

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”

March 2025

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

By Pastor Kevin Haug

I remember vividly an incident that happened at my previous congregation. Just before Lent began, a large, black spot of some unknown substance was discovered just outside the entrance to the church on the sidewalk. Our property guy took it upon himself to get rid of it, and he threw every cleaning solution known to man at it.

Nothing worked. Not soap and water. Not acetone. Not vinegar, or CLR, or ammonia. Nothing. All of his work; all of his effort resulted in nothing. That black spot welcomed guest and member alike for a very, very long time.

I included this member’s work on that spot in my Ash Wednesday sermon that year because it was a stark reminder of our futile efforts to remove sin from our own lives. Sin begins with a heart that is turned inwards on itself; a desire to be our own little god. We are born into this state, and we literally need an outside force—very much like a heart surgeon, to fix our hearts and wash away the stain of our sin.

The season of Lent reminds us that Jesus is that surgeon—the Great Physician who comes into this world to change us; to cleanse us; to wipe the stain of our sin away. And the solvent that he uses is his holy and precious blood poured out at the cross of Calvary. It removes every stain and makes us holy and righteous. As we enter this holy season and progress to the cross and resurrection, let us remember what truly makes us clean: nothing but the blood of Jesus.

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



March



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



TEXAS MADE
TEXAS★RAISED



A Bethany Preschool Fundraiser

SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH 13, 2025 | VISTA OAKS EVENT CENTER

6:30 PM—10:30 PM

Texas Made Texas Raised – a fundraiser for our Bethany Preschool program and operations (not the building) – is at Vista Oaks Event Center, 8192 E. Highway 290. Join us for an evening of Texas Wine and Food tasting. All benefiting the children of Bethany Preschool.

Tickets are \$75 & can be purchased through the preschool or by using the QR code printed here. Call Jessica at the Preschool if you're interested in sponsoring a table or supporting in some other way. 830-997-8751.

AUCTION ITEMS ARE NEEDED.

Big or Small; can be donated by individuals or businesses.



TICKETS HERE



In Our Prayers

Hospital/Clinic/ER/Tests:

Andy Farnhof	Helen Feller	Sammy Geistweidt
Jackie Kneese	Alyssa Petsch	Joyce Richey
Blake Schulz	Kelly Urbanec	

Ongoing:

Larry Ahrens	Florine Bruns	Donald Eckhardt
Audrey Gold	Nic Jones	Stacey York
Korey Zenner		

Baptism:

- Lilly Mechler, daughter of Brad & Courtney (Schoessow) Mechler, granddaughter of Carl & Cristol Schoessow.
- Clara Konig, daughter of Travis & Shannon (Smith) Koenig. Grandparents are Ken and Tami Smith.

Birth Congrats:

- To Heather (Rode) and Luke Atkins at the birth of their baby.
- To Jeremy and Savannah Agnes at the birth of their daughter Palmer Adeline born on January 30th.



**March Sunday School Offering
will go to:**

Lutheran World Relief for
California wildfires



March Birthdays

- 2 – Dayton E. Hayes
Danny McQuay
Luke Sandoval
Trey Schnelle
- 3 – Seth Bonillas
Judy Enderlin
Kaitlyn Evans
Jr. Hartmann
Courtney Ottmers
- 5 – Donald Eckhardt
- 6 – Ethan Flink
Mary Greene
Sandra Hohmann
Daniel Stehling
- 7 – Fred Eilers
Donny Moellendorf
Sidney Nixon
Kenneth Treibs
- 8 – Kenneth Hoffmann
Jena Ottmers
- 9 – Ron Kunz
Kiesha Priem
- 10 – Dawson Holland
Eunice Pape
McKenzie Robison
Mike Sagebiel
Mark Schmidt



- 11 – Jeremy Agness
Kinsley Rabke
Lucinda Zesch
- 12 – Luke Oestreich
Rick Slaughter
- 13 – Linda McCann
- 14 – Brooklyn Grobe
Sharon Millsap
- 15 – Zander Maner
Heidi Schaefer
Bailee Treibs
- 16 – Evie Cox
Jordan Cox
- 17 – Carl Schoessow
Corine Schultz
Colleen Struss
- 18 – Stacy Rush
- 19 – Shannon Koenig
- 20 – Chris Schoessow
Sarah Whited
- 21 – Kyla Atkins
Bill Hill
Eston Epton
Kendra Ottmers
- 22 – Elizabeth Dulaney
Braydon Durst
Leland Geistweidt

