

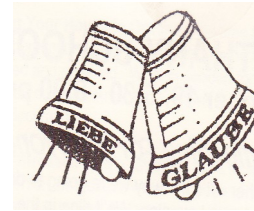
Bethany Lutheran Church
110 W. Austin St.
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
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April



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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"

April 2025

A Moment No One Saw

By Pastor Casey

Easter begins in grief. It is, after all, to a tomb that the women come early on the first day of the week. They had all witnessed his gruesome death on Good Friday, crucified on the hill between two criminals. There was such a hurry to get him buried before the Sabbath began, so now that Sabbath had passed, they came to the tomb with spices, still reeling from the fact that the one they thought they could never live without was now dead and gone.

But something happened inside that tomb in the wee hours of the third day, something no human witnessed: Jesus came alive. Sure, they would all meet him alive and well again after the resurrection. But no one actually witnessed that miraculous instant inside that tomb when life came again to his lifeless corpse, and he rose up. That moment was just between Jesus and his Heavenly Father.

I have several times seen life go out of a person as I stood beside their death-bed...a last breath, then no more. Like a candle snuffed out. But imagine life coming back into a person. I wonder if it's like the big bang of creation when God said "Let there be light." That would blow the stone door off the tomb! And Jesus would shine for a moment with incredible light, from the inside out. Which would let him know again what he's really made of. Light and life.





Easter Worship April 20th

Sunrise Service with Breakfast

Many members and visitors will be worshipping at Bethany on Sunday, April 20. Here are things good to know:

- SUNRISE SERVICE begins briefly outside in the front courtyard (weather permitting) followed by a procession indoors. Music includes the Bell Choir.
- BREAKFAST FOR “SUNRISERS” who attend 7am worship follows in the Fellowship Hall at 8:15 until 9:00.
- There will be regular BREAKFAST BAR and SUNDAY SCHOOL.
- TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 10:30 will feature a brass ensemble of youth directed by Bobby Wendt and our Chancel Choir.
- PRAISE & WORSHIP is lead by our praise team Agape Road.
- There are 3 Easter worship times—7:00 sunrise, 10:30 traditional, 10:30 P&W.



Passover Seder Meal April 9

Led by Jews for Jesus

At both 12:05 & 6:00 p.m. services in the fellowship hall.

More info on p. 5 of this edition of the Bells.

Holy Week Breakfasts

At Holy Ghost, Zion & Bethany 7:00 a.m.

Holy Week breakfasts, with devotions by the pastors, are a great way to begin what is known as “The Great Week.”

Monday, April 14: At Holy Ghost

Tuesday, April 15: At Zion

Wednesday, April 16: At Bethany



In Our Prayers

Hospital/Clinic/ER/Tests:

Stanley Crenwelge
Barbara Maner
Madeline Sagebiel

Kelly Dooley
Walter Probst

Kermit Gold

Ongoing:

Florine Bruns
Audrey Gold
Kelly Urbanec

Donald Eckhardt
Nic Jones
Stacey York

Eldon Ray Feller
Jackie Kneese
Korey Zenner

Baptism:

- Grayson Wayne Saul was baptized March 30. He is the son of Colton & Miranda (Magee) Saul. Bethany grandparents are Chris & Laura Magee.



Please bring cut flowers for
Easter!!

(No Bluebonnets, though!)



April Birthdays



1 — Audrey Gold
 2- Jake Duderstadt
 Wilfried Mazanke
 3—Debbie Braden
 Brad Flink
 Tom Roarick
 Marc Williamson
 Lily Straube
 4—Brad Evans
 Walter Probst, Jr.
 7—Jordan Hohmann
 Marian Klein
 8—Brandon Willis
 Kevin Haug, Jr.
 9— Brooks Deike
 Alayna Pape
 Chrissy Stuewe
 David Wehmeyer
 10—Carli Cole Jeffrey
 Myron Deike
 Beverly Johnson
 Emily Myers Krieger
 Brandon Struss
 Collins Ward
 Ben Warriner

11— Abbey Geistweidt
 Thomas Flink
 Bev Pankratz
 Denise Stehling
 12 —Danny Flink
 Johlt Haggerty
 Sarah Neans
 Rory Pape
 13—Blake Edeen
 Tina Stowe
 Linda Warriner
 15- Aaron Cantwell
 16—Cody Reeves
 17—Katie Jinright
 Ashley Slaughter
 18—Jacob Coolidge
 Camryn Greene
 Colleen Ketron
 Hyleigh Ottmers
 Mike Stolpe
 19—Susie Bryson
 Jennifer Dulaney
 Cohl Hartmann
 Ashlynn Roarick

20— Leslie Durst
 Millie Flink
 Adam Geistweidt
 21—Renee Pearson
 22—Ezra Graham
 Matthew Grobe
 Jacob White
 23—Travis Ahrens
 Jennifer Cantwell
 Ralph Rode
 24—Heather Rode Atkins
 Daivey Edeen
 25—Merrily Hartmann
 Korey Zenner
 27—Kaylee Haug
 Matthew Mechler
 Cody Pape
 28—Al Andrichyn
 29—Joyce Robertson
 30—Judy Brundridge
 Maurice Hohmann
 Kailey Schnelle
 Rhyse Deike



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.



Holy Week and Easter

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Noon & 7:00 p.m. Holy Communion
 Live stream & First Communion at 7 pm.

