

Bethany Bells

The monthly newsletter of BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
110 West Austin St. Fredericksburg, TX 78624

www.bethanyfbg.com

Phone 830-997-2069 FAX 830-990-8916

“Being, Living as, and Making Disciples of Jesus Christ”

August 2023

Faith-raising above Fund-raising

Capital Campaign Kicks Off August 13

By Pastor Casey

Probably the biggest thing to know about a capital campaign in a Lutheran church is that, first and foremost, it is a *faith-raiser* before it is a fund-raiser.

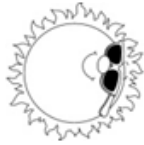
Whether you plan to give or not give a gift toward a new Pre-school Building, I believe you will be blessed by the church Bible studies, prayer vigil, small-group gatherings, special worship services, and fellowship events. And it’s not just for adults—it’s for children and youth also.

The Capital Campaign Committee consists of 15 – 17 Bethany volunteers plus the pastors. We will be directed and guided by Dr. Luke Bouman of The Enrichment Group. Not only will he train the group, he’ll also be with us on several Sundays. You may have met Luke—he did his internship at Zion Lutheran in Kerrville, then served as pastor in Hondo, Cedar Park, and Conroe.

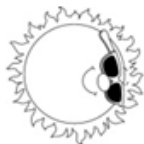
Page 2 has a calendar of events. We’ll begin with the faith-building and spiritual renewal, then in late October and early November move into the gift phase, followed by a 3-year pledge period.

Bethany Lutheran Church
110 W. Austin St.
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
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PERMIT 101



August





Capital Campaign Schedule

Our Capital Campaign Committee—the leadership core of the upcoming campaign—will have its training day on Saturday August 12 and then be installed on “kickoff” Sunday August 13. They, in turn, will recruit many Bethany members to help with the events. As noted on page 1, we begin with faith-raising and spiritual renewal before engaging in consideration of gifts for a new Preschool. The following schedule is subject to slight tweaking:

- August 13: Campaign Kickoff Sunday
- September 17: All-Church Bible Study Kickoff
- October 20-21: Twenty-four Hour Prayer Vigil
 - October: Small-group Enrichment Gatherings
 - October 29: Advanced Commitments Gathering
- November 18: All-Church Banquet
- November 19: Commitment Sunday
- December 10 : Celebration Sunday

Luke Bouman

Dr. Luke Bouman will be our guide, trainer, coach, and consultant for the Capital Campaign. During seminary, he did his internship at Zion Lutheran, Kerrville (and led a couple of youth events at Bethany), then served as pastor in Hondo, Cedar Park, and Conroe. He went to work for Valparaiso University (a Lutheran college) in Indiana in their development office and now is part of The Enrichment Group which directs church campaigns with a commitment to nurture spiritual growth, develop vital leadership, and deepen members’ commitment to Christian service and giving.



In Our Prayers

Hospital/Clinic/ER/Tests:

Ron Borchers	Sandy Fisk	Lindy Haley
Finley McCall	Kaden Ottmers	Linda Warriner
Pr. Clarence Rose	Kayla York-Littlejohn	
Lyla Schoessow		

Ongoing:

Rachel Clifton	Carlton Eckert	Carol Eckhardt
Robert Gibbens	Audrey Gold	Nic Jones
Lindy & Mike Haley	Bobby Klein	Billy Leifeste
Don Morris	Julianne Lombardi	

Our Sympathy to:

- Curvey & Jean Weber, at the death of his sister, Lore Muske.
- Joyce Robertson, at the death of her husband, Pastor Ed Robertson.
- Lyn Linka, at the death of her brother, James O’Neal Peterson.
- The family of Barbara Jean Loitz, whose funeral was at Bethany July 6.
- The family of Matthew Boatright, including his little daughter Annabelle and his mom and step-dad Margaret & Glen Hannum; memorial August 5.
- The family of James Lange, whose funeral was at Bethany July 28.
- The family of Ella Itz Fetzer, sister of the late Paula Hein; her funeral was at Faith Lutheran, Austin with burial here.
- Annabel Stein at the death of her sister, Scottie Grindle.
- Karen & Calvin Grobe at the death of her mother, Mable Moellendorf.