- 23 – Bryson Durst
Ginny Tillman
- 24 – Mary Evans
Margie Hohmann
Melanie Moellendorf
Janet Rode
- 25 – Deanna Christensen
Ellen Cleaton
Carlene Grobe
Gayle McQuay
Rainey Kott
Sydney Windham-Llanes
- 27 – Debbie Cox
Pat Laughlin
Shirley Meier
Katlin Millsap
- 28 – Kyle Kneese
Liston Tronstad
- 29 – Kathy Hill
- 30 – Ida Crenwelge
Anton Loest
Jane Perry
- 31 – Garet Itz
Kaden Ottmers
Knox Padgett
Cassy Schoessow



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.



Preschool Director Opening

The Bethany Preschool Board appointed a search team for Director of Bethany Preschool. If you or someone you know would be a candidate for director, please contact chairperson Marc Williamson or one of the pastors. To find the job description and application, go to:

www.bethanyfbg.com/job-opportunities

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.

Didn't Get 2024 Contribution Statement?

Bethany contribution statements for 2024 were mailed January 24. Unfortunately, many people tell us they did not receive theirs. We have checked with the local post office, and they say their records show all statements left Frederickburg for Austin...after that, they have no record. If you did not receive your statement and would like a copy, please stop by or call the office and we'll print another copy for you.

New Members Reception Sunday March 9th



Several people took our "Discover Bethany" and "Discover Lutherans" class and will be joining our congregation in March.

Ash Wednesday March 5

12:05 Communion & Imposition of Ashes
 6:00 Baked Potato Supper – Fellowship Hall
 7:00 Communion & Imposition of Ashes
The 7pm service will be live-streamed.

Other Wednesdays: Worship & Meal Together

12:05 Worship and Soup lunch in the Fellowship Hall
 6:00 Worship and Meal in the Fellowship Hall



A Lenten Series: “Come to the Table—Again”

*Five Wednesdays worship & meal together
 12:05 & 6:00:*

- March 5: “Shame: The Wedding at Cana” (John 2)
- March 12: “Unexpected: In the Midst of Enemies” (Psalm 23)
- March 19: “Trickery: Esau Sells His Birthright” (Genesis 25)
- March 26: “Testing: Daniel and the Vegetarian Meal” (Dan. 1)
- April 3: Forgiveness: Mary Anoints Jesus” (John 12)
- April 9: “Passover: An Interactive Experience”
 Jews for Jesus

Maundy Thursday worship in the sanctuary:

- April 17: “The Lord’s Supper”



First Bibles to be Presented on Palm Sunday!

First Bibles will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 13, to our 2 year olds and 3rd graders. The 3rd grade Bibles will be displayed outside the Fellowship Hall, starting March 30, for people to hi-light and share their favorite verses with the kids. This is a way to celebrate God’s story with each other and for the kids to know that they are a part of something much bigger than themselves.

3rd Graders (& some who Have not received a Bible.)

- Aaliyah Anguiano
- Jocelyn Castruita
- Rhyse Deike
- Ryker Padgett
- Charlee Reeves
- Makenzie Rivas
- Lace Schulz
- Lilly Tronstad
- Nora Tronstad
- Naydean Usener
- Easton Vela
- Kylie Vela

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

2 year olds

- Lux Aleman
- Cai Avilez
- Brooks Deike
- Elliott Gonzales
- Loretta Perry
- Truitt Peters
- Cora Turbeville
- Charlie Neal



March 2025 Assisted Living

Location	Day	Time	Location	Day	Time
Knopp Assisted	Wed. 3/5	9:30	Villages of Windcrest	Wed. 3/12	9:45
Knopp #2	Wed. 3/5	10:30	FBG NH	Wed. 3/12	10:45
Heritage Place	Thurs.3/6	9:30	Knopp RC	Thur. 3/13	9:30
Enchanted Rock	Thurs.3/6	10:30	Knopp #1	Thur. 3/13	10:30

Bethany: January/**March**/July/October,
Holy Ghost: April/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

Participate in Passover Meal

New "Jews for Jesus" Interactive Experience

Wednesday, April 9th

Bethany has hosted a "Jews for Jesus" presenter several times over the last two decades, but this year we have something new: instead of simply watching a speaker show the symbols of Passover, we'll actually *participate* at our meal tables in the fellowship hall. As we taste the traditional symbolic foods, we'll weave the story of the exodus and freedom from slavery together with the messianic hope realized in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

*****Please RSVP by April 2 to the church office if you plan on attending the Interactive Meal (12:00 noon or 6:00 in the evening).**



When Is Easter?

