

# Bethany Bells

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

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

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

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

April 2024

## Sun, Heritage Day, & Brass Band

By Pastor Casey

So the big day in Gillespie County will be Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> when, as the old gospel song says, “the sun refused to shine.” Those with overnight lodging will start arriving in town April 4; then about another 100,000 will drive in on Monday April 8 for the total solar eclipse at 1:32 until 1:37 p.m. You won’t see that again until 2044! And one of the best places to see it in the USA is... Fredericksburg. We’re in the path of totality. See the articles in this newsletter.

Another big day specifically for Bethany congregation is Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Not only is that San Jacinto Day, but it’s the day we’ll celebrate the founding of Bethany 137 years ago in 1887. We’ll have our regular Sunday schedule plus a big BBQ meal in the fellowship hall around 11:45. The New Braunfels Village Brass Band will play for the 10:30 traditional service and our own Agape Road at 10:30 Praise & Worship. And of course at 8:15 our Bethany musicians provide traditional music for both in-person and online folks.

Whether you joined Bethany in recent years or have been here since you were in diapers, you and I celebrate faith-practices, values, characteristics, and a unique church “culture” passed down through the years, from one generation to the next. On Heritage Sunday we thank God who, through the Holy Spirit, has brought us and our faith-ancestors thus far...and will take us into the future!

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



# April



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



## Building Bright Futures Campaign Goes Public!

Our community capital campaign started on March 21<sup>st</sup> when we announced it at Texas Made Texas Raised. This will not

only be the beginning of our community outreach, but it will also kick off the start of a matching grant challenge of \$400,000 from Mary Porter. If we raise \$400,000 in 12 months, from 3/21/24 to 3/21/25, Mary will match that. Our goal for Building Bright Futures is to raise \$6.3 Million and we are already halfway there with your pledges and other gifts. If you have not pledged or donated to the Bethany Preschool building fund yet, please be aware of this challenge grant that can double your donation and help us reach our goal. God bless you and yours!

Jody Donovan  
Community Campaign Chair



### New Sunday Radio Schedule

Bethany worship services will now 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**



## In Our Prayers

### Hospital/Clinic/ER/Tests:

Larry Ahrens	Audelle Burkey	Kimberly Fritz
Weldon Itz	Scott Brundridge	

### Ongoing:

Carol Eckhardt	Robert Gibbens	Audrey Gold
Nic Jones	Dorothy Klier	

### Our Sympathy to:

- The family of Bill Renfro who died February 29; the funeral was at Bethany on March 5.
- The family of Russell Wahl who died March 9; the memorial was at Bethany on March 20.



### Senior Event:

## Spring Fling Lunch

With bingo and ??????

Come join us for a light lunch and a lot of fun!!

Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024  
 Place: Bethany Fellowship Hall  
 Time: 11:30-1:30



## Special Needs Dance In Fellowship Hall Friday, April 26

The Social Concerns Committee will host an April Dance for special needs residents on **Friday, April 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** with our own DJ, Kyle Treibs. We invite you to attend and visit with our guests who love to dance and have table activities. Your heart will be deeply warmed! Food and drinks will be provided.



## 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](http://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.



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

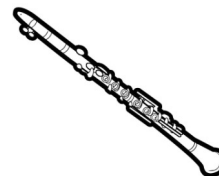
Don't have internet? Stop by the church during the week for a copy.



## Heritage Sunday— April 21st

**BBQ Lunch served  
on Birthday #137**

We'll have our full worship, breakfast bar, and Sunday School schedule for Bethany's 137th birthday celebration on April 21st. In addition, we'll have a BBQ lunch in the fellowship hall at 11:45. Plus the New Braunfels Village Brass Band (NBVBB) will play for the 10:30 traditional service. The 50-year confirmation class from 1974 will have their reunion and be our special guests that day.



The NBVBB is a Hill Country band of dedicated musicians who perform regularly, emulating the brass bands of Germany & Austria of the 1800's

Thus they have no saxophones, accordions or double reed instruments and use two flugelhorn and three trumpet parts as well as three trombone parts. In addition to E-flat and B-flat clarinets, they use flute and piccolo parts. They play for many sacred and secular events.



