

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”

February 2024

5 Wednesdays at Tables in Lent “Come to the Table”

On the 5 Wednesdays after (not including) Ash Wednesday, our worship and meal time will be joined together with the theme, “Come to the Table.”

We’ll meet in the fellowship hall for an opening prayer and/or song; we’ll then get some food and eat at tables; and we’ll hear a message from the pastors about a specific meal in the Bible.

Times are 12:05 and 6:00 p.m. Gatherings in the fellowship hall.

In the Bible, sharing a meal was one of the main ways relationships were established and deepened—with God and with others. “The Bible begins and ends with meals,” Rory Shriner writes. “The first words of God to humans are an invitation to eat; the first conflict in the Bible is over a forbidden meal; the last act of Jesus before his death is to share a meaning-laden feast with his disciples; and the final vision of the new world is of a massive, joyful banquet.”

Jesus is known for his remarkable meal fellowship. In fact, eating with “the wrong sort of people” was one of the charges against him. On that charge, Jesus was unashamedly guilty!

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

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Fredericksburg, TX 78624
PERMIT 101



February





All Committee Meeting Sunday, February 4 at 11:45 a.m.

All Committees will meet Sunday, February 4, to re-organize, set goals for 2024, and welcome new volunteers. New council officers and committee reps will be elected February 3 at the council retreat. We'll have a light lunch after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be done by 2 p.m. or earlier. Interested? Come and sit with a committee as they discuss their purpose and 2024 goals. We have committee descriptions available for you to read for these committees:

| | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| CYFM (Children, Youth & Family Ministry) | Traditional Worship |
| Evangelism | Fellowship |
| Property | Social Concerns |
| BOAT | Stewardship |

New Members Joining February 11



New members will be received on February 11. Several people took the "Discover Bethany" and "Discover Lutherans" classes in January. A list of names will be published in the March Bells.



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.



In Our Prayers

Hospital/Clinic/ER/Tests:

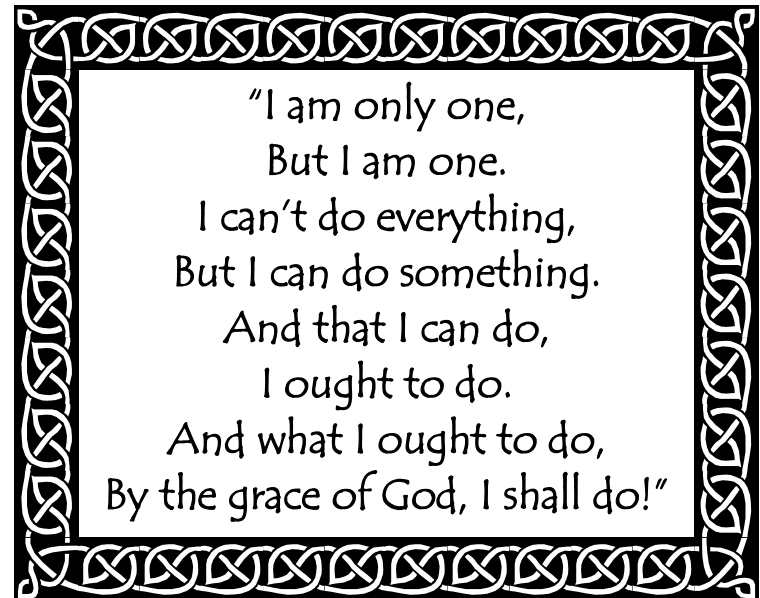
| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Dianna Blount | Tommy Bryson | Steve Evans |
| Sharon Joseph | Violet Ottmers | Constance Schultz |
| Brandi Welgehausen | | |

Ongoing:

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Rachel Clifton | Carol Eckhardt | Robert Gibbens |
| Audrey Gold | Nic Jones | Dorothy Klier |
| Billy Pehl | Madeline Sagebiel | Russell Wahl |
| Pr. Elliott Pancoast | | |

Our Sympathy to:

- The family of Betty Deans Koetting who died January 10; the funeral was January 18. Her son is Craig Deans.
- The family of Joe Bell who died January 19; the funeral was February 1. His son is Murray Lord.
- Marian Klein at the death of her brother, Conrad Doebbler





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 : February 2024

February 4, after church, there will be an All Committee meeting. This is a time for Bethany members to consider joining one of the groups which helps shape the direction our church will move in the coming year.