August Birthdays



- 1 – Justine Nimitz
Bunde Walker
- 3 – Sarah Eckhardt
LeAnn Myers
Sharon Roarick
- 5 – Katrina Perry
- 6 – Paige Hoffmann
Roberta Young
- 7 – Vicki Smith
- 8 – Norris Jones
Lori Luckenbach
Wilma McAndrew
Annie Myers
Jerry Stowe
- 10 – Warren Struss
Violet Stafford
- 11 – Rhett Barnard
Elizabeth Parsons
Jeremy Ristau
Shannon Windham
- 13 – Jacqueline Kneese
Morgan McCall
Sarah Merritt
- 14 – Brendon Ottmers
- 15 – Noel Easterwood
Melissa George
Emma Wehmeyer
- 16 – Robin Duderstadt
Isaac George
Jordan Zenner
- 17 – Franklin Braeutigam
Mari Bull
Paul Heiner
Cole Lewis
Jeremy Ottmers
Shayla Pitts
Cheryl Rowan
Clinton Williams
- 18 – Emily Usener
Randy Busch



- 20 – Abigail Baughn
David Browne
Tim Dahlstrom
Steve Evans
Jerry Luckenbach
Jonathan McCann
Sylvia Van Antwerp
- 21 – Becky Bryson
Jackie Haggerty
Jennifer Jenschke
Jonathan McCann
Jace Marshall
Kristel Rheinhardt
Audrey Spurgin
- 22 – Rusty Duderstadt
Jody Feller
Cora Turbeville
Sydney White
- 23 – Travis Koenig
Maranda Magee
Debbie Tiemann
- 24 – Calen Holland
Heather Langehennig
- 25 – James Hartmann
- 26 – Jordan Nimitz
- 27 – Misty Giles
Melissa Saenger
- 28 – Mason Geistweidt
Patrick Hohmann
Jeffrey Jayson
- 29 – Jonathan Baethge
Kyla Bruns
Dale Fuhrmann
Beth Luckenbach
- 30 – Carlton Eckert
Kermit Gold
Kirsten Hartmann
Finley McCall
Carol Seminara
- 31 – Payton Boesl
Helen Feller
Wacey Bierschwale



Rally Day Sunday August 20 Celebration of New Sunday School Year

Children, youth, and adults begin a new Sunday School year this month. After a summer “recess,” we will “reunite” and “rally” around a celebration of Christian education and faith formation on August 20. Meet at Hennig Grove for breakfast tacos. Classes & breakfast bar begin August 27. The Sunday School movement is over 200 years old. It began in England and moved to the United States in the late 1700s. Often, it was held on Sunday afternoon but by mid-20th century had moved to Sunday mornings.



Here's What's Happening!!!

- Rally Day starts at 9:00 a.m. with Breakfast Tacos.
- We will have our 2nd Annual Gaga Ball tournament for grades 2nd-12th and a round for adults!!
- We will have a “tots” area with a small bounce castle and crafts.
- Our Sunday School theme this year is “Back to the Future” so we encourage everyone to dress up in 80’s gear!!!

Potluck returns August 20

We will have our "Third Sunday" potluck meal on August 20, same day as "Rally Day."

Meat will be provided!

You just need to bring sides and desserts!

More info. coming soon!



Blessing of the Backpacks

During Worship on August 13

No Sunday School Classes
on August 6 & 13



Fall Festival September 16

The annual Lutheran Fall Festival, sponsored by our camping ministry "Cross Trails," happens Saturday September 16 at Marktplatz in Fredericksburg. There is a craft fair, quilt auction, live music, food vendors, kids' games, fun run, and much more. Details at www.crosstrails.org. (See p. 25 for more information.)



August 2023 Altar Guild

Traditional:

Karen Oestreich, Eileen Whited,
Clara Kozielski

Contemporary:

Barb Rathke & Pat Laughlin



August 2023 Assisted Living

Location	Day	Time	Location	Day	Time
Knopp Assisted	Wed.8/2	9:30	Villages of Windcrest	Wed. 8/9	9:45
Knopp #2	Wed. 8/2	10:30	FBG NH	Wed. 8/9	10:45
Heritage Place	Thur.8/3	9:30	Knopp RC	Thur. 8/10	9:30
Windcrest	Thur. 8/3	10:30	Knopp #1	Thur. 8/10	10:30

Bethany: January/April/July/October

Holy Ghost: March/June/September/December

Zion: February/May/August/November

Celeste Care

Villages of Windcrest

*Marion Welgehausen *Gloria Brooks

FBG NURSING HOME

KNOPP HEALTHCARE & REHAB CTR (#1)

*Brandi Welgehausen *Clinton Deike

KNOPP RETIREMENT

*Clarence Rose *Jeanette Beckmann

KNOPP (#2)

