Bethany Lutheran Church
110 W. Austin St.
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Return Service Requested

December

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Fredericksburg, TX 78624
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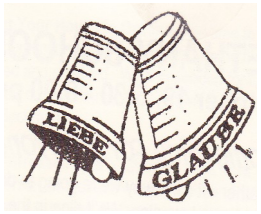


Bethany Bells

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"

December 2022

All I Want for Christmas... By Pastor Kevin Haug

"...is my two front teeth." We sang that as kids.

"...is you." Sings Mariah Carey.

"...is peace on earth." Which has been wished upon for a long time.

We can all fill in that blank in some fashion or another. Some of us want time with family and friends. Some of us want gadgets and technology. Our kids may want the latest video game or smart phone. We want. We want. We want.

But, let's put a twist on this, shall we?

"All God Wants for Christmas is..."

Now that could be a fun one to think about. Of course, we have the obligatory answers: for us to love one another. For us to follow Him. For us to love God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. For us to be kind and generous. For His creation to be taken care of.

All of these are well and good, and they are certainly things that God wants, but let's bring this a little closer to home. Because there is something that God truly wants. He wants our hearts. He wants our hearts to long for Him, to love Him above all, to desire to serve and be obedient to Him.

And God wants this to be voluntary on our part. God will not force us into this relationship. And so God acted in human history to win our hearts–to turn them towards Him. God took on human flesh and was born a babe in Bethlehem to live the life we were supposed to live and die the death that we deserve; to save us from the power of sin; and give to us eternal life. He came to give us grace, and when we receive grace, we give our hearts to God. So perhaps it isn't what I want for Christmas. It's what God has given to us, and what we now give to God.

Have a blessed and Merry Christmas.

The Christmas Journey

Fri & Sat Dec 9–10

6:00pm to 8:30pm

10-minute "drive thru" of hand-painted scenes with live characters, animals, music & lights!

The Christmas Journey is a 10-minute drive-through presentation of the Christmas story with scenes featuring special lighting, music & effects, live characters, animals, & professionally hand-painted props. Our back parking lot becomes the ancient Holy Land with scenes along Town Creek. Enter on N. Adams Street, after lining up on Schubert St. It's Bethany's Christmas gift to the community. We also plan a "walk-through" path! This is our 22nd year.

Watch the bulletin and Facebook for more info! Contact Danny & Cheryl Flink or Kenneth & Jaye Treibs if you wish to participate & missed the signup.

Journey Costumes & Set-Up

Sunday, December 4

Please be fitted for your costumes on Sunday, December 4, in the preschool (basement below the sanctuary), during breakfast bar and Sunday School and into the services, 8:30 —12:30.

We'll have an initial Christmas-Journey scene setup also on Sunday Dec 4. We'll have a pizza lunch after worship in room 109 (Breakfast Bar), then we build the main frames of the Journey scenes. We'll finish setting up on Wednesday and Thursday.

In Our Prayers

Hospital/Clinic/ER/Tests:

Clinton Deike	Ed Kramer	Weldon Itz
Donna Mittel	Margie Ottmers	Chrissy Stuewe
Melissa Saenger	Cora Turbeville	Denise Stehling

Ongoing:

Donald & Carol Eckhardt	Audrey Gold	Heide Kemper
Bobby Klein	Billy Leifeste	

Our Sympathy to:

- The family of Pastor Tim Van Antwerp who died November 1; funeral at Bethany was November 12 with burial in Castell.
- Ed and Judy Kramer at the death of their granddaughter Kenna Joy, daughter of Eddie and Keva (Leifeste) Kramer; She died November 2.

Congratulations to:

- Troy and Karlene Ottmers upon the birth of granddaughter Tatum Reese Eddins, born October 28 to Derek & Courtney (Ottmers) Eddins.

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.

