

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”

October 2024

Spiritual Therapy

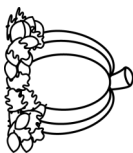
By Pastor Casey

It just hit me—the “age” thing. Many of you already know the aches and pains that just appear one day. Out of nowhere! (Or, so it seems.) Some of you noticed me walking a little more gingerly in recent weeks, with a different gait. Several weeks ago, my lower back started hurting. Then pain went down my legs. Then to my feet. “Spinal stenosis,” the doctor said after the MRI. Well, crud.

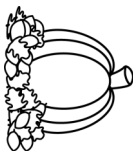
Now, I’ve had my first session of Physical Therapy. And it wasn’t what I thought. I expected my old football coach’s words: “Make it hurt! No pain no gain.” Nope. My first PT session and assignment involved positioning my legs and hips and holding for 3 minutes. Turns out, I’ve been using the wrong muscles. The therapist explained that holding certain positions for 3 minutes each day retrains my brain to use the muscles God intended to be used.

Which made me think of the term “Spiritual Therapy.” What can retrain our hearts, minds, and souls for a healthy relationship with God and one other? Does it sometimes take a spiritual or emotional pain to get us to seek health? Perhaps spending an hour in worship is a kind of therapy—we hear Scripture, we commune, we sing some songs and say our prayers. Maybe we take the practice of praying and reading Scripture home. And... God retrains us, again.

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



October



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



Update on Community Capital Campaign For New Bethany Preschool Building

On Sunday, September 22, Jody Donovan, community capital campaign chair, gave an update at all three worship services on the progress being made on the community outreach for the Bethany Preschool Building Capital Campaign.

As of August 31st, a total of \$3,456,208 has been raised for the capital campaign to build a new facility for our preschool. Of that total members of Bethany have given or pledged \$2.5 million. Individuals, businesses and organizations in Fredericksburg and Gillespie County, as well as foundations, have given or pledged another \$1 million toward our goal.

Donovan also noted that \$300,000 has been raised toward reaching the \$400,000 matching grant from Mary Porter.

The Capital Campaign Committee is thankful for everyone who has stepped up to help move us toward the goal of \$7 million. The estimated total cost of the project increased from \$6.3 million due to expected inflation over the next two years.

Donovan also reminded congregational members who are over 73 that they can direct their IRA required minimum distribution directly to the Bethany Preschool Building Fund to avoid taxes. Work with your tax professional to make sure all IRS regulations are followed.

The Capital Campaign Committee needs “a helping hand” to identify potential donors. If you know of any philanthropists, businesses, individuals, foundations or organizations who you think might like to help us reach our goal, please contact the pastors or Donovan at (830)997-4763.



In Our Prayers

Hospital/Clinic/ER/Tests:

Donald & Carol Eckhardt Helen Feller Winnie Griffin
Esther Holland Lindy Haley Charles Kuenemann
Kim Sedgwick Carl Warriner Sharon Wendt
Korey Zenner

Ongoing:

Donald & Carol Eckhardt Audrey Gold Nic Jones
Dorothy Klier

Celebration of Birth:

- Ginny & Luke Tillman at the birth of John Tate Tillman; Bethany siblings are Brooklyn, Andrew, and Daniel Stehling.
- Katie & Alfredo Dugue at the birth of Sterling James Dugue. Bethany grandparents are Monica & Jim Jinright
- Dana & Cheryl Rowan at the birth of their granddaughter Junia Rose Rowan in San Jose, CA!

Our Sympathy To:

- Max & Bonnie Beckmann at the death of Max's mother, Jan Beckmann. Funeral services were September 7.



October Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 – Mary Alice Deike | 11 – Bailey Wipff | 25 – Jaxen Bertleson |
| Lou Ann Fletcher | 12 – Brian Maenius | Dwight Dittmar |
| Troy Ottmers | Broc Schulz | Stephen Itz |
| 2 – Elias Christensen | 13 – Brooke Beckmann | Cindy Zenner |
| Brayden Langehennig | 15 – Shanna Marquart | 26 – Matt Maple |
| 3 – Drew Bonillas | Henry Millsap | Mape Rush |
| Emma Geistweidt | 16 – Berta Allen | 27 – Todd Keener |
| Rusty Petsch | Daniel Jenschke | Kendyll Petty |
| Alyssa Rode Petsch | Zach Willis | 28 – Dayton Eckhardt |
| Jim Schaefer | Bruce Woerner | James Iverson |
| 4 – Trenton Schnelle | 17 – Dean Dietel | Kelly Janecka |
| 5 – Brittany Durst | Marion Welgehausen | 29 – Jaren Bertelson |
| Raynette Kuenemann | Matt White | Tyler Brundridge |
| 6 – Anthony Dietz | 18 – Jarret Borchers | Kathleen Celaya |
| Traci Doerre | Rick Burgess | Cheryl Flink |
| JoAnn Leifeste | Andrea Pape | Renee Grobe |
| Carissa Tronstad | Julia Maenius | Wil Rathke |
| 8 – Josh Bonillas | 20 – Kim Bonillas | Donna Wolf |
| Cindy Maple | Sandra Kammlah | 30 – Daysha Aleman |
| 9 – Jayla Bierschwale | 21 – Erik Iverson | Forrest Farnhof |
| Dorothy Klier | Cole Rains | 31 – Bill Heath |
| 10 – Joyleen Ahrens | 22 – Russell Kneese | |
| Aileen Hayes | Ray Tiemann | |
| Sandi McCreedy | Jean Weber | |
| Sarah Morris | 23 – Krystal Geistweidt | |
| Braxton Suris | Beau Ristau | |
| | 24 – Laken Thompson | |