KNOPP Assisted Living Care Center

*Annabel Stein

WINDCREST NURSING & REHAB

*Genevieve Ketron

Heritage

* Roberta Young * Frankie Law

Juniper Apartments, Kerrville

*Betty Deans Koetting

Alamo Ranch, San Antonio

*Audelle Burkey

August 2023 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP COMMUNION

Date	Time	Communion Assistants
Sun. Aug 6	8:15	Mike & Sue Sagebiel
	10:30	Jim & Constance Schultz, Becky Dittmar
Sun. Aug. 13	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion
Sun. Aug. 20	8:15	Jonathan Baethge, Beth Luckenbach
	10:30	Ernie & Karen Jo Loeffler, Lyle Johansen
Sun. Aug. 27	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion



See Bulletin, Announcements & Hymns on Bethany Website

Each Sunday our bulletin announcements and worship bulletins are posted on our website www.bethanyfbg.com. If you're watching Bethany worship online, you notice that in traditional worship we don't have the words on-screen during communion since the pastors cannot operate the screen during distribution. But you can always find the hymn words in our online bulletins.



Stay Informed



- Text messages for updates & prayer; to join the Bethany group, text: **@bethanytx2 to 81010**
- After hours, listen to our office phone's voice message about upcoming worship.
- Those on our email prayer chain will also occasionally receive updates about changes in schedules.



August Sunday Schedule

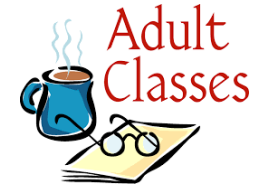
Bethany Lutheran church offers several different Sunday School classes for adults and youth. Please choose a class and come join us!! Small group study and gatherings help to build a strong church family!



(And it's a lot of fun!!!)

See p. 6 for a list of classes offered.

Adult Sunday Classes - Classes begin on August 27th



The **Adult Bible Class** is meeting in the overflow area of the sanctuary and the **Transitions Class** is back to meeting in the new Conference Room (the triple room). You can take part in the Rally Day activities on August 20th and then classes will begin on August 27th. Breakfast Bar returns on August 27th also!!



Legacy Builders

(young adults class)-

The Legacy Builders class will be starting up again on August 27th.

Enjoy the Breakfast Bar and then please come and join us downstairs in room 115 for scripture, encouragement, insight, and great fellowship! We will be starting a 6-week study with Adam Hamilton, "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws."



Sunday School & Adult Education Rooms

Who goes.....

2-5 year olds
 Kinder & 1st Grade
 2nd & 3rd Grade
 4th & 5th Grade
 Middle School
 High School

Where

Room #100
 Room #103
 Room #101
 Room #105
 Room #113
 Room #112

Young Adults/Legacy Builder's

Room #115

Transitions will meet in the
 Conference room (Triple Room)

Room #205

Adult Bible Classes will meet in the overflow area at the back of the sanctuary.

Breakfast Bar Is Open!!!

(starting Sunday, Aug. 27th!)

But.... We need your help! Some of our long-timers who help provide the Breakfast Bar are retiring so we need new team members.

Could this be you???

Members work with their team and each bring a breakfast item only 3-4 times a year to create breakfast for anyone who would like to join in. If you would be willing to help keep the Breakfast Bar going, please contact Camille Williamson:

Email address—camillew@beecreek.net

Cell/text—830-456-2167



August 2023 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

DATE	TIME	USHERS
Sun. Aug. 6	8:15 10:30	Beth Luckenbach - captain, Jerry Luckenbach, Carol Seminara, Linda McCann <hr/> Ken Treibs - captain Jaye Treibs, Jaycee & Bailee Treibs
Sun. Aug. 13	8:15 10:30	Max Beckmann- captain, Bonnie Beckmann <hr/> Carlton Eckert- captain Joe & Marilyn Butcher
Sun. Aug. 20	8:15 10:30	Cindy Zenner- captain, Jackie Kneese, Larry Ahrens, Clara Kozielski <hr/> Leland Geistweidt- captain Kevin Kunz, Kathy Meybaum, Joyce Richey
Sun. Aug. 27	8:15 10:30	Dwight Oestreich—captain, Jerald Klett <hr/> Willard Dearing— captain Dayton Eckhardt



Youth & Family

SUMMER DATES TO REMEMBER

- July 31-August 4: Day Camp at Bethany (current Kinder-5th grade) Middle & High School Volunteer Opportunities

For Registration info. check with Kiesha!