December Birthdays

1 –Cassandra Andrichyn
Allie Marshall
Kathy Meybaum
2 - Beth Iverson
Tammy Keener
Ernie Loeffler
Violet Ottmers
Billy Pehl
3—Dylan Sands
Nova York
Cora York
4—Pastor Elliott Pancoast
5—Sherrie Mauer
Shirley Land
Zephyr Stone
Camden Robison
Cash Robison
Jeff Stephens
Angie Stephens
6—Erich Cleaton
Sandra Fisk
7—Jarrod Stokes
8—Andrew Stehling
9—Eric Franz
Josephine Starr
10—Megan Geistweidt
Billy Harris
Barb Rathke
11—Teagan Collier
M.J. Dittmar
Holly Meier
11—Marian Nixon
Kamryn Evans
12—Jeanne Dietrich
Jack Feller
Kora Young
13—Karen Grobe
Brad Holland
Shelby Pitts
14—Lance Langehennig
15—Kara Anderson
Tuttie Geistweidt
Robert Harris, Jr.
Judy Jones
Zane Oestreich
16 –Journie Lombardi
Holly Rabke
17—Bonnie Beckmann
18—Tommy Bryson
Dana Grona
Germaine Hayes
Jayme Smith
19—Natalie Huff
20—Weldon Griffin
Brady Ottmers
21—Janie Bailey
Jayecee Treibs
Stacey York
Wes Reagen
22—Eliana Graham
Christy Holland
Judy Morgan
23—Derek Deike
Luke Meybaum
24—Liston Maner
25—Michaela Marquart
Jake Wiemers
26—Patsy Johansen
Corey Ottmers
Steven Stech
27—Jill Cole
Wendy Collier
Kaeson Rheinhardt
Hailey Welgehausen
Anneliese White
28—Dawna Haug
Kadyn Itz
Jacob Jenschke
Eileen Whited
29—Barry Benedict
Lois Bush
Kami Coolidge
Rebecca Johnston
Lauren Smith
Zachary Zesch
30—Alan Kramer
Mark Marquart
Cade Pittman
31- Wade Geistweidt

Christmas Eve Candlelight

December 24, 2022 | Three Communion Services

Our Saturday Christmas Eve services will all have communion and a time of candle lighting.

2:00 p.m. Traditional Worship in the sanctuary

5:00 p.m. Traditional in the sanctuary
In-person and livestreamed

7:30 p.m. Praise & Worship in the fellowship hall
In-person & livestreamed

Sunday December 25

10:30 a.m. One “Christmas Day” service
Traditional worship in the sanctuary
No breakfast bar or Sunday School

Sunday January 1

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship in the sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Praise & Worship in the
fellowship hall

Special Offering for December

Bethany Emergency Aid Fund

Thank you so much for your support & dedication to Bethany. Our Emergency Aid Fund helps locals as well as strangers in their time of need. Most often we assist with gas, food, rent, medical needs & utilities. To make a special offering to the Bethany Emergency Aid Fund, simply use the envelope in your member packet or a pew envelope on Sunday mornings. Checks should be made out to "Bethany" with "Emergency Aid" written on the memo line. You can also mail your special offering to the church:

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

Volunteers Needed!!

There will be a signup sheet beginning Sunday, November 27th, to provide soup and sandwiches for the actors and workers for the Christmas Journey Friday and Saturday, December 9th and 10th

We collected 108 Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child!

Thank you to all who helped with this outreach!!

December 2022
Assisted Living

Location	Day	Time	Location	Day	Time
Knopp Assisted	Wed. 12/7	9:30	Villages of Windcrest	Wed. 12/14	9:45
Knopp #2	Wed. 12/7	10:30	FBG NH	Wed. 12/14	10:45
Heritage Place	Thur.12/1	9:30	Knopp RC	Thur. 12/8	9:30
Windcrest	Thur. 12/1	10:30	Knopp #1	Thur. 12/8	10:30

Bethany: January/April/July/October

Holy Ghost: March/June/September/**December**

Zion: February/May/August/November

Celeste Care
*Dan Mittel

Villages of Windcrest
*Marion Welgehausen *Gloria Brooks *Audelle Burkey

FBG NURSING HOME

KNOPP HEALTHCARE & REHAB CTR (#1)
*Brandi Welgehausen

KNOPP RETIREMENT
*Clarence Rose * Jeanette Beckmann

KNOPP (#2)
Betty Grinke

KNOPP Assisted Living Care Center

WINDCREST NURSING & REHAB
*Genevieve Ketron

Heritage
*Clinton Deike

December 2022 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP COMMUNION

Date	Time	Communion Assistants
Sun. Dec. 4	8:15	Rose Marie Mazanke, Keisha Priem
	10:30	Jim McAfee, Sharon Joseph, Jean Weber
Sun. Dec. 11	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion
Sun. Dec. 18	8:15	Todd Keener & Dorothy Klier
	10:30	Keith & Eileen Whited, Kathy Meybaum

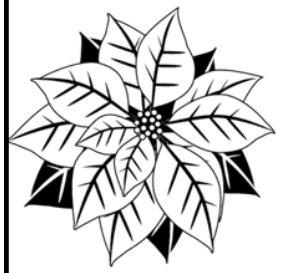
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services

Sat. Dec. 24	2:00 pm	Keisha Priem, Jonathan Baethge
Sat. Dec. 24	5:00 pm	Rose Marie Mazanke, Ted & Nancy Geistweidt, Joyce Richey, Ed & Judy Kramer
Sun. Dec. 25	10:30 am	Pastors

More Youth Christmas Plans!!!