BOAT would like to invite you to join 10 folks who meet monthly to think of ways to reach out to our neighbors in the community who could use assistance. With kindness and sensitivity, in the name of Christ. Creative ideas and a concern for others are always welcome, so come join us! Give your name to Pastor Kevin, if interested.

God bless you!

-Bethany Outreach and Advocacy Team

(BOAT)

30



Ash Wednesday February 14

- 12:05 Communion & Imposition of Ashes—sanctuary
- 6:00 Baked Potato Supper – Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 Communion & Imposition of Ashes—sanctuary

Other Wednesdays: **Meal & Worship Together**

- 12:05 Worship & Soup Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 Worship & Supper in the Fellowship Hall

The services will not be live-streamed, but the pastors & Kiesha will have devotions on Facebook.

A Lenten Series: “Come to the Table”

February 14: “Sin: the Forbidden Fruit”
(Ash Wednesday worship in the sanctuary)

Five Wednesdays worship & meal together:

February 21: “Hospitality: By the Oaks at Mamre”

February 28: “Trust: Manna in the Wilderness”

March 6: “Rebellion: Mary and Martha”

March 13: “Vision: Walk to Emmaus”

March 20: “Deliverance: The Passover”

March 28: “Grace: the Last Supper”
(Maundy Thursday worship in the sanctuary)

3





Joining in Online Worship Hymns Posted in Bulletin Online

During Traditional Worship, the pastor who is not preaching that day prepares a power point presentation with words to hymns and the liturgy. During communion, when the pastors cannot operate the screen, people who wish to find words to communion hymns can go to our Bethany website and find bulletins with words as well as announcements for the day. By the way, you can also find the online service at the website (in addition to Facebook and YouTube). It's easy to click the link and register your online worship attendance, which we now count in our worship attendance record. The site: www.bethanyfbg.com



GriefShare – from Mourning To Joy

Bethany began it's third offering of a grief support program called "GriefShare" on January 18. The class is offered twice each Thursday through April 18, 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

or

Wilma McAndrew, Lay Leader,

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

or

Kathy Meybaum, Lay Leader,

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

Peace,

Ray Tiemann, Visitation Pastor

Bethany Lutheran Church

Fredericksburg, TX



Bethany YARD heART Youth Fundraiser

Send the Bethany YARD heART exhibit to a friend for a (suggested) donation of only \$20. Upon receipt of your order form and donation, volunteers will secretly place Bethany's YARD heARTS in the requested friend's front yard to be exhibited. Requests can be made by filling out the YARD heART order form or emailing: kieshablc@gmail.com However, payment must be received before the heARTS will be placed. You may also purchase "heart insurance" for a suggested donation of \$25 to insure that your yard is not targeted again.

The YARD heART exhibit will travel in the evening hours and will remain in the yard for approximately 48 hours. YARD heARTS can be sent to ANYONE, not just Bethany members! But please keep it in the Fredericksburg zip code.

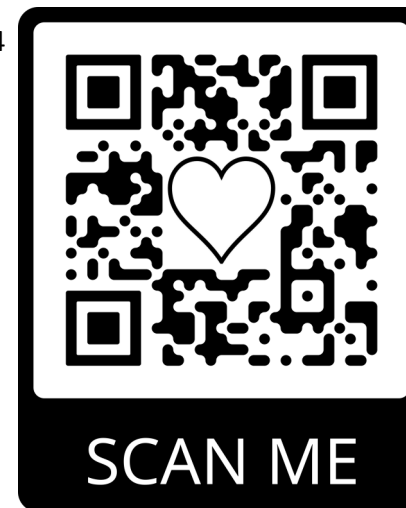
**** **HOWEVER**, our hearts may not be placed onto public property or at apartment complexes.*****

