

# Bethany Bells

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

[www.bethanyfbg.com](http://www.bethanyfbg.com)

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

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

December 2023

## Bright

By Pastor Casey

“Faded Love” by Bob Wills topped the music charts in 1950, but that song will still melt your heart, make for a good slow dance, and remind you not to let your love for your sweetheart ever fade.

The Christmas story begins with a *fading*—not of love but of memory. King David had always been remembered as the best king that ever was, but after exile and captivity in Babylon, and now after living under the tyranny of foreign powers including Rome, the memory of the golden age had faded in Israel. By the time of Jesus’ birth, David had been dead almost 1,000 years.

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke—the only gospels that speak of a “Christmas Story”—make a big deal about Jesus being a descendant of David, with Luke flat out saying that “God will give him the throne of his father David.” Which some will interpret as the best news ever and others as high treason against Caesar.

We cast our lot with those who, for over 20 centuries, have voted it “best news ever,” as Jesus rescued and still rescues the world from itself, like light shining in darkness, bright and undimmed. Every Christmas that has ever come has arrived in the midst of some darkness and trouble in the world and in life. But it always works the opposite of fading—with Christ arriving again, bright. That’s my wish for you this year: Christ, bright, in your life.

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



# December



U.S. Postage  
Non-Profit Organization  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
PERMIT 101



# The Christmas Journey

**Fri & Sat Dec 8-9**

**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 have a “walk-through” path!

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 3**

Please be fitted for your costumes on Sunday, December 3, in the preschool (basement below the sanctuary), from the hours of 9:00 a.m. through 12:30 p.m.

We’ll set up Christmas-Journey scenes on Sunday December 3. First 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. We’ll take down the sets immediately after the Journey ends.



# In Our Prayers

## Hospital/Clinic/ER/Tests:

Jeanette Beckmann	Ted Geistweidt	Bill Heath
Lyn Linka	Skotti Lombardi	Don Morris
Al Muirhead	Cliff Ottmers	Luther Rode
Elizabeth Parsons	Debbie Roberts	
Gerald Schmidt	Carl Schoessow	
Russell Wahl	James Wallendorf	

## Ongoing:

Rachel Clifton	Carol Eckhardt	Robert Gibbens
Audrey Gold	Lindy Haley	Nic Jones
Billy Leifeste	Billy Pehl	
Madeline Sagebiel		

## Our Sympathy to:

- The family of Bobby Klein who died October 26; memorial at Bethany was November 10.
- The family of Carlton Eckert who died November 11; memorial at Bethany was November 20.
- Wilfried & Rose Marie Mazanke at the death of Wilfried’s brother in Germany.
- The family of Larkin Wahl who died November 9; Funeral was at Bethany November 15.
- The family of Mary Jane Behrend Mumme Ruhland, who died November 4; funeral at Bethany Nov. 17.

## Congratulations to:

- Sean & Traci (nee Braden) Doerre upon the birth of son Braden Samuel; Bethany grandparents are Hal & Brenda Doerre.
- Scott and Alissa Itz upon the birth of son Augden Cole Itz; Bethany grandparents are Weldon & Jet Itz.

## Wedding Congratulations to:

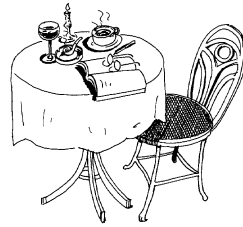
- Savannah Pearce & Jeremy Agness who were married November 11th.

## Coming in January!

Our annual

## Ladies Luncheon

Date: Saturday, Jan. 27th



Yes, the Fellowship Committee has changed the date to earlier in the year after many requests to do so. We realize that it is December but with the holidays in between, we wanted to plan ahead.

During the month of December, we will be signing up women who want to decorate a table. Please contact Karen Oestreich (830-889-0295) or Beth Luckenbach (830-456-3453) and let them know that you are interested in being a hostess. Everyone comes up with wonderful ideas, and it is always a treat to see the different decorations.

In January if you aren't a hostess or someone's guest, we will have signup sheets. There will be plenty of tables for guests. The menu is yummy and prepare to be entertained!

So put the date on your calendar. Remember, we only can have 22 tables so if you are looking forward to doing a table, please call.