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.

Special Offering for March **Bethany Capital Improvement Fund**



Recent renovations to our facility and the parking lot have impacted the Capital Improvement Fund quite a bit. Not that it is empty, but it is significantly less than it has been in the past. Looking at the condition of our current facility, we can see some items that will require much needed repairs and renovations in the very near future.

Because of this, the Stewardship Committee designated March's Special Offering to go to Bethany's Capital Improvement Fund. These funds are used to take care of capital improvements like carpets, air conditioners, windows, roof repairs, and the like.

Please use the March Special Offering envelope you received through the mail or write Capital Improvement Fund on your check.

Thank you for including the Capital Improvement Fund in your monthly giving.



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,



March 2025 PRAISE & WORSHIP (10:30)

	Leader <i>Kid's Message</i>	HOSTS	Communion Assistants <i>Prayer Minister</i>
Sun. Mar. 2	<u>Ken Smith</u> Ken Smith	Vic & Marian Nixon	<u>No Communion</u> Ken Smith
Sun. Mar. 9	<u>Cheryl Flink</u> Cheryl Flink	Elizabeth White (2)	Kenneth & Jaye Treibs Merrily Hartmann (2) <u>Cheryl Flink</u>
Sun. Mar. 16	<u>Erik & Beth Iverson</u> Erik & Beth Iverson	Dee & Tim Dahlstrom (2)	<u>No Communion</u> Erik & Beth Iverson
Sun. Mar. 23	<u>Mary Evans</u> Mary Evans	Sandy Fisk Kathy Marquart	Merrily Hartmann(2) <u>Steve Evans, Linda Page</u> Mary Evans
Sun. Mar. 30	<u>Cheryl Flink</u> Cheryl Flink	Will Stehling & family (2)	Kenneth & Jaye Treibs Ben & Elizabeth Warriner <u>Cheryl Flink</u>

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**

March 2025 TRADITIONAL WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

DATE	TIME	USHERS
Ash Wed. Mar. 5	12:00 Noon 7:00 pm	David Browne- captain, Sharon Browne, Al Sunday, Dorcella Sunday <hr/> Jim Schultz- captain, Constance Schultz, Shelba Fenimore, Leland Geistweidt
Wed. Mar. 12	12:00 Noon 6:00 pm	Randy Busch- captain, Lois Bush <hr/> Willard Dearing- captain, Shelba Fenimore
Wed. Mar. 19	12:00 Noon 6:00 pm	Sandra Kammlah—captain Tom Pahl <hr/> Willard Dearing—captain Shelba Fenimore
Wed. Mar. 26	12:00 Noon 6:00 pm	Randy Busch—captain Lois Bush <hr/> Willard Dearing—captain Shelba Fenimore



Change of Date!!!

**Due to the weather on Feb. 22nd,
this event has been postponed
until Saturday, March 8th**

WELCA

Spring Gathering

Hosted by Bethany WELCA



Date: Saturday, Mar. 8, 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.

Please let your circle leaders or Debbie Tiemann know if you would like to attend and have not already registered.



Special Music from the
“Silver Strings” Dulcimer
(& etc...) Group!!!



?? Bible Quiz ??

According to Matthew’s account, what was torn when Jesus died?

- A. Mary’s headdress — she tore it as a traditional Jewish sign of grief
- B. A Roman guard’s sash — Peter grabbed and ripped it in anger
- C. Jesus’ robe — the soldiers divided it among themselves
- D. The temple curtain — torn in two from top to bottom

Answer: D (See Matthew 27:51.)



