

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”

January 2024

Beginning with Thanksgiving

By Pastor Kevin Haug

It is a welcome thing to be able to enter 2024 with an attitude of gratitude as there is so much to be thankful for. I would especially like to begin this year by offering a huge word of thanks to all who participated in and facilitated our capital campaign: “Building Bright Futures: Investing in our Community’s Children.”

To all who served on the capital campaign committee;
To all who worked on a sub-committee;
To all who volunteered their time in whatever capacity;
To all who prayed and continue to pray;
To all who pledged for the next three years;
To all who have already given;

THANK YOU!! We cannot emphasize it enough. You have been blessed by God, and you in turn have become a blessing.

Just to recap the totals announced on December 10th:

Pre-campaign Dr. Stein estate:	\$ 270,557
Pre-campaign since Dec 2019:	\$ 255,805
Campaign pledges/gifts fall 2023:	<u>\$ 2,000,661</u>

TOTAL FROM BETHANY:	\$ 2,527,023
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Plus:	
Community gift Create Healthy	<u>\$ 500,000</u>

TOTAL BETHANY & COMMUNITY	\$ 3,027,023
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We look forward to see what this year brings as we move into our community campaign this January. Keep those prayers a rolling!

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





Annual Congregational Meeting

January 28, 2024

Bethany's annual Congregational meeting will be held **Sunday, January 28th** after the late services. We will discuss and vote on the 2024 budget, receive reports, and elect nominees. A published "Annual Report 2023" will be distributed on Sunday, January 21st.

Annual Report Distributed January 21st

The "Annual Report" gives an overview of Bethany in 2023, summaries of the mission and ministries of all our committees and organizations, the proposed 2024 Budget, financial reports, the agenda for our January 28 meeting and nominees for Council, Preschool Board, Bethany Foundation, and Synod Assembly voting members. Plus a summary of the year by the pastors



All Committee Meeting in February

All Committees will meet Sunday, February 4, to re-organize and set goals for 2024. New council officers and committee reps will be elected at the February 3 council retreat. We'll have a light lunch after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We'll most likely be done by 2pm. If you'd be willing to serve on a committee this year, we have committee descriptions available for you to read for these committees: CYFM (Children Youth & Family Ministry), Evangelism, Fellowship, Property, Social Concerns, Stewardship, Traditional Worship, Praise & Worship. Plus our BOAT group!



In Our Prayers

Hospital/Clinic/ER/Tests:

Larry Ahrens	Joe Bell	Wil Rathke
Julianne Lombardi		

Ongoing:

Joe Bell	Rachel Clifton	Carol Eckhardt
Robert Gibbens	Audrey Gold	Lindy Haley
Nic Jones	Billy Pehl	Russell Wahl
Madeline Sagebiel		

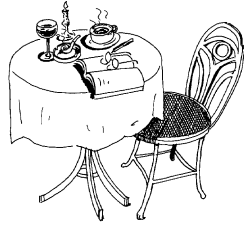
Our Sympathy to:

- The family of Luther Rode who died December 4; funeral at Bethany was December 11.
- The family of Clinton Deike who died December 4; graveside service at Grapetown on December 26.
- The family of Al Muirhead who died December 5; memorial at Bethany was December 18.
- JoAnn Leifeste and family at the death of her husband Billy Leifeste who died and was buried December 12 at the Friedrich Cemetery.

Thank you, dear people, for the cards, gifts, and well-wishes at Christmas. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness. It is a particularly warm and joyful feeling to know that you are thinking of and praying for us.

Peace be with you.....
Pastor Casey, Pastor Kevin, Pastor Ray

Ladies Luncheon has
Been postponed until
next year!



It is with great regret that we announce our 2024 Ladies Luncheon will be moved back to next year—

January 25, 2025!

It's such an exciting event but it just didn't work out this year. Hope you can join us then!!



**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.

Nominations

Below are the slate of nominees for your consideration at the Annual Meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

**COUNCIL NOMINEE SLATE FOR 2024
(vote for 4):**

- Randy Busch
- Autumn Holland
- Cristol Schoessow
- Ben Warriner

PRESCHOOL BOARD (vote for 3):

- Will Cooper
- Karis Edeen
- Michael Yosko

SYNOD ASSEMBLY NOMINEES (vote for 2):

- Stuart and Kay Stech

**BETHANY LUTHERAN FOUNDATION
OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.
(vote for 4):**

- Jody Donovan
- Mike Myers
- Chase Perry
- Keith Whited
- Floor nominations (if any)



Building Bright Futures

Capital Campaign 3-year commitments

It was a very event-heavy fall campaign for our new preschool as we engaged in both faith-raising and fund-raising. Now those who pledged gifts—above and beyond their regular Bethany offerings—will begin giving those gifts for 2024, 2025, and 2026.