October 2024 Altar Guild Traditional:

Marjorie Ottmers, Sarah Eckhardt
Linda McCann

Contemporary:

Karen Rode & Linda Pape

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Sunday, October 20th BPS FAJITA DINNER

This annual fundraiser for our Pre-school will offer both To-Go and Dine-In options. To-Go orders begin at 11 am, and Dine-In begins at 11:45 in the Fellowship Hall. All proceeds go towards the Bethany Preschool Program.

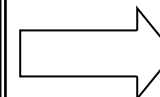


Hope to see you there!



Tickets—\$15 per plate

This includes 2 chicken fajitas, rice, beans, and dessert.



Dine-In or Take-Out!!

Tickets are available in the entrance area on Sundays and in the Preschool.



Have a delicious meal and support our Preschool!!!!



Bible, Burgers & Brew Men Meet Sunday, October 13 at 4 p.m.

Abraham Lincoln said: "I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts, and beer." Thanks Ed Kramer for finding that quote! We invite all men of Bethany and their friends to the Troy Ottmers home for a Bible study along with food, drink, & shooting the breeze. You'll be glad you came!

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On a Committee???

It's Budget Time!!!

All committees are asked to review their budgets at their October meetings. Now is the time to turn in your 2025 budget requests to the Finance Committee by placing those requests in the box on Administrator Layne Petty's door. Or email them to Layne at: layneblc@gmail.com



Reformation Sunday

Wear Red Sunday, October 27th

As we celebrate the Reformation which began in 1517, the color of the day is red! You're invited to wear something **RED** that day as a sign of the Holy Spirit working in and through Christ's church—reformed and always reforming.

Packing Day for Troops

On Sunday, October 6th, volunteers will pack items collected for the 8th Infantry in Bulgaria. We will meet in Room 115 at 9:00 a.m. Many hands make for light work, so we appreciate your help!



Daylight Savings Time Ends

"Fall" Back for November 3

Set Clocks Back One Hour

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- **October 1st (Tuesday)**— **WELCA board meeting**—4:00 p.m. in the downstairs kitchen
- **October 3rd (Thursday)**—**Leah Circle**— 9:30 a.m. in the Bethany Fellowship Hall.
- **October 8th (Tuesday)**—**Hope Circle**—6:00 p.m. in the Bethany Fellowship Hall.
- **October 9th (Wednesday)** —**Quilters**— 9:00 a.m. in the downstairs quilting/choir room. (see p. 36 for more quilting news!)
- **October 10th (Thursday)** —**Lydia Circle**—9:15 a.m.—in the downstairs kitchen
- **October 16th (Wednesday)** —**Ruth Circle**—9:00 a.m. at the home of Cindy Wheeler.

Mark Your Calendars!!!

WELCA Convention to be held
Oct. 4-6, 2024
in Corpus Christi, TX

Just a reminder ...\$10 or \$20 gift cards to HEB or Walmart are being collected to send with Dorcella Sunday to the WELCA Convention for our contribution to the physical offering. These gift cards will be distributed to Fire Fighters in the Gulf Coast region. You can leave your donated gift cards with Layne Petty in the church office. Dorcella will be picking these up after church on Sunday, Sept. 29. Thank you for your contributions.

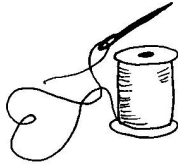
Debbie Tiemann 37

Quilters' Corner

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

The Quilters will be meeting on their regular day—Wednesday,
October 9th at 9:00 am—noon.

They meet in the downstairs quilting/choir room.



- The quilters will be tacking the remaining quilts and starting the packing for the shipment to Lutheran World Relief.
- On Sunday, October 13th, the quilters will display their quilts and the following kits: Personal Care, School Backpack, and Baby Care.
- We welcome Linda McCann and Karen Keener to our Fabulous Quilting Group!!!
- We invite all who have an interest in the work we do because it is all about "God's Work, Our Hands" as we make a difference in a hurting world.
- Your donations of fabric, thread, and items to fill our kits are very much appreciated.

Congrats to Annabel & Chrissy!



What a privilege to celebrate 91 years of honoring God through music and song with Annabel Wilkinson (40 years as Bethany organist) and Chrissy Stuewe (51 years as Bethany choir director). Left to right: Pastor Kevin Haug, Annabel Wilkinson, Chrissy Stuewe,, and Pastor Casey Zesch at the BBQ luncheon on Sept. 22.



New Women's Bible Study Coming October 1st!!!

Bible study has returned with a new study,

Thrive: Living Faithfully in Difficult Times,

by Jennifer Cowert. It is a six week study beginning Tuesday, October 1st, from 10:00-11:30am. There is a short 10 minute video each week, along with discussion and a workbook. This six week study on the book of James is packed with practical wisdom for how to live today as a follower of Christ.