Invite friends to hear them and worship with us.....first time since 2019!

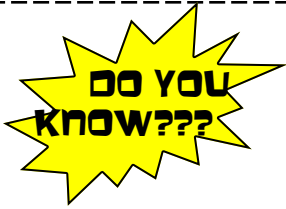


## April Sunday School Offering will go to:

### Campamento Lutetano Eduardo Roig



(This is the camp the youth will be staying at when they go to Puerto Rico this summer.)



## Bethany History Trivia

1. **How many soldiers from Ft. Martin Scott married German brides in the old Bethany sanctuary at 107 E. Austin St.?**
  - A. 3
  - B. Over a dozen
  - C. None
  
2. **When Pastor Steinmann left the congregation in 1897, the congregation voted to pay him \$25 for the horse stable. Why?**
  - A. Because Pastor Steinmann had built the stable.
  - B. Because the congregation had gifted the stable to him 2 years prior and he couldn't take it with him.
  - C. Because he had sold his horse to the congregation for \$25, so "lets call it even".
  
3. **A statue of Jesus currently stands in a niche behind the lectern in our sanctuary. Where was the statue located in the "old Bethany" sanctuary?**
  - A. In a similar niche on the right side of the old sanctuary.
  - B. Trick question—The statue was purchased new in 1954 when we built the current sanctuary.
  - C. Overlooking the congregation from behind, from the top of the ornate pipe organ in the old sanctuary.
  - D. In the middle of the alter of "old Bethany" facing the congregation directly.



**ANSWERS IN  
NEXT MONTH'S  
BELLS!!!**



## Thank You

Dear Bethany Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Renfro, Keese, and Jordan family, I am writing to express our deepest gratitude for the beautiful funeral held in memory of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Bill Renfro.

The outpouring of love and support we received from the congregation and the entire Bethany Lutheran Church community during this difficult time has been incredibly comforting. Your warmth and compassion have touched our hearts in ways that words cannot fully express.

We are especially grateful for the delicious food provided and the thoughtful message delivered by the pastors. Additionally, the beautiful music performed by the soloists and organists added a profound sense of peace and reverence to the service. Their heartfelt melodies and harmonies provided solace and uplifted our spirits during a time of great sorrow.

Your efforts in ensuring that every aspect of the service was carried out with care and reverence truly made a difference during this challenging time for our family.

The kindness and generosity shown to us by everyone at Bethany Lutheran Church will forever be cherished and remembered. Your unwavering support has helped us find solace and strength as we navigate through our grief.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your compassion, support, and for being a source of comfort during this difficult period. Your kindness has made a profound impact on our family, and we are forever grateful.

With sincere appreciation and warm regards,  
Jean Keese Renfro, Brad Renfro,  
Dawn Jordan & Michael Renfro



- **Apr. 1—(Monday)—WELCA board mtg**—4:00 in the downstairs breakfast bar
- **Apr. 4—Leah Circle**— 9:30 pm at Nancy Geistweidt’s home
- **Apr. 10 - The quilters**—9:00 am -will meet in the quilting/choir room downstairs.
- **Apr. 11—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.)
- **Apr. 16—Hope Circle**—6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- **Apr. 17– Ruth Circle**— 9:00 am at the home of Sylvia Van Antwerp.



The Monthly WELCA offering for March went to:  
**Katie’s Fund**



Katie’s fund was established as an endowment in 1997 to honor the life of Katharina von Bora Luther. Your gift to Kathie’s Fund will help raise up bold women of faith today and for generations to come. Katie’s Fund dollars support ministry in three areas—leadership development, global connections, and living theology.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Summer Joint Bethany WELCA Luncheon