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 March:

Mar. 2: Team 10—Beth & Erik Iverson- Kiesha Priem, Teri Ewing, Donna Beckmann, Kara Anderson, Chrissy Stuewe, Kelly Urbanec, Kathy Meybaum

Mar. 9: Team 1—Jaye & Kenneth Treibs—Kyle/Carin Treibs, Sandy/Tom Swearingen, Rose Marie Mazanke, Jennifer Jenschke, Kathy Marquart, Ruth Rose

Mar. 16: Team 3—Judy & Ed Kramer— Lucinda Zesch, Gayle McQuay, Beth Luckenbach, Melissa Holland, Robert/Morgan McCall, Deanna Christianson

Mar. 23: Team 2—Camille & Marc Williamson—Autumn/Brad Holland, Jean Weber, Jet/Weldon Itz, Karen Loeffler, Sharon Joseph, Emily Sandoval, JoAnn Leifeste, Cindy Wheeler

Mar. 30: Team 4—Monica Jinright/Krystle Schnelle—Elizabeth White, Valerie Nimitz, Vickie Smith, Katie Jinright Dugue, Mary Greene

March 2025 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP COMMUNION

Date	Time	Communion Assistants
Sun. Mar. 2	8:15	Ed & Judy Kramer
	10:30	Becky Dittmar Walter & Marilyn Probst
Ash Wed. Mar. 5	12:00 noon	Rose Marie Mazanke, Wilma McAndrew
	7:00	Jean Weber, Cindy Wheeler
Sun. Mar. 9	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion
Sun. Mar. 16	8:15	Beth Luckenbach, Carol Seminara
	10:30	Jim & Constance Schultz, Mike Stolpe
Sun. Mar. 23	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion
Sun. Mar. 30	8:15	Jonathan Baethge, May Eilers
	10:30	Keith & Eileen Whited, Leland Geistweidt

Bible Quiz

Who came to Jesus by night to ask him questions, and what famous Bible verse was part of Jesus' answer?

A. Martha; "I am the resurrection and the life ..."

B. Peter; "Do to others what you would have them do ..."

C. Thomas; "I am the way and the truth and the life ..."

D. Nicodemus; "For God so loved the world ..."

Answer: D (See John 3:1-16)

March 2025 TRADITIONAL SUNDAY WORSHIP

DATE	TIME	USHERS
Sun. Mar. 2	8:15	Mike Sagebiel- captain, Peggy Sue Sagebiel, Jerald Klett, Beth Luckenbach
	10:30	Kenneth Treibs, captain Jaye Treibs, Jayecee Treibs, Jennifer Jenschke
Sun. Mar. 9	8:15	Bubba Schnelle- captain, Pam Schnelle
	10:30	Tom Roarick, captain Sharon Roarick, Dorothy Klier, Wayne Klier
Sun. Mar. 16	8:15	Brad Holland- captain, Autumn Holland, Dawson Holland, Gary Stehling
	10:30	Ernie Loeffler- captain Karen Jo Loeffler, Kevin Kunz, Kathy Meybaum
Sun. Mar. 23	8:15	Dwight Oestreich—captain Linda McCann
	10:30	Willard Dearing—captain Logan Ketron, Colleen Ketron, Shelley Gibbens
Sun. Mar. 30	8:15	Richard Bruns—captain Roxanne Bruns, Cindy Zenner, Mike Zenner
	10:30	Jim Schultz—captain Constance Schultz, Ben Warriner, Elizabeth Warriner



March 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-

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)

The Legacy Builder’s class will be studying the lesson, “Don’t Give the Enemy a Seat at your Table:” by Louie Giglio. This class meets downstairs in room 115. Please join us Sunday mornings for lively and inspiring discussions (and great fellowship!!)



?? ? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

In John 9, Jesus’ disciples ask whether a certain man or his parents sinned, causing his disability. Jesus says, “Neither. ... [It was] so that God’s works might be revealed in him.” What was this man’s disability?

- A. Deafness
- B. Lameness
- C. Blindness
- D. Epilepsy

Answer: C (See John 9:1-7.)



Meet Our Members March

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:

The Doerre family —p. 11

Mike & Marie Zenner —p. 12

The Neffendorfs—p. 13

Annabel Wilkinson—p. 14



Traci & Sean Doerre & kids



Recent pic in
Lucerne.

Mike & Marie Zenner



Rick & Iris Neffendorf



Annabel Wilkinson

Youth Photo Gallery



Yard Hearts
are still
making their
way around
town!



Here are some
of our
volunteer
families setting
them up!
Matthew &
Joshua Priess
And Ezra &
Eliana Graham.



Bethany Youth collected 350 lbs. of food for the Fredericksburg Food Pantry during Soup-er Bowl of Caring! Thanks to everyone who helped us to help others.