James addresses topics on how we use our words, how to handle pressure, and putting faith into action. As we study the scriptures, we will see that our goal is to grow in every way...healthy and strong in Jesus so that we can thrive in Him.

Workbooks will be ordered for those who sign up. Email Camille Williamson at camille.k.williamson@gmail.com or call the church office. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex and the Fellowship Hall.

All Saints Remembrance—November 3rd

On Sunday, November 3, Bethany will remember all those who have died since our last All Saints Sunday. Names will be printed in next month's newsletter.

FYI—Daylight Savings Time ends that day.

Set clocks back one hour.



Closures for Oktoberfest Parking Lot & Austin St.

Again this year, Austin St. (in front of Bethany) will be closed for Oktoberfest. The City will open Austin St. for church parking on **Sunday morning, October 6th** during worship hours (please move your car after worship). You may park on the Bethany side of the street—simply tell the attendant you are a member. Enter from the Adams St. side only. Or, park in our back lot as usual. Also, once again, Bethany's parking lot will be reserved for Oktoberfest volunteers during event hours; our youth will receive a donation for the lot and will in turn run Kinder Park. The lot is open for Bethany members Sunday morning.



Bell Ringers Needed Salvation Army Red Kettles

Remember those folks around town, standing beside the Red Kettles? The Salvation Army still has the Red Kettles but very few bell ringers to stand beside them. Would you be willing to volunteer? Contact (830) 307-4402. Or let one of the pastors know and we'll forward your name to director Sophia Kalish. Every dollar dropped into a red kettle helps give local families the Christmases they deserve and the yearlong support they so desperately need.

October 2024 PRAISE & WORSHIP (10:30)

	Leader Kid's Message	HOSTS	Communion Assistants Prayer Minister
Sun. Oct. 6	Ken Smith Ken Smith	Ralph & Karen Rode (2)	No Communion Ken Smith
Sun. Oct. 13	Mary Evans Mary Evans	Elizabeth White (2)	Steve Evans, Jaye Treibs (2), Beth Iverson Mary Evans
Sun. Oct. 20	Beth Luckenbach Beth Luckenbach	Marian Nixon (2)	No Communion Beth Luckenbach
Sun. Oct. 27	Erik & Beth Iverson Erik & Beth Iverson	Elizabeth Warriner (2)	Steve & Mary Evans Ralph & Karen Rode Beth Iverson

CELEBRATION SUNDAY was a special day to enjoy the fellowship Bethany is known for!!! Everyone kept the secret and Chrissy Stuewe and Anabel Wilkinson were so surprised. The Fellowship committee was especially proud to celebrate Curvey Weber's 90th birthday and his work on the Fellowship Committee.

A huge Thank you to Lost Draw and Narrow Path wineries for donating the wine, and Backwoods BBQ for preparing the delicious meal. Most of all, thank you for helping make this a special day!

Your Fellowship Committee

October 2024 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

DATE	TIME	USHERS
Sun. Oct. 6	8:15 10:30	Gary Stehling- captain, Denise Stehling, David & Sharon Browne Kenneth Treibs, captain Jaye Treibs, Jayecee Treibs, Jennifer Jenschke
Sun. Oct. 13	8:15 10:30	Bubba Schnelle- captain, Pam Schnelle Weldon Itz captain Jet Itz, Becky Dittmar, Judy Dittmar
Sun. Oct. 20	8:15 10:30	Brad Holland- captain, Autumn Holland, Dawson Holland, Carol Seminara Jody Donovan- captain Sheila Donovan, Forrest Wheeler, Kevin Kunz
Sun. Oct. 27	8:15 10:30	Dwight Oestreich - captain, Judy Brundridge, Scott Brundridge Willard Dearing- captain Kyle Kneese



In September, students went back to Fredericksburg schools and the Food4Kids backpack program, coordinated by the Needs Council, is again providing nutritious, non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food for children who don't have enough food on weekends and holidays when they can't depend on school meals to avoid hunger.

For several years, Bethany has had different teams who assemble and deliver food to schools where the food is given to students who have been identified by the Needs Council and school counselors as needing help with meals on the weekends.

Would you be interested in being part of one of our Bethany teams that assembles the meals and delivers them to the school? Please contact Karen Oestreich or the church office (830-997-2069) for more information or to join in this volunteer opportunity!



The Christmas Journey

Bethany will again present "The Christmas Journey" for the community as well as for Christmas tourists, some of whom travel to Fredericksburg

from out of town specifically to see the Journey!

Dates: Friday and Saturday **December 13 & 14.**

Watch for signup sheets in the entrance area of churches. We need people to be characters, set builders, helpers, entrance & exit greeters, food-makers, etc. Please consider volunteering for the Journey. Many new costumes were sewn this last year. SETUP day is Sunday, December 8, right after worship.



Skyrocketing Insurance

As noted last month, we had an unexpected rise in insurance costs which will affect our budget. Our longtime insurer Church Mutual, which had increased premiums this year, dropped us in August (they'd already dropped many churches earlier). Our administrator Layne contacted many, many underwriters and most would not consider us. Three companies sent proposals, and the cost went from \$32,000 to \$60,000 for our liability, auto, property, and umbrella insurance. See the front page article in last month's Bells.