Film + Fellowship

**“The Lion King”
Thursday, August 10
Bethany Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.**

Bring your family to Movie Night where we will watch movies, do a devotion, eat popcorn and sno-cones, win door prizes, and be in fellowship with one another. Always free! Bring your families, pillows, and blankets!



**Thanks to Ken Esten Cooke,
Publisher/Editor of the
Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post
for the “shout out” to Bethany
in his July 12th, 2023 editorial,
“Bethany Answers Call for a
Community Need”.**

August 2023 PRAISE & WORSHIP (10:30)			
	Leader <hr/> Kid's Message	HOSTS	Communion Assistants <hr/> Prayer Minister
Sun. Aug. 6	<hr/> Erik Iverson Beth Iverson	Ken Smith Elizabeth White	<hr/> No Communion Erik Iverson
Sun. Aug. 13	<hr/> Cheryl Flink Cheryl Flink	Weldon Griffin Elizabeth White	Ralph & Karen Rode Beth & Erik Iverson <hr/> Cheryl Flink
Sun. Aug. 20	<hr/> Ken Smith Ken Smith	Jackie Kneese Larry Ahrens	<hr/> No Communion Ken Smith
Sun. Aug. 27	<hr/> Beth Luckenbach Beth Luckenbach	Sem & Danielle Geistweidt	Jaye Treibs (2) Beth & Erik Iverson <hr/> Beth Luckenbach

It's Not Optimal, But...

If you worshiped at our Praise and Worship service towards the end of June and into July, you might have noticed the absence of live musicians leading our worship. On those Sundays, most of the band members of Agape Road were travelling and unable to be here, so we used pre-recorded video songs and played them through the sound system.

It worked fairly well, though this is not necessarily our first choice of how to do things. We want live music and musicians to lead our worship. There's just something enlivening about singing with the band (and not to short traditional; having an organist/pianist and choir singing). However, we are having to face a very real reality in the U.S., particularly in rural, small town communities: there is a lack of church musicians who are willing to give of their time and talent on a voluntary basis.

In fact, we know of at least one other congregation in Fredericksburg who is paying musicians to drive from San Antonio to play and sing in their praise band because they cannot find local, volunteer musicians to do so.

One option would be to have no music at all, but that kind of defeats the purpose of the praise and worship service. Another option is to pay musicians to come in every time Agape Road goes on vacation, but that would necessitate increasing our budget quite a bit. And, finally, because of the technological improvements we made during COVID, we could use pre-recorded videos of Agape Road leading worship. That seemed to be the best option for us at this time. We understand that it is not optimal, but it still enables us to worship with the music we are used to singing performed by those we love to listen to and sing along with.

If you know of someone who has some musical gifts, encourage them to talk with Matt White, another member of Agape Road, or the pastors. Same goes for someone in traditional who might like to sing in the choir or begin learning how to play the organ under Margie or Annabel's tutorage. And let our musicians know that you appreciate them—whatever service you attend. They put in an awful lot of work to help us worship and sing God's praises—most of whom do it simply because they love God and love playing at church.

Brother Steward

Playbooks and Prayerbooks!

It is exhibition season for football, and our Abbot is examining our Xs and Os and prospects for a winning season. First, you should know that our playbook is our prayerbook.



He asks if we are executing our prayers with diligence and devotion. Blocking? Are we protecting our homeless and helpless from being blind-sided by poverty? Do we use our talents to improve our community? Are we using our treasure or financial assets to support the goals of our church, school and ministries?

Are we dedicated and tough enough to beat the competition from immorality, injustice, apathy, and the assaults on our Christian sensibility? With the Lord's help; let the games begin!

God Bless!



August WELCA Board meeting was held on Wednesday, July 26

- **Aug. 3—Leah Circle**—9:30 am at the home of Camille Williamson
- **Aug. 8—Hope Circle**—6:00 pm will meet at Bethany
- **Aug. 9 -The quilters**—9:00 am -will meet in the quilting/choir room downstairs.
- **Aug. 10—Lydia Circle** - 9:15 am—will meet at Bethany



- **Oct. 21— Southwestern Texas Synod WELCA Gathering**—1 day convention at St. Mark's in Cuero, TX.

Fall Festival—Saturday, September 16 @ Marktplatz

Circle members are asked to start making any items that would sell at our booth. Check with your circle leader to see what ideas have been suggested! Sign-up sheets to work at the booth will be available at our August Circle meetings.



Thank you to all the members of Bethany Lutheran Church for the graduation gifts. I graduated from Lone Star High School in Frisco, TX and will go to Texas Tech this fall, studying computer engineering. Much love to my family for supporting me all this way—my grandparents (Caroline and John Stafford), my mom and dad, and especially Bethany Lutheran Church. Thank you for always welcoming me back home when I visit!