SUMMER DATES TO REMEMBER

- **June 7-14**—Middle School (Current 6th & 7th grade) at Rainbow Trail
- **July 7-11**—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 20-25**—Elementary (current 2nd-5th grade) at Camp Chrysallis in Kerrville.
(To register, please contact Kiesha ASAP!)



First Communion Class

(current 4th grade & above)

Palm Sunday, April 13, at 11:45

Pastor Kevin, Kiesha, and Pastor Casey will have a first communion class for fourth graders and those older students who have not yet communed. The class is Palm Sunday, April 13, at 11:45 and includes lunch. The students will bake unleavened bread (with honey!) for distribution at First Communion worship, Maundy Thursday, 7 pm.

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

Blake Edeen	Kinsley Rabke	Daniel Stehling
Millie Flink	Charlee Reeves	Boen Stone
August Neans	Camden Robison	Daisy Straube
Cooper Jung	Cash Robison	
Matthew Priess	Hawkins Staudt	

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

Sean and Traci Doerre & family

Sean and Traci Doerre were both mainly raised in Fredericksburg, with Sean moving here in the first grade after his father retired from the Houston Fire Department and Traci arriving in town at the age of four, after her father retired from the Air Force.

After going to Harper Elementary, Sean attended Heritage School from fifth through eighth grade before graduating from Fredericksburg High School in 2007. He then attended Baylor University, where he earned a degree in Journalism. During his early years, Sean enjoyed playing baseball and soccer, later joining the golf team in high school while also working on the school newspaper and at the golf course. He and his parents, Brenda and Hal Doerre, attended Resurrection Lutheran Church until Sean entered high school when they joined Bethany. After college, he interned with the Big 12 Conference and spent five years working for the Baylor Athletic Department, managing public relations for the football, track, and tennis teams.

Traci Doerre, the daughter of Dr. Michael and Donna Braden, also graduated from FHS. In high school, she was involved in Student Council and played on the golf team. She has two brothers, Phillip and Clayton. After high school, Traci attended Baylor University and was involved in a sorority. She spent one semester studying abroad in Amsterdam. Traci continued her education at UTMB in Galveston, ultimately earning a Masters in Nursing. Today, she serves the Fredericksburg community as a Nurse Practitioner, providing primary care for adults.

Despite their shared history in Fredericksburg and at Baylor, Sean and Traci did not start dating until after graduating college. After dating for several years, they married at St. Mary's Catholic Church in 2017, where the priest allowed Pastor Casey to join in their union.

After getting married, the couple moved back to Fredericksburg as Sean took a job in the communications department of the Convention and Visitor Bureau. He later became the manager of the Visitor Center and now works for the City of Fredericksburg as the Public Information Officer.

Their daughter, Reagan, was born in 2021, followed by their son, Braden, two years later. Traci is a member of the Bell Choir, while Sean has served on the preschool board. They both enjoy the Young Adults Bible Class at Bethany as well as volunteering for various preschool events.

Sean and Traci have fully embraced their community, contributing to both their church and the city. They are devoted to their children, family, and many friends, making Fredericksburg a better place to live.

Mike and Marie Zenner

Mike and Marie met their sophomore year at SWT, now Texas State, married after graduation.. Mike spent 32 years with Lever Brothers climbing the corporate ladder while Marie was in banking. During that time, they worked in Manhattan, commuting from Pennsylvania, taking full advantage exploring the East Coast.

Growing up with different religious backgrounds -Mike a Catholic, Marie, Southern Baptist, made it a priority to explore many denominations before deciding to marry in a Lutheran church. Returning to Houston Marie chose to focus on raising their 2 sons becoming deeply involved in Christ the King Lutheran Church in Kingwood.

After Mike's retirement they moved to Harper where they discovered the opportunity to connect with family roots. Learning more about Zenner ancestors who settled here in the 1850's. They initially attended St. James in Harper but found their spiritual home at Bethany after meeting Pastor Travis.

In Harper Mike was active in Kimble County Emergency Services and spear-headed the drive to revitalize the Harper Community Center. He serves on the board of PCAA, and co-chair of the Glockenspiel Tower project. Marie works with the arts & crafts vendors for Oktoberfest.

Throughout their lives, Mike and Marie have enjoyed the camaraderie of friendships formed through Mike's career still visiting and vacationing together. Their vacations revolve around hiking with Marie leading the charge. Her dedication has led her to completing a marathon, several ½ marathons, and active tennis player. After a knee injury forced her to give up many favorite activities she shifted her focus to their 4 granddaughters, 2 living in Arkansas and 2 in Texas.

