

Bethany Bells

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

www.bethanyfbg.com

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

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

February 2025

Chesed: Love When You Fall Out of Like

By Pastor Casey

One of the great things about February is Valentine’s Day, which celebrates romantic love and sends couples scurrying for cards, candy, flowers, and/or perhaps a favorite restaurant. Nothing wrong with that – enjoy the day, share the love!

But if you’re looking for a deeper kind of love, you might start with the Old Testament’s “chesed.” I presided at a wedding last month and the couple chose a passage from Proverbs 3 which began with the words “Let love and faithfulness never leave you.” The Hebrew word translated “love” is “chesed” which means a deep, unfailing loving kindness based on a faithful bond to a covenant. It is loyal-love, steadfast love. When God met Moses on Mt. Sinai, God’s self-description included the word “chesed.”

Romantic love is a lot more fickle. Even when we give it our best shot, we often fail in matters of the heart. Sometimes we who easily fall in love soon fall out of “like!” If only we had that *chesed* in which love-and-faithfulness are inseparable and intertwined.

Oh wait—we do have *chesed*. Jesus’ death on the cross was the greatest act of “love-and-faithfulness,” and it was for you. Nothing bad you do can stop God’s love, nothing good you do can earn it. It is the grace in which we stand, and the model for a godly life.

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

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





All Committee Meeting Sunday, February 2, at 11:45 a.m.

As required in our constitution, all committees will meet Sunday, February 2, to re-organize, set goals for 2025, and welcome new volunteers. New council officers and committee reps will be elected February 1 at the council retreat. We'll have a light lunch after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be done by 2 p.m. or earlier. Interested? Come and sit with a committee as they discuss their purpose and 2025 goals. We have committee descriptions available for you to read for these committees:

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



Preschool Director Opening

• FOR YOUR INFORMATION • The Bethany Preschool Board has now appointed a search team for Director of Bethany Preschool. If you or someone you know would be a candidate for director, please contact one of the pastors. We are grateful to Ariana Cisneros, our assistant director and long-time staff person, for providing leadership as interim director. She is assisted by Jessica Schulz, our office manager and financial person.

February 2025 Altar Guild

Traditional:

Pat McCready, Bonnie Beckmann & Sheila Donovan

Contemporary:

Jaye Treibs, Krystal Geistweidt



In Our Prayers

Hospital/Clinic/ER/Tests:

Dianna Blount	Mary Heath	Jackie Kneese
Ron Kunz	Wilfried Mazanke	Terry Neans
Kaden Ottmers	Kiesha Priem	

Ongoing:

Larry Ahrens	Florine Bruns	Donald Eckhardt
Audrey Gold	Nic Jones	Dorothy Klier
Madline Sagebiel	Stacey York	Korey Zenner

Our Sympathy to:

- Leland Geistweidt & family at the death of his mother, Evelyn Geistweidt.
- Peggy Sue Sagebiel & family at the death of her mother, Victoria Sultemeier.
- Robert Wolf & family at the death of his sister, Marie Davis.
- The family of Frankie Law.

Baptism:

- John Mark Tate Tillman, son of Luke Tillman & Ginny Tatum Tillman, baptized December 29, 2024. Sponsors were Trae & Erin Ottmers.

Birth Congrats:

- To Travis and Shannon (Smith) Koenig at the birth of Clara Rose Koenig; Bethany grandparents are Ken and Tami Smith.



February Birthdays

- 1 – Yogi Whitehead
- 2 – Traeger Fuhrmann
- 3 – Bryn DeGraw
Eryn Durst
Steven Evans
Luke Sandoval
- 4 – Jeanette Beckmann
- 5 – Dustin DeGraw
- 7 – Michelle Longe
- 8 – Lexi Cole
Cristal Ristau
Al Sunday
- 9 – Erick Christensen
- 10 – Alison Grona
Jaye Treibs
- 11 – Kendall Bell
Don Morris
Ladd Ristau
Sharon Wendt



- 12 – Valerie Baughn
Caroline Stafford
- 13 – Sissy Andrichyn
Roni Hanifen
Jim Schultz
Hawkins Staudt
- 14 – Edith Cleaton
- 15 – August Neans
Clarence Rose
- 16 – Myrtle Hohmann
Tami Smith
- 17 – Wayne Klier
Joe Sagebiel
- 18 – Shirley Sagebiel
- 19 – Suzy Kreitz
Truitt Peters
Vanda Stowe
- 20 – Alton Herbort
Dax Jung

- 21 – Cara Deike
Taylor Deike
- 22 – Connie Pressler
- 23 – Erin Hoekstra
Sharon Joseph
Kathleen Yosko
- 24 – Bea Price
- 25 – Rose Marie
Mazanke
Flora Wallendorf
- 26 – Damon Cleaton
Mila Fowler
Charlee Reeves
- 27 – Doris Eckert
Glen Grona
Carolyn Whitehead
- 28 – Cory Rains



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.