We know that Bethany is a generous congregation and that you have continually stepped up to handle financial challenges. This year, we have stayed in the black the vast majority of the time because of your tremendous giving. We thank you for this, and know that it will continue.



Sunday School & Adult Education Classes 2024

Who goes.....

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

Where

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

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

Breakfast Bar Schedule— October



Oct. 6—Team 3: Judy & Ed Kramer—

Lucinda Zesch Gayle McQuay, Beth Luckenbach, Melissa Holland, Robert & Morgan McCall, Deanna Christenson

Oct. 13—Team 5: Mary Alice & Oliver Deike—Kim

Sedgwick, Elizabeth Warriner, Dawna & Kiera Haug, Donna Mittel, Katie Jung, Joyce Richey

Oct. 20—Team 4: Monica Jinright/ Krystle Schnelle—

Elizabeth White, Mary Heath, Valerie Nimitz, Vickie Smith, Katie Jinright, Mary Greene

Oct. 27—Kelly Urbanec—Kay Stech, Nancy Geistweidt,

Janie Bailey, Vonnie Maner, Cherry Woods, Kathy Meybaum, Lindy Haley



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.

October 2024 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP COMMUNION

Date	Time	Communion Assistants
Sun. Oct. 6	8:15	Jonathan Baethge, May Eilers
	10:30	Becky Dittmar Joe & Marilyn Butcher
Sun. Oct. 13	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion
Sun. Oct. 20	8:15	David & Sharon Browne
	10:30	Cindy Wheeler Pat McCready, Joyce Richey
Sun. Oct. 27	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion



October 2024 Assisted Living

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

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

ARBOR HOUSE

*Jean Lois Mohr

VILLAGES OF WINDCREST

*Marion Welgehausen *Gloria Brooks *Shirley Kearns Hormuth
 *Danny McQuay

FBG NURSING HOME

KNOPP HEALTHCARE & REHAB CTR (#1)

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

KNOPP RETIREMENT

*Clarence Rose *Patricia "Trish" Schmidt

KNOPP (#2)

KNOPP Assisted Living Care Center

*Annabel Stein

ENCHANTED ROCK NURSING & REHAB

HERITAGE

* Roberta Young * Frankie Law *Elizabeth Parsons

ALAMO RANCH, San Antonio

*Audelle Burkey

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October Sunday Schedule For Adults

9:20 a.m.

Bethany Lutheran church offers several different Sunday School classes for adults and youth. Please choose a class and come join us!! Small group study and gatherings help to build a strong church family.

(And it's a lot of fun!!!)

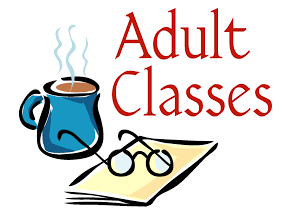
See p. 8 for a list of classes offered.



Adult Bible Class-

The Adult Bible Class will be studying "Psalms: Songs of Ups and Downs".

This class meets in the over-flow area in the back of the church. People of all ages are welcome. Please come and join us!



The Transitions Class-

For October the Transitions Class will continue their study of the New Testament book of Romans. It is the Apostle Paul's most complete theological statement—carefully written, precise, and painstakingly logical. We'll read the whole book over 13 sessions. This class meets in room 205—the Trinity Room. Please join us.



Legacy Builder's (Young adults class)

This class will spend most of the month of October continuing the study, "Uncommon" by Tony Dungie. This class meets downstairs in room 115. Please join us Sunday mornings for lively and inspiring discussions (and great fellowship!!)

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Meet Our Members October

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

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

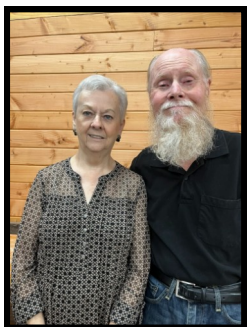
Members Highlighted this Month:

Barb & Will Rathke — p. 11

Dianna & Don Blount — p.12

Todd & Tammy Keener — p. 13

M. J. Dittmar - p. 14



Barb & Will Rathke



Todd & Tammy Keener



M. J. Dittmar



Dianna & Don
Blount
& granddaughters



A Few Words from our BPS Director: Kim Bonillas

We are dreaming of crisp fall days, costume parades and pumpkin spice lattes! Well, maybe that last one is just me!

This fall season we will be creating a pumpkin patch near our garden area! Each family will donate a pumpkin to our patch and kids will get a turn to choose which pumpkin they would like to decorate!



The kids will also, of course, be celebrating the season with a costume parade through the church hallways and will have fun decorating a Fall cookie!

**Please remember our
Annual Fajita Dinner on
October 20th!!
Drive- thru 11:00-1:00
Dine-in 11:45-1:00
Tickets are \$15.00
(See p. 3 For more details!)**



Come enjoy 2 chicken fajitas, rice, beans, and a dessert and support the important ministry we do for our community! We are blessed by the donations, volunteers and prayers of our congregation!

God's Peace,
Kim Bonillas





FALL CARNIVAL

Bethany & Holy Ghost
Wednesday, October 30th
At Bethany Lutheran Church
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Dress up & bring the family!!
Lots of games, candy, prizes, crafts, and
Hotdogs!!