- December 4th—Angel Tree Shopping trip with dinner and Walkway of Lights in Marble Falls

Middle school and high school will meet at Bethany at 3:00 pm and then head to Marble Falls to shop for some more Angel Tree gifts, have dinner together, then explore the Walkway of Lights. $25/person (covers dinner & shopping.)



To order a poinsettia

to be used during worship services, please fill out this form and return with a check for $10.00 to Bethany. Deadline is December 4th.

Name: _____

In Honor of:_____

In Memory of: _____

# of poinsettias @ $10.00 each: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

I will bring my own plant: _____

(Even if you bring your own plant, sign this form so we have the information for the bulletin.)

We are limited to 60 poinsettias so get your order in soon.

December 2022 Altar Guild

Traditional:

Karen Oestreich, Chrissy Stuewe
Marjorie Ottmers, Jaye Treibs,
Judy Morgan, Jeanette Dick

Contemporary:

Sandra Swearingen & Kathy Marquart

December Sunday Schedule

Adult Classes @ 9:20 Sundays

Adult Bible Class -

The Adult Bible Class meets in the overflow area at the back of the sanctuary with the pastors. They will continue studying Bible passages about "The Lord's Supper" during December. People of all ages are welcomed. Please come join us!

Transitions Class

The Transitions class is for anyone who enjoys a highly interactive class where all thoughts and ideas are welcome. The class meets in room 205 (triple room) at 9:20 a.m. Please join us then for lively discussions on various topics related to life and faith.

Legacy Builders (young adults class)-

The Legacy Builders Sunday School class is Studying "Not a Silent Night—Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem" for the month of December. This class meets downstairs in room 115. Please join us for scripture, encouragement, insight, and great fellowship!

December 2022 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

DATE	TIME	USHERS
Sun. Dec. 4	8:15 10:30	Max Beckmann - captain, Bonnie Beckmann, Joyce Robertson, Jerry Luckenbach Kenneth Treibs—captain Jaye Treibs, Jennifer Jenschke, James Jenschke
Sun. Dec. 11	8:15 10:30	Dorothy Klier—captain, Wayne Klier, Jerald Klett Carlton Eckert- captain Dayton Eckhardt, Shelba Fenimore, Joyce Richey
Sun. Dec. 18	8:15 10:30	Vonnie Maner—captain, Zander Maner, Jackie Kneese, Larry Ahrens Sandra Kammlah - captain Tom Pahl, Ernie Loeffler, Karen Jo Loeffler
Sat. Dec. 24	2:00 pm	**Christmas Eve Service** Oliver Deike—captain Mary Alice Deike, Brad, Autumn, Avery & Dawson Holland
Sat. Dec. 24	5:00 pm	**Christmas Eve Service** Jody Donovan—captain Dwight Oestreich, Gary Stehling, Jim Schultz
Sun. Dec. 25	10:30 am	**Christmas Day Service** Willard Dearing—captain Leland Geistweidt, Kevin Kunz

Bulletin Announcements on Website

Want to see the Sunday bulletin and announcements? They're both posted each week on our website. Click on the worship tab for the drop down menu: **www.bethanyfbg.com**

Don't have internet? Stop by the church during the week for a copy. If you'd like to stay in your car, call and we'll bring one out to you!