## The Festival of Christmas – All Day!

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

Three Candlelight and Communion Services

Our Sunday Christmas Eve services will all have communion and a time of candle lighting. No breakfast bar or Sunday School. This Sunday is all about Christmas worship offered at 3 times:

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship in the sanctuary  
In-person and livestreamed

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

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

**No Services Monday, December 25**

**Sunday December 31 One Service**

*(No breakfast bar or Sunday School)*

10:30 a.m. One Worship Service in the sanctuary

**Celebration Sunday Dec. 10**





## Church-to-Church Walk Thursday December 14 @ 6pm

The annual “Church-to-Church” walk is December 14, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church. People of all ages will walk together to 4 downtown churches where music groups and pastors from several outlying congregations will lead a 10-15 minute time of music and devotion. After each stop, the crowd will walk together to the next church, taking in the lights and beauty of downtown Fredericksburg. At Bethany a high school band ensemble will play.

**The order for the 2023:** Zion Lutheran Church, Bethany Lutheran Church, Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, and St. Mary’s Catholic Church. The long-time annual event is sponsored by the Gillespie County Ministerial Association.

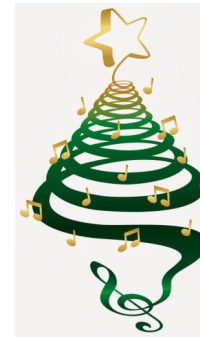
**Youth Christmas Program**

“Back to Bethlehem”  
**Date: Sunday, December 17th**  
**Time: 6:00 p.m.**  
**Place : Bethany Fellowship Hall**

*CYFM will serve cookies and hot chocolate afterwards.*

*please  
join us*

4



## Texas Lutheran University Christmas Vespers 2023 Seguin, TX

### “I Choose Love”

We are called to be the love and light of God to all we meet in this fractured and divided world. Christmas Vespers 2023 seeks to bring us together in a community of love, peace, and hope. The service is titled “I Choose Love,” taking its title from the anthem by composer Mark A. Miller

The program of music will include works of Baroque composers Dietrich Buxtehude and J.S. Bach through composers of our time, including works by Eric Whitacre, Rosephanye Powell, Susan LaBarr, and Bob Chilcott, among others. Receiving its world premiere is “I Saw a Star” by composer William Averitt on a text by Sara Teasdale and incorporating the hymn tune and text *Puer nobis*. This work was commissioned by the TLU Choir in honor of Nancy and Fred Carney for their unwavering support of the choral program at Texas Lutheran University.

Join us for a service that seeks to lift hearts and spirits with peace, harmony, and hope.

Performances at TLU (tickets are free, but required):

- **Friday, Dec, 1—7:30 pm—Jackson Auditorium**
- **Saturday, Dec. 2—7:30 pm—Jackson Auditorium**
- **Sunday, Dec. 3—4 pm—Jackson Auditorium**



**December  
Schedule**

- **Dec. 3—WELCA Joint Circle Christmas Luncheon (see below.)**  
There will be no individual circle meetings in December.
- **Dec. 5—WELCA board mtg—4:00** at Jet Itz’s home.
- **Dec. 8 - The quilters—9:00 am** -will meet in the quilting/choir room downstairs.

\*\*\*\*November WELCA offering went to Lutheran Disaster Response\*\*\*\*  
WELCA also gave a donation of \$1,000 to Building Bright Futures.



Bethany WELCA will be starting a new circle in **January!!!**

This circle will be the **Ruth Circle**

and will meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 9:00 am in member’s homes.

Anyone interested in joining this group is asked to call Constance Schultz (830-990-9893)



**WELCA Joint Circles  
Christmas Luncheon**



**Date: Sunday, Dec. 3rd  
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 and we will draw for new ones for 2024
- Election & installation of new officers
- Singing Christmas Carols
- We will announce our new Bold Woman recipient that day!



**Angel Tree News!!!**

Bethany is once again sponsoring Needs Council families who need a helping hand this Christmas. Cards for children’s gifts, household supplies, HEB and Wal-Mart gift cards are hung on both trees in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall . Deadline to return items is **December 10th.** Please attach the card to the gift. If you purchase an HEB or Wal-Mart giftcard, leave it in the church office with Layne. Gifts can be left in the overflow area of the Sanctuary.