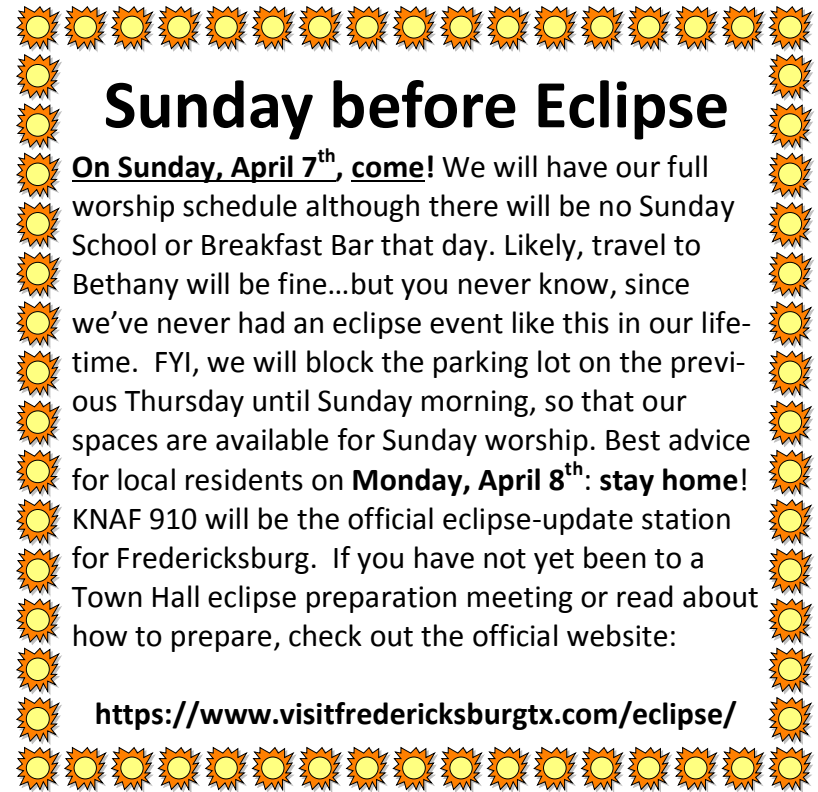
Date: Sunday, June 2, 2024  
Time: after the 10:30 services  
Place: TBD

Stay tuned for more information!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*



All women are invited to join in our WELCA activities. See above for times and places. We’d love to have you be a part of our circles or gathering!



## Sunday before Eclipse

**On Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, come!** We will have our full worship schedule although there will be no Sunday School or Breakfast Bar that day. Likely, travel to Bethany will be fine...but you never know, since we’ve never had an eclipse event like this in our lifetime. FYI, we will block the parking lot on the previous Thursday until Sunday morning, so that our spaces are available for Sunday worship. Best advice for local residents on **Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>: stay home!** KNAF 910 will be the official eclipse-update station for Fredericksburg. If you have not yet been to a Town Hall eclipse preparation meeting or read about how to prepare, check out the official website:

<https://www.visitfredericksburgtx.com/eclipse/>



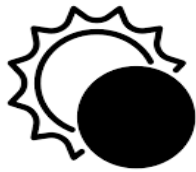
## Confirmation Class 1974

On Heritage Sunday April 21, we will honor the 50-year Bethany confirmands who affirmed their baptism in the rite of confirmation in 1974. To the best of our knowledge, that class included:

Randall Beckmann  
Terry Reson  
Harold Frisch  
Jane Luckenbach Perry  
Cindy Dittmar Holmes  
Kathy Grobe

David Wehmeyer  
Janis True  
Karla Rode  
Kim Eckhart  
Peggy Young Geistweidt





## Eclipse on Monday April 8

On Monday, April 8, thousands of people come to Fredericksburg to see the total solar eclipse at 1:32 until 1:37 p.m. You won't see that again until 2044! And one of the best places to see it in the USA is... Fredericksburg. We're in the path of totality.

FYI: we will close our entrances Thursday April 4 until Sunday morning worship April 7, to avoid campers and tents being set up on our lot. That way there will be room for Sunday morning worship parking.

The western unpaved "Hennig Lot" will be used by the City for employee park and thus have signs reserving it for that purpose. The council will decide about the paved parking lot (see "Council Notes" in this newsletter).

Check out [www.VisitFredericksburgTx.Com/eclipse](http://www.VisitFredericksburgTx.Com/eclipse) for a special detailed page with information for residents and visitors. Basically, residents should stay home April 8! The website also gives advice on safeguarding your property.