While most of the Campaign Committee did their work this last fall, Wilma McAndrew—who is the “Continuation Director” of the Campaign Committee—is the “long haul” person who oversees the next three years of “Building Bright Futures: Investing in Our Community’s Children.”

She will be assisted by the Campaign Chair, Bill Heath. And, of course, those interested in remembering Bethany via wills, estate planning, and various gifts such as IRA required distributions, stocks, and property can always speak with our Planned Giving Director, Jody Donovan. Commitment Visits Director, Mike Yosko, and his team will be doing some follow up in the weeks ahead.

And it turns out, some of our faith-building events were popular, so various committees and volunteers may offer a prayer-vigil, congregational care calls, a men’s and a women’s “all church Bible Study,” and small group gatherings. Stay tuned!



A Community Campaign

We know it will take a community campaign to raise the funds necessary to build our preschool building, and that’s very appropriate as 85% of our students are non-Bethany members from the community. A team will form soon to direct that campaign and also apply for grants.



Summer Dates to Remember

- **June 8-15**—Middle School (Current 6th & 7th grade) at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp
- **June 24-28**—Day Camp at Bethany (current Kinder-5th grade) Middle & High School Volunteer Opportunities!!!!
- **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



A special thank you to the following for helping to make this year’s youth Christmas program a success:

Annabel Wilkinson, Katie Jung, Kiesha Priem, Mark Geistweidt, Rusty Petsch, John Stafford, Kenneth & Jaye Treibs, Violet Stafford, our amazing youth & their parents, and our CYFM committee!!!



- Jan. 5—WELCA board mtg—4:00 in the downstairs breakfast bar
- Jan. 4—Leah Circle—9:30 am at Donna Mittel’s home
- Jan. 9—Hope Circle— 6:00 pm in the downstairs breakfast bar
- Jan. 11—Lydia Circle—9:15 am in the downstairs breakfast bar
- Jan. 10 - The quilters—9:00 am -will meet in the quilting/choir room downstairs.
- Jan. 17— Ruth Circle— 9:00 am at the home of Constance Schultz.

****Bethany WELCA is sending \$500 donation to Living Well College****



**Congratulations and thank you to
our new WELCA officers!**

President—Krystal Geistweidt

Vice President—Teri Ewing

Treasurer—Debbie Tiemann

Secretary—Nancy Geistweidt

Mission in Action—Sharon Wendt

Mission in Growth—Carolyn Garza

Leah Leader—Beth Luckenbach

Lydia Leader—Sharon Browne

Hope Leader—Debbie Tiemann

Ruth Leader—Constance Schultz



New Members Classes & “Lunch with the Pastors”

For those interested in joining Bethany and those who may simply be curious, we offer two new members’ classes during a noon “lunch with the pastors” and some other Bethany folks.

Sunday, January 14 “Discover Bethany”

Learn more about the history, mission, and ministry of Bethany during lunch. We’ll also give a tour of the building and tell about the many weekday ministries on the church campus.

Sunday, January 21 “Discover Lutherans”

For those who have not been confirmed in a Lutheran church—we’ll discuss history, core beliefs, worship, and questions you may have. We also invite any long-time Lutherans to come for discussion.

To register, sign up on Pastor Casey’s door, email him at pastorcaseyblc@gmail.com, or call the church office. For those who decide to join Bethany, we’ll have a new members’ reception in February.

*please
join us*



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



Youth & Family

Don't Forget!!!

No Sunday School or Breakfast Bar **December 31st.** We will start everything back up on **January 7th!!!**

January 28th: Middle School -
"Soup"er Bowl of Caring
Lunch & Bowling



We will be collecting canned food items for the Fredericksburg Food Pantry. We'll meet after church to eat & hand out bags in the neighborhoods; then head to BB's bowling!!! Bring \$10.



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.



Bethany YARD heARTS Fundraiser

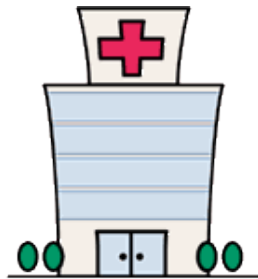


We will be starting our YARD heART fundraiser soon! Money raised will help towards camp, Puerto Rico Mission Trip, and other fundraisers. Look for order forms soon!!!