Bethany Preschool Expansion Update for Community on Feb. 6

The Bethany Preschool Community Capital Campaign Committee is hosting three 30-minute presentations on Thursday, February 6, at the John Wm. Klein Room at Marktplatz, to update the community on our Bethany Preschool expansion plans.

The meeting room is located directly across West Austin Street from our new preschool location. Parking will be available in the Hennig gravel parking lot.

The first session will begin at **10 a.m.** Elected city and county officials, as well as civic leaders, are being invited. Breakfast pastries and coffee will be served.

The second session will begin at **4:30 p.m.** and the target audience is financial, legal and real estate professionals. Snacks, beer and wine will be served.

The final session of the day will begin at **6:30 p.m.** and is open to the community at large. Snacks, beer and wine will be available.

The Community Capital Campaign Committee hopes to introduce our building project to a broad cross-section of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County residents and businesspeople who might assist us in raising the final \$1.2 million needed to reach our goal of \$7 million.

Bethany members are invited to attend any session that is convenient. Please bring along a friend, neighbor, relative or business associate who might consider a financial donation to assist with the preschool building project.



Building Bright Futures Challenge Grant for Businesses

The Hal and Charlie Petersen Foundation of Kerrville has offered a \$100,000 challenge matching grant for businesses (not individuals) who donate to the Bethany Preschool Community Capital Campaign. We must secure \$100,000 in **new** donations to apply to this challenge grant. So far, we have been given \$52,850 towards matching this generous grant.

The good news for businesses is that your gift to the Bethany Preschool capital campaign is doubled. If you or someone you know has a business and is interested in donating to help us match the challenge grant, please contact financial secretary Becky Dittmar, campaign chair Jody Donovan, or a Bethany pastor.

The deadline for us to reach the \$100,000 challenge is March 31. **Remember: Ranches are Businesses!!**



Bethany Senior Event for February!!

The Social Concerns Committee is having their first Bethany Senior event on

Tuesday, February 18
From 11:30-1:30.

It will be just like the ones before..... Bingo, other games if desired and lunch.

Mark your calendars and come join the fun!!!

Bethany Lutheran Church Designated Special Monthly Offering Calendar 2025

January	Der Stadt Friedhof
February	Bethany Preschool
March	Bethany Capital Improvement Fund
April	Synod Assembly
May	Crosstrails Ministry
June	Rainbow Trails
July	Boys & Girls Club
August	Good Samaritan
September	New Horizons/Living Well College/Advantage Care Services
October	Bethany Foundation
November	Hunger (Fbg Food Pantry & ELCA World Hunger, each 1/2)
December	Bethany Emergency Aid Fund



February 2025 Assisted Living

Location	Day	Time	Location	Day	Time
Knopp Assisted	Wed. 2/5	9:30	Villages of Windcrest	Wed. 2/12	9:45
Knopp #2	Wed. 2/5	10:30	FBG NH	Wed. 2/12	10:45
Heritage Place	Thurs.2/6	9:30	Knopp RC	Thur. 2/13	9:30
Enchanted Rock	Thurs.2/6	10:30	Knopp #1	Thur. 2/13	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
*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 *Elizabeth Parsons

ALAMO RANCH, San Antonio

*Audelle Burkey

Congratulations to Bethany Preschool!!!



In the 2024 Readers' Choice Awards sponsored by the *Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post*, Bethany Preschool won first place in the "Best Childcare" category.

People submitted more than 10,000 nominations and cast over 215,000 votes this year according to the publication.

Congratulations to the staff and board of directors of the preschool for their hard work providing quality childcare to the kids of our community. Thank you to the parents for putting their trust in Bethany Preschool.

And, finally a big thank you to the members of Bethany Lutheran Church for their ongoing support of the preschool for 40 plus years.



New Members Lunch with Pastors February 16 & 23

For those interested in joining Bethany or just wanting to know more about the congregation, we'll be offering 2 "lunches with the pastors" on these Sundays in February:
Feb 16: "Discover Bethany" focuses on the history & mission of the congregation.
Feb 23: "Discover Lutherans" focuses on the history, major teachings, and mission of the Lutheran Church.

Bethany Youth Fundraiser: Yard Hearts

Would you like to share some love and send Bethany "YARD HEARTS" to a friend or family member?

A "normal" order is 15 hearts for 2 days.

Ex: If delivered on a Sunday night, they'll be picked up on the following Tuesday night, etc.