Mike has dedicated his time to his community serving in leadership roles for over 20 years. Marie, a passionate advocate for healthy living, has become a role model, particularly in healthy cooking. During Mike's battle with cancer undergoing proton therapy at MD, Marie spent long hours in the parking lot due to Covid while he received his treatments. Her presence during this difficult time was a lifeline for both.

After years of involvement, Mike and Marie now cherish their time at Bethany appreciating the welcoming and caring atmosphere. Above all, they value the strong sense of family that continues to be at the heart of their lives. Mike and Marie's journey is a testament to the power of faith, community and the love that binds a family.



the 13th Annual
Gift of Faith Gala
*Raising Funds for Camperships
And to Keep Camp
Affordable for All*

***This event is sold out
but you can still help by
your donations!***

*Make sure no one misses out on
camp because of the cost!*

*The event is March 1, 2025.
We will be celebrating
Camp Chrysalis' 75th Anniversary*

*Where: The Courtyard by Marriott River
Village in New Braunfels*
When: Saturday, March 1, 2025
Time: 5:00—10:00 p.m.

*For more information on how you can
support this cause:
info@crosstrails.org*

2025 Council Members

OFFICERS

President: Dave Browne

Vice Pres : Mike Stolpe

Secretary: Cristol Schoessow

MEMBERS

Stacey York	Case Fischer	Brenda Doerre
Katie Jung	Bobby Wendt	Autumn Holland
Ben Warriner	Callie Peters	Randy Busch

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Property Management:	Ben Warriner
Traditional Worship:	Autumn Holland
Praise & Worship:	Randy Busch
CYFM:	Katie Jung
Preschool Board:	Callie Peters
Social Concerns:	Brenda Doerre
Fellowship:	Stacey York
Finance Committee:	Case Fischer
Evangelism:	Mike Stolpe
Stewardship:	Bobby Wendt

Rick & Iris Neffendorf

Rick and Iris Neffendorf moved to Fredericksburg together in 2004. Rick was born and raised here. His roots to Bethany go back to his great, great grandparents (Friedrichs) who helped start Bethany. In his early years Rick attended Emmanuel Gospel Church and then Trinity Lutheran Church in Stonewall when they moved back to the area. Graduating from Fredericksburg High School where he played golf. After high school he went on to Tarleton State. After college he worked for the USDA in a few locations including Glen Rose, San Marcus, and back to Fredericksburg.

Iris (Haecker) grew up in New Braunfels. Her mother and two brothers still live there, and Rick and Iris go back frequently to enjoy the family lake property. They say it's their home away from home. Her dad worked for LCRA. She was baptized, confirmed and married in the First Protestant church. She worked for the city of New Braunfels. After high school she attended college and graduated with a master's from Texas A&M. She then went onto be a park ranger in NB and ultimately the Park and Recreation Director for the city.

The two married in 1992 after meeting through a friend at a New Years Eve dance at the fairgrounds. They moved to Fredericksburg in 2004 due to a change in careers. Rick was hired by the Farm Service Agency and Iris became the Park Superintendent at LBJ State Park & Historic Site in Stonewall. Both are retired and Iris now works three days a week for Creative Awards.

They have two boys. Riley is the oldest and works for the Gillespie County Sheriff's Dept. as a detention officer. After high school he joined the army and was stationed at Fort Bliss and then Schofield Barrack in Hawaii. Currently he is with the National Guard stationed out of Camp Swift and was sent on temporary active duty to the border. Remington is with the Farm Service Agency in Eastland, Texas

Rick enjoys golf, hunting and ranching while Iris enjoys the outdoors, arts & crafts, crocheting, knitting and quilting. What a blessing to have this family in our church. Rick and Iris attend the late church service and often times you will see their boys with them.

Annabel Wilkinson

Annabel's roots run deep in the Doss community. The tight-knit bonds shaped her life, where neighbors raised families together, attended church and still participate in annual Doss fish fry and school closings activities. Annabel cherishes those lifelong friends.

Her connection to the land her grandfather purchased is just as strong. The homestead in Doss remains in use by Annabel and her family. Whether hunting, or enjoying the beauty of the land, they create memories. One special enjoyment is driving through the pasture checking for deer.