January 2024 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

DATE	TIME	USHERS
Sun. Jan. 7	8:15	Ben Warriner- captain, Elizabeth Warriner, Jackie Kneese, Larry Ahrens
	10:30	Kenneth Treibs- captain Jaye Treibs, Jennifer Jenschke, Jaycee/Bailey Treibs
Sun. Jan. 14	8:15	Bubba Schnelle- captain, Pam Schnelle,
	10:30	Jim Schultz- captain Constance Schultz, Shelba Fenimore
Sun. Jan. 21	8:15	Cindy Zenner- captain, Carol Seminara, Jerry Luckenbach, Mike Sagebiel
	10:30	Dorothy Klier- captain Wayne Klier, Sandra Kammlah, Tom Pahl
Sun. Jan. 28	8:15	Dwight Oestreich - captain, Clara Kozielski
	10:30	Willard Dearing- captain Logan Ketron, Colleen Ketron, Shelley Gibbens

When You Are Hospitalized



If you are hospitalized and would like a visit by one of our pastors, please call or have someone call the church office to let the pastors know. When you register at the hospital desk, please specifically put “Bethany” or at least “Lutheran” on your registration form when you check in.

Wanted: Empty Ink Cartridges

F.Y.I.

When your computer ink cartridges are empty, please bring them to Bethany. There is a basket in the Fellowship Hall lobby where they are being collected. Money raised from these empty cartridges helps fund worthwhile projects.

Thank You

The past two years have been hard years for the Mittel family, but I feel all that is behind us. It is time to give my church family a great big thank you. I am not even sure where to start, but I think I will start with Bishop Tiemann. He was a devoted visitor to Dan, providing communion and visitation. Also, friends like the Oestreichs and the Stehlings visiting Dan was very special. We were blessed at Dan’s funeral with tons of food and wonderful friends that oversaw the organizing and the cleaning. Thanks to Pastors Casey, Kevin and Ray for a wonderful service plus their visitations while I was in the hospital. The Chancel choir and Annabel added that special touch to the service. Prayers, cards, meals, phone calls, visits—it is just so awesome to realize how special you all are. I do have the best church family ever and will always be thankful for all you did for Dan, me and our family.

Donna Mittel



Dear Bethany members,
Most appreciated thank you for all prayers that were lifted up for me recently and all the cards and food sent to me—what a comfort!

Jeanne Dietrich

2024: Your year for abundant living

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 2024 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 -togethers 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 2024, 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 can bring us into the life of abundance that Jesus promises us in John 10:10.

--Rob Blezard

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January 2024 PRAISE & WORSHIP (10:30)

	Leader	HOSTS	Communion Assistants
	Kid’s Message		Prayer Minister
Sun. Jan. 7	Beth Luckenbach Beth Luckenbach	Ralph & Karen Rode (2)	No Communion Beth Luckenbach
Sun. Jan. 14	Ken Smith Ken Smith	Elizabeth White Will Stehling	Camille Williamson (2) Kiesha Priem (2) Ken Smith
Sun. Jan. 21	Erik Iverson Beth Iverson	Katie & Derek Jung (2)	No Communion Erik Iverson
Sun. Jan. 28	Cheryl Flink Cheryl Flink	Ken Smith (2) Robert McCall (2)	Merrily Hartmann (2) Jaye Treibs (2) Cheryl Flink



Quilters’ Corner

(Here’s the news from our quilters!!)

Wishing everyone a very Happy and Blesses New Year. We will resume quilting on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10 at 9:00 am.

In the absence of Jeanne Dietrich (due to some health issues), Carlene Grobe has completed 28 quilts and they are ready to be tied. THANK YOU, CARLENE! Our plans are to stay into the afternoon and get as many quilts completed as possible.

Watch for more information via text message or phone call.

We welcome new members to our group so if you have an interest in helping with our LWR Quilting, please come on January 10th. There will be a place for you.

To make these quilts, good cotton fabric and thread are needed. If you have any to donate, we will gladly put it to use and we thank you!



