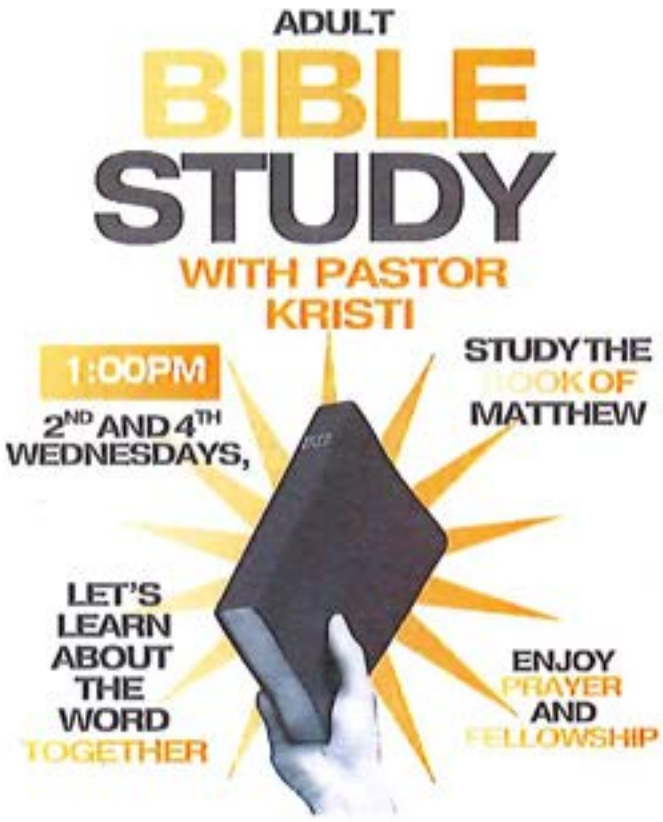
Hope you all have a great Thanksgiving holiday! We can definitely be thankful to God for all that we have!

Wishing God's best for you!
*-Audrey Brack-Banks, Atonement Office Manager*

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## November Birthdays

| | |
|---|---|
| Brian Siegel | 5th |
| Lauren Doloff | 8th |
| Edna Gray | 14th |
| Carol Tarter | 14th |
| Tom Ayers | 19th |
| Theresa Strovas | 22nd |
| Cindy Forster | 25th |
| David Stoeckel | 26th |
| Judy Davies | 28th |
| Jay Guenther | 28th |
| Holly Koppenhaver | 30th |