Her musical talent is a gift from her father. From a young age Annabel could hear music and play what she heard. Both parents, the late Richard and Louise Kasper, along with Annabel would gather around the piano singing together her older sister, the late Shirley Hormuth accompanying them. In 8th grade she took up the accordion and a highlight was playing for the Billiettes performing for LBJ.

After graduating from North Texas with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Ed with music minor she moved to San Antonio to teach. There she met her husband, Kenneth Wilkinson. When he asked her to dance and was a great dancer, she knew he was the one.

After moving home she taught 3 years at St. Mary's before transitioning to public school teaching music for 19 years. A meaningful aspect of teaching is the relationship she still has with her students. Recently a former student, now a teacher, shared she uses the verse with her students she learned in Annabel's music class.

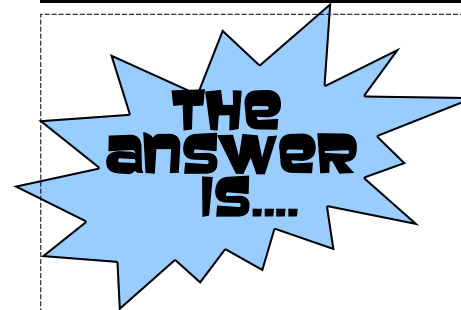
After the passing of her beloved husband Annabel turned to her daughters, Carrie and Cristal, her grandchildren, Shelby, Sidney, Guy, Beau and Ladd whose presence adds joy and laughter. One of her great joys is traveling in US or overseas making 8 trips abroad, 5 visiting sister city Montabaur. One favorite trip was to Switzerland, she enjoyed alongside her dear friend Guenther Ottmers.

At Bethany Annabel is a familiar and beloved figure, having played organ for 30+ years, accompanying the choir, & leading Sunday School children in song. She helps preserve our German heritage by accompanying the German choir. Annabel's musical talents are special and her joy in sharing them has enriched the lives of everyone. We are blessed that she continues to share her gift of music with us all.



Matching Grant for Business

The Hal & Charlie Peterson Foundation offers \$100k matching funds for businesses (not individuals) that donate to our Preschool Building Fund. If you or someone you know has a business that could make a donation, contact financial secretary Becky Dittmar, campaign chair Jody Donovan, or a pastor. To date we have been gifted \$65,775.00 towards this grant.



Here are the answers for March's Trivia questions!

(See p. 18 for the questions.)

1. Crenwelge Motors provided jeeps, free of charge for a number of years.
2. Our first concrete cost us only \$62.50 a yard from Ingram Readymix. That's a far cry from today's cost.
3. The route of the drive-thru was very different in 2001. The Annunciation scene was by the steps to the Preschool kitchen, west of the sanctuary.



March 2025 Altar Guild

Traditional:

Marjorie Ottmers, Pat McCreedy,
Shelba Fenimore

Contemporary:

Karen Rode, Linda Pape

Ash Wednesday:

Marjorie Ottmers, Constance Schultz



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

* * * * *		* * * * *
*	Monthly WELCA Offering	*
*	January—Little Hearts Child Development Center	*
*	February—the Needs Council	*
* * * * *		* * * * *

**WELCA Hill Country Conference
Spring Gathering**

This event has been postponed until
Saturday, March 8th.
Place: Bethany Lutheran Church
Time: 8:30 am — 2:00 pm
Lunch: \$20.00
Theme: Treasuring Our Elderly
Speaker: Denise Usener, Golden Hub

See p. 7 for
more de-
tails of the
Spring
Gathering.

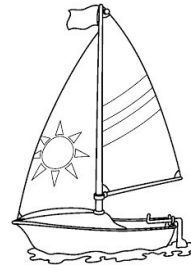
*please
join us*

World Day of Prayer -

Friday, March 7, 2025
Holy Ghost Lutheran Church

Summer Joint Circle WELCA luncheon-

Sunday, June 1, 2025
Location to be determined



**Lifeboat Log :
March 2025**

Baby, it's been cold outside, and the Bethany Outreach & Advocacy Team (BOAT) wants to thank everyone who helps us keep out little free food pantry – a.k.a. the Lifeboat – stocked with nonperishable food items. It brings us joy practicing hospitality by addressing the issue of food-insecurity in our community. The little notes of thanks left in our pantry attest to the success of this outreach.