Thank You

Matthew Stafford

The problem (and power) of money

[Jesus told the rich man] "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ...



[Jesus taught the disciples,] "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." **—Mark 10:21b-22, 25**

At a Bible study, a man of means asked, "Why does Jesus hate money so much?" His family saw their money as a good thing, and he earnestly wanted to understand why Jesus seems to speak negatively of wealth again and again.

In fact, Jesus talks about money more than nearly anything else. Interestingly, for all his talk about money, he never asks for it. And he never condemns it. Instead, Jesus warns us about the corrupting influence of money.

Wealth poses spiritual risks. Jesus teaches that money has the power to turn us inward – away from loving God with all our heart and loving our neighbor as ourselves. It confuses our values and direction.

All of us want full lives brimming with security, relationship, joy, peace and love – but money can ensure us none of those things. They are the fruits of loving God with ALL our strength and of loving our neighbor as ourselves. Wealth can get in the way.

That was the issue with the rich man in Mark 10:17-27. Deeply religious, he nonetheless worries about eternal life. The "one thing" he lacks, Jesus tells him, can be satisfied by selling what he has and giving to the poor. Generous giving would break the bond that money has over him and help re-center him on loving God and loving neighbor.

Generosity is the spiritual prescription Jesus gives the rich man, and it's the one for us, too.

The primary goal of our church's financial stewardship should not be to fund the church, but rather to break the chains that money may have on our hearts and souls. But giving generously we can help the church, our neighbor *and* ourselves. We can learn what it is to be free to love God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves.

--Rob Blezard

Web Editor - The Stewardship of Life Institute
editor@stewardshipoflife.org



Special Offering for August

FISD Education Fund

PARTNERING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Fredericksburg ISD Education Foundation serves as the fundraising arm of the Fredericksburg Independent School District through funding teachers, innovative programs, and unique learning opportunities for students. They work with the district and its strategic direction but maintain a separate Programs Committee to determine the best use of funds through Innovative Teaching Grants. The use of Innovative Teaching Grants enables the Education Foundation to be flexible in its giving, ranging from the one-time needs of a specific teacher to year-over-year District related expenditures. The unique working relationship with the District insures that funds will be applied to programs that are in line with the District's Strategic Initiatives.

To make a special offering, simply use the envelope in your member packet or mark a pew envelope "FISD Educational Fund" on Sunday mornings in August. Checks should be made out to "Bethany Lutheran Church."



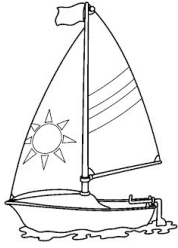
Council Highlights

July 18, 2023



The Council:

- Heard a timeline of events in the upcoming capital campaign for the new Bethany Preschool building
- Approved proceeding with parking lot work in late October
- Is looking forward to having AED/CPR training for members of the congregation



Lifeboat Log : August 2023

A summer “Thank you” to all who donate food, funds, or are volunteering to fill Lifeboat each day. Because of you, some of our neighbors are able to have a little more food (and one less thing to worry about). And, we pray, they ultimately credit this benefit to our Lord who wants to reveal his love and concern so much more deeply.

Again, thank you very much for our continued support!



BOAT will be hosting a free Car Day event on Saturday, September 9th, from 9-11 AM. Stop by or tell those you think might be interested. We’ll check your tire pressure and wear, belts, fluid levels, and other minor maintenance issues.

Next BOAT meeting

**Thursday, August 17th
5:45 PM**

save
the
date®

New Members on August 20 Along with Rally Day & Potluck Meal

The pastors and the Good News Team provided a lunch and “Discover Bethany” class on July 30th, and on August 6th they’ll host lunch and “Discover Lutherans.” It happens after worship, around 11:45 and we invite some current members to attend also... to meet new folks and to review the basics of the Lutheran Church. Those who wish to join Bethany will do so on Sunday, August 20th.



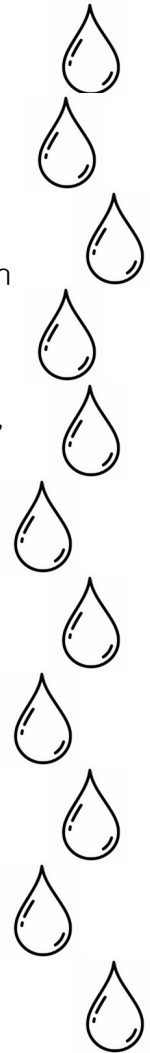
Dear Bethany Lutheran Church

Thank you for your \$6,180.00 contribution made on 6/13/2023. Your generous donation will transform lives through the gift of clean, safe water. Families in rural Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania are avoiding illness and early death. Women have time to care for their homes. Children are gaining the opportunity to attend school. You have invested in the change of community that has the potential to break the cycle of poverty.