Please make checks payable to Bethany Youth and bring your check/cash along with your completed YARD heARTS Order Form to:

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

OR

Use the Venmo App:
[@BethanyFBG](#)





- **Feb. 1—Leah Circle**—9:30 am at Jet Itz's home
- **Feb. 5 (Monday)—WELCA board mtg**—4:00 in the downstairs breakfast bar
- **Feb. 8—Lydia Circle**—1:30 pm in the downstairs breakfast bar
(Note: temporary change in time—In May this circle will go back to 9:15 am.)
- **Feb. 13—Hope Circle**— 6:00 pm in the downstairs breakfast bar
- **Feb. 21 - The quilters**—9:00 am -will meet in the quilting/choir room downstairs. (This is not their usual day.)
- **Feb. 21— Ruth Circle**— 9:00 am at the home of Annabel Wilkinson.
- **Feb. 24—Hill Country Conference Spring Gathering** (see below.)



Hill Country Conference Spring Gathering

Theme: Forgiveness—Hurting & Healing

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2024

Time: 8:30 am—2 pm

Place: Zion Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall

426 W. Main St., Fbg., TX 78624



Gathering activities include a light breakfast, presentation by The Grace Center, short business meeting, Bible Study led by Pastor Kay Johnson, presentation by the Southwestern Texas Women's synodical board, lunch and worship service with communion.

The gathering will benefit The Grace Center of Fredericksburg.

Physical offerings: liquid hand soap, toilet paper, paper towels, deodorant & Clorox wipes for the Grace Center. Please bring these items with you to the gathering.

Monetary offering will be divided between Churchwide Women of the ELCA, Southwestern Texas Synodical Women and the Grace Center. Checks or cash are welcome. Checks should be made out to Zion WELCA.

More information and sign up at February Circle meetings and on the WELCA bulletin board. Cost: \$20.00 (includes lunch)

Bethany Preschool

Save the Date!!!

It's time for our annual FUN-raiser.

Texas Made Texas Raised (TMTR) will be held on

March 21st

at the Vista Oaks Event Center. We will have local wineries donating wines, delicious food, beer, and this year we are featuring a specialty cocktail.

Individual tickets are **\$75 each**, or we have sponsorship options available:

Diamond Level—**\$5,000**

Platinum Level—**\$2,500**

Gold Level—**\$1,000**

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets or become a sponsor! We look forward to celebrating our Preschool with you!!

**TEXAS MADE
TEXAS RAISED**

A Bethany Preschool Fundraiser



Purchase Tickets
Here



SCAN ME





Special Offering for February **Bethany Preschool**

1 John 4:8 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.



It is February and you know what that means: *love*, hearts, flowers and balloons are everywhere! It also means it is time for Bethany Preschool to be the recipient of the special offering from Bethany Lutheran

Church! This special offering is a way to show your love to our BPS families who are going through financial struggles. The funds received from this offering will replenish our Financial Aid Fund that we offer to families when they are going through a difficult time. Sometimes the situations are brief (1-3 months), and sometimes the families need monthly financial support. To receive this support, the families are offered a Financial Aid application, the applications are reviewed by a small and confidential committee. We are very proud to offer this aid to our families, and we want to thank our Bethany Lutheran members for your constant support to our program.

“If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a whole agency to make a successful campaign.”

- David Guerrero

(Continued on p. 7)



Youth & Family



February 4th: After church, High School will have lunch and to to Andretti Go-Karts in San Antonio.



February 11: After church, Middle & High School pick up cans for “Soup”er Bowl of Caring.



Summer Dates to Remember

- **June 8-15**—Middle School (Current 6th & 7th grade) at Rainbow Trail
- **June 24-28**—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 5-12**—High School (current 8th –12th grade) to Puerto Rico with Cross Trails Ministry
- **July 21-26**—Elementary (current 2nd—5th grade) at Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville.

(To register, please contact Kiesha ASAP!)