SCAN ME TO ORDER

OR fill out the slip below & turn in to Kiesha Priem!

Your Name _____

Your phone # _____

Who shall we send to? _____

Address to be delivered to _____

(gate code if needed) _____

**please keep our volunteers in/close to FBG City Limits, thanks!

I will pay by

Cash Check (to Bethany Youth)

Venmo App @BethanyFBG

Thanks for supporting the Bethany youth! All donations will go toward summer camp, mission trips, and other youth activities.

Suggested Donations: \$20.00, but any amount will be well used!

You are loved!

January 2025 PRAISE & WORSHIP (10:30)

	Leader Kid's Message	HOSTS	Communion Assistants Prayer Minister
Sun. Feb. 2	<u>Cheryl Flink</u> Cheryl Flink	Elizabeth White (2)	<u>No Communion</u> Cheryl Flink
Sun. Feb. 9	<u>Beth Luckenbach</u> Beth Luckenbach	Jaye Treibs (2)	<u>Karen & Ralph Rode Merrily Hartmann (2)</u> Beth Luckenbach
Sun. Feb. 16	<u>Cheryl Flink</u> Cheryl Flink	Will Stehling & family (2)	<u>No Communion</u> Cheryl Flink
Sun. Feb. 23	<u>Erik & Beth Iverson</u> Erik & Beth Iverson	Danielle Geistweidt (2)	<u>Jaye Treibs (2) Ben & Elizabeth Warriner</u> Erik & Beth Iverson

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**

February 2025 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

DATE	TIME	USHERS
Sun. Feb. 2	8:15 10:30	Max Beckmann- captain, Bonnie Beckmann, Jerald Klett, Beth Luckenbach <hr/> Kenneth Treibs, captain Jaye Treibs, Jayecee Treibs, Jennifer Jenschke
Sun. Feb. 9	8:15 10:30	Bubba Schnelle- captain, Pam Schnelle <hr/> Tom Roarick, captain Sharon Roarick, Dorothy Klier, Wayne Klier
Sun. Feb. 16	8:15 10:30	Brad Holland- captain, Autumn Holland, Dawson Holland, Gary Stehling <hr/> Ernie Loeffler- captain Karen Jo Loeffler, Kevin Kunz, Kathy Meybaum
Sun. Feb. 23	8:15 10:30	Dwight Oestreich—captain Linda McCann <hr/> Willard Dearing—captain Logan Ketron, Colleen Ketron, Shelley Gibbens



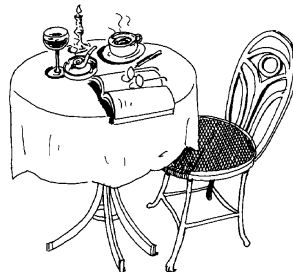
What a wonderful day, Saturday, for our Ladies Luncheon! Thank you to all the hostesses for such creative tables.

Thank you to the excellent service provided by the men of Bethany led by Carl Schoessow. Jonathan Baethge kept us all laughing, and the delicious food from Vivere was wonderful!!

We hope those of you who came had a great time. If you weren't able to attend, please be sure to come next year!

From the Bethany Fellowship Committee

(For pictures of this exciting event, please see p. 32)



Council Highlights



January 21, 2025

- Council approved the 2024 budget surplus to be moved to the contingency fund.
- Council approved NO-ELCA funds disbursements \$500 to Act of Wisdom and \$1,000 to The Good Samaritan Center. Also to increase the yearly donation to Antioch Global from \$4k to \$5k.
- Council received reports on the Capital Campaign, Preschool Director Search, Emergency Preparedness Team, Child-Safety Policy Team, and Hennig Property Task Force.

Thank You

Thanks for all the cards and prayers and get well wishes. Progress is slow but steady and I hope to be back very soon!

God bless you all!
Wilfried Mazanke



Car Day Is Coming!!!

Date: Saturday, February 8
Time: 9-11 AM

BOAT will be hosting a free Car Day clinic Saturday, February 8, from 9-11 in the Bethany Parking lot. Please stop by for fluid, belt, tire and battery check and some TLC for your auto. And, recommend us to anyone who could use this service.

See ya there!



Sunday School & Adult Education Classes 2025

Who goes.....

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

Where

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

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

Breakfast Bar Is Open!!!