Thank you again and God bless you. Your gift is making a difference in so many lives.

With Gratitude.

Susanne M. Wilson



The Global Leadership Summit

will again be held at the
HS Auditorium and

hosted by Holy Ghost Church this August 3-4.

Google Global Leadership Summit to register. Let me know if you have questions or want more info! Thanks!

Rev. Bobby Vitek

Holy Ghost Lutheran Church

Your Memorial Contributions: Where Do They Go?

Gifts at the Time of Death

Bethany is grateful for the many people who give memorial gifts and for families who list the Church, the Foundation, or the Preschool as suggested memorials when loved ones die.

1. Where can memorial gifts go?

(A) Memorials to “Bethany Lutheran Church” may go to:

The Memorial Fund (this is where gifts to the church go unless people designate otherwise; this fund is used for special purchases outside our regular operating budget)

The Preschool Building Fund (our future building)

The Hennig House Fund (upkeep & restoration)

Capital Improvements Fund (for church property)

Other designated funds or the General Fund are available; you can check with the pastors or financial secretary.

(B) Memorials to “Bethany Lutheran Foundation” support the perpetual fund established as a separate entity in 2007. The Foundation grows via estate gifts, memorial gifts, & investments. Annual grants go to Bethany church, preschool, & community organizations. Checks must be made to the Bethany Foundation.

(C) Memorials to “Bethany Lutheran Preschool” support Bethany’s weekday ministry for young children in our congregation and community. Checks must be made to *Bethany Preschool*.

2. Who decides where gifts go?

(A) The donor. The family of the deceased can *suggest* but IRS rules require that donations follow the *donor’s* designation.

(B) Once given to the church, foundation, or preschool, that entity decides how the donations will be used for purchases. The family of the deceased may suggest *the fund* but they cannot designate any purchases (unless the family itself makes the complete donation for a specific, approved purchase.)

Bethany Foundation Grant Applications Available August 1, 2023

Bethany Lutheran Foundation of Fredericksburg, Texas, Inc. will begin accepting grant applications from nonprofit organizations on August 1, 2023. The Foundation, whose mission is to Advance and Support the Discipleship of Jesus Christ, was established in 2007 with funds received from the estate of Bethany member Alma Braeutigam. The Foundation continues to be supported by Bethany members and the public through donations, memorials, and bequests. The Foundation is managed by a nine-member governing board elected by the Bethany congregation. Current board members are Sharon Joseph, Joyce Richey, Erik Iverson, Merrily Hartmann, Beth Luckenbach, Weldon Itz, Mike Sedgwick, Dana Rowan and Lindy Haley.

To date, Bethany Lutheran Foundation has awarded \$469,206.00 to community nonprofit organizations whose outreach programs serve children, seniors, veterans, families and the developmentally disabled, as well as housing, counseling, emergency services and Christian Ministry programs. Bethany Lutheran Church and Bethany Preschool also receive funds from the Foundation.

Grant applications may be obtained by contacting Beth Luckenbach at bethluck@austin.rr.com or using the Foundation website www.blffbgtx.org. Grant applications must be mailed to Bethany Lutheran Foundation, P.O. Box 673, Fredericksburg, TX 78624 and **postmarked no later than September 15, 2023.**

The Foundation Board sincerely thanks all Bethany members and the public for their continued financial support.

More information about the Bethany Lutheran Foundation may be found at their website, www.blffbgtx.org.

BLC Dollars & Cents

June 2023		Year to Date
Income	\$54,519.57	\$397,890.35
Expenses	\$65,337.32	\$385,042.30
Deficit	\$10,817.75	Surplus: \$12,848.05

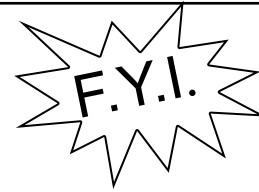
Balances Other Funds

- Designated Accounts:** \$206,376.52
- Capital Improvement/Hennig Fund:** \$177,278.84
- Parking Lot (as of 7/11/23):** \$58,845
(includes \$15,000 contribution from BPS)
- Pre School Building Fund:** \$250,241.20
- Emergency Aid Fund (Chase):** \$7,278.25
- PNC—Money Market Account Balance** \$106,804.88
- ELCA Mission Fund (Investment Account)** \$35,000.00