GOOD FRIDAY

Noon & 7:00 p.m. (also live stream at 7 pm.)
 Prayer Vigil 7 am—10 pm (sanctuary)

SATURDAY

10:00 Easter Egg Hunt

EASTER SUNDAY

Regular Sunday Morning times

7:00 Sunrise Service—begin in front courtyard
 8:15 Breakfast for sunrise attendees: Fellowship Hall
 9:00 Breakfast Bar for Sunday School
 9:20 Sunday School & Adult Classes
 10:30 Praise & Worship
 10:30 Traditional Worship



A Lenten Series: “Come to the Table— Again”

Wednesdays at Tables in Lent:

On Wednesdays our worship and meal time will be joined together with the theme, “Come to the Table Again.”

We’ll meet in the fellowship hall for an opening prayer & song; we’ll then get some food, eat at tables; and we’ll hear a message from the pastors about a specific meal in the Bible. Times are 12:05 p.m. (noon) and 6:00 p.m.

April 2: “Forgiveness: Mary Anoints Jesus” (John 12)

April 9: “Passover: An Interactive Experience” Jews for Jesus
(See p. 5 for more information.)

Maundy Thursday worship in the sanctuary:

April 17: “The Lord’s Supper”

—————→ **Lenten Meal Sign-up:** If you can help provide food on Wednesdays, please sign up in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall foyer. Thank you!

Good Friday: “Were You There?”

Our Good Friday services will take us to the foot of the cross as we hear from several eyewitnesses “who were there.” We will hear from Simon of Cyrene, who carried Jesus’ cross; a chief priest, who mocked Jesus; Mary, the mother of Jesus; the centurion, who proclaimed that this truly was God’s Son, and we will also hear from God who witnessed the whole ordeal.

Special music will be provided by Kevin Haug, Jr. who will have multiple French Horn solos, and by Carin Treibs who will sing. After worship, it is hoped that everyone will be able to say, “I was there,” just like those early eyewitnesses.



First Bibles to be Presented on Palm Sunday!

First Bibles will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 13, to our 2 year olds and 3rd graders. The 3rd grade Bibles will be displayed outside the Fellowship Hall, starting March 30, for people to hi-light and share their favorite verses with the kids. This is a way to celebrate God’s story with each other and for the kids to know that they are a part of something much bigger than themselves.

3rd Graders (& some who have not received a Bible.)

Aaliyah Anguiano
Rhett Barnhard
Jocelyn Castruita
Rhyse Deike
Ryker Padgett
Charlee Reeves
Makenzie Rivas
Lace Schulz
Lilly Tronstad
Nora Tronstad
Naydean Usener
Easton Vela
Kylie Vela

If you do not see your child on this list, please contact the church office! Sometimes our records are not complete.

2 year olds

Lux Aleman
Cai Avilez
Brooks Deike
Elliott Gonzales
Brooks Mund
Loretta Perry
Truitt Peters
Cora Turbeville
Charlie Neal



April 2025 Assisted Living

Location	Day	Time	Location	Day	Time
Knopp Assisted	Wed. 4/2	9:30	Villages of Windcrest	Wed. 4/9	9:45
Knopp #2	Wed. 4/2	10:30	FBG NH	Wed. 4/9	10:45
Heritage Place	Thurs. 4/3	9:30	Knopp RC	Thur. 4/10	9:30
Enchanted Rock	Thurs. 4/3	10:30	Knopp #1	Thur. 4/10	10:30

Bethany: January/March/July/October,
Holy Ghost: April/June/September/December
Zion: February/May/August/November

ARBOR HOUSE

*Jean Lois Mohr

VILLAGES OF WINDCREST

*Marion Welgehausen *Gloria Brooks
*Danny McQuay

FBG NURSING HOME

KNOPP HEALTHCARE & REHAB CTR (#1)

*Brandi Welgehausen *Linda Warriner *Jeanette Beckmann
*Corine Schulz

KNOPP RETIREMENT

*Clarence Rose *Patricia "Trish" Schmidt *Donald Eckhardt

KNOPP (#2)

*JoAn Wright

KNOPP Assisted Living Care Center

*Annabel Stein

ENCHANTED ROCK NURSING & REHAB

HERITAGE

*Roberta Young *Elizabeth Parsons

ALAMO RANCH, San Antonio

*Audelle Burkey

Passover Seder Meal April 9

Sam Rood of Jews for Jesus will lead us in a Seder Meal on Wednesday, April 9, at both the 12:05 and 6:00 p.m. services. This year, instead of simply showing the various symbolic foods, everyone attending will have a place setting at our tables in the fellowship hall, with all symbols at each place.

Which means we need an RSVP no later than April 2. We'll send out a Google RSVP form, or you can sign up after Sunday or Wednesday worship. Or call the office.

During this interactive meal in which we all participate, we will have a time for our Wednesday meal—soup & bread at 12:05 and chicken spaghetti at 6:00 p.m. A special offering will be taken for the ministry of Jews for Jesus.



Good Friday Prayer Vigil

Bethany will be hosting a Good Friday Prayer Vigil on April 18th starting at 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. The vigil will pause at noon and 7:00 p.m. for worship services.

Prayer stations will be set up in the Bethany sanctuary. The hosts will greet participants in the narthex during the vigil and provide prayer request cards with topics for you to pray silently about during your one-hour commitment.