February 2024 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

| DATE | TIME | USHERS |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun. Feb. 4 | 8:15 10:30 | Wayne Klier- captain, Dorothy Klier, Jackie Kneese, Larry Ahrens <hr/> Kenneth Treibs- captain Jaye Treibs, Jennifer Jenschke, Jaycee Treibs |
| Sun. Feb. 11 | 8:15 10:30 | Bubba Schnelle- captain, Pam Schnelle, <hr/> Jim Schultz- captain Constance Schultz, Shelba Fenimore |
| Sun. Feb. 18 | 8:15 10:30 | Cindy Zenner- captain, Carol Seminara, Jerry Luckenbach, Mike Sagebiel <hr/> Dorothy Klier- captain Wayne Klier, Sandra Kammlah, Tom Pahl |
| Sun. Feb. 25 | 8:15 10:30 | Dwight Oestreich - captain, Clara Kozielski <hr/> Willard Dearing- captain Logan Ketron, Colleen Ketron, Shelley Gibbens |

February 2024 WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

| DATE | TIME | USHERS |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ash Wed. Feb. 14 | 12:05 7:00 pm | David Browne captain, Sharon Browne, Beth Luckenbach, Lyle Johansen <hr/> Jim McAfee- captain Sharon Joseph, Ernie & Karen Jo Loeffler |
| Wed. Feb. 21 | 12:05 6:00 pm | Becky Dittmar- captain, Judy Dittmar <hr/> Jim McAfee- captain Sharon Joseph, Ernie & Karen Jo Loeffler |
| Wed. Feb. 28 | 12:05 6:00 pm | Willard Dearing- captain, <hr/> Tom Roarick- captain Sharon Roarick |



(Special Offering—Bethany Preschool continued from p. 4.)

For the Special Offering we will have two bulletin boards covered in envelopes. The envelopes will be split between the two boards and are numbered \$1-\$141. You are invited to choose an envelope (or envelopes) and fill it with a cash, or check, for the amount listed. The envelopes may be placed in the offering boxes. Please make all checks out to Bethany Lutheran, and write "Bethany Preschool" on the subject line. If all of the envelopes are collected we will have gathered over \$10,000 dollars!

Thank you, Bethany members for your *LOVE* and for supporting our mission to Share the Love of Christ and Develop the Whole Child.



Council Highlights

January 16, 2024

1. The council approved the final draft of the budget to be presented at the annual congregational meeting on January 28.
2. Heard updates on the Community Capital Campaign and on the upcoming eclipse.
3. Approved the Emergency Preparedness Plan.
4. Approved donating funds from the NO ELCA offerings to Antioch Global and Cal Farley's Boys Ranch.
5. Approved \$1,500 from the contingency fund for Financial Peace University.

Bethany Lutheran Church Designated Special Monthly Offering Calendar 2024

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| January | Der Stadt Friedhof |
| February | Bethany Preschool |
| March | Mision 'de Candellia |
| April | Synod Assembly |
| May | Bandera Foster Closet |
| June | Crosstrails Ministry |
| July | Bethany Foundation |
| August | Gideons |
| September | Kairos |
| October | New Horizons/Living Well College/ Advantage Care Services |
| November | Hunger (Fbg Food Pantry & ELCA World Hunger, each ½) |
| December | Bethany Emergency Aid Fund |

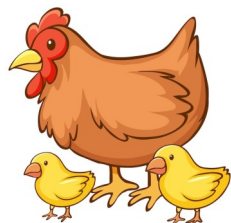


February Sunday School Offering will go to:

ELCA—Good Gifts (chicks)

Each gift of \$10 goes to purchase a set of chicks for families in needy areas of the world. When chicks grow up to become chickens, their eggs not only provide an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals—they can also help start a small business and generate a steady income.