- Broadway Bank (CD-Hein Estate Gift)** \$167,361.99
- Edward Jones (Dr. Stein Estate Gift)** \$286,646.08
Beginning Value – Dec 31. 2019 - \$221,672.83

Monthly Special Offerings - 2023

- January - Der Stadt Friedhof - \$4,205**
- February – Bethany Preschool - \$11,953**
- March – Needs Council – \$2,225**
- April – Synod Assembly - \$1,553**
- May – Water to Thrive - \$6,180**
- June – Cross Trails Ministry - \$2,610**



A Hidden Gem: Food Pantry Donations

With renovations in our narthex/lobby, office hallway, and Triple Room now completed, the look and feel of these places has changed quite a bit. It's definitely new and different.

In an attempt to “declutter” and keep things open, the basket which used to collect non-perishable food items for the food pantry has gone the way of the dinosaur. It is extinct, but that does not mean we want to stop collecting!! Far from it!! Please, continue to bring your non-perishable food items. Just drop them into a different spot.

Right next to the stairway that leads to the portecochere—in the same place the basket used to be—there is a cabinet with a little sign on it that reads, “Food Pantry: Donations may be placed inside.” Just open the doors, pop in your goods, and close the door. Someone will make sure your donations get to where they belong. It's a little more hidden. It's not quite as easy as just dropping an item into a basket, but we don't need an extra table that takes up precious space where an awful lot of people gather before and after worship.



We would like to give our sincerest thanks to the Ex-Military Flyer group which meets at Bethany once a month. They noticed the American Flag in our Fellowship Hall was showing its age, and they donated a new one to the church. It is a gift greatly appreciated.

The Ex-Military Flyers is a group of military veterans who flew aircraft for any of the branches of the military. They meet once a month for a meal and informational program. Topics have ranged from pilots sharing combat experiences; pilots sharing experiences flying dignitaries like President LBJ; inviting an astronaut who flew the space shuttle; and histories of various air craft.



SUMMER DAY CAMP AT BETHANY

We are so excited to be able to have Day Camp with Cross Trails Ministry at Bethany this summer! (This is, essentially, our VBS.) Day Camp is put on by Bethany, using Cross Trails Ministry Camp Staff to lead programs during the week. It is for kids who are **CURRENTLY FINISHING** Kinder-5th grade, with volunteer opportunities for older kids and adults.

When: July 31-August 4

Who: (KIDS CURRENTLY FINISHING) Kinder-5th grade! 6th –12th grade and adults are welcome to volunteer. (Check with Kiesha!!!)

Theme: Saints & Superheroes

We plan to keep our “usual” half-day schedule, from 8:00-12:15 pm during the week of Day Camp. Volunteers will meet with camp staff in the afternoon for games and Bible Study.

We are very blessed to be able to fund Day Camp so that it is FREE for participants.

Registration will be online only!

<https://crosstrails.org/congregational-day-camp/>

Limited spots available!

What’s in My Envelope? Regular & Special Offering Envelopes Each Month

All Bethany members receive offering envelopes for each Sunday of the year (and special services for Lent, Holy Week, and Christmas). Those dated envelopes go to our main fund known as the “**General Fund.**” That’s Bethany’s operating fund and includes utilities, salaries, supplies, committee budgets, maintenance, and benevolence. But Bethany does not live on the General Fund alone. For those who wish to make special donations, the packet of envelopes includes offering envelopes for:

- Capital Improvement Fund: for improvements on our property above and beyond general maintenance.
- Hennig Improvement: for work on the historic Hennig House to the west of the church buildings.
- Building Fund: for the new preschool building.
- Special Monthly Offering: each month we support a special ministry.

Thank you for your generosity! And for using these envelopes which helps our financial secretary post contributions to your name using your specific number. She sends every-one mid-year and year-end reports.

*Dear Bethany Lutheran Church,
Thank you so very much for the \$50.00 Amazon gift card and hamper full of goods! The money and goods will be put to good use as I start my first year in college. Thank you again so very much!*



Ella Hartmann

A Note from our Fredericksburg Mayor

Mayor's Update Newsletter
June 19, 2023

By: Jeryl Hoover



WE OWE BETHANY LUTHERAN OUR THANKS

I received word that the membership at Bethany Lutheran Church voted yesterday to approve a multi-million dollar campaign for a new preschool. Having been a church minister many years past, I know what it takes to convince a congregation to agree to support a financial initiative this big, and it shows vision, compassion, and community-mindedness. As I understand it, Bethany got into the community childcare ministry 40 years ago, and it has set the pace ever since. This new preschool will accommodate 210 kids and will help address a major gap in our ability to draw and keep the needed workforce for a strong economy. Thank you members of Bethany for doing your part to help Fredericksburg.