December 2022 PRAISE & WORSHIP (10:30)

	Leader / Kid's Message	HOSTS	Communion Assistants / Prayer Minister
Sun. Dec. 4	Erik Iverson / Beth Iverson	Karen & Ralph Rode	No Communion / Erik Iverson
Sun. Dec. 11	Ken Smith / Ken Smith	Jackie Kneese (2)	Jaye Treibs (2) Vic & Marion NIxon / Ken Smith
Sun. Dec. 18	Carl Schoessow / Carl Schoessow	Kathy Marquart (2)	No Communion / Carl Schoessow

Christmas Eve Service

Sat. Dec. 24 7:30 pm	Cheryl Flink / Cheryl Flink	Sem & Danielle Geistweidt Erik & Beth Iverson	Karen & Ralph Rode Keisha Priem, Linda Pape / Cheryl Flink

Council Highlights— November 15, 2022

- A "town hall" meeting is set for Sunday, December 18 after late worship to present information to the congregation about the proposed plans for a new Bethany Preschool building.
- The Council heard a report from the Aesthetics Committee and approved beginning high-impact projects to improve the appearance of the church building.
- The Council took a look at the draft of the 2023 church budget.
- The Council approved using some of the proceeds distributed to the church from the Bethany Foundation to fund day camp in summer 2023.

Sunday School & Adult Education Rooms

Who goes.....	Where
2-5 year olds	Room #100
Kinder & 1st Grade	Room #103
2nd & 3rd Grade	Room #101
4th & 5th Grade	Room #105
Middle School	Room #113
High School	Room #112

Young Adults/Legacy Builder's Room #115
Transitions will meet in the Triple Room #205
Adult Bible Classes will meet in the overflow area at the back of the sanctuary.

Come See The Christmas Lights!!

The Fellowship committee is sponsoring a Christmas light tour to Jones CHRISTmas Ranch in Boerne Monday, Dec. 5th leaving at 5:30 pm. Afterwards the group will eat at Popo's. Cost will be $15.00 for the light tour and everyone will be on their own to pay for their meal. Guests will be able to select from 5 menu items. Limited seating is available. Signup sheets will be in the Narthex & Annex of Fellowship hall.

Brother Steward

Alive in the Spirit of Advent!

Centuries ago, during a gray December, within the cold walls of a Monastery, an Abbot gave the annual Advent pep-talk. He said, "Brothers, this is a time of great anxiety. Outside these walls the barbarians are at the gates, poor boxes are empty, the doubloon is in a swoon, and there are not enough fish and chips to feed the hungry and homeless. But take heart, this is Advent; the time of preparation for the birth of our savior, and as good stewards of his gifts to us he would want us to take care of business.

So, we must pray harder for justice and relief from suffering. We must double our efforts to care for the homeless, sick and needy. And then we shall rejoice in the Lord's birth and his gifts and blessings to us. The snow may fall; but our hearts will be warm with the fire of his Love. Amen."

Prepare!
Rejoice!
And God
Bless!

Yes, The WELCA ladies will sell coffee, chocolate and tea in December!!

It's for a great cause. The money raised helps to pay for the shipping of quilts, baby kits and school kits for Lutheran World Relief. To make it more convenient, we have set up a table in the narthex at church with a donation box. We hope you will stop by and pick up a bag or two and some chocolate bars. Any questions? Contact Debbie Tiemann 456-6946 or email at : rtiemann1@austin.rr.com

Coffee—Whole Bean, Ground, Kcups—$10.00	
Boxed Tea—$4	Chocolate Chips—$5
Hot Cocoa & Baking Cocoa—$8	Chocolate Bars—$4

Thank You

Dear Bethany Family,

It is difficult to find the words to express our gratitude for the many kindnesses you have shown us after the passing of Jason.

We are so grateful for all you have done for us. Your words of comfort, cards, letters, flowers, plants, prayers, meals, and monetary donations sent mean a great deal to us as we struggle with the heartbreaking loss. Your kindness means a lot to us, and we are truly blessed to be members of the Bethany congregation. Also, a special thank you to Pastors Casey and Lucinda for their beautiful words sharing the life of Jason.

The Holland Family
Melissa and Calen Holland
Alvin and Esther Holland
Brad, Autumn, Avery & Dawson
Jaren, Shaylin, Jaxen, & Gage Bertelson

Women of the ELCA

December Schedule

- **December 4—** 3:45 p.m. WELCA Joint Circles Christmas Luncheon
Individual Circles do not meet in December.
The quilters will not meet in December.
All will start back up in January.

****Monthly WELCA offering for November went to MOM's Center****

WELCA Joint Circles Christmas Luncheon

Date: Sunday, December 4th
Time: 11:45 am
Place: Bethany Fellowship Hall

Come Join in the Fun & Fellowship!

- Catered meal (suggested donation to be determined.)
- Secret Sisters will be revealed & we will draw for new ones for 2023.
- Election & installation of new officers
- Singing Christmas Carols

Sign-up sheet will be on the WELCA bulletin board soon!!!
Or let your circle leader know you are coming.