January 2024 Assisted Living

Location	Day	Time	Location	Day	Time
Knopp Assisted	Wed. 1/3	9:30	Villages of Windcrest	Wed. 1/10	9:45
Knopp #2	Wed. 1/3	10:30	FBG NH	Wed. 1/10	10:45
Heritage Place	Thur. 1/4	9:30	Knopp RC	Thur. 1/11	9:30
Windcrest	Thur. 1/4	10:30	Knopp #1	Thur. 1/11	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
 *Nancy O'Neal

FBG NURSING HOME

*Russell Wahl

KNOPP HEALTHCARE & REHAB CTR (#1)

*Brandi Welgehausen *Linda Warriner *Claudia Kemper
 *Audrey Gold *Joe Bell *Jeanette Beckmann
 *Betty Deans Koetting

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

Juniper Apartments, Kerrville

Alamo Ranch, San Antonio

*Audelle Burkey

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Brother Steward

Stewardship and Playoffs



The bowl season always motivated our Abbot to retell stories of guts, gore and glory. "Centuries ago, at the Roman Coliseum, it was always the Lions chewing up the Christians. And later, during the Dark Ages, our win-loss record for The Crusades wasn't too hot either. But in spite of the odds, Christianity always prevailed over evil through faith, prayer, courage and commitment." So, he continued, "again the playoffs are upon us in college and in the pros.

What does it teach us? What is our Christian Playbook against Team Satan, and the forces of evil? We should take time to prepare through prayer, worship and recruitment of the willing. Spreading the faith is our strongest offense. And like those spectacular athletes on the gridiron, each with their own talent of passing, blocking, and running; we must use our talents to help others. Yes, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering the poor, and caring for the sick, is a primary goal. And lastly we must use our assets to support the Lord's work through our church and out-reach ministries.

This is the playbook of good stewardship. Make this our New Year's Resolution: Use our God-given gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure to win one for Jesus. He is our Coach, we are his players, and the game of life awaits. 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 January

Jan. 7 (Team 10)— Beth & Erik Iverson: Kiesha Priem, Teri Ewing, Donna Beckmann, Kara Anderson, Chrissy Stuewe, Kelly Urbanec, Lyn Farris

Jan. 14 (Team 11) - Fellowship Team—various team members each turn

Jan. 21 (Team 1) - Jaye & Kenneth Treibs: Kyle & Carin Treibs, Sandy & Tom Swearingen, Rose Marie Mazanke, Jennifer Jenschke, Kathy Marquart, Ruth Rose

Jan 28 (Team 2) - Camille & Marc Williamson: Autumn & Brad Holland, Jean Weber, Jet Itz, Karen Loeffler, Sharon Joseph, Emily Sandoval, JoAnn Leifeste

January 2024 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP COMMUNION

Date	Time	Communion Assistants
Sun. Jan. 7	8:15	Ed & Judy Kramer
	10:30	Ernie & Karen Jo Loeffler Kathy Meybaum
Sun. Jan. 14	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion
Sun. Jan. 21	8:15	Beth Luckenbach & Rose Marie Mazanke
	10:30	Kiesha Priem, Keith & Eileen Whited
Sun. Jan. 28	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion



Christmas Journey spread Christmas cheer through the story of the birth of Christ to over 2,000 people, and we were able to donate over \$6,286 to the Fredericksburg Food Pantry!

We are so blessed to give this gift to the community and to the people from all over the nation. The Journey is a journey, and it takes a village to put this on! The time and talents of close to 200 volunteers is truly appreciated! From the set up and take down crew, actors, scene captains, costume fitting teams, traffic directors, sanctuary clean up crew, and those who helped by making delicious food, we are eternally grateful! Let's do it again! (Well, in 11 months!)