9:00-9:30 a.m.—Downstairs Kitchen



Breakfast Bar Teams for February:

Feb. 2 (Team 7) - Cheryl & Danny Flink— Alicia Elrod, Brit-tany Durst, Danielle Geistweidt, Carolyn Garza, Ginny Steh-ling, Karlene Ottmers, Traci Doerre

Feb. 9 (Team 8) - Karen & Dwight Oestreich— Eileen Whited, Debbie Tiemann, Ann Hostetter, Denise Stehling, Jackie Kneese, Cristol Schoessow, Annabel Wilkinson, Carolyn Carson, Georgia Reagan

Feb. 16 (Team 9) - Shane & Michele Willis— Will Stehling, Jody & Sheila Donovan, Greta Hartmann, Caroline Staf-ford, Dorothy Klier, Sharon Wendt

Feb. 23 (Team 11) - Fellowship Team—various members each turn

February 2025 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP COMMUNION

Date	Time	Communion Assistants
Sun. Feb. 2	8:15	Jonathan Baethge, Wilma McAndrew
	10:30	Pat McCready Karen Jo & Ernie Loeffler
Sun. Feb. 9	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion
Sun. Feb. 16	8:15	Mike & Peggy Sue Sagebiel
	10:30	Joe & Marilyn Butcher Joyce Richey
Sun. Feb. 23	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion



Youth and Family

February 9th: After church, middle school and high school will pick up canned goods for Soup-er Bowl of Caring.



February 16: High School will go to Hopscotch Immersive Art Experience in San Antonio.

February 23: Middle School will go to Top Golf.

Ladies Luncheon

January 25th

Bethany Lutheran Church



Great Job,
Table Hostesses!!!



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

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

Adult Bible Class-

The Adult Bible Class will continue studying "Isaiah" for the month of February. This class meets at 9:20 am in the overflow area at the back of the sanctuary with the pastors. People of all ages are welcome. Please come and join us!



The Transitions Class-

The Transitions Class will be studying the lesson entitled, "24 Hours That Changed the World." It is a study about the last day of Jesus' life. The class meets in room 205 (the Trinity Room) at 9:20 a.m.



Legacy Builder's (Young adults class)

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





Meet Our Members February

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:

Jessica Mittel & Travis Neal & family—p. 11

Judy & Ed Kramer—p. 12

Vonnie & Zander Maner—p. 13

Jody & Sheila Donovan—p. 14



The Mittel/Neal family



Ed & Judy Kramer



Vonnie & Zander Maner



Sheila & Jody Donovan



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF
TEXAS WINE AND FOOD BENEFITING THE
CHILDREN OF BETHANY PRESCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH 13, 2025 | VISTA OAKS EVENT CENTER



TEXAS MADE
TEXAS RAISED
A Bethany Preschool Fundraiser



TICKETS HERE



Here are the
answers for
February's Trivia
questions!

(See p. 18 & 19 for the questions.)

1. Over 125 years ago, the quorum was as it is now, 60 members.
2. All of the answers are correct; the officers forgot, each thinking it had been done, and when they filed 9 years later, a protest was introduced, so the state delayed action.
3. If children of the congregation were married in the church, they had to sign the rules of the church within 3 months or forfeit membership.

Steward Healthy Relationships



There's no escaping love in February, is there? Everywhere – valentines, red roses, heart-shaped candy boxes and other sweets for the ones we love.

This is all good and right, because ever since God declared that it is not good for a person to be alone (Genesis 2:18), people have found comfort, excitement, safety, companionship, joy, contentment and fulfillment in the company of others.

That's why February is perfect for celebrating healthy, loving relationships of all sorts. Good stewards care for every gift God gives us – healthy, loving relationships especially. And because Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors and our enemies alike, we do well to work on relationships beyond our immediate circles.



Suggestions:

Couples: Give flowers and chocolate, sure, but also spend quality time with one another. Talk deeply and listen intently. Pray and read scripture together. Hold hands during worship. Talk often and listen deeply. Read Gary Chapman's "The 5 Love Languages" together.



Families: Rejoice in the love that holds you together – parents, grandparents, children, siblings, cousins – everybody. Organize Sunday family dinners. Say, "I love you." Talk through problems and work together.

Friends: Enjoy time with buddies, but also cultivate deeper and more-spiritual friendships. Share problems and successes. Grow together in faith.



Church neighbors: Send friendship valentines to everybody in church. As a congregation designate "love your neighbor" Sunday at which you have a potluck. And/or movie night or game night.

Community neighbors: Send a valentine and a piece of candy to immediate neighbors – or everybody in your address book to let them know that friendships and neighbors are important. Start, or revive, block parties, community cleanup days, yard sales or fellowship gatherings.

God gives us relationships of all kinds so that we can have companionship, friendship, security and joy. As stewards of all that God gives us, we can nourish and celebrate healthy, strong relationships.



--Rev. Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2017, 2025, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as web editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org.

Jessica Mittel & Travis Neal, Ruby, Ford & Charlie

Jessica and Travis embody the spirit of entrepreneurship and community service. An FHS graduate Jessica holds a Bachelor of Natural Sciences from UT. She purchased Gastehaus Schmidt from her parents Donna and the late Dan Mittel who had built a thriving business which under Jessica's leadership has thrived and grown.