Sign-up sheets to participate in the prayer vigil are available in the lobby of the fellowship hall and in the narthex of the sanctuary. If you have any questions please contact Carl Schoessow at 830-992-0218



Heritage Sunday April 27th

Come Celebrate Bethany's 138th Birthday

Bethany Lutheran Church will be celebrating it's Heritage and 138th Birthday on Sunday, April 27th at all three worship services.

Noon lunch will feature turkey and dressing along with mashed potatoes. Members are asked to bring sides and/or desserts. Donations for the meal are always appreciated!



Confirmation Class of 1975

On Heritage Sunday, April 27th, we will honor the 50-year Bethany confirmands who affirmed their baptism in the rite of confirmation in 1975. To the best of our knowledge, that class included:



Michael Brundridge
Henry Dietz
Dwight Dittmar
Joann Frisch Leifeste
Kim Grinke Jung
Jeanne Goff Maenius
Kenneth Hoffman
Terri Keyser Mund
Sammy Klaerner
John McClusky
Kim Meier Durst
Nancy Meier Weber
Martha Pape—Deceased

April 2025 Sunday PRAISE & WORSHIP (10:30)

	Leader Kid's Message	HOSTS	Communion Assistants Prayer Minister
Sun. Apr. 6	Beth Luckenbach Beth Luckenbach	Elizabeth Warriner (2)	No Communion Beth Luckenbach
Sun. Apr. 13	Cheryl Flink Cheryl Flink	Elizabeth White (2)	Kenneth & Jaye Treibs Merrily Hartmann (2) Cheryl Flink
Sun. Apr. 20	Mary Evans Mary Evans	Sem & Danielle Geistweidt	Merrily Hartmann (2) Erik & Beth Iverson (2) Mary Evans
Sun. Apr. 27	Erik & Beth Iverson Erik & Beth Iverson	Dee & Tim Dahlstrom	Merrily Hartmann(2) Erik & Beth Iverson (2) Erik & Beth Iverson



**The Bethany Chancel
Choir Sang for the
Villages Memory Care
facility.**

**The choir members
sang beautifully and
the Memory Care
residents thoroughly
enjoyed it as most
chimed in and sang
along!**



April 2025 TRADITIONAL Wed./Thurs./Fri. WORSHIP

DATE	TIME	USHERS
Wed. Apr. 2	12:05 (noon)	Carl Schoessow, Capatin Cristol Schoessow
	6:00 pm	Willard Dearing- captain, Becky Dittmar
Wed. Apr. 9	12:05 (noon)	Carl Schoessow- captain, Cristol Schoessow
	6:00 pm	Willard Dearing- captain, Becky Dittmar
Thurs. Apr. 17	12:05 (noon)	Carl Schoessow—captain Cristol Schoessow, Lois Bush, Randy Busch
	7:00 pm	Willard Dearing—captain Lyle Johansen, Judy Dittmar, Becky Dittmar
Fri. Apr. 18	12:05 (noon)	David Browne—captain Sharon Browne
	7:00 pm	Dwight Oestreich—captain Karen Oestreich



New Members Join Bethany Lutheran Church

Welcome to our new members who
joined Bethany on Sunday, March 9th:

- Ben & Joy Culpepper
- Scott & Jennifer Duncan & Max
- Barbara McAnnany
- Carl & Sammie Ottmers
- Cody & Charla Reeves, Charlee & Cole

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.

Danke!

Thank you to the firefighters
and first responders for their
dedication and sacrifice as they
battled the Crabapple and other
wildfires in the area. We are
grateful for your hard work to
keep our community safe every
day and every night.



Sunday School & Adult Education Classes—2025

Who goes.....

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

Where

Room #100
Room #103
Room #105
Room #113
Room #112
Room #115
Trinity Room
Sanctuary Overflow

Breakfast Bar is served in room 109 from 9:00-9:30.

Breakfast Bar Is Open!!!

9:00-9:30 a.m.—Downstairs Kitchen



Breakfast Bar Teams for April:

April 6—(Team 5) Mary Alice/Oliver Deike; Kim Sedgwick, Elizabeth Warriner, Dawna & Kiera Haug, Donna Mittel, Katie Jung, Joyce Richey

April 13—(Team 6) Kelly Urbanec; Kay Stech, Nancy Geistweidt, Janie Bailey, Vonnie Maner, Cherry Woods, Kathy Meybaum, Lindy Haley, Jessica Mittel

April 20—(Team 11) Fellowship Team (Easter Sunday—various team members each turn.)

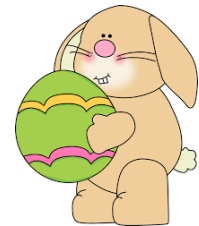
April 27—(Team 7) Cheryl/Danny Flink; Alicia Elrod, Brit-tany Durst, Danielle Geistweidt, Carolyn Garza, Ginny Steh-ling, Karlene Ottmers, Traci Doerre

April 2025 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP COMMUNION

Date	Time	Communion Assistants
Sun. Apr. 6	8:15	Ed & Judy Kramer
	10:30	Joe & Marilyn Butcher Pat McCready
Sun. Apr. 13	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion
Sun. Apr. 20	7:00 am	Jonathan Baethge, Beth Luckenbach
	10:30	Judy & Becky Dittmar, Leland Geistweidt, Joyce Richey, Jody Donovan, Cindy Wheeler, Jean Weber
Sun. Apr. 27	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion

Donations
Needed

**CYFM is asking
for donations
of individually
wrapped candy
to fit inside
Easter Eggs!**



**You can drop it off by Kiesha's office.
(Easter Egg hunt is on Saturday, April 19th.)**



**April Sunday School Offering
will go to:**

The Crabapple Fire Relief Fund-
One Star Foundation

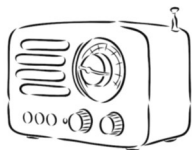
April 2025 TRADITIONAL SUNDAY WORSHIP

DATE	TIME	USHERS
Sun. Apr. 6	8:15	David Browne- captain, Sharon Browne, Scott Brundridge, Judy Brundridge
	10:30	Kenneth Treibs, captain Jaye Treibs, Jayecee Treibs, Jennifer Jenschke
Sun. Apr. 13	8:15	Bubba Schnelle- captain, Pam Schnelle
	10:30	Sandra Kammlah, captain Tom Pahl, Dwight Dittmar
Sun. Apr. 20	7:00 am	Todd Keener- captain, Wesley Keener, Dalton Keener, Cindy Zenner
	10:30	Jim Schultz- captain Constance Schultz, Wilma McAndrew, Donnie Schuch
Sun. Apr. 27	8:15	Dwight Oestreich—captain Judy & Ed Kramer
	10:30	Willard Dearing—captain Joe Butcher, Marilyn Butcher

Sunday Radio Schedule

Bethany worship services will be broadcast on KNAF-AM 910 every Sunday morning at **9:00 a.m.** instead of our previous “once per month.” Thus the schedule for morning worship broadcasts from our downtown Lutheran churches:

- **9:00 am** **Bethany Lutheran Church**
- **10:00 am** **Holy Ghost Lutheran Church**
- **10:30 am** **Zion Lutheran Church**



April 2025 Altar Guild

Traditional:

Jean Weber, Chrissy Stuewe,
Karen Oestreich, Constance Schultz

Contemporary:

Barb Rathke



April Sunday Schedule For Adults 9:20 a.m.

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.

Adult Bible Class-

The Adult Bible Class will be studying



the Gospel of John, chapters 13-21.

This class meets at 9:20 am in the overflow area at the back of the sanctuary with the pastors . People of all ages are welcome.

The Transitions Class-



The Transitions Class will be studying Witness to the Cross by Amy-Jill Levine, a new testament scholar. We'll look at the various persons who were present when Jesus died. The class meets in room 205 (the Trinity Room) at 9:20 a.m.

Legacy Builder's (Young adults class)

This class meets downstairs in room 115. Please join us Sunday mornings for lively and inspiring discussions (and great fellowship!!)





Meet Our Members April

Let's get to know our Bethany members a bit better!

This month we are highlighting four more of our Bethany members. Hope you are enjoying getting to know these Bethany folks a bit better!

Members Highlighted this Month:

Taffy & Curtis Cameron—p. 11

Sandy Fisk—p. 12

The Jung family—p. 13

Ann Hostetter—p. 14



Taffy and Curtis Cameron



Sandy Fisk



The Jung Family



Ann Hostetter

Youth Photo Gallery



Faith Foundations kids were learning about Lydia in the Book of Acts.



She was the seller of purple cloth and supported the early Christian Church.

Highschool at Top Golf!





SUMMER DATES TO REMEMBER

- **June 7-14**—Middle School (Current 6th & 7th grade) at Rainbow Trail
- **July 7-11**—Daycamp at Bethany (current Kinder-5th grade) Middle & High School and adult Volunteer Opportunities!!!

***Daycamp Registration will not begin until late March/early April. Check back later, but

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

- **July 20-25**—Elementary (current 2nd-5th grade) at Camp Chrysallis in Kerrville.
(To register, please contact Kiesha ASAP!)



First Communion Class

(current 4th grade & above)

Palm Sunday, April 13, at 11:45

Pastor Kevin, Kiesha, and Pastor Casey will have a first communion class for fourth graders and those older students who have not yet communed. The class is Palm Sunday, April 13, at 11:45 and includes lunch. The students will bake unleavened bread (with honey!) for distribution at First Communion worship, Maundy Thursday, 7 pm.

Below are those (known) eligible for First Communion this year:

Blake Edeen	Kinsley Rabke	Daniel Stehling
Millie Flink	Charlee Reeves	Boen Stone
August Neans	Camden Robison	Daisy Straube
Cooper Jung	Cash Robison	
Matthew Priess	Hawkins Staudt	

Please let Kiesha know if anyone is missing or needs to be removed from the list.

Taffy & Curtis Cameron

"Taffy" and Curtis Cameron have been married 57 years and are blessed with 2 daughters Kalen and Cyrena. Kalen is married (John Sledge) with 3 children Ellen, Allie, and Emma Kate. Cyrena is married (Buck Benson) with 3 children Claire, Curtis, and Kathleen. Both live in San Antonio.

"Taffy" born Mary Katharine Redman spent her early years in Saint Jo, Texas. She got the name "Taffy" when her brother couldn't pronounce Kathy, and it stuck. At 14 she left home for boarding school, an all-girls institution. Later, she would go to the University of Texas, where she stayed in the Scottish Rite Dorm. Her daughters were the 3rd generation to stay there. She graduated with a degree in teaching majoring in English.

Curtis was born and raised in Fredericksburg, graduating from FHS where he participated in sports and in Ag. His fondest memory was of Joe Tatum who taught Ag. Curtis said "He taught parliamentary procedure and to think while standing on your feet. Curtis graduated from SWT with a degree in Business.