Love,
Kenneth & Jaye Treibs
Danny & Cheryl Flink

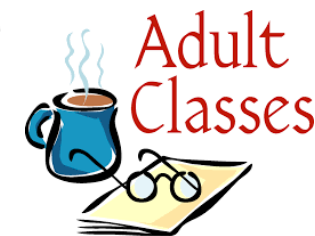


January Birthdays

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 – River Andrichyn | 14 – Richard Bruns | 22 – Kyle Grona |
| 2 – Kathy Crenwelge | Pat Hoffman | Jason Jenschke |
| Sweetie Dietz | Monica Jinright | 23 – Kathy Laumann |
| Megan Jinright | Margie Oehler | Clayton Slaughter |
| Ken Oehler | Lilly Ottmers | 24 – Ella Hartmann |
| Mike Sedgwick | Madeline Sagebiel | Christa Peyton |
| 3- Peggy Geistweidt | Aaron Steger | 25 – Shelby Beaird |
| Iris Neffendorf | Nora Tronstad | Sidney Beaird |
| 4- Lyn Linka | Lilly Tronstad | Zoe Castellano |
| Kevin Haug | 15 - Oliver Deike | Greyson Roarick |
| 5- Evan Barnard | Kimberly Fritz | Brooklyn Schnelle |
| Diana Blount | 16 – Jason Itz | 26 – Reagan Doerre |
| Jaleigh Brown | Russell Wipff | Collyns Koone |
| Garet Gold | Gage Bertelson | Ed Kramer |
| Kiera Haug | Matthew Priess | Michael Robison |
| 6 – Winnie Griffin | 17 – Judy Kramer | 27 – David Laughlin |
| Casey Zesch | 18 – Linda Schuch | Kathy Straube |
| 7- Kayla York | James Wallendorf | Karen Rode |
| 9 – Doris Herbort | 19 – Shelba Fenimore | 28 – Grant Pittman |
| 11- Paul Hartmann | 20 – Pansy Benedict | 29 - Guy Ristau |
| Dieter Kemper | Lindsey Luckenbach | 30 – Esther Holland |
| Charles Kuenemann | Jonathan Slaughter | 31 – Kathy Marquart |
| 12- Noelle Christensen | 21 – Maurie Gray | Nora Schoessow |
| Denise Kunz | Kim Sedgwick | |
| 13 – Pat Maenius | | |



January 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-

Please join us for lively discussions on various topics related to life and faith.

The class meets in room 205 (the Trinity Room) at 9:20 am.

Legacy Builders-

For January the Legacy Builders Class will be starting a 6-week study with Adam Hamilton, “Luke: Jesus and The Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws.” This class meets downstairs in room 115. Please join us for scripture, encouragement, insight, and great fellowship!



January Sunday School Offering will go to:
Luther Crest Lutheran Camp
in Minnesota



- chosen by High School
Sunday School Class

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.



January 2024 Altar Guild

Traditional:

Margie Ottmers, Sarah Eckhart
Linda McCann

Contemporary:

Barb Rathke & Pat Laughlin

On behalf of our families,

we would like to express our thanks to our Bethany Family for all your acts of kindness,

love, support, and prayers you extended towards us during

Carlton's illness and recent death. A special thanks to our pastors who visited with Carlton each day while he was hospitalized. And to the choir, you sang your hearts out to the Glory of God on his behalf for his service! May I share a verse he read each morning, and which described who he was, from Micah 6:8, "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." To God be the Glory. Thank you Bethany Family!



Sincerely,

Chrissy Stuewe, Stacey Eckert
And Teri Eckert-Cox



THANK YOU

THANK YOU BETHANY!

This year in addition to our capital campaign you helped pave our parking lot, donated food for the Food Pantry, filled Christmas boxes for underprivileged children in foreign countries to name a few of the "extra" donations that you were asked to give.

Then as soon as the Angel Tree Christmas cards were put on the trees they disappeared. We hope that you looked in the back of church and saw the pews overloaded with food, staples, and gifts for the children of families who need a little help this year.

Words can't express how grateful and blessed we feel to be part of this amazing congregation of friendly, generous members. Bethany truly follows our mission statement: Being, living as, and making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Dwight & Karen Oestreich



Dec. 5, 2023

Dear Bethany Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Create Healthy Board of Directors I am pleased to present you with a grant for the Building Bright Futures Campaign. Enclosed with this letter, please find a check for the full \$500,000 investment from Create Healthy.

The Bethany Lutheran Church's Building Bright Futures project is a critical part of the Hill Country Community and we are grateful for your work to impact the lives of those who call this home. At Create Healthy, our vision is to create a Hill Country where all contribute and thrive. With partners like you, we are excited about the possibilities of what we can accomplish for those we serve.

We are happy to support your important work and send our best wishes for your continued success. Please continue to keep us apprised of your campaign and construction progress.