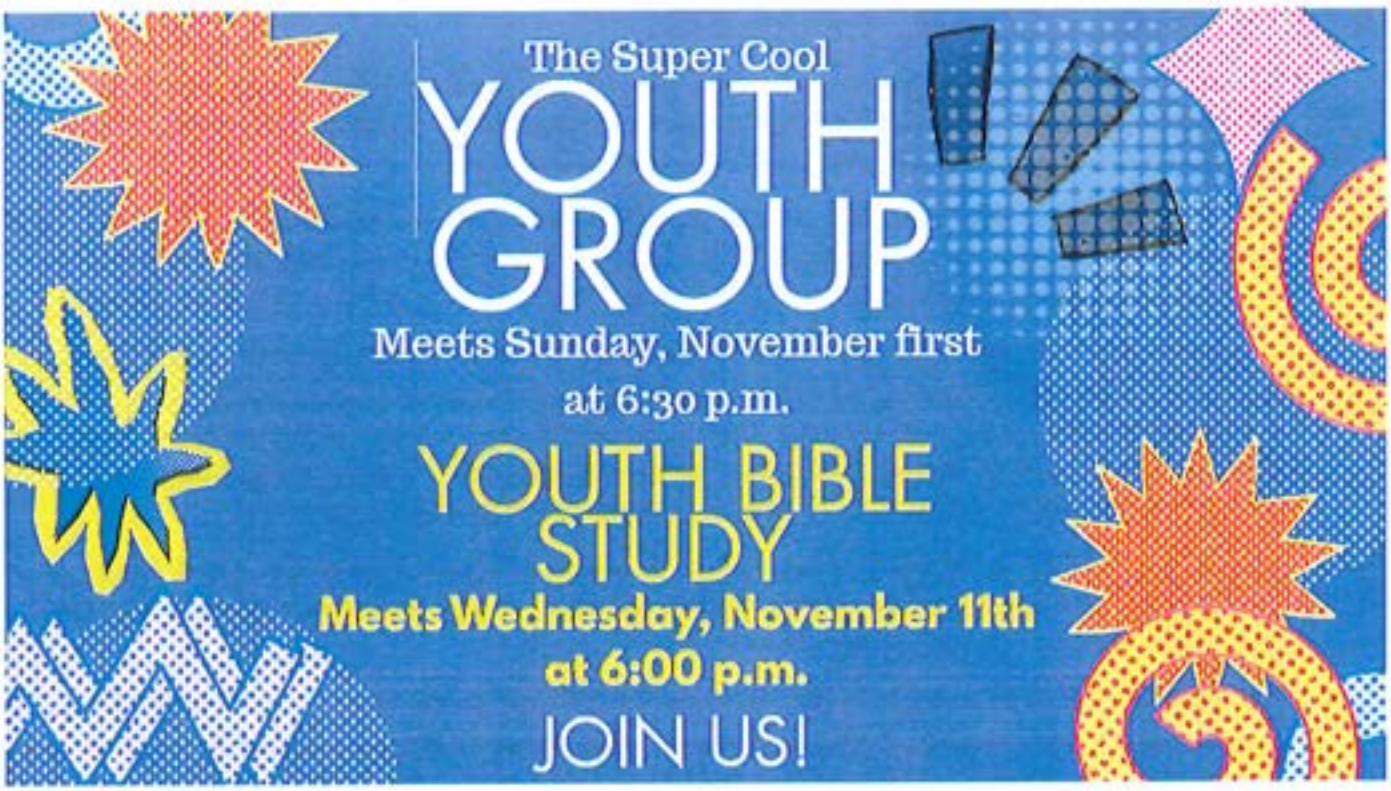


# ATONEMENT NOVEMBER NEWS:

1. **Birthdays** are now being celebrated on the first of every month! Accordingly, **November birthdays** are being celebrated on November first! Join us for some cake and fun as we celebrate Atonement Members who were born in November.
2. Also Nov 1: **Queen City Jazz Band**; one worship service at 10am November 1st! Invite your friends, family, neighbors, and everyone you know to a marvelous worship service with the QCJB leading all the music, and there will be plenty of it! Come and worship and enjoy!
3. In addition to the Queen City Jazz Band, **November 1st is All Saints Day** so we will read names of those who have died in the past year, as well as names of your loved ones. There will be pieces of paper for you to write down your loved ones names whom you want lifted up in prayer. Please write legibly, and please do not be offended if Pastor Kristi incorrectly pronounces a name. If you want to write it phonetically, that should help.
4. **Veterans Day** may be November 11th, which is a Wednesday this year, so we will honor all Veterans on November 15th in worship at both services. If you are a Veteran, please come and be thanked for your service to our country.
5. **Thanksgiving Eve Worship** will be online again this year so you may watch it while you are making dinner preparations, during your dinner, afterwards when cleaning up, or even on Thanksgiving Day itself. Just tune in to Facebook and give thanks for ALL we have been given by God! Our blessings are many! Happy Thanksgiving one and all!






# GENTLE YOGA

10:00 am to 11:00 am

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesdays at the Atonement Lutheran Community Center | 6281 W. Yale Ave. Lakewood, CO 80227 |

**Accessible Yoga poses that balance effort and ease, increase joint mobility, strengthen muscles, and improve balance.**

## *LOOKING AHEAD FOR CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS:*

**Mark your calendars for some exciting and meaningful worship in December for the Holiday Season:**

**November 29th ~ The beginning of the Advent Season**, with Advent Wreath Readings written by our own Youth Director, Erik Williams!

**December 6th** ~ "A Jazzy, Bluesy Christmas Service" with fresh and fun arrangements of traditional carols and spirituals, many thanks to Gayle Gunderson and her crew of musicians!

**December 13th** ~ The Kids Christmas Program: "The Story that Never Gets Old" (written by Kari Bland and performed by our young people!).

**December 20th** ~ A Service of Lessons and Carols where congregational members will choose the songs to sing! So start thinking now of what you'd like to sing this Sunday and come to worship to let us know what you'd like to sing!

**During the Advent Season**, we will be using songs from a book Pastor Kristi's friend, the Rev. Pam Gonzales wrote, "It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas," which incorporates the Bible Lessons of the Advent Season to Christmas Carol tunes.



## Christmas Eve Worship Services

**will be December 24th at 3:30pm** (for those who want to get home before dark, and any others who like an earlier worship); **6:30pm** (gives you time to eat before, if desired); and **11:00pm** (for those who like to worship late, after all your family festivities). Come and worship the Newborn Christ Child!

If you want to provide special music for any of the worship services, let Kari Bland or Pastor Kristi know; we'd love to have you sing or play an instrument on this most holy of nights! **Candlelight and Holy Communion for all people will be at all three services: 3:30pm, 6:30pm, & 11:00pm!**




## Women's Ministry tours the Center for Colorado Women's History on October 1st.

# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

## Celebrating St Francis of Assisi Day







Pastor "Blessing" a reptile!







# Servant of the House

## November 2026

Servant duties are as assigned below. If you are signed up for a date on which you will not be available, please contact someone to replace or trade with you, or call the church office to do so. Thanks so much!

| Date | Greeters | 9:00 AM | 10:45 AM | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11/1 | | Mary Campe | Mary Campe | |
| 11/8 | | Ron and Marilyn Andersen | Barb and Bernie | |
| 11/15 | | Nate and Laura Blair | Dean and Lily Reinfort | |
| 11/22 | | Mike Brack | Margo Crabb | |
| 11/29 | | Alan and Tracy Ford | Barb and Bernie | |
| | | | | |
| | **Readers** | 9:00 AM | 10:45 AM | |
| 11/1 | | Jim Ris | Audrey Brack-Banks | |
| 11/8 | | Audrey Brack-Banks | Carmen Cohn | |
| 11/15 | | Audrey Brack-Banks | Johann Cohn | |
| 11/22 | | Dan Bock | Audrey Brack-Banks | |
| 11/29 | | Audrey Brack-Banks | Carmen Cohn | |
| | | | | |
| | **Ushers** | 9:00 AM | 10:45 AM | |
| 11/1 | | Alan and Tracy Ford | Ed and Gayle Lauerson | |
| 11/11 | | Ron and Marilyn Andersen | Barb and Bernie | |
| 11/22 | | Nate and Laura Blair | Dean and Lily Reinfort | |
| 11/25 | | Mike Brack, | Ella Parsons | |
| 11/29 | | Ron and Marilyn Anderson | Barb and Bernie | |
| | | | | |
| | **Coffee Café** | (Between services only) | | |
| | set up and clean up | | | |
| 11/1 | Mary Campe | | | |
| 11/11 | Barbara Krug | | | |
| 11/22 | Judi Bauer | | | |
| 11/25 | Barbara Krug | | | |
| 11/29 | Judi Bauer | | | |
| | | | | |