Travis, also an FHS graduate, served as a volunteer firefighter in Port A. Upon returning home he pursued a career in real estate, which he continues to practice today.

Travis now helps Jessica run Gastehaus Schmidt. She shares, "Travis can fix anything and is the go-to person for everyone." They both worked hard during the COVID-19 pandemic adapting their business to the challenges and shifting their focus to home automation to better serve both homeowners and guests. Their resilience and innovation during difficult times demonstrate their dedication to both their business and their community.

At the heart of their lives is their family. Their son, Charlie, always with a big smile on his face is continuously in perpetual motion and loves playing with their dogs, Dakota, and Olive. Ruby, a 6th grader at Ambleside, loves how friendly Bethany is, particularly attending Jump Start. Ford, a 2nd grader, looks forward to breakfast bar and appreciates the music that fills their worship space. Travis also has a daughter, Rachel, who recently moved to Colorado Springs to pursue her career.

Jessica, active in the community is co-chairman of the Historical Review Board, treasurer of CVB and on Fellowship and Breakfast Bar committees. Travis, too, gives of his time, having served on the Zoning Board of Adjustments and serves on the Marktplatz committee.

Jessica is a lifelong member of Bethany, but what really attracts them both to Bethany is it's a community of people. The church's emphasis on service and the generosity of its members are core values like their own.

Their belief that family shapes who we are and what we cherish is at the heart of everything they do. Through their entrepreneurial ventures, service and the love they pour into their family Jessica and Travis set an inspiring example for others. Their journey is a reminder that success is not just about building businesses-it's about building relationships, supporting others, and creating a legacy of kindness, service, and love.

Judy & Ed Kramer

Judy and Ed's journey began when they met working with Safeway after Judy moved from California to Houston. Ed, son of a Lutheran pastor, lived in different communities, but Stonewall was his roots where his mother, Lydia Kramer, was raised.

Wanting to join family already living in Fredericksburg, Judy and Ed decided to venture into the convenience store business. In 1984, they leased property from the Stroehers, transforming Bill's Ice House into Jek's Pit Stop. It became one of the first convenience stores to have gas pumps perpendicular as opposed to facing the store. In addition to the typical convenience store offering they served fresh hamburgers and sandwiches. Ten years later they opened JEK's East. They appreciate the many friends and acquaintances from owning JEK's.

After selling the stores Judy followed her passion starting Judy's Land & SeaTravel. Through their travels they have visited all seven continents the last being Antarctica taking their eldest grandson, Ellory. One of the most inspirational trips was to the Philippines, where they met the 3 children they sponsor.

Judy and Ed have two sons, Eddie, and wife Keva (Leifeste) who live in Fredericksburg and Alan and Carmen in Dallas. Their 7 grandchildren are the center of their lives though they deeply mourn the loss of their granddaughter, Kenna Joy, who passed away from cancer.

Inspired by Alan's Make A Wish experience, they are still granting wishing after already dedicating twenty-five years. Judy's years of teaching Sunday school—from toddlers to middle schoolers—highlight her passion for nurturing the next generation and instilling values of faith, love, and community.

Ed has served as VP of the Chamber, church council President, and on the hospital board. Judy contributed by serving on the pre-school Board, Council, CYFM and Grace Center children's birthday party planners. Through their involvement in the church and local area, they have demonstrated the importance of fostering a strong sense of belonging and support for one another.

Throughout their lives, Judy and Ed have prioritized making a difference in the lives of children and have always believed that a strong love of community enriches the place where we live believing Bethany with its commitment to children's ministries, education, and outreach exemplifies that goal. Their story is a testament to the power of love, service and dedication to family and community.

(Continued from p. 28.)

Carol Seminara spent hours and hours filling out applications for numerous foundations over the course of the year. We are happy to report that the Dian Graves Owen Foundation provided a grant of \$100,000 in December. We also received a \$100,000 matching grant from the Hal & Charlie Peterson Foundation. This one is for matching funds from businesses, and we continue to work on matching that total.

We are still anticipating grants from other foundations.

With a letter dated December 3, Pastor Casey received notification of another amazing gift of \$1.5 million from Create Healthy.

In addition, many wonderful gifts of all sizes, from \$50 to \$30,000, have been received from individuals and businesses throughout the community during 2024 for which we are extremely grateful!

Our preschool capital campaign summary as of Dec. 31, 2024, is as follows:

\$2.5M – given or pledged by members of Bethany Lutheran Church.

\$3.3M – donated and pledged by individuals and business in the community, as well as grants from foundations.