They met on a blind date, set up by Judy Enderlin who Taffy had known in college. After they married, they settled in Fredericksburg. They built their home in 1971; on land Curtis had known since childhood.

As a family, the Cameron's thrived, but never forgot their roots. Curtis, a fixture in the town's leadership, was a member of the Board of Directors of Fredericksburg National Bank and Bank One. He believed in serving his community, having been President of the Fair Association in 1965 and 1976, and later a Lifetime Honorary Director. He served twelve years as a Gillespie County Commissioner and is a member of the Rotary Club.

Taffy, too, gave herself to the community, volunteering at the hospital for over 20 years. She is also involved with the Historical Society, serving on the board and ensuring the town's legacy remains alive. To them Fredericksburg is not just a place-- it is their home, and they believe it is their responsibility to preserve our future's history.

Though they both were active in their community they are finding themselves in a new chapter, filled with doctor's appointments, slower days, and moments of reflection.

Curtis, deeply rooted in Zion's history, attends Bethany with Taffy where she has been active in the Altar Guild and constantly seeking new ways to serve.

Together, Taffy and Curtis have left a mark on Fredericksburg, one that will be felt for generations to come. And even as the years slip by, they remain as committed as ever to living lives of purpose, faith, and love.

Sandy Fisk

Some people are born with a natural ability to teach. Sandy is one of those individuals, blessed with a teacher's heart. From a young age she taught Bible School and lead a children's Sunday School class at Christ Lutheran. Growing up in San Antonio, Sandy served as a Brahmadora at McArthur High School, a dancer and worked as a swim instructor and lifeguard. As a Texas State Strutter, she is particularly proud she was part of the escort band at LBJ's Inauguration Parade in DC. At Texas State she met her husband, George an outdoorsman who shared her love for teaching and service.

Sandy knew early on she wanted to teach, and her career path followed that calling. She dedicated 29 years to education with 18 spent at Regency a school within NEISD. Her love for teaching was recognized when, upon her retirement a children's scholarship was named in her honor.

In 1999 Sandy and George purchased property here making it their permanent home in 2002. She immediately started at Fredericksburg Primary School where she remains a permanent sub in Special Needs, Kindergarten and First Grade classrooms. One of her greatest joys is teaching children of parents she taught.

George, a Clinical Social worker, retired from BAMC when they moved. Sadly, he passed away very suddenly in 2021.

Their oldest son, Lance tragically passed away at 9 from meningitis. Laith is a professional musician traveling in and out of the country.

The couple frequently took her grandmother, Mrs. Edda Ottmers and Walter to their ranch in Medina. Mrs. Ottmers, a long-standing member of Bethany reached the remarkable age of 104. It was natural to join Bethany when they moved here.

Sandy's love for travel, especially to the Bahamas, is well-known. The teachers at Regency presented her with a license plate "Bahama Mama." She continues to visit Abaco Island, where she enjoys gifting children their own personal books. In addition to her teaching at FISD, she has worked at Bethany preschool and its After School program & ushers at contemporary.

She loves the welcoming atmosphere of Bethany and the wonderful programs we have. Sandy has shaped many lives with her guidance and understanding and left a positive impression on countless children, one that will last a lifetime. Her dedication and impact are a true testament to the difference a compassionate teacher can make.

(Bethany Outreach & Advocacy Team Update continued from p. 28.)

The second initiative we want to showcase is the brain-child of BOAT member *Roberta Young*, a resident of Heritage Place. Roberta has gathered a band of "**Willing Helpers**" who assist in all manner of assembly support. They stuff envelopes, tab mailers, and affix postage for large-scale mailings from local non-profits, including the Good Samaritan Center, the Grace Center and, most recently, the Fredericksburg Boys & Girls Club of America.

Interested nonprofit entities needing help putting together promotional materials, etc., can contact Roberta (phone or txt: 281-907-2030) to see if her merry band of Willing Helpers is available. This mission of service is, of course, free of charge.



Next monthly BOAT meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2025

5:45 p.m.

**At Heritage Place conference room.
All are welcome and your ideas are
valuable as we seek to advocate for
our neighbors.**



Online Worship: Registering Attendance

Each Sunday, both Traditional and Praise & Worship services are available online via our pages on Facebook and You Tube. You can also find the service on our website:

www.bethanyfbg.com.

There is a link on these sites where you can register your online worship attendance. All who register are now counted in our worship attendance records.



Lifeboat Log :

April 2025

Most of you are aware of Bethany's Outreach & Team (BOAT) and our mission statement to "Advocate for our neighbors in need while seeking avenues for help and implementing real-world assistance." Our most recognized operations are the Lifeboat, our Little Free Food Pantry next to the Hennig House, and our quarterly free Car Care Clinics.

We'd like to acquaint you with two of BOAT's other on-going community efforts:

First is a band of devoted volunteers who, under the leadership of BOAT member *Tammy Schmidt Keener*, routinely send postcards to inmates of the Gillespie County Jail Facility. Each month, Tammy secures a list of those currently incarcerated in our local jail, and shares the names with her volunteers, who pen messages of faith, hope, and grace to those inmates.

The postcards include Bethany's mission statement and the encouragement that "We are forgiven and given new life through faith in Him." There's a space on the front of the cards for each writer to include a meaningful Biblical quote or other words of faithful encouragement.