**Need Your
Help!!!**

**We will be collect-
ing individually
wrapped bags of
candy for the Fall
Carnival starting
October 6th!!!**

You can drop it off at Kiesha's door!

Barb & Wil Rathke

Wil & Barb met while he was attending Lamar State College of Technology. An only child, Wil grew up on a farm east of Brenham where his family raised cotton, corn & cattle. A passion for electrical experiments that filled their home with wires, made clear he was destined to become an electrical engineer.

Barb, youngest of 4 siblings, spent her childhood with her mother in their café but they also had a rice farm.

His first job was with Magnolia Pipe Line (before it was Mobil) working as telecommunications engineer. Barb was the ultimate homemaker volunteering for many activities.

They moved to Vancouver for Wil to oversee the design and construction of microwave equipment. Then his job took them to Saudi Arabia for a year where he was the lead person overseeing the installation of communication equipment for the pipeline that ran across the desert. This fueled their love for travel, exploring Western Europe together.

Upon retiring, they moved into their dream home in Colorado which Wil had proudly designed. It was there he used his love of music playing in their Lutheran Church contemporary service. As a child he started on a cheap guitar, but when he yearned for a steel guitar, his parents gifted him an accordion.

The couple's wanderlust didn't end with retirement. Deciding to sell their home, they hit the road as RVers, Fredericksburg being their first-and last-stop. Their travels took them across the US, driving through every state except North Dakota. As a child their son, Matthew, benefited from their travels. He now lives in Oklahoma, with his 2 children & 3 grandchildren.

Barb remains active, as president of Daughters of the Republic of Texas & on Fellowship Committee. Both volunteer with Meals on Wheels & HUB board. They enjoy attending Hill Country Exon/Mobil retiree club. Fortunately, Wil is doing well after overcoming an unexpected heart attack.

Their search for a church led them to visit all 3 Lutheran churches but it was Bethany's contemporary service that felt like home. Of course, they praise our pastors. While Barb identifies as Lutheran, she playfully declares she's still a Baptist at heart!!

Together, Wil & Barb embody the spirit of adventure & commitment to community, leaving a lasting impact wherever they go.

Dianna & Don Blount

Dianna & Don Blount's journey began in Florida. Don's passion for flying was ignited during his time in ROTC at Florida Southern College. Dianna's first experience in the skies, was when Don rented a Cessna for a day & buzzed her parents' home. They started their married life at Ft. Benning, Georgia attending paratrooper school while Dianna took classes to learn how to entertain & support his career advancement.

They moved frequently to Camp Walters in Texas & Ft. Rucker, Alabama for helicopter training. A significant chapter in their lives was Don's 13-month deployment in the DMZ zone in Seoul, South Korea. Dianna joined him on a tourist visa, a far cry from her earlier flight in that Cessna. They fondly recall their time in Korea, with TV show MASH* reminding them of their quarters. Their life in Korea was filled with unique challenges, -Dianna set her long hair on fire while heating their apartment. Fortunately, only her hair was damaged.

After Korea, the Blounts moved to Ft. Lewis, Washington, where Don was commander of the instrument flight school. In Washington Dianna discovered her talent for floral design, transforming a struggling flower shop into a thriving business. Her lifelong dream of living in Texas became a reality, settling briefly in Austin before making Fredericksburg their home. Don began working with UPS, & Dianna realized her passion by opening Blumenhandler Florist. Her expertise caught the attention of Lady Bird Johnson, who hired her for numerous events at the LBJ Ranch & Austin.

Their lives took on new meaning after a decade of marriage when their daughter, Stacey, was born, followed by the birth of their son, Tyson. When Don was diagnosed with cancer, Dianna became his caregiver, & both feel fortunate he is in remission. Don retired from UPS after 30 years & achieved the rank of Lt Colonel in the Army Reserves. Dianna, honored as the Chamber Woman of the Year, closed Blumenhandler in 2020, marking the end of a vibrant chapter in her life.

Now, they dedicate their time to being Gamma & Papa to their two granddaughters, Cora & Nova, who, along with their parents Stacey & Stephen York, are members of Bethany. The Blounts cherish their military life & Don's love of flying, but they feel especially blessed to have settled in Fredericksburg. Watching their grandchildren develop roots & grow strong in their faith brings them immense joy and fulfillment.

Brother Steward



Do You Know Your "T"s?

Q: What are Time, Talents, and Treasure?

A: Gifts from God to us.

Q: What is Stewardship?

A: Using God's gifts wisely in good works.

Q: How can I do this?

*A: By using your **Time** and **Talents** to help those in need. Volunteer your talent to serve others through the church and community.*

*Use your **Treasure** to supporting the church and the less fortunate.*

Q: Where did Stewardship come from?

A: Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10 "As each of us has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

Q: Who are Stewards?

A: Every parishioner!

Q: Will there be a pass or fail grade for this "T" test?

A: Only God knows!

God Bless.



Stewardship of our Work Life

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

--Colossians 3:17



Martin Luther's most underappreciated theological insight may have been "the priesthood of all believers." Simply put, Luther observed that God calls all Christians – not just pastors – to lives of holiness. Every one of us accomplishes God's holy work, regardless of our occupation, whether employed on a job or working at home for our family.