\$1.2M – still to go but closing in on our goal!

Please continue your prayers for the successful completion of our Building Bright Futures Capital Campaign so we can provide high-quality preschool education to even more children in our community. This is one important way we carry out our mission of "being, living as, and making disciples of Jesus Christ."



Building Bright Futures Community Capital Campaign Report for 2024

First, sincere thanks to everyone within the Bethany Lutheran Church family for their participation in the Bethany Preschool capital campaign for Building Bright Futures in the fall of 2023. Here is a recap of the totals announced on celebration Sunday, Dec.10, 2023:

Pre-campaign from Dr. Stein estate:	\$ 270,557
Pre-campaign since Dec. 2019:	\$ 255,805
Campaign pledges/gifts fall 2023:	\$2,000,661
Total from Bethany:	\$2,527,023

In January of 2024, the Community Capital Campaign Committee was organized under the leadership of Jody Donovan to begin phase two of the preschool capital campaign.

The Community Capital Campaign received an early boost in late 2023 with a wonderful gift of \$500,000 from Create Healthy which invigorated our team.

Another early significant individual gift of \$100,000 came from Mary Porter in March, as well as a \$400,000 challenge grant from Mary that we had to match with new donations. We are happy to report that we were able to match the \$400,000 grant thereby adding \$800,000 to our total for the year.

In May we received a \$50,000 grant from St. Vicent de Paul Society, as well as a pledge of \$50,000 from Estela Avery. In September we received a grant of \$100,000 from Create Healthy. We are grateful to all!

(Continued on p. 29)

Vonnie & Zander Maner

Vonnie and Zander Maner cherish their lives in the Hill Country. Both were born and raised here, surrounded by family, lifelong friends, and a deep connection to the community.

Born at Keidel Hospital to Liston and Barbara Maner, Zander graduated from FHS in 1978 playing football. He later attended Texas State Technical Institute (TSTI) in Waco, for 1.5 years studying building construction. This training laid to a career alongside his father.

In 1982, Zander and Vonnie built their home on the Maner Ranch. While ranching and farming, Zander continued working in construction, welcoming their son, Zach, into the business in 2004. In 2009, Liston retired, and in 2023, Zach and his wife Ashley took over the family business, **Maner Remodeling and Restoration, Inc.** Today, Zander is still working in the business.

Vonnie was born in Fredericksburg Hospital to Danny and Louise Jung and raised in Comfort. During high school, she participated in the band, basketball, and track, graduating in 1979. Soon after, she moved to Fredericksburg and began her first job at Langerhans Nursery. In 1980, Vonnie began her banking career at Security State Bank. By 1983, she joined Texas American Bank, now Chase Bank, where she has worked for 41 years in roles, including teller, sales and service, assistant branch manager, and most recently as a part time associate banker.

Zander and Vonnie are proud parents and grandparents. Their daughter Carissa Tronstad is the buyer for Parts Unknown, while her husband Brian owns **2Grun Irrigation**. Their three children are: Nora and Lilly (9), and son, Liston (6). Their son Zach married Ashley Dartez who is a hair stylist at Heritage Hair Designs; their two children are: Hadley (14) and Braxton (11).

After moving to Fredericksburg, Vonnie joined Bethany Lutheran Church, finding it to be a perfect fit after her upbringing at Immanuel Lutheran in Comfort. They married at Bethany in 1980, with Zander transferring from the Methodist church. Over the years, they've served as ushers; Vonnie has been actively involved on various committees, including the Evangelism, Preschool Board, and Church Council. She also taught Sunday School and is currently part of the Breakfast Bar Team.

Vonnie and Zander Maner cherish their lives in Fredericksburg, a place they are proud to call home.

Jody & Sheila Donovan

Their story began when Jody moved from Houston as a sophomore. At 15, they dated for a week, but their connection grew into a lasting friendship. It wasn't until their 20th FHS reunion the spark between them rekindled.

Sheila's father, Jake Schmidt and grandparents, Otto & Olivia Schmidt were members of Bethany and her mother, Cherry Woods, an active member. She worked tirelessly in 6 different departments at Hill Country Memorial during nights & weekends. Working full-time, in school full-time she put herself through college earning her degree as an RN at UTMB in Galveston.

Jody, a University of Houston graduate, began his career working for a financial investment firm. Ready to escape city life he joined his mother, Sharon Joseph and her husband, Jim McAfee, as financial advisor with Joseph Financial Partners.

Jody's motivation centers around supporting his clients to achieve their financial goals. One of his proudest accomplishments is founding the Dog Park. There were no open spaces for his German shepherd, Nelson. Determined he petitioned the city for land for a dog park, structured a 501C, started a fund-raising campaign and serves as chairman of the Board. The dog park creates safe spaces for dogs and their owners.