This intrepid band of correspondents has recently been dubbed the "**Logos Team**," since "logos" in Greek means "word," "discourse," or "reason" and was used by early Christians to refer to the Word of God recorded in the Bible.

Although the program is not generally reciprocal – this is not intended as a "pen pal" situation – an occasional missive arrives. Most recently, "Ramiro" replied to one of the Logos Team's cards in a letter saying, in part, "Thank you for the Bible verses. I read them every day and they lift my spirits."

If you think you'd like to pen a message of God's love and hope to a local inmate, please get in touch with Tammy (email: tysk@hctc.net).

(Bethany Outreach & Advocacy Team Update continues on p. 29.)

Derek, Katie, Dax and Cooper Jung

Katie and Derek's lives are a whirlwind of activity. They are dedicated to their sons' sporting events, and active in Bethany.

Katie hails from Minnesota, earning a degree in elementary education from Minnesota State University Moorhead. After graduation, she moved to Plano to teach kindergarten. It was there that she met Derek. They love returning to Minnesota to visit family and eager to host relatives.

Derek, a graduate of Texas State University with a degree in criminal justice, pursued an MBA from Baylor University after marrying Katie. He joined Dr. Pepper at the age of 18 & left as Vice-President after 25 years. Derek's family also has a strong work ethic, generations of his relatives worked for the same companies. Derek transitioned to a role at Interstate Batteries after moving here.

To come to a smaller community, it was natural to join his parents, Ronnie and Diann Duecker Jung here. Derek visited Fredericksburg often, and values making sausage every year with his father and uncles, teaching his sons importance of family traditions. Derek coached baseball for his sons when they were younger, but travel has made it difficult. However, attending their sporting events is a priority for them both.

Dax and Cooper enjoy the quieter pace of Fredericksburg compared to Frisco. Dax, a 7th grader, & in confirmation, plays second base in Little League baseball and all school sports. Cooper plays select basketball and can be seen pitching for his baseball team. Both boys value having the same friends at school and church. Cooper especially loves the breakfast bar.

Katie's life in Fredericksburg has helped her discover her own strength and independence. Though living far from her family was challenging, she cherishes her ability to thrive on her own. She values loyalty and importance of having people she can rely on. Katie works at Mother's Day Out, volunteers at Bethany's Pre-school, helps with Faith Foundations, Jump Start and on church council.

Katie and Derek's discovery of Bethany had them realize they found more than just a church—they found a family. With close friendships formed, they have truly made Bethany their home. They are grateful for the life they've built together, filled with love, faith, and community. Their dedication to family, commitment to serving others, they embody the spirit of Fredericksburg and Bethany, making an impact on those around them.

Ann Hostetter

Ann Hostetter has called Fredericksburg home for over 40 years, but her journey began in Lancaster, in the north of England. She grew up alongside two sisters and a brother, spending her early years in England and Wales until the age of 13. Her family moved to Aden (now part of Yemen) for 2 years before returning to England for 3 years. Their travels continued with a move to Bahrain for another two years.

Ann met her husband, Larry, a drilling superintendent in the oil fields, while living in Bahrain. Originally from Odessa, Texas, Larry asked Ann on a date, but she agreed only on the condition that he wouldn't wear his cowboy boots. Over time, she grew to love them. They eloped in Beirut, Lebanon and embarked on a whirlwind life together, moving to Fernando Po (now Bioko) off the west coast of Africa. From there, their journey took them to Gabon, Angola, and Scotland.

During this time, Ann traveled to the United States to obtain her citizenship. Soon after, they relocated to Houston and then Tampa, Florida. While pregnant with their son, they moved to Indonesia, though due to medical concerns, she gave birth to Little Larry in Singapore in 1974. Their global adventures continued with moves to Japan, Great Yarmouth in England, Natal in Brazil, and Cuxhaven in Germany before returning once again to Great Yarmouth.

It was there that Larry was diagnosed with cancer and retired. Wanting to settle somewhere peaceful, they searched for the perfect place and found their "little piece of heaven" in the Texas Hill Country. Sadly, Larry passed away in 1985.

Their son, Larry, thrived in Fredericksburg, excelling in tennis. Ann dedicated herself to supporting his passion, driving him across the state for lessons and tournaments. He graduated in 1992 and later became a police officer in North Texas. Tragically, he passed away in 2015, but he left Ann with four cherished grandchildren.

Though Ann no longer had a desire to travel, she built a fulfilling career, working in finance and insurance at Crenwelge Motors in Kerrville for 20 years before retiring in 2017.

Her involvement with Bethany Lutheran Church has enriched her life in countless ways. She is an active member, participating in Circle, Fellowship Committee, Food for Kids, Breakfast Bar, and Altar Guild. A devoted attendee of early traditional services, Ann has found a true family in her church community—one she loves deeply and gives back to wholeheartedly.



Summer Joint Bethany WELCA Luncheon

Date: Sunday, June 1, 2025

Time: after the 10:30 services

Place: TBD

Stay tuned for more information!!!



Council Highlights



February 18, 2025

- Council approved (1) the contract of the Pastor of Visitation, Ray Tiemann; (2) a request from the Stewardship Committee to place baby bottles at Bethany to be filled with monetary donations benefitting Heart of the Hills (MOM Center); (3) the opening of a money market account at Security State Bank & Trust to transfer funds from the Preschool building account as Security Bank to ensure FDIC coverage and easier access for upcoming expenses associated with the preschool; and (4) elected Bobby Wendt to be the third Synod assembly voting member.
- Council received a status report on (1) the Preschool Capital Campaign; and (2) the search for a Preschool Director and a Director of Christian Education, and (3) reviewed reports from standing committees.