(Chosen by CYFM)



February 2024 PRAISE & WORSHIP (10:30)

| | Leader Kid's Message | HOSTS | Communion Assistants Prayer Minister |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun. Feb. 4 | Ken Smith <hr/> Ken Smith | Elizabeth White (2) | No Communion <hr/> Ken Smith |
| Sun. Feb. 11 | Erik Iverson <hr/> Erik Iverson | Krystal Geistweidt Sandra Fisk | Kay & Stuart Stech Morgan McCall Linda Pape <hr/> Erik Iverson |
| Sun. Feb. 18 | Beth Luckenbach <hr/> Beth Luckenbach | Jaye Treibs (2) | No Communion <hr/> Beth Luckenbach |
| Sun. Feb. 25 | Cheryl Flink <hr/> Cheryl Flink | Jackie Kneese & Larry Ahrens (2) | Ken Smith (2) Ralp & Karen Rode (2) <hr/> Cheryl Flink |



Quilters' Corner

(Here's the news from our quilters!!)

Quilters Will Not Meet Feb. 14th.

That is our normal quilting day.

We Will Meet the Following Wednesday, February 21st at 9:00 am.

We welcome everyone who has an interest in helping with LWR Quilts. There are many jobs like cutting squares, ironing fabric, sorting donated fabric, sewing squares together, as well as tying knots on the completed quilts. We do all of this while enjoying conversation, and even stopping for a coffee break!

We Have a Place For You!!



February 2024 Assisted Living

| Location | Day | Time | Location | Day | Time |
|----------------|-----------|-------|-----------------------|------------|-------|
| Knopp Assisted | Wed.2/7 | 9:30 | Villages of Windcrest | Wed. 2/14 | 9:45 |
| Knopp #2 | Wed. 2/7 | 10:30 | FBG NH | Wed. 2/14 | 10:45 |
| Heritage Place | Thur.2/8 | 9:30 | Knopp RC | Thur. 2/15 | 9:30 |
| Windcrest | Thur. 2/8 | 10:30 | Knopp #1 | Thur. 2/15 | 10:30 |

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

CELESTE CARE

VILLAGES OF WINDCREST

*Marion Welgehausen *Gloria Brooks

FBG NURSING HOME

*Russell Wahl

KNOPP HEALTHCARE & REHAB CTR (#1)

*Brandi Welgehausen *Linda Warriner *Claudia Kemper
 *Audrey Gold *Jeanette Beckmann *Corine Schulz

KNOPP RETIREMENT

*Clarence Rose *Patricia "Trish" Schmidt

KNOPP (#2)

KNOPP Assisted Living Care Center

*Annabel Stein

WINDCREST NURSING & REHAB

HERITAGE

*Roberta Young *Frankie Law *Elizabeth Parsons

Alamo Ranch, San Antonio

*Audelle Burkey

Brother Steward

Send a Valentine to Jesus!



Our Brother Britannica in charge of legend and lore says that in 270 AD a Roman Priest Valentine dared to marry young Christians, which was against Emperor Claudius' law. He was jailed and martyred for the offense and for not giving up his faith. Before he died, he wrote to a jailer's daughter, thanked her for her faith in him and signed it "From Your Valentine."

So, this week, after sending cards to our loved ones; how about a short prayer to Jesus? Thank him for his gifts of faith, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. How about showing your love for Jesus by spending a few more hours a month in helping others over hard times? And, how about an extra dollar in the offertory basket in support of our ministries?

Showing your love for Jesus is being a good steward. A budding grade school poet suggested this prayer-mail: "Roses are red, violets are blue, your steward thanks you, and loves you too."

God Bless!





Sunday School & Adult Education Classes 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 February

Feb. 4 (Team 3)— Judy/Ed Kramer—Lucinda Zesch, Gayle McQuay, Beth Luckenbach, Melissa Holland, Robert & Morgan McCall, Deanna Christenson

Feb. 11 (Team 4) - Monica Jinright/Krystle Schnelle— Elizabeth White, Mary Heath, Valerie Nimitz, Vickie Smith, Katie Jinright, Mary Greene

Feb. 18 (Team 5) - Mary Alice Deike—Kim Sedgwick, Elizabeth Warriner, Dawna & Kiera Haug, Donna Mittel, Katie Jung, Joyce Richey