Sheila, an RN Quality nurse auditor and sepsis coordinator for Peterson Health, is equally impactful. Available 24/7, doctors and nurses call her at all hours for her advice. Ironically, her determination is fueled by her personal experience: her daughter, Kora, is a sepsis survivor. Her motto "every day just make a difference to someone" reflects her life's mission, one instilled by her father to do it right the first time.

Both are dedicated to their community and Bethany. Jody, chairman of the capital campaign for Building Bright Futures, Bethany ramp team, was on board for GC Historical Society and reads weekly to students at FES and Bethany Pre-School. Sheila is on the Church Council, Property Management, past pre-school board and on board of Sisterhood for Good.

Their 6-week-old granddaughter, Hunter Lear, brings light, laughter, & joy into their lives. Putting family first remains their top priority. Together, they continue to make a lasting impact, always with a shared goal: to make a difference. Their story is one of love, perseverance, & belief every person can make a positive impact, a reflection of values that make Bethany & Fredericksburg special.



WELCA Hill Country Conference Spring Gathering

Hosted by Bethany WELCA

Date: Saturday, February 22, 2025

Place: Bethany Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall

Time: 8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20



Gathering activities include a light breakfast, short business meeting, presentation by the Southwestern Texas Women's Synodical Board, lunch and worship service.

The gathering will benefit the Golden Hub—charitable organization serving the needs of Gillespie County seniors. Denise Usener, from the Golden Hub, will speak about the activities & needs of that organization. A list of physical food needs will be listed on the registration form and on the WELCA Bulletin Board.

More information and sign-up at the February Circle meetings & on the WELCA bulletin board.



Special music from the "Silver Strings"
Dulcimer (& etc...) Group!!!





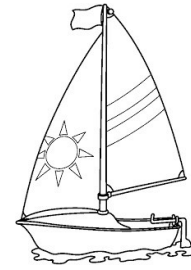
- **February 3rd (Monday)— WELCA board meeting**—4:00 p.m. in the downstairs kitchen
- **February 13th (Thursday) - Leah Circle**—9:30 am at the home of Tina Matlage.
- **February 13th (Thursday) - Lydia Circle**—1:00 pm (for the months of January-April) meeting in the downstairs kitchen.
- **February 11th (Tuesday) - Hope Circle**—6:00 in the Fellowship Hall.
- **February 12th (Wednesday) —Quilters**— 9:00 a.m. in the downstairs quilting/choir room. (see p. 24 for more quilting news!)
- **February 19th (Wednesday) - Ruth Circle**—9:00 am at the home of Sylvia Van Antwerp.



Congratulations and thank you to our new WELCA officers!

President—Teri Ewing
 Vice President—Sharon Browne
 Secretary— Carol Seminara
 Treasurer—Debbie Tiemann
 Mission Action—Sharon Wendt
 Mission Growth—Karen Loeffler
 Hope Circle Leader —Debbie Tiemann
 Leah Circle Leader— Beth Luckenbach
 Lydia Circle Leader—Kathy Meybaum
 Ruth Circle Leader —Constance Schultz

Lifeboat Log : February 2025



Have you met Michael? He is a young man who visits Lifeboat, the Hennig house, and the back area by the BBQ pit (many days of the week). Most of our Lifeboat stockers and many of you have visited with him, offering him a kind word, a snack or drink, and friendly fellowship. Michael has given back to Lifeboat when he could. We are looking into what other aid might be available to him, but for now extend the hand of Christ in compassion. Keep him, and Bethany's mission, in your prayers.

We will be hosting another free Car Day clinic in the Bethany parking lot, **Saturday, February 8**, from 9-11 AM. Bring your car by, or encourage a friend or neighbor to do so. We'll check your car's fluids, tires, belts, wipers, and offer some advice on the general condition. Thank you!

God bless you all!

-Bethany Outreach and Advocacy Team
(BOAT)

**Next monthly BOAT meeting
Thursday, February 20, 2025**

5:45 p.m.