Gifts and household items can also be purchased on Amazon.com <https://www.amazon.com/registries/g/guest-view/1EZZ5YKTXMTV> Or you can search “Bethany FBG” in the Holiday gift registry

Thank you so much for your help with this community outreach during the Christmas Season!!



## More Than One Way to Give

Cash or checks payable to: Bethany Lutheran Church with a Memo: Building Bright Futures

### TAX ADVANTAGED WAYS TO GIVE:

**Gifts from an IRA**—If you are over 70 1/2 you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) up to \$100,000 from an IRA to Bethany Lutheran Church—Building Bright Futures and avoid paying income taxes on the distribution to Bethany. If you are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), all or part can be donated, up to \$100,000, to Bethany Lutheran Church—Building Bright Futures and avoid paying income taxes on the distribution to Bethany.

**Gifts of Appreciated Investments**—You can donate by direct transfer of appreciated assets (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, etc) to Bethany Lutheran Church—Building Bright Futures. Then you avoid paying taxes on any capital gains on the assets that were directly transferred.

**Gifts of Agricultural Commodities** - If you are a self-employed producer of agriculture, you can directly transfer legal ownership of a commodity (grain or livestock) to Bethany Lutheran Church—Building Bright Futures BEFORE it is sold. This lowers taxable income from a sale, thus reducing income taxes and you can still claim all the production costs as deductible expenses.

**Life Insurance**— If you have a life insurance policy that you no longer need, it can be donated to Bethany Lutheran Church—Building Bright Futures. If you have more insurance coverage than you or your heirs need, you can add Bethany Lutheran Church—Building Bright Futures as a beneficiary of a portion of the policy.

(Continued on page 7.)



## Youth & Family

- **December 3rd**—Angel Tree Shopping with lunch & laser tag @ Blazer Tag in Austin. Middle school and high school will meet at Bethany at 11:45, after church, and then head to South Austin to have lunch together, play some laser tag at Blazer Tag, and shop for Angel Tree gifts!
- Children’s Christmas Program “Back to Bethlehem” Sunday evening, **Dec. 17th** 6:00 p.m. (See p. 4 for more information.)



“Every little bit counts” has never been more true! Youth and families raised \$716.49 so far for the Building Bright Futures Campaign! Our kids are such a blessing! We got it counted on 11/21—but if you’ve forgotten your mug at home, you can still bring it!!!

## December 2023 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

DATE	TIME	USHERS
Sun. Dec. 3	8:15 10:30	Todd Keener - captain, Wesley Keener, Scott & Judy Brundridge <hr/> Kenneth Treibs- captain Jaye Treibs, Jennifer Jenschke, Jaycee/Bailey Treibs
Sun. Dec. 10	8:15 10:30	Bubba Schnelle- captain, Pam Schnelle, David & Sharon Browne <hr/> Oliver Deike- captain Mary Alice Deike, Beth & Don Weeks
Sun. Dec. 17	8:15 10:30	Vonnie Maner- captain, Zander Maner, Wilma McAndrew, Joyce Robertson <hr/> Donnie Schuch- captain Becky Dittmar, Judy Dittmar, Tom Roarick
Sun. Dec. 24	10:30 5:00 pm	Willard Dearing - captain, Bruce Woerner, Max & Bonnie Beckmann <hr/> Dwight Oestreich- captain Gary Stehling, Randy & Lois Bush
Sun. Dec. 31	8:15 10:30	Brad Holland - captain Autumn, Avery & Dawson Holland <hr/> Leland Geistweidt- captain Lyle Johansen, Sandra Kammlah, Tom Pahl



### Annual Christmas Day Community Dinner

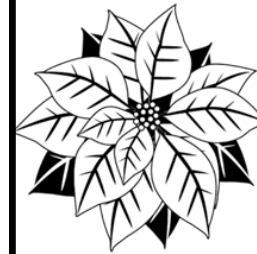
Bethany will be assisting Holy Ghost Church with their annual Christmas Day Community dinner. Helpers are needed to drive dinner to those who can't get out, serve meals to those dining in their fellowship hall, and clean up afterwards. You will be able to share a wonderful meal for all your efforts, and feel some of the joy of the Lord's birth with others from the community. If you are able to spend all or some of the time between 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. with this, please call or text David Ewing at 830-456-0452.

Thank you and Merry December!