Important!!!!!

Angel Tree News!!!!

Angel Tree gifts are to be returned to church by **Thursday, December 8th**. Please follow directions on the card. The cards will be on the two trees in the Narthex and Annex of Fellowship hall. We won't be having any under the porta cochere. Check with the office to see where to drop the gifts off—probably the triple room. (We are sponsoring 11 families.)

It's Budget Time!

Committees have turned in their requests for the 2023 budget. The Finance Committee will put it all together this month and make a proposal to council. The final proposed budget will be voted on by the congregation at the January 22 Annual Congregational Meeting.

2022
Committee Reports
Due December 9th
For the Annual Report

Thanks to all who helped with the Youth Pie Auction! They had bids of over $6,500 on pies! We appreciate you helping that ministry happen!

Have yourself a Holy little Christmas

The “Christmas season” seems to begin earlier every year. Some stores had Christmas stuff on the shelves weeks before Halloween. What madness! We go dashing through the stores to the beat of *Jingle Bells;* and we go “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” until we crash from exhaustion.

Revelry and gift-giving are fine and fun, but if we’re not careful they can snowball out of control. Stewarding a Holy and meaningful Christmas means balancing the commercial with the spiritual. Here are some tips:

Observe Advent: The four weeks *before* Christmas Day comprise the Advent Season, a time to *prepare* for Christmas through prayer, song, worship, and spiritual disciplines. Lean into the spirit of Advent. Advent devotionals can help (I recommend Richard Rohr’s *Preparing for Christmas*).

Observe the Christmas *season*: The church calendar lists the *season* of Christmas from Dec. 24 to the feast of Epiphany on Jan. 6. Until the 20th century, these 12 Days of Christmas were the time for celebration and partying. Make them special in your life and family.

Cut the consumerism: Limit your shopping and spending by setting a strict budget or gifting the people in your life with homemade presents, favors, or ways to spend time together.

Party hardly: For some, Christmas is an excuse to overeat and drink to excess. Moderate your consumption.

Most importantly, pray: Ask God to help you and your family craft a meaningful and joyful Advent and Christmas. Ask God to send you wisdom, resources, and people who can journey through the spiritual season with you.

By carefully stewarding your faith life, Advent and Christmas can be a time for real spiritual growth.

--Rob Blezard

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Helping Kids with Disabilities Around the World

Through Dieter and Heide Kemper, we have connections to ministries in Tanzania. Their daughter-in-law, Zinat works with the organization Peace Life for Persons with Disabilities Foundation (www.plpdf.or.tz). It was founded with the purpose of providing a more independent and favorable environment for people with disabilities. As of October 2022, PLPDF has 20 children on their list waiting to receive wheelchairs. They have 100 children who need crutches to go out of their houses. Around 50 families need disposable diapers for their paralyzed children. Cost of wheelchairs are around $170-216; crutches are between $25-50, and a pack of disposable diapers costs $13. If you might like to help, please contact Zinat via email Zinat_ara@yahoo.com or via WhatsApp +255746 997939. Thank you for your consideration.

Cross Trails Ministry
391 Upper Turtle Creek Road
Kerrville, TX 78028

Ebert Ranch Pond Challenge

Help us meet the $50,000 matching Challenge by the end of 2022!

Cross Trails has an amazing opportunity and challenge that must be completed by the end of this year! An anonymous donor has seen the need for a **new water play and swimming option** at Ebert Ranch Camp. They have offered to match any funds we raise before the end of the year up to $50,000! Scan the QR code or visit "Ways to Give" on our webpage to learn more about this opportunity and how you can support this new feature at Ebert Ranch! Give online or send a designated check to our office!

SCAN ME

GriefShare – from Mourning to Joy

Bethany is pleased to offer again in 2023 a program called "GriefShare." It provides sustained, personal support and helps a grieving person move from mourning to joy. Pastor Tiemann and a team of lay leaders will facilitate the 14 sessions that are a part of this program. Participants will meet weekly for two hours that will include a video and a small group conversation. Participants will also receive a personal workbook to help them continue their thinking and praying between sessions.