It's a simple idea, and one that certainly elevates our "job" to a new status, but it can be hard to live out. Here are some tips:

Think *disciple*: You may know to be a disciple in church, but prayerfully imagine how you can be a follower of Jesus at work or home, too!

Think *excellence*: There's satisfaction in doing your best. Knowing that your work is holy can provide not only incentive but also a satisfaction boost.

Think *relationship*: They're not just your coworkers or family members, they're also the neighbors whom Christ commands us to serve and to love as ourselves.

Think *service*: Every workplace holds challenges for your employer, coworkers and customers. Every home has challenges for your family. How can your experience and gifts help?

Think *priest*: You are called to be a holy person 24/7. How does this awareness invite you to change your behavior and attitude toward your occupation?

We spend so much of our lives in our occupations. We bring the light of Christ to our work as holy people of God's reign!

--Robert Blezard

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Todd & Tammy Keener

Todd & Tammy are familiar faces. Both deeply rooted in their faith & service serving on Church Council, Todd as president, vice president and council secretary. Todd, a serious student, was Valedictorian at Robert E. Lee High School in San Antonio, attending Texas A&M earning his bachelor's and master's in mechanical engineering. His "mechanical" nature has progressed from dismantling all the door knobs in his house while in elementary school (to his mother's dissatisfaction), to getting a "non-running" 1965 Mustang restored for his first car, to now owning a mechanical, electrical, and plumbing engineering consulting firm. He and his team (Matt Myers, Mark Geistweidt, Eston Epton, Brandie Young, and Broc Thiele) will be designing Bethany's new Preschool Building.

He feels his work reflects values instilled in him by his family, especially his father Terry, an engineer for TXDOT who passed away in January 2024. He was proud in hearing he is exactly like his father, loyal, & ethical. Todd finds fulfillment in protecting the life, health & safety of the public & mentoring young men through his work.

An FHS graduate and a Fighting Texas Aggie, Tammy is motivated by getting people on the right path. This motivation is evident with her time as Gillespie County Attorney and as a criminal defense attorney. The Bethany Outreach & Advocacy Team (BOAT) has given her the ability to continue her goals.

Proud of their heritage, Tammy's family has deep ties to Bethany. Her father Gerald & stepmother Trish Schmidt & her sister, Cindy Zenner & family have been actively involved. Todd's mother, Karen Keener, recently joined Bethany, driving back & forth from San Antonio to participate in activities.

These days, Todd & Tammy, & their sons, Dalton & Wesley, find peace at their ranch tending to cattle, goats, & a herd of cats. Both boys serve as ushers, communion assistants & are involved especially in the Christmas Journey. They recall Dick Stuewe giving Dalton his key to the church when Dalton was in middle school so that Dalton "would not be late to the next Christmas Journey meeting just because church doors were locked". "It took a village to raise our boys, and that village was Bethany congregation."

M. J. Dittmar

Born and raised in Gillespie County, MJ Dittmar is proud of his German heritage. He grew up working sheep and cattle at their ranch off Hwy 290 between Harper and Fbg. MJ was the oldest of four children - 3 boys and 1 girls. Pilot Knob was the school he attended, riding his horse there many days. He remembers going into town with his family. His mother would bring eggs, cream and butter into town to sell so that she could purchase what was needed for their family. As a child the family attended Zion Lutheran Church.

MJ was the first to go off to college attending Texas A&M and majored in Animal Husbandry. He married Evelyn Fuhrmann in 1959. Although they were only two grades apart, they didn't date until after MJ's college and military duty. MJ asked Evelyn to choose the property she wanted to ranch and raise their children. She picked the property that had the best farming qualities because she knew MJ was very interested in that line of work. They raised oats, wheat, hay and milo in addition to cattle and sheep. Since Evelyn was a member of Bethany, MJ changed his membership and this is where he has been since. They have three daughters – Cindy Holmes (Charles), Judy and Becky. Judy and Becky live in Fredericksburg and are members of Bethany, Cindy lives in Godley. The three girls grew up helping on the property doing everything from painting gates to picking up rocks. Judy and Becky still work the property with their dad.

Evelyn worked as Secretary for the church from 1971-1991. She died in 1992. MJ has been on church council several times, was a Sunday School teacher, usher and still attends Sunday School. They were also Luther League sponsors. His daughter Becky is the financial secretary for Bethany. A fun fact - MJ was ushering one Sunday when President Lyndon Baines Johnson attended our church. He is most proud of his family and his faith. You will find MJ and his daughters at the late traditional service every Sunday.



Special Offering for October **New Horizons/Living Well College/Advantage Care Services**

Our special offering for the month of October will be New Horizons, Living Well College, and Advantage Care Services. New Horizons/Living Well College/Advantage Care Services are three independent services for the developmentally disabled in the Gillespie County area. New Horizons serves the lowest functioning persons; Living Well College provides services and classes for persons with some trainable skills; and Advantage Care is highly functioning persons.