Feb. 25 (Team 6) - Kelly Urbanec—Kay Stech, Nancy Geistweidt, Janie Bailey, Vonnie Maner, Cherry Woods, Kathy Meybaum, Lindy Haley

February 2024 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP COMMUNION AND ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE COMMUNION

| Date | Time | Communion Assistants |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------|
| Sun. Feb. 4 | 8:15 | Wilma McAndrew & Jonathan Baethge |
| | 10:30 | Jim McAfee, Sharon Joseph Cindy Wheeler |
| Sun. Feb. 11 | 8:15 | No Communion |
| | 10:30 | No Communion |
| Ash Wed. Feb. 14 | 12:05 | Walter & Marilyn Probst |
| | 7:00 pm | Ray & Debbie Tiemann |
| Sun. Feb. 18 | 8:15 | Mike & Sue Sagebiel |
| | 10:30 | Pat McCready & Joyce Richey |
| Sun. Feb. 25 | 8:15 | No Communion |
| | 10:30 | No Communion |



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.



February Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 – Yogi Whitehead | 12 – Valerie Baughn | 20 – Alton Herbort |
| 2 – Traeger Fuhrmann | Caroline Stafford | Dax Jung |
| 3 – Bryn DeGraw | 13 – Sissy Andrichyn | Stanley Meier |
| Evyn Durst | Roni Hanifen | 21 – Cara Deike |
| Steven Evans | Jim Schultz | Taylor Deike |
| Luke Sandoval | Hawkins Staudt | Franklin Schulz |
| 4 – Jeanette Beckmann | 14 – Edith Cleaton | 22 – Connie Pressler |
| 5 – Dustin DeGraw | 15 – August Neans | 23 – Erin Hoekstra |
| 8 – Lexi Cole | Clarence Rose | Sharon Joseph |
| Cristal Ristau | 16 – Myrtle Hohmann | Kathleen Yosko |
| Al Sunday | Tami Smith | 24 – Bea Price |
| 9 – Erick Christensen | 17 – Wayne Klier | 25 – Rose Marie Mazanke |
| 10 – Alison Grona | Joe Sagebiel | Flora Wallendorf |
| Jaye Treibs | 18 – Shirley Sagebiel | 26 – Damon Cleaton |
| 11 – Kendall Bell | 19 – Suzy Kreitz | Mila Fowler |
| Don Morris | Truitt Peters | 27 – Doris Eckert |
| Ladd Ristow | Vanda Stowe | Glen Grona |
| Sharon Wendt | | Carolyn Whitehead |
| | | 28 – Gary Clifton |



First Communion Class

(current 4th grade & above)

Palm Sunday, March 24 at 11:45

They will have their first communion at the Maundy Thursday evening service on March 28 at 7:00 pm.

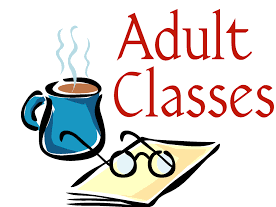
Below are those (known) eligible for First Communion this year:

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Klara Atkins | Keaton Gold | Alayna Pape |
| Stanton Cantwell | Ezra Graham | Grant Peyton |
| Grayson Durst | Calen Holland | Callie Rabke |
| Mila Fowler | Chase Lombardi | McKenzie Robison |
| Bryant Gold | Kinsley Magee | Abigail Warriner |

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



February Adult Sunday Schedule 9:20 a.m.



Adult Bible Class-

The Adult Bible Class will be studying:

“Evangelism in a Crazy World”.

This class meets in the overflow area at the back of the sanctuary with the pastors. People of all ages are welcome. Please come and join us!

Transitions Class-



For February the Transitions Class will be starting a 6-week study with Adam Hamilton,

“Luke: Jesus and The Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws.”

This class meets in room 205 (Trinity Room) at 9:20 am. Please join us for scripture, encouragement, insight, and great fellowship!

Legacy Builders-

For February and March, we will be studying the Lenten series,

“Final Words from the Cross”

by Adam Hamilton. This class meets downstairs in room 115. Please join us for lively discussions and great fellowship!