Yours in good health,

Jayne E. Pope
President/CEO

BLC Dollars & Cents

	Nov 2023	Year to Date
Gen Fund Income	\$55,524.70	\$694,197.61
Gen Fund Expenses	\$70,641.42	\$708,844.17
Deficit:	\$(15,116.72)	\$(14,646.56)

Balances Other Funds

Designated Accounts: \$193,197.99

Capital Improvement/Hennig Fund (SSBT): \$49,601.45

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

Pre School Building Fund:

SSBT: \$163,139.77

TX Hill Country CD: \$202,268.50

Stein (Ed Jones): \$291,525.59

Total: \$656,933.86

Emergency Aid Fund (Chase): \$4,078.55

Contingency (Guadalupe) - Money Market Account \$106,800.96

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

Broadway Band (CD—Hein Estate Gift) \$167,361.99

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—\$4,975

August—FISD Education Foundation—\$2,765

September—Grace Center, Fbg—\$2,640

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

November—Hunger (Fbg Food Pantry/ELCA W. Hunger) -

\$3,683



Special Offering for January **Der Stadt Friedhof**

Our church cemetery is overseen by a board of representatives from Bethany, Zion, and Holy Ghost Lutheran Churches and supported by donations from these 3 churches and sometimes other congregations. You may write a check payable to Bethany and stub it "cemetery". Use your January special offering envelope or a pew envelope on any Sunday morning in January or mail it to the church:

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

Bethany representative is Ralph Rode and we are currently seeking one more representative. (See article below.)



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
for more information.

(Words from Our BPS Director—continued from p. 18)

With our academics, we will dive back into our classroom rules and routines! The thematic focus for this month is: Fairy Tales and Rhymes. The students will engage in retelling familiar fables such as "The Three Little Pigs", "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and "Jack and the Beanstalk". In Bible study, the children will be reading stories from Genesis and Exodus!

We look forward to many hopeful opportunities this year! Thank you all for walking with us in love and support every step of the way!

God be with you!

Cheryl Flink, Bethany Preschool Director



Council Highlights

December 19, 2023



- 1. The council heard the final report of the congregational Building Bright Futures capital campaign for a new preschool building.**
- 2. The 2024 budget was approved with a few amendments.**
- 3. The council heard of plans to begin organizing the Building Bright Futures community capital campaign early in 2024.**
- 4. The council heard the report of the nominating committee.**



A Few Words from Our BPS Director By Cheryl Flink

Dear Bethany Lutheran members,

Romans 15:13 ~ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

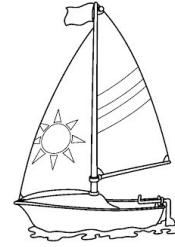
Happy New Year!

We ended 2023 with a TON of fun activities! One highlight was our Bethany Preschool float in the Light the Night parade! We had so much fun having a Country Christmas riding on a wonderful float designed and created by Blake and Jessica Schulz. We had a Wonderful Winter Wonderland experience with a visit from Santa, and a room full of books and activities! A huge Thank You to Denise, Elizabeth, Katie, Constance, Karis, Camille, Jody, Dianne and Debra! This amazing team of volunteers worked to make a magical Christmas day for the children!

We also wanted to give back this season! As a Preschool we collected 278 food items for the Food 4 Kids Program here in Fredericksburg. The class that collected the most items was the Giggiebug Class with 89 items! They won an ice cream sundae party! Thank you to all of the families that donated items to help the children of our community.

We have hope in our board member nominees, and also truly appreciate all of the good works of the members who are exiting! A huge THANK YOU to the exiting board members- Sean Doerre, Dorothy Klier, and Kelli Cunningham for their three years of service and dedication to improving the preschool and supporting our staff. We look forward to our new board member nominees in January: Michael Yosko, Will Cooper and Karis Edeen! Thank you for committing to dedicate your time to our Bethany Preschool adventures!

(Continued on p. 19.)



Lifeboat Log : January 2024

This is a small story that shows what a big impact can come from sharing God's love.

One of our group was pulling up to restock the Lifeboat little food pantry. As happens occasionally, someone was there when she arrived. She asked the woman if there was a specific item she was looking for. Our "shopper" asked if there were any beans available. A short time later, the stocker returned with a bag of dried pinto beans and some canned black beans for immediate use. The lady began to cry saying that this was exactly how she liked to eat her beans (combining the two types). She left with a "thank you," a "bless you," and a happy smile.

In talking about this event later on, we marveled at what a big deal a simple offering of beans was. We knew, of course, that it was more than just the beans; it was knowing that someone else cared. And, hopefully, that God cared.

"Thank you" and "bless you" for your support of the Lifeboat little free food pantry. It is good to partner with you in the sharing of small things for a bigger purpose. God DOES care!

Merry Christmas!

-Bethany Outreach and Advocacy Team (BOAT)



Calendar

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