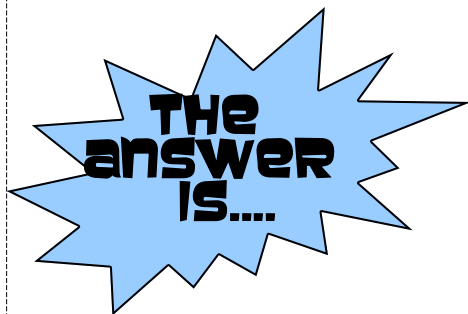
You may write a check payable to Bethany & mark "Special Offering." Place in your October special envelope or a pew envelope on any Sunday morning in October or mail to the church:

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



Kiesha's Sabbatical Part Two

Our Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry—Kiesha Priem—was granted a two month sabbatical this year by the church council. In order not to miss some significant youth events, Kiesha decided it was necessary to take the sabbatical in two separate parts, one in spring, one in fall. She will take the second half of her sabbatical October 14 to November 11. A sabbatical in the Lutheran church has 3 components: Education, Inspiration, and Relaxation. Kiesha has now been the CYFM Director at Bethany for ten years!!



**Here are the
answers for
October's Trivia
questions!**

(See p. 16 for the questions.)

1. Answer b is correct. Mr. & Mrs. Henry Otto had a residence here in 1850, then the Fredericksburg Steam Mill, renamed the Reliance Flour Mill, and our third parsonage stood approximately where our current fellowship hall now sits. The Felix Van Der Stucken home is the one we now call the Hennig House, and Burrier Store and the Dietz home were not there. The Mobile Service Station sat on what is now Marktplatz.
2. We will meet Christ in the air. 1 Thessalonians 4: 17 (answer d)
3. We must appear before the judgment seat of Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:10 (answer c)



The WELCA circles would like to say “Thank You” to all who helped make the Fall Festival such a success! Whether you worked a shift, help set up or clean up, baked wonderfully delicious items, provided some neat plants for sale, provided other home-made items to sell, shopped our items or simply shared a prayer—THANK YOU!!! Without you this would not have been possible. The funds raised will be used to help Camp Chrysalis and others in need.



**Volunteers
Needed!!!**

Oktoberfest in Fredericksburg is happening October 4-6, 2024, but we are already looking for volunteers to help with Kinderpark!

We need adult and youth volunteers to help with the kids' games and prizes!! Sign up with Kiesha if you are interested in helping! All money raised at Oktoberfest Kinderpark will go toward Bethany Youth activities and trips.

Call/text Kiesha: 512-921-1356



Stay Informed



- 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.
- Text messages for updates & prayer; to join the Bethany group, text:

@bethanytx2 to 81010

Bethany History Trivia

ANSWERS ON PAGE 26!



1. What once stood on the town lots now occupied by Bethany Lutheran Church sanctuary, education annex, and fellowship hall? Hint: all the buildings in the correct answer are no longer here.
 - A. The first Fredericksburg Fire Station followed by our third parsonage
 - B. The residence of Mr. & Mrs. Otto, followed by the Fredericksburg Steam Mill, (later the reliance Flour Mill), and by Bethany's third parsonage.
 - C. Mr. & Mrs. Felix Van Der Stucken's home, the R.M. Burrier Store, the Heinrich Dietz home, and finally the Reliance Roller Mill.
 - D. The Fredericksburg Boy's School, later replaced by the Reliance Flour Mill, and finally, a Mobile Service Station.
2. When the Lord returns in His second coming, where will those believers still alive meet Him?
 - A. On Mt. Zion
 - B. Jerusalem
 - C. In Bethany's Fellowship hall
 - D. In the air
 - E. In heaven
3. Where must we all make an appearance?
 - A. In Pastor's Haug's office
 - B. At Heaven's Gate
 - C. Before the judgment seat of Christ
 - D. In front of Peter
 - E. The Bible does not say where.



Council Highlights

September 17, 2024



- Bell tower roof is leaking; P&M (R Rode) estimates ~\$5000 needed for repairs. Council approved taking this from the contingency fund. Long term, the bell tower roof will need to be replaced in next few years.
- A discussion was had regarding a probable significant expenditure needed for ~25 yr old AC unit/compressor for basement below FH. Equipment is located in FH attic and requires significant equipment/labor to access. Need to consider if FH AC unit should be replaced at same time. No decision was made as we are still in diagnosis stage.
- Kiesha will be taking the 2nd half of her sabbatical (Oct 14 - Nov 11).
- Council approved the benefit package (Portico Gold) for full time staff.



Sunday Radio Schedule

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



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

BLC Dollars & Cents

	<u>August 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Gen Fund Income	\$61,853.02	\$549,722.01
Gen Fund Expenses	\$73,121.03	\$545,714.73
Net:	-\$11,268.01	\$4,007.28

Balances Other Funds

Designated Accounts: \$159,901.18

Capital Improvement/Hennig Fund (SSBT): \$28,408.01

Capital Improvement/Hennig CD (Guadalupe): \$83,126.66

Pre-School Building Fund:

SSBT:	\$333,892.08
TX Hill Country CD	\$209,162.98
Ed Jones:	\$1,520,503.62 (Includes 5 \$225K CDs)
Total:	\$2,063,558.68

BBF Donations qualifying for matching grant: \$199,033.90

Emergency Aid Fund (Chase): \$2,031.29

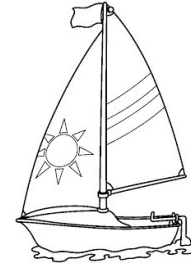
Contingency (Guadalupe) - Money Market Account: \$108,613.69