GriefShare classes will meet every Thursday from January 12-April 13. The class will be offered twice each week, from 10:00 a.m. until noon and again from 6:00-8:00 p.m. There is no charge for these classes and persons can join the class at any point. Topics include 1) Is This Normal? 2) The Challenges of Grief, 3) The Journey of Grief, 4) Grief and Your Relationships, 5) Why? 6) Guilt and Anger, 7) Complicating Factors, 8) Stuck, 9) Lessons of Grief, 10) Heaven, and 11) What Do I Live for Now?

For more information, contact Rev. Ray Tiemann, Visitation Pastor, (email) tiemann200@gmail.com or (mobile) 830-456-6948 or Wilma McAndrew, Team Leader, (email) dwmcandrew@yahoo.com or (mobile) 830-644-2092.

Proposal for Preschool Building

Town Halls Coming Soon

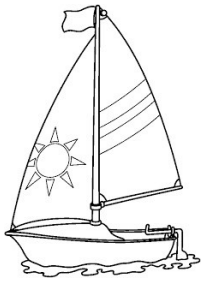
The Building Committee and Capital Campaign Committee have been meeting to assess current need and possibilities for a new Bethany Preschool Building. The congregation voted in December 2019 to build a new preschool; however, COVID disrupted our plans for a capital campaign in 2020 and 2021.

The estimated cost in 2019 was $3.4 million plus architect fees; the new estimate in 2022 is $5.7 million plus architect fees. The committees believe that the new cost most likely means we cannot accomplish this project on our own. The committees and council therefore are looking at a two-fold capital campaign: one *within* the congregation, one in the community. They believe the community awareness of the need for child care could bring about some major gifts from outside of the congregation.

Current plans are to bring a proposal to the January 22 congregational meeting for a vote. But first, we will have some town hall meetings for information and discussion time, including the first town hall on December 18th after the 10:30 worship services. .

Prayer Cards to Ushers

We are again collecting prayer cards in Traditional Worship. A pastor picks up the cards at 8:15 worship. At 10:30, the ushers will need to collect the cards, as the worship pastor runs the slide show on the screen. You may write on the prayer card the names of people for whom we should pray. Be sure that you have permission from the person or that their condition is public information. Thanks!



Lifeboat Log : December 2022

This year, Bethany will again have the Privilege of assisting Holy Ghost Lutheran Church with their Christmas Dinner. This free community meal will be held in their fellowship hall from 11 AM to 1:00 PM, Christmas Day. Holy Ghost could use special help with bussing tables and carrying out food to the diners. Also helpful are drivers to deliver meals (but they hope to have more in-person diners this year). As thanks for your help, you and your family can enjoy a warm meal prepared by David Herrera (David's Bar-B-Q). If you would like to assist in this fine community dinner or **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A DINER,** please contact David Ewing at 830-456-0452. A text would be perfect! The deadline for letting them know numbers from our church is December 17.

Thank you and God bless you for your continued support of Lifeboat little food pantry. We are placing turkey gravy, dressing, and cranberry sauce in the box

-Bethany Outreach and Advocacy Team (BOAT)

Mark Your Calendars!!!

Next "Car Day" is scheduled for Saturday, January 7, 2023 !!!

Our next BOAT meeting will be December 29th @ 4:30 p.m.

BLC Dollars & Cents

General Fund Budget

October 2022

Income $71,774.60 Income – Year $595,175.64
Expenses $63,263.01 Expenses – Year $625,246.57
Deficit year to date ----—- ($-30,070.93)

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Balances Other Funds – October 2022

Designated Accounts: $217,469.95
Capital Improvement/Hennig Fund: $159,577.21
Pre School Building Fund: $231,991.89
Emergency Aid Fund (Chase): $7,093.46

PNC–Money Market Account Balance $106,804.64
ELCA Loan Fund (Investment Account) $35,000.00

First United Bank (CD-Hein Estate Gift) $106,199.44
First United Bank (Savings-Hein Estate Gift) $60,828.05
Edward Jones (Dr. Stein Estate Gift) $255,654.07
Beginning Value – Dec 31. 2019 - $221,672.83

Monthly Special Offerings - 2022

January - Der Stadt Friedhof - $3,763
February – HC Needs Council - $2,290
March – Rainbow Trail Camp - $2,270
April – Synod Assembly - $1,475
May – Bethany PreSchool - $8,799
June – Crosstrails Ministry - $2,525
Special Disaster Appeal – Uvalde - $3,121
July – Bethany Foundation – $5,395
August – Good Samaritan Center - $2,980
September – The Grace Center - $3345
October – New Horizon/Living Well College/ Adv Care Services - $2022

Fredericksburg ISD Education Foundation

The FISD Education Foundation (FISDEF) is in the midst of its end-of-year fundraising campaign, and we know one of things Bethany values is education. Witness our Preschool and Christian Education ministries! The FISDEF was founded in 2018 as the fundraising arm of FISD. It serves as a private fundraising entity that offers teachers and administrators the opportunity to apply for grants to support innovative programs or projects to support higher levels of student learning.