- **April 7th (Monday)**— **WELCA board meeting**—4:00 p.m. in the downstairs kitchen
- **April 8th (Tuesday)** - **Hope Circle**—6:00 in the Fellowship Hall.
- **April 9th (Wednesday)** —**Quilters**— 9:00 a.m. in the downstairs quilting/choir room. (see p. 24 for more quilting news!)
- **April 10th (Thursday)** - **Leah Circle**—9:30 am at the home of Nancy Geistweidt.
- **April 10th (Thursday)** - **Lydia Circle**—1:00 pm (for the months of January-April) meeting in the downstairs kitchen.
- **April 16th (Wednesday)** - **Ruth Circle**—9:00 am at the home of Annabel Wilkinson.



Monthly WELCA Offering

Lutheran Disaster Relief



Beth Luckenbach

Bethany's WELCA
Bold Woman for 2024



Beth Luckenbach was presented a certificate by Teri Ewing, WELCA president on Bold Woman Sunday, March 2, 2025.

Bold Women's Day—usually celebrated on the first Sunday in March— celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. This year Bethany' WELCA is honoring Beth Luckenbach for her Boldness in leading the Leah Circle and living out her story of faith.



**A Few Words from
Bethany Preschool:**

Ariana Cisneros
Assistant Director

March was a lucky month for sure! The children are enjoying the longer days and nicer weather! We were so blessed to be blessed by the pastors on Ash Wednesday! Pastor Kevin, Pastor Casey and Ms. Kiesha explained to the children the meaning of Lent, and gave children and staff their ashes!



A



HUGE "Thank You" for the generous donations received during the February Special Offering! Part of our ministry is providing financial aid and scholarships to families that need assistance. We will use the funds donated from the February offering to refill our financial aid bank! We are grateful to be able to continue providing assistance to families in need!

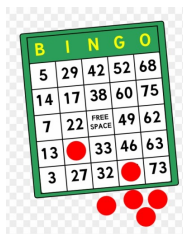


Our Next Senior Event

Date: Tuesday, May 6th
(the day after Cinco de Mayo)

Time: 11:30-1:30

Place: Bethany Fellowship Hall



We will provide lunch... Bingo....!

Please Join Us!!!

Thank You

For supporting Texas Made, Texas Raised!

A Bethany Preschool Fundraiser

We are incredibly blessed by our amazing local sponsors & vendors.

Diamond Sponsors:

Joseph Financial Partners, LLC
Create Healthy

Gold Sponsors:

TADD Ranch
First United Bank
Narrow Path Winery
Lost Draw Wines
D&D Mini Storage/Investment Rentals
Fischer & Wieser Specialty Foods, Inc.
Wineclub
Ray & Debbie Tiemann, Mike & Kim Sedgwick
Mike & Nancy Stolpe, Bill & Leslie Westover
Dwight & Karen Oestreich
Marc & Camille Williamson
Karis Edeen
Stuart & Kay Stech

Wine Vendors:

Lost Draw Wines
William Chris Vineyards
Wine For The People
Pontotoc
Narrow Path Winery
Texas Wine Collective
Texas Heritage
The Top
Pecan Street Brewery

Food Vendors:

Alla Campagna
Hill & Vine
Leroy's Tex Mex BBQ
Backwoods BBQ
Clear River
Mr. Gatti's
Casa Chloe

THANK YOU also to all our guests, volunteers, silent auction & live auction donors as well as the prayers we received to make the event successful. We are looking forward to another fun evening of fundraising next year!

Brother Steward

What's Your Batting Average?

This is the time of year we are flooded with baseball statistics and measurements: RBIs, ERAs, BBs, W/Ls, Abs, Hs AVGs.



So, when it comes to our Spiritual Statistics how do we measure up? Here are the three main categories of performance:

Time, Talent, and Treasure.

- 1. Is our Time spent in prayer and worship better this year than last?*
- 2. Are we using our Talents to serve our parish and ministries? More or less?*
- 3. Are we supporting the offertory collection to the best of our financial capability? Up or down?*

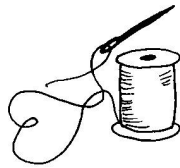
Yes, today world is a tough major league to play in. Are we 1% better than last year? 5% or 10 % better? Even if we make some errors on the Lord's team, there is no fear of being traded. God loves us all and says keep trying and just do your best. In his eyes we are all MVPs. Batter Up!

God Bless!



Quilters' Corner

The Quilters will be meeting on their regular day—Wednesday, April 9 at 9:00 am—noon. They meet in the downstairs quilting/choir room.



Have you ever wondered who sews the wonderful Lutheran World Relief quilts that are displayed annually at Bethany? One of the several ladies works behind the scenes and quietly delivers 60" x 80" quilts to the quilting room, ready for monthly tacking on second Wednesdays.

Her name..... Sandy Swearingen! Thank you, Sandy, and all the other quilters, for your wonderful labor of love! God's work, our hands!



Share your talents! Bethany Quilters would love to have help sewing 60" x 80" quilt tops for Lutheran World Relief quilts. Nothing compares to the wonderful feeling of providing quilts to third world countries and those living in absolute desperate times. We have beautiful donated fabric to be used for the project.