BLC Dollars & Cents

| | Dec 2023 | Year to Date |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Gen Fund Income | \$164,480.16 | \$858,677.77 |
| Gen Fund Expenses | \$ 87,063.51 | \$795,925.54* |
| Surplus: | \$ 77,416.65 | \$ 62,752.23* |

Balances Other Funds

Designated Accounts: \$184,857.46

Capital Improvement/Hennig Fund (SSBT): \$55,570.69

Capital Improvement/Hennig CD (Guadalupe): \$81,127.12

Pre School Building Fund:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| SSBT: | \$870,860.81 |
| TX Hill Country CD: | \$202,268.50 |
| Stein (Ed Jones): | \$304,288.62 |
| Total: | \$1,377,417.93 |

Emergency Aid Fund (Chase): \$3,642.55

Contingency (Guadalupe) - Money Market Account \$107,216.37

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

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

Monthly Special Offerings—2023

January—Der Stadt Freidhof—\$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—\$4,975

August—FISD Education Foundation—\$2,765

September—Grace Center, Fbg—\$2,640

October—New Horizons/Living Well/Advantage- \$2,665

**November—Hunger (Fbg Food Pantry/ELCA W. Hunger)-
\$3,683**

December—Bethany Emergency Aid Fund—\$6,495

(Dollars & Cents continued on page 13.)

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First Bibles to be Presented on Palm Sunday!

First Bibles will be presented on Palm Sunday, March 24th, to our 2 year olds and 3rd graders. The 3rd grade Bibles will be displayed outside the Fellowship Hall, starting March 10, for people to highlight 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.)

Blake Edeen

Millie Flink

Devon Lucero

Cooper Jung

August Neans

Matthew Priess

Kinsley Rabke

Camden Robison

Cash Robison

Connor Sides

Hawkins Staudt

Daniel Stehling

Boen Stone

Daisy Straube

Beckett Ward

Cohen Williams

2 year olds

Fields Farnhof

Caden Fowler

Finnley Gonzales

Norris Jones

Tobias Littlejohn

Haven Lozano

Emily Usener

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

Valentine's Day/ Ash Wednesday Mashup



Because Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall on the same day this year, February 14 gives us a real clash of messages!

As stewards of both our personal lives and our greater world, what can we make of a day that, on the one hand says sweetly, "I love you," and on the other hand says sternly, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return"? How should we observe a day with such disjointed messages?

Putting them together, we can come up with some interesting responses.

Ash Wednesday tells us that our lives are finite and fleeting, a truth woven throughout the Bible. Psalm 103:15 says our lives are like the grass that flourishes and then is gone. Ash Wednesday also reminds us that we are in the hands of the creator God who decreed that our earthly lives begin and end in dust.

And although our culture revels in romantic love, the Bible gives us a wider vision of love that we can aspire to: love through care and concern for the world, for creation and those around us.

Putting the two messages together, we know there is no delaying our call to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31) and to provide for the least among us (Matthew 25:31-46).

With wars raging in Ukraine and Gaza, refugee crises across the globe and Covid on the rise (to name just a few problems), perhaps this can be the year you can send a "Valentine" to someone who needs not only love, but food, medicine, shelter and clothes. Many reputable church charities would gladly use your contribution to help the neediest.

Who are the people in your church and community who need your love and your care? How can you, both individually and congregationally, love and assist them?

The diverse messages of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day give us a prime opportunity to grow in faith, love and discipleship –while there's time.

–Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2024, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipquy.com.

(Dollars & Cents continued from page 12.)

*Corrected 1/25/24

Contribution statements were mailed at the end of January. If you don't receive yours by mid-February, please contact the church office or email Becky directly at:

bdittmarblc@gmail.com

February 2024 Altar Guild

Traditional:

Bonnie Beckmann, Pat McCready,
Sheila Donovan

Contemporary:

Jennifer Jenschke,
Emily Klier Sandoval



Ash Wednesday Alter Guild (Feb. 14th)

Marjorie Ottmers, Constance Schultz



Thank You
Bethany Foundation



We would like to show our LOVE and appreciation for the Bethany Foundation! Bethany Preschool appreciates the grant we received this year! We will use the funds to provide high quality professional development for our staff this summer!! Thank you!!