(Continued from page 6.)

**Last Will & Testament**—Please consider listing Bethany Lutheran Church—Building Bright Futures as a beneficiary in your Will. Even a small percentage can go a long way. (This is not tax advantaged, just a bequest.)

Tax Advice: Bethany Lutheran Church is not giving any tax or financial advice, but merely suggestions on how you can make a difference in Building Bright Futures. Prior to doing any of the forgoing, please consult your tax advisor and financial advisor to make sure that things are done correctly from a tax point of view and there are no adverse consequences for you.



### 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 11th**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

# of poinsettias @ \$10 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.**



## Building Bright Futures

On Sunday, December 10, we will announce the total amount pledged or given to the “Building Bright Futures” campaign for a new Bethany Pre-school building as of December 9. And we’ll celebrate God’s good guiding and generosity, as well as the generosity of all who have given or pledged financial and/or prayer support. We want to praise God from whom all blessings flow! Our campaign goals have been:

- Base goal: \$ 2.1 million
- Main goal: \$ 2.75 million**
- Challenge goal: \$ 3.25 million



### 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

## December 2023 PRAISE & WORSHIP (10:30)

	Leader	HOSTS	Communion Assistants
	Kid's Message		Prayer Minister
Sun. Dec. 3	<u>Cheryl Flink</u> Cheryl Flink	Ken Smith, Weldon & Winnie Griffin	<u>No Communion</u> Cheryl Flink
Sun. Dec. 10	<u>Ken Smith</u> Ken Smith	Jackie Kneese Larry Ahrens	<u>Jaye Treibs (2) Erik &amp; Beth Iverson</u> Ken Smith
Sun. Dec. 17	<u>Beth Luckenbach</u> Beth Luckenbach	Melissa Holland (2)	<u>No Communion</u> Beth Luckenbach
Sun. Dec. 24 7:30 pm	<u>Erik Iverson</u> Beth Iverson	Ken Smith (2) Danielle Geistweidt (2)	<u>Jaye Treibs (2) Erik &amp; Beth Iverson</u> Erik Iverson
Sun. Dec. 31	<u>Erik Iverson</u> Beth Iverson	Elizabeth White Beth Iverson	<u>Ralph &amp; Karen Rode Vic &amp; Marion Nixon</u> Erik Iverson



## Car Clinic Day Coming Soon

Date: Saturday, Dec. 2  
Time: 9-11 a.m.

We will be hosting a free Car Day clinic, Saturday, December 2, from 9-11 a.m. in the Bethany parking lot. Please stop by for fluid, belt, tire and battery checks and some TLC for your auto. And recommend us to anyone who could use this service. See ya there!





## December 2023 Assisted Living

Location	Day	Time	Location	Day	Time
Knopp Assisted	Wed.12/6	9:30	Villages of Windcrest	Wed. 12/13	9:45
Knopp #2	Wed. 12/6	10:30	FBG NH	Wed. 12/13	10:45
Heritage Place	Thur.12/7	9:30	Knopp RC	Thur. 12/14	9:30
Windcrest	Thur. 12/7	10:30	Knopp #1	Thur. 12/14	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  
 \*Al Muirhead & Nancy O'Neal

#### FBG NURSING HOME

#### KNOPP HEALTHCARE & REHAB CTR (#1)

\*Brandi Welgehausen \*Clinton Deike \*Linda Warriner  
 \* Claudia Kemper \*Audrey Gold

#### KNOPP RETIREMENT

\*Clarence Rose \* Jeanette Beckmann

#### KNOPP (#2)

#### KNOPP Assisted Living Care Center

\*Annabel Stein

#### WINDCREST NURSING & REHAB

#### HERITAGE

\* Roberta Young \* Frankie Law

#### Juniper Apartments, Kerrville

\*Betty Deans Koetting

#### Alamo Ranch, San Antonio

\*Audelle Burkey



Added to All Saints Remembrance  
 After we went to press for the November  
 Bells, two names were added to our All  
 Saints Remembrance on November 5:

Betty Grinke  
 Bobby Klein

## Suicide Memorial

An annual Suicide Memorial will be held on Monday, December 4, at 6:30-7:30 pm at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church for families or friends who have suffered the loss of a loved one to suicide.