Quilting is every second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the basement quilting/choir room. Come join us and learn what we're all about.

BLC Dollars & Cents

	February 2025	Year to Date
Gen Fund Income	\$86,532.52	\$133,605.45
Gen Fund Expenses	\$67,113.86	\$134,758.78
Net:	\$19,418.66	\$(1,153.33)

Balances Other Funds

Designated Accounts: \$218,605.78

Capital Improvement/Hennig Fund (SSBT): \$39,014.32

Capital Improvement/Hennig CD (Guadalupe): \$84,802.85

Pre-School Building Fund:

SSBT:	\$1,327.032.05
TX Hill Country CD:	\$214,201.41
Ed Jones:	\$3,304,517.94
Total:	\$4,845,751.40

Emergency Aid Fund (Chase): \$13,447.37

Contingency (Guadalupe) - Money Market Account
\$109,693.37

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

Broadway Bank (CD-Hein Gift [GF or Hennig] \$179,014.19

Monthly Special Offerings—2025

January—Der Stadt Friedhof—\$4,825

February—Preschool—\$12,675



2025: Your Year for Abundant Living

By Robert Blezard

Many Christians think of “stewardship” only in financial terms, but money is only one of the gifts God entrusts us with—and it’s usually the one we value less than our gifts of time, relationships, faith and health.

Make 2025 your year for holistic stewardship—and abundant living—by taking steps to care better for ALL the gifts God entrusts to us, including our finances. Here are tips.

Health: Get a physical and ask your doctor to help you to form a strategy for better living. For most of us, the plan would include eating better, exercising more and practicing wellness.

Relationships: We not only share love and joy with family and friends but also turn to and rely on them in times of trouble. Care for your relationships with honest and frequent communication, get - together and sharing. Renew and repair relationships that need it.

Time: Are you just mindlessly counting the hours and days? Take charge of your time by planning events and activities that enrich your life. Plan for health and relationships.

Faith: No matter where you are on your discipleship journey, all of us can draw closer to God and open ourselves more fully to the Holy Spirit. For 2025, commit to regular worship, prayer, Scripture reading, devotions, service and other faith practices.

Money: Get your finances in order. Consider the 10-10-80 plan, budgeting your income to save 10 percent, give away 10 percent, and living on 80 percent.

God has given us so much. Stewarding the most important aspects of our lives and bring us into the life of abundance that Jesus promises us in John 10:10



GriefShare – from Mourning into Joy

Bethany began it’s fourth offering of a grief support program called “GriefShare” on January 16. The class is offered twice each Thursday through April 16, from 10:00 a.m. until noon and again from 6:00-8:00 p.m. It is designed to provide sustained, personal support and helps a grieving person move from mourning to joy. Pastor Tiemann and a team of lay leaders facilitate the sessions that are a part of this program. The class is free and you can join at any time. The videos that are watched are available online and the participant workbook walks through the conversations.

For more information, contact:

Rev. Ray Tiemann, Visitation Pastor,

(email) tiemann200@ gmail.com or (mobile)
830-456-6948

Wilma McAndrew, Lay Leader,

(email) dwmcandrew@yahoo.com or (mobile)
830-644-2092

Kathy Meybaum, Lay Leader,

(email) knktexas@ctesc or (mobile) 830-998-0349

Peace,

Ray Tiemann, Visitation Pastor

Bethany Lutheran Church

Fredericksburg, TX



Special Offering for April **Synod Assembly**

In honor of the Camp Chrysalis' 75th Anniversary and in recognition of the impact the camp and retreat ministry has on faith formation and leadership development, the offering for the synod assembly will go towards kitchen equipment for the new dining hall at Camp Chrysalis.

The Cross Trails Board of Directors recently voted to begin raising funds for a new dining hall that will allow the entire camp to eat indoors, and offer improved gathering space, accessibility and food service options. Gathering for meals and fellowship is integral to the camp and retreat experience. The current Chrysalis Dining Hall was built over 50 years ago.

This new dining hall will enhance the Camp Chrysalis summer camp and retreat experience for generations to come! With this offering, when the building nears completion, these funds will be readily available to help purchase all of the kitchen equipment at once.

Place your donation in the specially marked offering envelope for April, a pew envelope clearly marked for Synod Assembly, or mail in your offering.

Thank you for your consideration.



Council Highlights

March 18, 2025



- Approved recommendation that the following persons be accepted into membership by affirmation of baptism and/or transfer:
Ben & Joy Culpepper
Scott, Jennifer and Max Duncan
Carl & Sammie Ottmers
Cody, Charla, Charlee & Cole Reaves
Barbara McAnnany (associate member)
- Approved (1) the Praise & Worship committee's recommendation to purchase 4 banners for the Fellowship Hall ; (2) The Stewardship Committee's recommendation to give \$500 to Jews for Jesus and \$500 to Gillespie County Girl Scouts for summer activities from Non-ELCA offerings; and (3) the Emergency Preparedness Team's request to move \$5,000 from the Contingency to the Emergency Response Team dedicated funds for the purchase of future safety equipment as and when needed.
- Discussed ways to provide relief to those affected by the fires.



Flowers for the Altar Or side tables

Would you like to provide flowers for a service? Sign-up in the Elevator Room on the Flower Chart.
(** No flowers in Lent.**)

Calendar

Calendar