**On Sunday, April 7,** we will have our in-person and online worship services as usual at Bethany; however, there will be no breakfast bar and no Sunday School because those events involve many volunteers who would have to prepare for a completely unknown number of people. Traffic on that Sunday may be light and everyone comes to church as usual. But if there is traffic congestion, many may not be able to make it to Bethany. It all depends on how many people are in town by Sunday... and no one knows that number until that day. So we don't want volunteers to prepare for 50 breakfast diners... and we have 5, or 100!



## Youth & Family



## 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 Chrysallis in Kerrville.

(To register, please contact Kiesha ASAP!)



Thank you to all who donated Easter candy for the Bethany/Holy Ghost Easter Egg hunt!

It was a great success! 27

## April 2024 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

DATE	TIME	USHERS
Sun. Apr. 7	8:15 10:30	Brad Holland- captain, Autumn Holland, Dawson Holland, Wilma McAndrew <hr/> Kenneth Treibs- captain Jaye Treibs, Jennifer Jenschke, Jaycee Treibs
Sun. Apr. 14	8:15 10:30	Bubba Schnelle- captain, Pam Schnelle, <hr/> Leland Geistweidt- captain Becky Dittmar, Judy Dittmar
Sun. Apr. 21	8:15 10:30	Max Beckmann- captain, Bonnie Beckmann, David & Sharon Browne <hr/> Jody Donovan- captain Joe & Marilyn Butcher, Sheila Donovan
Sun. Apr. 28	8:15 10:30	Dwight Oestreich - captain, Judy & Scott Brundridge <hr/> Willard Dearing- captain Randy Busch, Lois Bush

Thank You

To our Bethany family,

My family and I would like to send our sincere, although belated thanks, to all of our dear friends at Bethany: those who sent cards, those who visited during Al's illness and after his death, those who provided food and served at the wonderful Christmas Party that followed Al's memorial service. He would have enjoyed it so much! And special thanks to our wonderful choir family who welcomed Al to heaven with the beautiful and heartfelt music provided at the service. And more special thanks to all of my dear Bethany family who have showered me with love, hugs, warm wishes and encouragement since Al's passing.

Nancy O'Neal



## 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 on Thursdays through April 18, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. 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



### 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.

# Brother Steward



## Holy Week

*Centuries ago in foreign lands, our Brothers, Sisters, and Priests, were martyred for holding Holy Week Services. Stations of the Cross were forbidden, Tenebrae, Good Friday and Easter Services were held underground. But the Faithful prevailed! This week is Holy Week. Yes, open to the public. No reservations needed. No barbarians to keep you from the gates. This may be the ultimate test of good stewardship: using God's gift to us of time to spend in prayer and worship during Holy Week. Things taken for granted can be taken away. And participation is the best form of protecting our freedom. So, this Holy Week embrace the Lord, follow the Cross, and rejoice in Redemption! God Bless!*

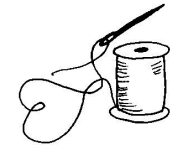


## April 2024 PRAISE & WORSHIP (10:30)

	Leader Kid's Message	HOSTS	Communion Assistants Prayer Minister
Sun. Apr. 7	Erik & Beth Iverson Erik & Beth Iverson	Erik & Beth Iverson	No Communion Erik & Beth Iverson
Sun. Apr. 14	Cheryl Flink Cheryl Flink	Vic Nixon (2)	Merrily Hartmann (2) Steve & Mary Evans Cheryl Flink
Sun. Apr. 21	Ken Smith Ken Smith	Elizabeth White (2)	No Communion Ken Smith
Sun. Apr. 28	Beth Luckenbach Beth Luckenbach	Weldon & Winnie Griffin	Jaye Treibs (2) Erik & Beth Iverson Beth Luckenbach

## Quilters' Corner

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



**The Quilters will be meeting on their regular day—Wednesday, April 10th at 9:00 am.**

We welcome everyone who has an interest in helping with LWR Quilts or wants to know more about the ministry of LWR outreach. 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!!**