*Thank You*

*I would like to thank those who helped with the Building Bright Futures Banquet. You helped make it a big success! A very special thank you to everyone who helped clean up after it was over. It was an amazing effort by lots of people! I am blessed to be part of this wonderful congregation.*

*Thanks again,  
 Beth Luckenbach*



We collected 104 Shoeboxes for  
 Operation Christmas Child!

Thank you to all who helped



## Sunday School & Adult Education Classes 2023/2024

Who goes.....

- 2-5 year olds
- Kinder & 1st Grade
- 2nd & 3rd Grade
- 4th & 5th Grade
- Middle School
- High School
- Young Adults/Legacy Builder's
- Transitions Class
- Adult Bible Class

Where

- Room #100
- Room #103
- Room #101
- Room #105
- Room #113
- Room #112
- Room #115
- Trinity Room
- Sanctuary

*Breakfast Bar Is Open!!!*

**9:00-9:30 am- Downstairs Kitchen**



**Breakfast Bar Teams for December**

**Dec. 3 (Team 7)**— Cheryl & Danny Flink: Alicia Elrod, Brit-tany Durst, Danielle Geistweidt, Carolyn Garza, Ginny Steh-ling, Karlene Ottmers, Mary Carleton

**Dec. 10 (Team 8)** - Karen Oestreich: Eileen Whited, Debbie Tiemann, Ann Hostetter, Denise Stehling, Jackie Kneese, Cristol Schoessow, Annabel Wilkinson, Carolyn Carson

**Dec. 17 (Team 9)** - Shane & Michele Willis: Will Stehling, Jody & Sheila Donovan, Greta Hartmann, Caroline Staf-ford, Dorothy Klier, Sharon Wendt

**Please note:**

No breakfast bar or Sunday School on December 24th or December 31st.



### December 2023 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP COMMUNION

Date	Time	Communion Assistants
Sun. Dec. 3	8:15	David & Sharon Browne
	10:30	Joe & Marilyn Butcher Becky Dittmar
Sun. Dec. 10	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion
Sun. Dec. 17	8:15	Jonathan Baethge, May Eilers
	10:30	Leland Geistweidt, Cindy Wheeler, Dorothy Klier
Sun. Dec. 24	10:30	Rose Marie Mazanke, Wilma McAndrew, Walter & Marilyn Probst, Mike & Sue Sagebiel
	5:00 pm	Ed & Judy Kramer, Joyce Richey, Ray & Debbie Tiemann, Jody Donovan
Sun. Dec. 31	8:15	Todd & Wes Keener
	10:30	Shelba Fenimore, Kathy Meybaum, Pat McCready

### **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<br>Allie Marshall<br>Kathy Meybaum   | 11—Teagan Collier<br>M.J. Dittmar<br>Holly Meier<br>Marian Nixon<br>Kamryn Evans                              | 22—Eliana Graham<br>Judy Morgan  |
| 2 - Beth Iverson<br>Tammy Keener<br>Ernie Loeffler<br>Violet Ottmers<br>Billy Pehl                                   | 12—Jeanne Dietrich<br>Jack Feller<br>Kora Young   | 23—Derek Deike<br>Luke Meybaum   |
| 3—Dylan Sands<br>Nova York<br>Cora York  | 13—Karen Grobe<br>Brad Holland<br>Shelby Pitts  | 25—Michaela Marquart   |
| 4—Pastor Elliott Pancoast  | 14—Lance Langehennig<br>Michael Yosko   | 26—Patsy Johansen<br>Corey Ottmers<br>Steven Stech   |
| 5—Sherrie Mauer<br>Shirley Land<br>Zephyr Stone<br>Camden Robison<br>Cash Robison<br>Jeff Stephens<br>Angie Stephens | 15—Kara Anderson<br>Tuttie Geistweidt<br>Robert Harris, Jr.<br>Judy Jones<br>Betty Koetting<br>Zane Oestreich | 27—Jill Cole<br>Wendy Collier<br>Hailey Welgehausen<br>Anneliese White   |
| 6—Erich Cleaton<br>Sandra Fisk   | 16—Journie Lombardi<br>Holly Rabke  | 28—Dawna Haug<br>Kadyn Itz<br>Jacob Jenschke<br>Eileen Whited  |
| 7—Jarrod Stokes  | 17—Bonnie Beckmann  | 29—Berry Benedict<br>Lois Bush<br>Ron Colburn<br>Kami Coolidge<br>Brittany Seaman<br>Lauren Smith<br>Zachary Zesch |
| 8—Andrew Stehling  | 18—Tommy Bryson<br>Germaine Hayes<br>Jayme Smith  | 30—Sue Lindelien<br>Mark Marquart<br>Cade Pittman<br>Kelly Urbanec   |
| 9—Eric Franz<br>Josephine Starr  | 20—Weldon Griffin<br>Brady Ottmers<br>Stacey York<br>Wes Reagen   | 31—Wade Geistweidt   |
| 10—Megan Geistweidt<br>Billy Harris<br>Barb Rathke   |   |  |