God be with you!

Cheryl Flink, BPS Director



You are Invited
The Twelfth Annual

Gift of Faith Gala

*Raising Funds for Camperships and to Keep Camp
 Affordable for All!*

There will be great food, music by The Grooves, entertainment, auctions and fellowship. You are invited to come & enjoy a wonderful time while you help to keep camp affordable for everyone!

Where: The Courtyard Marriott in New Braunfels
When: Saturday, March 2nd
Time: Beginning at 5:00 p.m.
For more information: info@crossrails.org

If you cannot join us in New Braunfels, we want to invite you to participate from the comfort of your home. You can help us fundraise by becoming a Gift of Faith Gala Champion & by participating in our online silent auction beginning February 25th.

***Our goal this year it to raise \$65,000
 and we need your help to get there!***

If you would like to send a donation via check, please mail your check to:
 Cross Trails Ministry
 391 Upper Turtle Creek Rd.
 Kerrville, TX 78028



World Day of Prayer
Friday, March 1, 2024
 Time: 11:00 am
 Place: Bethany Lutheran Church

The World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement inspired by the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." We follow the example of Jesus Christ, who prayed from a place of knowledge and care for the world, and who acted from a place of prayer and connection to God.

This year Bethany Lutheran Church will be hosting the World Day of Prayer for Fredericksburg. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Please see your circle leaders for more information.



Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

It is with joy and thanksgiving that the saints and sinners of Holy Ghost Lutheran Church share our deepest gratitude for the partnership in the recent Christmas Day dinner held at the Holy Ghost Church Fellowship Hall on Dec. 25, 2023! Your willingness to join in this community effort was absolutely far beyond what most people are willing to do on Christmas Day.

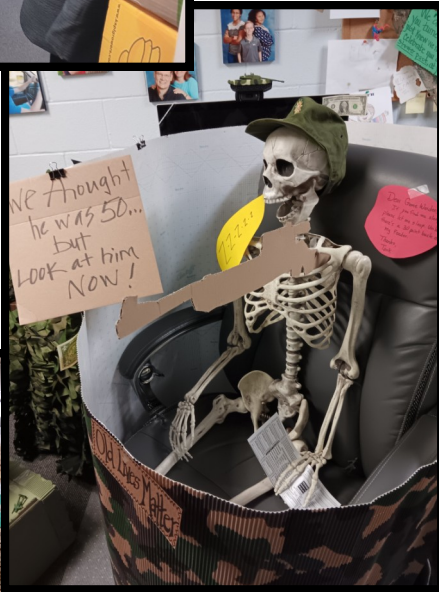
We are so very thankful for the opportunity to walk arm in arm with you in this annual community effort to share the love of Christ with those around us, and are truly grateful for your presence, spirit, generosity, and skin in the game! Further to witness to our community that churches (even Lutheran congregations) can and do work together!

Thank you again for being a major player in this service event, and let's continue to work together to further the Kingdom of God!

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY, PASTOR KEVIN!!!



Just when
you thought
your birthday
was over....
this
happens!!!



Hope you had
a super day
month!!

Thank you to



for the generous gift towards
Building Bright Futures
Bethany Preschool



Cheryl Flink, Bethany Preschool Director; Jayne Pope, CEO Create Healthy; Bill Heath, chair of Bethany's Capital Campaign (Building Bright Futures); The Rev. Casey Zesch, Senior Pastor of Bethany; Joyce Richey, campaign resource director; Dwight Oestreich, chair of the Preschool Building Committee; and Troy Ottmers, president of Bethany Lutheran Church.

The children are: Kinsley Cantu, Emma Guderian, Reagan Doerre, Matthew Mechler, Mia Turbeville, Jacob Warriner, Harrison Wilke, and Brett Seals.

Calendar

Calendar