## April 2024 Assisted Living

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

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

### Arbor House

#### VILLAGES OF WINDCREST

\*Marion Welgehausen \*Gloria Brooks

#### FBG NURSING HOME

#### 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



**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**, the 9-week course by famed-expert Dave Ramsey, will be coordinated at Bethany Lutheran beginning April 4<sup>th</sup>. You work too hard to be broke or not getting ahead in life. According to a study by Ramsey Solutions research team, 40% of Americans say their financial situation has caused them to lose sleep in the past month. So, if you ever felt like you just can't get control of your finances or at end of the month wondering what happened your money, you're not alone. Good news millions of people have found financial peace by attending the FPU class that lays the entire foundation for handling money and is the fastest, most streamlined way to get control of your finances. FPU will give you the tools to change your habits so you can transform your money and your future. You can sign-up by calling Layne at the Bethany church office 830-997-2069 or go to the class link which is

<https://www.FPU.com/OA2A34>.

The cost is \$80 to cover materials and course.



## 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 April

**April 7—Team 1: NO BREAKFAST BAR**

**April 14—Team 2:** Camille & Marc Williamson—Autumn & Brad Holland, Jean Weber, Jet & Weldon Itz, Karen Loeffler, Sharon Joseph, Emily Sandoval, JoAnn Leifeste

**April 21—Team 3:** Judy & Ed Kramer—Lucinda Zesch, Gayle McQuay, Beth Luckenbach, Melissa Holland, Robert & Morgan McCall, Deanna Christenson

**April 28—Team 4:** Monica Jinright & Krystle Schnelle—Elizabeth White, Mary Heath, Valerie Nimitz, Vickie Smith, Katie Jinright, Mary Greene

### April 2024 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP COMMUNION

Date	Time	Communion Assistants
Sun. Apr. 7	8:15	David & Sharon Browne
	10:30	Joe & Marilyn Butcher Caroline Stafford
Sun. Apr. 14	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion
Sun. Apr. 21	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion
Sun. Mar. 28	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion



## Council Highlights

March 19, 2024



- Council approved leaving the parking lot open during the eclipse after church on Sunday. “No camping/No Overnight” signs will be posted.
- Council moved to create a fund for our Emergency Preparedness Team.
- Council approved the Stewardship Committee’s recommendations for No ELCA funds.
- Council accepted the Financial Audit report.
- Council approved funds to repair damaged trim around a stained glass window.



## April Birthdays

- |  |                                      |                                     |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 — Audrey Gold                        | 11— Abbey Geistweidt<br>Thomas Flink | 20—Millie Flink<br>Adam Geistweidt  |
| 2- Jake Duderstadt<br>Wilfried Mazanke | Bev Pankratz                         | 21—Renee Pearson                    |
| 3—Debbie Braden<br>Brad Flink          | Denise Stehling                      | 22—Ezra Graham<br>Matthew Grobe     |
| Tom Roarick                            | 12 —Danny Flink<br>Johlt Haggerty    | Jacob White                         |
| Marc Williamson                        | Sarah Neans                          | 23—Travis Ahrens<br>Ralph Rode      |
| Lily Straube                           | Rory Pape                            | 24—Heather Rode<br>Daivey Edeen     |
| 4—Brad Evans<br>Walter Probst, Jr.     | Grey Rossi                           | 25—Merrily Hartmann<br>Korey Zenner |
| 7—Jordan Hohmann<br>Marian Klein       | 13—Tina Stowe<br>Blake Edeen         | 27—Kaylee Haug<br>Matthew Mechler   |
| 8—Kevin Haug, Jr.<br>Brandon Willis    | Linda Warriner                       | Cody Pape                           |
| 9—Alayna Pape<br>Chrissy Stuewe        | 17—Katie Dugue<br>Ashley Slaughter   | 28—Al Andrichyn                     |
| David Wehmeyer                         | 18—Camryn Greene<br>Colleen Ketron   | 29—Joyce Robertson                  |
| 10—Carli Cole Jeffrey<br>Myron Deike   | Hyleigh Ottmers                      | 30—Judy Brundridge<br>Rhyse Deike   |
| Beverly Johnson                        | Mike Stolpe                          | Maurice Hohmann                     |
| Emily Myers Krieger                    | 19—Susie Bryson<br>Jennifer Dulaney  | Kailey Schnelle                     |
| Clayton Sides                          | Cohl Hartmann                        |                                     |
| Brandon Struss                         | Ashlynn Roarick                      |                                     |
| Collins Ward                           |                                      |                                     |
| Ben Warriner                           |                                      |                                     |