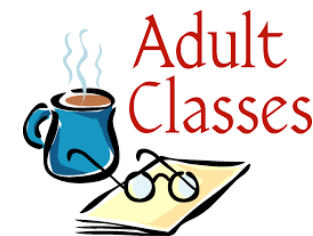


*Dear Bethany Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your kind and generous donation to Heart of the Hills Mom Center! Your contribution will touch many lives.*

*Sincerely,  
Nicole Davis 26  
Chief Executive Officer*



## December Adult Sunday Schedule 9:20 a.m.



### Adult Bible Class-

The Adult Bible Class meets in the overflow area at the back of the sanctuary with the pastors. They will be studying our Bethany mission statement: “Being, Living as, and Making Disciples of Jesus”. People of all ages are welcome. Please come and join us!



### Transitions Class-

The Transitions Class will be using a video series by Max Lucado, entitled, “Max on Life.” It will address faith questions about family, finances, forgiveness, illness, death, and much more. The class meets in room 205 (the Trinity Room) at 9:20 am. Please join us then for lively discussions on various topics related to life and faith.

### Legacy Builders-

For December the Legacy Builders Class will be studying Tim Keller’s Book, “Hidden Christmas” with discussion. This class meets downstairs in room 115. Please join us for scripture, encouragement, insight, and great fellowship!



## **Bethany Foundation Grant Recipients**

Your BLF Board wants to give a big “Thank You!” to all who support the important local ministry of the Bethany Lutheran Foundation. Your thoughtful financial gifts - through memorials, the July special offering, estate planning designation, and end-of-year gift giving - help support our church, the preschool and a number of local non-profit organizations that provide vital services to so many children and adults in our own community. We ask for your continued support of our Foundation and its ongoing mission of “Advancing and Supporting the Discipleship of Jesus Christ”. Thank you Bethany!

This year’s Bethany Lutheran Foundation Grant Recipients:

- Hill Country Community Needs Council—\$2,000
- Bethany WELCA - \$1,000
- Boys and Girls Club of the Texas Hill Country—\$1,000
- The Grace Center—\$2,000
- Fbg. Community Health Center (The Good Samaritan Center) - \$2,100
- Living Well Learning Center – \$800
- Heart of the Hills Resources (MOM Center) - \$1,000
- Honor Veterans Now— \$800
- Special Olympics of Texas—\$500
- Cross Trails Ministry - \$2,500
- Fisd Education Foundation—\$500
- Vereins Quilt Guild— \$400
- Der Stadtische Friedhof—\$500
- Gillespie County Commission on Aging (The Golden Hub) - \$1,000
- Bandera Foster Closet—\$1,000
- Texas Ramp Project - \$400
- Bethany Lutheran Church - \$8,750
- Bethany Preschool \$8,750

## **Brother Steward**

### **Waiting for Jesus!**

Even centuries ago, we Brothers looked forward to Advent with great anticipation and joy. As it is today, we prepared for the birth of Jesus. We rehearsed the hymns for Gaudete Sunday. We made our breads, and spirits with added joy. And carved wooden toys for children and brought food to the needy. And we waited for the splendor and spiritual meaning of Christmas.

Today at church we prepare and wait in the same way. However, some of our less fortunate are waiting also; but for other things: waiting for a call to go to work, waiting for relief from utility bills and rent payments, waiting for a call from a far-away loved one, waiting in quiet desperation.

We can heal the wait by helping our ministries with our time, talent and treasure. Then we can all participate in the Joy of Christmas.

God Bless!