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



BLC Dollars & Cents

	<u>December 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Gen Fund Income	\$144,840.37	\$896,255.11
Gen Fund Expenses	\$ 88,032.97	\$860,330.43
Net:	\$ 56,807.40	\$ 35,924.68

Balances Other Funds

- Designated Accounts:** \$172,861.91
- Capital Improvement/Hennig Fund (SSBT):** \$38,073.11
- Capital Improvement/Hennig Fund CD (Guadalupe):** \$84,238.05
- Pre-School Building Fund:**
 - SSBT: \$679,601.02
 - TX Hill Country CD: \$209,162.98
 - Ed Jones: \$1,765,491.01
 - Total: \$2,654,255.01

Mary Porter matching grant met. \$400,000 received Jan. 13, 2025

- Emergency Aid Fund (Chase):** \$809.56
- Contingency (Guadalupe) - Money Market Account:** \$109,339.60
- ELCA Mission Fund (Investment Account):** \$35,000.00

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

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**
- September—Kairos Prison Ministry—\$2,400**
- October—New Horizons/Living Well College/Advantage Care Services—\$3,260 (\$1,086.66 each)**
- November—Hunger—\$6,973 (\$3,486.50 each) to ELCA World Hunger and Fbg Food Pantry**
- December—Bethany Emergency Aid Fund—\$13,635.61**

Brother Steward

Your Home Away From Home

Come to church more often; not just on Sundays. We're open every day. It's a place where you can meditate, pray, worship, sing hymns of praise, or seek spiritual refuge from everyday problems. It's a place where you can celebrate the cycle of life through baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as the great holydays of Christmas and Easter.



The Sanctuary is a special space where you can leave your troubles and anxieties at the door and exit in the light of the Lord. And through the good stewardship of time, talent, and treasure by our family, our doors are open every day.

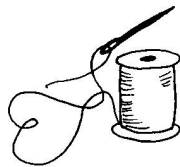
No reservations are needed, walk-ins are invited. Think of church as an extension of your home; as a family room where the faithful gather to praise the Lord and thank him for his gifts. Or just come in for a friendly chat; God is always here.

God Bless!



Quilters' Corner

The Quilters will be meeting on their regular day—Wednesday, February 12th at 9:00 am—noon. They meet in the downstairs quilting/choir room.



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

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



When Does Lent Begin?

Lent—the season of preparation for Easter through repentance and renewal—does not begin until March this year. Ash Wednesday is March 5 with noon and evening worship in the sanctuary.

On the other 5 Wednesdays in Lent, we will again meet around tables in the fellowship hall combined. Easter Sunday is April 20th



A Few Words from Bethany Preschool:

Ariana Cisneros
Assistant Director

Happy New Year! We ended 2024 with a ton of fun activities and many memories. The beginning of a new year is an exciting time to energize ourselves with fresh ideas and finish the rest of the school year.

With our academics, we will dive back into our classroom rules and routines. In Bible study, the children will be reading stories from Genesis and Exodus.

We look forward to another amazing and fun year!



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.



Heritage Sunday

Heritage Sunday celebrates Bethany's birthday #138. While Bethany was founded in March 1887, this year we will have our celebration on April 27, the first Sunday after Easter.



Bethany History Trivia

FEBRUARY



1. Our congregation recently held our annual congregational meeting. Our constitution requires a quorum of 60 voting members to conduct business. Over 125 years ago, prior to June 1897, when our congregation was much smaller, how many members needed to be present to constitute a quorum, as stated in that constitution?



- a. "No less than 25"
- b. "40 members shall constitute a quorum"
- c. "at least 60 members of the congregation"
- d. The constitution made no mention of a quorum.

2. In October of 1896, our pastor, W. Steinmann, wrote a letter to the Honorable Secretary of State in Austin. In it he stated that the congregation had unanimously voted in March 1887 (9 years prior) to form and charter a new congregation called the "Evangelic Church at Fredericksburg". The officers of the church had been instructed to carry out the resolution. Yet, by 1896, the congregation had still not been chartered by the state. Why not?



- A. The officers forgot to file the resolution.
- B. The members of the congregation thought the resolution had been filed.
- C. The resolution had been protested by a third party.
- D. The Secretary of State's office had returned the resolution without action.
- E. All of the above are true.



[CONTINUED ON PAGE 19.]



GriefShare – from Mourning into Joy

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

For more information, contact:

Rev. Ray Tiemann, Visitation Pastor,

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

Wilma McAndrew, Lay Leader,

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

Kathy Meybaum, Lay Leader,

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

Peace,

Ray Tiemann, Visitation Pastor

Bethany Lutheran Church

Fredericksburg, TX



A New Flower Calendar

is posted in the work room. If you would like to provide Altar or Hymn Board flowers in the sanctuary or Altar flowers in Praise & Worship to honor or remember a loved one, please sign up.



Special Offering for February **Bethany Preschool**



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

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

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

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



Bethany History Trivia

(Continued from page 18.)



3. In a meeting about the Protocol of the Evangelical Semiannual General Assembly on August 23, 1896, the protocol was amended to include:

- a. Children of congregation members must sign the church rules within three months after their wedding or they shall be considered non-members.
- b. The preacher shall never serve as the president of the council.
- c. No firewood shall be stored behind the back pew.
- d. All of the above are true.



(ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE 31.)

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.

Calendar

Calendar