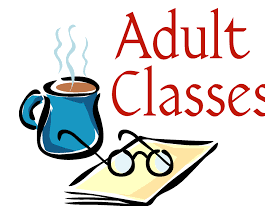


***Thank You so much to the Bethany Fellowship Team and volunteers for the great meals served during Lent!!!***

***We appreciate your hard work and dedication to making the season of Lent so special.***



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



### Adult Bible Class-

The Adult Bible Class will be studying the Psalms for the month of April. 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 April the Transitions Class will be continuing a study with Adam Hamilton, **“Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith.”**

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 April, we will be studying the series, **“Wrestling with Doubt and Finding Faith”** This class meets downstairs in room 115. Please join us for lively discussions and great fellowship!



**No Sunday School on Apr. 7th.**



## Special Offering for April **Synod Assembly**

### **Lutheran Disaster Response**

This year's assembly offering will go to support the Lutheran Disaster Response - our ELCA ministry that responds to natural and unnatural disasters in the United States and around the world.

In the face of disaster, Lutheran Disaster Response shares relief today and builds resilience for tomorrow. From wildfires to hurricanes to refugee crises, we are present when disaster strikes, ready to accompany communities through relief and recovery. We are also in communities when there are no impending disasters, preparing people to mitigate the effects of a disaster and enabling them to bounce back more quickly.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response share healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disaster. Together, we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need.

You can write a check payable to Bethany and mark "Special Offering." Place in your April special offering envelope or a pew envelope on any Sunday morning in April or mail to the church:

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



The Der Stadt Friedhof  
Cemetery Board  
would like to say  
**THANK YOU**

to everyone that has donated  
their time or supported us financially with a  
donation or a bequest.

We are a 501(c)(13) non-profit corporation owned by  
Bethany Lutheran Church, Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, and  
Zion Lutheran Church. For more information on how you  
can support the cemetery please contact us through the  
church.

DerStadtFriedhof@gmail.com or  
P.O. Box 973  
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

### **Der Stadt Friedhof Cemetery Board Member 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 the Der Stadt Friedhof 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 (each owner congregation provides 2 members for the Board). If you are interested in learning more about what the position would entail, please contact Susan Stroehler, 830-456-3143 or [derstadtfriedhof@gmail.com](mailto:derstadtfriedhof@gmail.com) for more information.

Thank you! 21



**A Few Words from our  
BPS Director:  
Cheryl Flink**

John 3:16-17 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”*

Following the ancient saying, “As the two frogs said, “Time’s fun when you’re having flies!” time is sure flying by here at BPS! We have begun summer enrollment and are excited to be completely full, as well as feeling grateful to have a strong amount of staff to run both the preschool side and summer camp side (K-5th graders). God is good!!

A HUGE thank you to the Property Committee and Ralph Rode for moving the raised garden beds to where they can receive sunlight. This means the preschoolers will have the opportunity to grow plants this year and learn about the life cycle of a seed! We are in need of a garden soil donation to begin our gardening projects. If there is a congregation member that would like to donate soil, we would be so grateful! Also, the property committee has fixed our kitchen door which had begun allowing water in during heavy rain-falls. I am incredibly thankful to have that fixed so that water is no longer surprising us in the mornings! THANK YOU!!

During the summer months we run a full day program for our k-5th graders. I would like to fill their days with more learning opportunities. If you would be interested in teaching basic sewing skills, basic cooking skills, or any other neat trades, please reach out! We can work out how to schedule the classes and what materials may be needed. Thank you in advance!