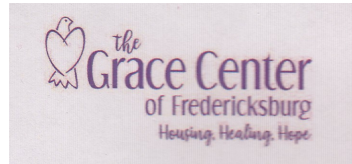
# Council Highlights

November 14, 2023



- The council took a “first look” at the 2024 budget.
- The council engaged in a lively discussion on the topic of assisting other local Lutheran churches who struggle with finding a pastor.
- There was initial discussion regarding where to place the Preschool funds as they are received.

Dear Bethany Lutheran Church,



Thank you for your gift of \$2,640.00 received on 10/24/2023

in support of our vision to provide services that break the cycle of violence, giving individuals hope and healing.

As supporters of The Grace Center, you are part of giving vulnerable individuals a place for housing, healing and hope. Every dollar of your gift supports victims of domestic violence and their children as they move toward a life free from violence and a path to self-sufficiency

Your gift is much appreciated, and we could not accomplish our goals without the help of supporters like you.

Sincerely,  
Hattie L. Allen, MPA  
Executive Director



## Der Stadt Friedhof (City Cemetery) Board Vacancy

*“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” 1 Peter 4:10*

Are you interested in serving on the Board of Der Stadt Friedhof (City Cemetery)? We are looking for a new member to join us in the calling to restore, preserve and maintain this historic and still active final resting place of our ancestors and loved ones. You will need to be a member of Bethany Lutheran Church, able to commit 10-30 hours a month and attend regular board meetings. If you are interested in learning more about what the position would entail, please contact

Susan Stroehler, 830-456-3143  
or [derstadtfriedhof@gmail.com](mailto:derstadtfriedhof@gmail.com)  
for more information.

Thank you!



**GOLDEN HUB  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER**

Dear Bethany Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the staff and board of directors of Golden Hub Community Center, thank you for your continued, generous support of this organization.

Sincerely,  
Melanie Nagel  
Office Manager/Bookkeeper

## Bethany To Be Well Represented in the Christmas Parade



The Christmas Journey Float in the Comfort Christmas Parade



The Light the Night Christmas Parade, presented by H-E-B., will roll down Main Street in Fredericksburg this Friday, December 1, starting at 6:30 p.m. The parade route is between the intersections of Washington and Bowie.

Both the Bethany Christmas Journey team and the Bethany Lutheran Preschool will have floats in the Fredericksburg parade this year. This year's parade has the largest number of entries ever according to the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the parade.

Before and after the parade, food booths will be open at Marktplatz.

The Christmas Journey float (The Wise Men) was in the Comfort Christmas Parade on Saturday evening, November 25, and won two awards – “Best Christmas Spirit Award” and the “Sweepstakes Award.” Congratulations to everyone who participated in designing the float and riding in the parade in Comfort!

Join thousands of locals and visitors on Main Street this Friday, December 1, to view the Fredericksburg Light the Night Christmas Parade which has become a cherished holiday tradition for many. And be sure to “clap wildly” as our Bethany floats go by says Pastor Casey Zesch!

(BPS “Ring My Bells” continued from page 22.)

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year” at Bethany Preschool! 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 Santa
- Experience a Winter Wonderland complete with stories, hot chocolate, crafts and other Christmas activities

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!



**2023 Committee Report  
Due December 18.  
For the Annual Report**

### It’s Budget Time!

Committees have turned in their requests for the 2024 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 28th Annual Congregational Meeting



# Ring My Bells!!



**A Few Words from Our  
BPS Director**  
By Cheryl Flink

2 John 1:14

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.

A huge THANK YOU to our amazing Thanksgiving Luncheon Crew! It is incredibly heartwarming to see the many church members who volunteer their time to serve our Bethany Preschool Families and provide such a memorable Thanksgiving experience! So many parents told us how wonderful the day was for their families! Thank you!!



Thank you also to all who have supported Bethany Preschool during these fast and furious months of the Capital Campaign! “ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many” (1Corinthians 12:12-14). The church is called **the body of Christ** because Christ is the head of the church and we are called to do the work of Christ, each like members of a body.” This is true of the Church and true of the Preschool. Christ is at the center of our school, and we have many parts of the body we rely on: Our incredible staff, our wonderful families, our Pastors, Board members, and church members who have dedicated their time to making this new building happen! We are so looking forward to a new building and great things!!