Since 2018, over $375,000 in grant money has been awarded. In some respects, the foundation was formed in response to the "Robin Hood" school funding tax through which FISD has had to send over a third of tax revenue to the state (over $22million this year!) to be distributed to other districts. Unlike other Robin Hood districts, like Westlake or South Lake, we do not have a wealthy student body, as over half of our student population meets criteria for the reduced lunch program. Despite being a "wealthy" district, our teacher pay has been historically below the state average and many education needs go unmet.

Find out more on the website: fisdkids.org
Donations may be made to: Fredericksburg ISD Education Foundation, PO Box 3446, Fredericksburg, TX, 78624

Youth & Family

- Upper Elementary Retreat for 3rd-5th Grade
  Dec. 9-11, 2022 at Ebert Ranch in Harper, TX
  $120/person

Jesus and his family had to travel to be counted for the census. Join us as we explore what it means to be counted in God's family! Learn about the hope that comes with being a child of God. Participate in small group Bible studies, worships, crafts, and other camp activities to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Register with Bethany, online at crosstrails.org

Children's Christmas Program:

The Fumbly, Bumbly Angels

Starring our Primary & Elementary age Youth

Date: Tuesday evening, Dec. 13th.
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Bethany Fellowship Hall

Change in date!!!

Afterwards, enjoy some cookies and hot chocolate!!

Texas Lutheran University Christmas Vespers 2022

We live in troubled times; a broken world that's crying for peace, harmony and hope. In our own backyard we are assaulted by the slaughter of innocents, deeply entrenched racism, divisions in our civic lives and a lingering pandemic. Christmas Vespers 2022 seeks to bring a sense of peace, harmony and hope to the listener. The service, "This Broken World Embrace," is taking its title from a commissioned work by composer William Averitt. Poet Robert Bode created a new text for the well-known Swedish hymn tune *Tryggare kan ingen vara* for this new arrangement by Averitt. It will receive its world premiere performance during Christmas Vespers.

Service Schedule

- Friday, December 2, at 7:30 pm in Jackson Auditorium
- Saturday, December 3, at 7:30 pm in Jackson Auditorium
- Sunday, December 4, at 4 pm in Jackson Auditorium
- Sunday, December 11, at 4 pm at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Austin

Tickets are available now at https://www.tlu.edu/events/christmas-vespers-this-broken-world-embrace

Olive Wood Carvings from the Holy Land

On December 18th, Bethlehem Christian Families will be offering olive wood carvings from the Holy Land for sale in the Narthex/Lobby. The sale of these items supports Christians in the Holy Land. The percentage of the Christian population of the Holy Land has dropped to less than 2%, and if you choose to purchase, you are supporting an ancient profession. You can find more information at

https://www.bcfmission.com/.

Bethlehem Christian Families first came to Bethany in 2019, and they will be making their first return since COVID.

A Few Words from our BPS Director:

Cheryl Flink

John 1:14
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

"It's the most wonderful time of the year" at Bethany Pre-school! During the month of December we have/will have many fun activities and events! Our preschool staff and children will:

- Ride a Bethany Preschool float in the Light the Night Parade
- Celebrate the Season with a Christmas program spot lighting all age groups
- Enjoy classroom Christmas fellowship
- Meet and take pictures with Cowboy Santa
- Experience a Winter Wonderland complete with stories, hot chocolate, crafts and other Christmas activities

I want to take a moment to say 'Thank You' to the numerous church and community members that have worked many hours preparing and organizing information for Bethany Lutheran's capital campaign. Your dedication to providing church members with updated information regarding the new preschool building is seen and appreciated!

The staff at Bethany Preschool would like to wish our families and Bethany members a very Merry Christmas! May the love of Christ be a light in your life this Christmas Season!

Youth Photo Gallery

Fun at the Middle School Gathering

Eli Christensen shows Mitchell Jones and Eliana Graham how to shoot slingshots at the Middle School Gathering at Camp Chrysalis.

Calendar

Calendar