How to reach out: Call the BPS office at 830-997-8751 and ask for Cheryl or email Cheryl at [bethanypsdirector@gmail.com](mailto:bethanypsdirector@gmail.com)

Have a great April!  
In His Name, Cheryl Flink

**BLC Dollars & Cents**

	<b>Feb 2024</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Gen Fund Income	\$73,080.59	\$148,835.54
Gen Fund Expenses	\$68,265.11	\$130,114.63
Surplus:	\$4,815.48	\$18,720.91

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**Balances Other Funds**

**Designated Accounts:** \$231,895.48  
**Capital Improvement/Hennig Fund (SSBT):** \$56,674.66  
**Capital Improvement/Hennig CD (Guadalupe):** \$81,704.65

**Pre-School Building Fund:**

SSBT: \$1,022,475.08  
 TX Hill Country CD: \$202,268.50  
 Stein (Ed Jones): \$316,696.29  
 Total: \$1,541,439.87

**Emergency Aid Fund (Chase):** \$7,601.68  
**Contingency (Guadalupe)–Money Market Account**  
 \$107,550.58

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

**Broadway Bank (CD-Hein Estate Gift)** \$171,159.25

**Monthly Special Offerings - 2024**

**January - Der Stadt Friedhof - \$4,390**

**February – Bethany Preschool - \$9758**

<p><b>ALTAR GUILD</b> SCHEDULE</p>	<p><b>April 2024 Altar Guild</b></p> <p><b><u>Traditional:</u></b></p> <p>Jean Weber, Karen Oestreich, Chrissy Stuewe, &amp; Constance Schultz</p> <p><b><u>Contemporary:</u></b></p> <p>Jaye Treibs &amp; Krystal Geistweidt</p>
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## 1954 and 1962 Restrooms to be Renovated!

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Council approved the Aesthetics Committee's proposal to **renovate** the Women's Restroom (RR) and the Men's RR on the hallway as well as the Men's RR near the Overflow. All three are 60+ years old and in dire need of an update (can you say, "ugly?"). **Our plan is to gut all three areas and start over.**

The Men's RR on the hallway will be converted to a Family ADA RR. The Women's RR behind that will have a new, more open floor plan. These two areas will be addressed first, and all interior cinder block walls will be demolished (read: dust - we'll mask off the area and do everything we can to control this). The existing plumbing is all cast iron so significant work is required there. The Men's RR @ the Overflow will be started whenever necessary to have it ready for plumbing work at the same time as the others. There will be no change to that floorplan. All RR interior items will be replaced: flooring (similar to that in the hallway), plumbing fixtures, stall partitions, lighting, paint, ceiling tiles, etc.

**Work will begin right after Easter on April 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>**, and **complete by May 10<sup>th</sup>** barring any unforeseen issues. These RRs will be unavailable for use during construction, so please plan to use the RRs near the Fellowship Hall or behind the Sanctuary in the Cry Room. Signage will be provided.

**The offices will be open as usual the entire time.** The Porte Cochere entrance will be open too, but it might not be possible to drive-thru as there will be a dump trailer and other construction equipment in the area. We will coordinate all activities closely with Staffs (Church and Preschool).

Our contractors for this project are Ralph Rode Construction, Raab Plumbing, Clarlyle Flooring, and PowerHaus Electric. A huge THANK YOU to Ralph for all of his help in the planning process. We are excited to get started!



Whoooo are you?



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

Starting in May, a new feature highlighting our Bethany members will be included in the Bethany Bells. Everyone has different interests, backgrounds and aspirations. Let's get to know each other better!

Karen Oestreich and Donna Mittel will be interviewing different church members each month and will share that information with our church family.

This will be so interesting!



Whooo knows! You may be the next one interviewed!!!





# Youth Photo Gallery



Faith Foundations learning about Jesus' story of the wise & foolish builders & trying to see who could build the sturdiest "house" with marshmallows & toothpicks.



Faith Foundations learning about Mary & Joseph searching for the boy Jesus, who was in the Temple teaching. They made their own popsicle stick families to put in the "temple"



Third graders were presented with Bibles on Palm Sunday.

# Youth Photo Gallery



Kids starting work on the mosaic cross from smashed mugs.



High School & Middle School at Top Golf.



6th graders putting together Food4Kids bags.



Calendar

Calendar