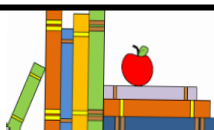
Dear Bethany Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$500.00 to the Gillespie Literacy Council. This contribution and your prior contributions allow our program to encourage our students to improve their English skills and obtain citizenship.

All members of the Gillespie Literacy Council appreciate your support of our tutoring program.

Each Tuesday, beginning Aug. 15, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall, 302 E. College St., Fbg., TX, we will be having our classes. We welcome you to come to one of the classes and meet the wonderful tutors and amazing adults who are participating in our program.

Very truly yours,
JoAnna Verneti Troppy



CHANGE? We've all heard the old joke: "How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb? The answer: "Change???" Most people find change to be either difficult or a delight. Case in point, all the changes in our

narthex and triple room (now known as the Conference Room) are new and delightful. Artwork placement in the new areas were carefully considered by our Aesthetics Committee and show the growth of Bethany from the old Bethany down the street (picture was painted by Christine Ottmers, Troy's grandmother); then the 1963 Bethany painted by John McCluskey, and then the present day architect's rendering of our present plant (dedicated in the year 2000).

Note: John McClusky was a professional artist who joined Bethany and his wife Lois served as organist for many years. Two other paintings by John are the landscape hung above the guest register and the one on the landing going up to the balcony. It was painted following a Christmas Sunday School program and includes children who are now adults. These two paintings are on loan from Donna Mittel.

Gone is the red curtain that was to the right of the sanctuary doors, and is replaced by the painting by the late Marie Dietrich, which was gifted to Bethany by her family after her death. Other prints in the narthex are by Charles Beckendorf and Dalhart Windberg. New lighting and ceiling tiles in the narthex and conference room really highlight the artwork.

The décor in the conference room, still to be completed, includes a painting of the Hennig house by artist Mark Haworth and we will utilize the banner, pulpit and lectern hangings that were used in Bethany's 100 th celebration in 1987. They were created by Carol Bade and are as beautiful today as when she completed them.

Also to be added will be photos of past Bethany groups. These were found in the archives and will be framed and hung. The hallway will feature bulletin boards and additional artwork.

The Aesthetics Committee worked diligently to provide a welcoming area and we are deeply grateful for all the positive feedback received.

Keep watching—we're not done yet!



“Ring My Bells” - a few words from BPS director—Continued from page 15.)

Jesus. The children placed their items on the ofrenda and were able to share with their classmates all about their family members.



We are in our final 2 weeks of summer programming and we are always sad to see it come to an end. We look forward to welcoming new students for our fall programming on August 14th!



Dear Bethany Members,

We would like to thank you for all you have done for us following our recent automobile accident and the diagnosis of Lindy's cancer. The thoughts, prayers, food, cards and flowers have helped us make it through a very difficult time.



God bless you!
Mike & Lindy Haley



Ring My Bells!!

A Few Words from Our
BPS Director

By Cheryl Flink



JOHN 8:12 12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world”

Shine Jesus' Light: This was our Vacation Bible School theme this year and we had so much fun gathering each morning in the fellowship hall to pray, practice daily Bible verses, sing and play games. Classes broke into small groups after our morning gatherings and had daily Bible studies, crafts and special snacks. All age groups enjoyed praising God and learning about ways we can shine Jesus' light for others in times that are happy, and also in times that are sad. As we wind down to the end of summer (Whew! That went by fast!) it was incredibly special to spend time as a whole group and praise His holy name!



Caterpillars/Honeybees play a game reminding us that God has the whole World in His hands.

Fireflies/Gigglebugs play Sheep Shuffle reminding us that God will always search For us.



In July we continued our summer programming with field trips to the Kroc Center, Cross Mountain, the Johnson City Exotic Zoo, trips to the town pool, an on-site mobile Teddy Bear building day, and the weekly library programs. The classes enjoyed building relationships and creating memories with these wonderful experiences.

In the classrooms we studied the USA, Egypt, Mexico and had camping adventures! While in Mexico, we invited families to share pictures or special items of loved ones who have gone to heaven to see

(Continued on page 18.)

Calendar

Calendar