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

Broadway Bank (CD-Hein Gift—GF or Hennig): \$175,042.67

Monthly Special Offerings—2024

January—Der Stadt Friedhof—\$4,390
 February—Bethany Preschool—\$9,928
 March—Mision 'de Candellia—\$2,715
 April—Synod Assembly—\$1,840
 May—Bandera Foster Closet—\$3,000
 June—Crosstrails Ministry—\$3,390
 July—Bethany Foundation—\$3,245
 August—Gideons—\$1,755



Lifeboat Log : October 2024

BOAT could use your help for our next Car Day, Saturday, November 9. We would like to shade our check-in person who spends a couple of hours on the hot asphalt. Do you have a canopy that we might borrow for that day? If so, please call or text David Ewing at 830-456-0452.

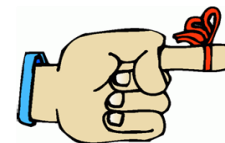
Bethany's Lifeboat Little Free Food Pantry continues to have heavy use most days of the week. Some items of food that are always popular are:

- Canned chicken breasts
- Tuna
- Spaghetti sauce
- Peanut butter
- Tomato soup
- Chicken noodle soup
- Dry rice
- Dry pinto beans
- Spaghetti noodles
- Canned fruit

If you would like to make a donation of food, you can place the items in the pantry or in the storage box on the Hennig House porch.

Thank you for your assistance to BOAT and service to our neighbors in need. And praises to God!

-Bethany Outreach and Advocacy Team
(BOAT)

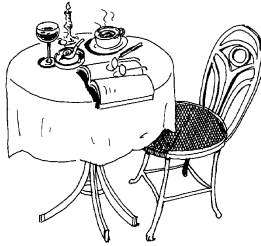


**Next monthly BOAT meeting:
Thursday, October 17, 2024
5:45 p.m.**

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

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LADIES LUNCHEON RETURNS



SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH

The Fellowship Committee is excited to once again sponsor this annual event.

- Delicious meal prepared by Vivere
- Impressive Bethany men as waiters
- Charming and unique tables decorated by members
- Fellowship with Bethany members and guests
- Excellent entertainment

*There are many ways to enjoy the Luncheon –
Hostess to decorate a table
Guests who buy a single ticket or bring a friend*

Tickets are \$25.00
Every Sunday in October someone will be at each service to sell tickets and/or tables
For questions call Karen Oestreich,
830-889-0295

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The Social Concerns Committee News!



Our Social Concerns Committee has been busy this Fall!

Here are some of the projects and events this team has been working on and some that are coming up in October:

- Sept. 17th—The Social Committee Team hosted a birthday celebration for the residents at the Fredericksburg Nursing Home. Birthday cake was served and Pastor Kevin played his guitar and sang gospel songs while everyone joined in!! The residents & staff thoroughly enjoyed the event.
- Oct. 9th—The Social Concerns team will be hosting a German party for Knopp #1 Nursing Home and Knopp Retirement Home residents. There will be German music/entertainment with sausage, homemade cheese and homemade bread & cookies to enjoy. Come join us at 2:30 p.m.!!
- Oct. 22nd—The Social Concerns Team will be preparing and delivering gift bag cookies for all Bethany nursing home residents, assisted living residents, and homebound residents



Bethany will join other local churches in packing shoeboxes for children in need all over the world. Boxes and informational flyers will be available. Look for more information in the Bethany bulletins.

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Thank you, Bethany Family, for all the beautiful cards, gifts, and the beautiful altar flowers you shared with me in honor of the 51 years I've served as choir director at Bethany. It's been a joy for me to share my musical, God-given talent with you, and I thank Him for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. We have many wonderful voices in the choir and a wonderful accompanist in Annabel. That makes my job easy!



Thank you, Fellowship Committee, for the wonderful barbeque meal and to my family who shared in this special day.

To God be the Glory—Praise Him!
Chrissy



Thank you!

To everyone that gave of their time and energy to make our September 14th workday a great success!

Der Stadt Friedhof Cemetery Board



My dear, dear Bethany friends,

Well, you did it! You certainly surprised me on Sunday, Sept. 22.



When Pastor Kevin announced for me to come downstairs, I was in shock and had to put on my shoes since I play with special shoes, Isotoners. Suddenly Margie was standing at the organ and said, "Take your purse cause you're not coming back up here." What a surprise and such a nice gesture!

I love playing for the congregation and choir and our sweet Sunday School kids each Sunday. I opened cards for several days, it seems. Thanks for the kind words, gift cards and monetary enclosures, handwritten notes, the beautiful altar flowers, the cake and then the party. I know it was not meant for just Chrissy and me but it sure warmed my heart.

Also thanks for the Fellowship Committee with Karen Oestreich at the helm. Lovely time to be together. I love Bethany's family and hope to continue for a few more years, as long as I can climb the steps.

God Bless each of you for your kindness and special words. I am blessed.

Annabel Wilkinson



**October Sunday School
Offering will go to
Coats for Kids
-chosen by CYFM**

Calendar

Calendar