(BPS “Ring My Bells” continued on page 23.)



*Special thanks goes to Margie Ottmers  
for setting up the beautiful  
Thanksgiving Altar display.*



## **December 2023 Altar Guild**

### **Traditional:**

Karen Oestreich, Chrissy Stuewe,  
Marjorie Ottmers, Jaye Treibs

### **Contemporary:**

Karen Rode & Linda Pape



## GriefShare – from Mourning To Joy

For the third year Bethany Lutheran Church is hosting a free grief support workshop for the community called GriefShare. Classes will begin on Thursday, January 18, and will be held twice each Thursday to accommodate varying schedules: 10:00 a.m. - noon and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Pastor Ray Tiemann, Visitation Pastor at Bethany, and a team of trained lay leaders will facilitate the 14 sessions that are part of this program, which end on April 18. Participants can register or get more information by calling (830-997-2069) or emailing (churchofficeblc@gmail.com) the church office. Or, come to the first class on January 18 and see if this is right for you.

During the two-hour session each week, the class will watch a short video and engage in group conversation. Each participant receives a personal workbook to help them continue their thinking and praying between sessions. Part of the group covenant assures complete confidentiality in the conversations. Pastor Tiemann said, "This class is designed to provide grieving persons with sustained support and helps them turn mourning into joy." Persons can join the class at any time and participants can come to either session. Also, the videos are available online if someone should miss a week.

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.

Peace,  
Ray Tiemann, Visitation Pastor  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
Fredericksburg, TX

## BLC Dollars & Cents

	Oct 2023	Year to Date
Gen Fund Income	\$76,345.07	\$638,672.91
Gen Fund Expenses	\$67,326.44	\$638,202.75
Surplus:	\$9,018.63	\$470.16

\*\*\*\*\*

### Balances Other Funds

**Designated Accounts:** \$176,122.52

**Capital Improvement/Hennig Fund (SSBT):** \$49,187.39

**Capital Improvement/Hennig CD (Guadalupe):** \$80,000

**Pre School Building Fund:**

SSBT acct: \$34,676.44

TX Hill Country CD: \$200,000

**Emergency Aid Fund (Chase):** \$4,960.25

**Contingency (Guadalupe)–Money Market Account Balance**  
\$106,800.96

**ELCA Mission Fund (Investment Account)** \$35,000.00

**Broadway Bank (CD-Hein Estate Gift)** \$167,361.99

**Edward Jones (Dr. Stein Estate Gift)** \$270,557.09

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 - \$2,710**

**July – Bethany Foundation - \$4975**

**August – FISSD Education Foundation - \$2765**

**September – Grace Center, Fbg - \$2640**

**October – New Horizons/Living Well/Advantage Care -\$2665**



# Special Needs Halloween Dance

Hosted by the Bethany Social Concerns Committee

October 27, 2023

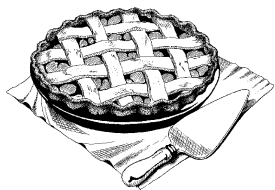


Everyone had a great time! Thanks to those who helped put this event on!!!



Now THAT'S really scary!

The families enjoyed fellowship by parading their costumes, dancing, and eating some yummy Mr. Gattis pizza!



Thank you to all the generous members who purchased pies or a church pew during the Youth Auction. \$8,650 was raised for future youth camps, trips & events.

## Lifeboat Log : December 2023



From time to time, people will drive by Lifeboat little food pantry and see that it is low or empty. Depending on when it is stocked that day, it may appear to be unattended. We want to assure you that Lifeboat is being stocked daily, but is obviously well used. Please feel free to add a little bit of nonperishable food if you would like. Thank you and God! Bless you for your interest!

Roberta Young and her "Willing Helpers" are doing wonderful volunteer work at Heritage Place. Every week, this group of residents gather for fellowship and completing table tasks for interested non-profits. It's a way to keep the mind and spirit agile, feel useful to others, and have a fun time regularly. Pictured are decorative bags they created which will hold essential items to welcome new residents of the Grace Center. If they can be of service to a group you are connected with, send the job their way.



(For more info. on the next Car Day Clinic, see p. 29.)

Next BOAT meeting

January 18, 2024

5:45 p.m.

(No meeting in December.)

Calendar

Calendar