We know grocery prices are high, but if you have a heart for our mission, please consider buying an extra can of beans or soup, bag of rice or beans, can of tuna or chili. We have a storage bench on the porch of Hennig House for your donations. BOAT members and volunteers restock the Lifeboat every day.

And a quick follow-up of our February Free Car Care Clinic: the number of cars/people we assisted was in the double digits for the first time!

Our next monthly BOAT meeting is Thursday, March 20, 5:45 p.m. at Heritage Place conference room, with special thanks to BOAT member Roberta Young. All are welcome to attend. Your ideas are helpful as we seek ways to provide real-world assistance to our neighbors.

**Next monthly BOAT meeting
Thursday, March 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

	January 2025	Year to Date
Gen Fund Income	\$47,072.93	\$47,072.93
Gen Fund Expenses	\$67,304.54	\$67,304.54
Net:	\$(20,231.61)	\$(20,231.61)

Balances Other Funds

Designated Accounts: \$203,885.18

Capital Improvement/Hennig Fund (SSBT): \$38,536.35

Capital Improvement/Hennig CD (Guadalupe): \$84,520.45

Pre-School Building Fund:

SSBT: \$1,175,292.38

TX Hill Country CD: \$211,667.20

Ed Jones: \$3,275,441.82

Total: \$4,662,401.40

Peterson Business Matching Grant progress: \$65,775 (as of 2/18)

Emergency Aid Fund (Chase): \$13,847.37

Contingency (Guadalupe)-Money Market Account \$109,525.33

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

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

Monthly Special Offerings—2025

January—Der Stadt Friedhof—\$4,825

Contributions statements were mailed Jan 24, 2025. If you did not get your statement or if you have any questions about it, please contact the office at 830-997-2069 or send Becky an email. bdittmarblc@gmail.com

Brother Steward

Testing Our Commitment



Lent is a time to be proactive and truly alive in the spirit of Christ. Instead of pleasing ourselves, it is a time of meditation, worship, and helping others through God's gifts to us of time, talent and treasure. Lent is a time that tests our stewardship of these gifts. Here's what we can do:

Time: Use it to pray: for thanks, requests, the sick, our pastors, military, country, peace, our children, families and friends. Pray at home, in the office, while walking, before sleep.

Talents: Help others, volunteer for food bank, visit the sick, call the lonely, restore a home for an aging couple, counsel the depressed, teach the Bible.

Treasure: Add an extra dollar a week to the offertory collection. This supports our ministries. What you save on giving up candy, a donut, a latte, smokes, a six pack, donate to the offertory collection. The needy need help! Don't wait! Commit!

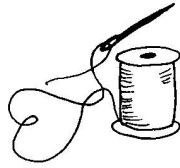
God Bless!



Quilters' Corner

The Quilters will be meeting on their regular day—Wednesday, March 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.



World Day of Prayer

Date: Friday, March 7, 2025

Place: Holy Ghost Lutheran Church

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Light lunch to follow

Every year, the World Day of Prayer unites people across the globe in a spirit of worship, solidarity, and shared faith. This year our focus is the Cook Islands. The theme, "I Made You Wonderful" from Psalm 139:14, serves as a beautiful reminder of God's creative work in each of us and His love of diversity.

Hennig Property Task Force Update

In November of last year, the Church Council appointed a task force to consider purposes for the Hennig house and the older fachwerk house behind it. The committee met for initial discussion and exchange of ideas on February 20th. More research and gathering of data is next on the committee's agenda. A meeting time of the fourth Thursday of the month was set.

Please keep the members of this task force in your prayers, and please do not hesitate to share ideas. Members include:

- Eston Epton
- David Ewing
- Danny Flink
- Paul Hartmann
- Sharon Joseph
- Ernie Loeffler
- Beth Luckenbach
- Morgan McCall
- Ralph Rode
(Chair of the Property Committee)
- Carl Schoessow
- Pr Ray Tiemann
- Elizabeth White
- Tim Dahlstrom
- Pastor Casey
- Pastor Kevin, ex-officio.



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.

Bethany History Trivia MARCH



Bethany Early Days of Christmas Journey

1. In the early days of our Christmas Journey, who lent us two jeeps to tow passenger trailers during our annual drive-thru?
 - a. Crenwelge Motor Sales
 - b. Enterprise Auto Rentals
 - c. Hein Chevrolet
 - d. No one. We didn't provide rides in those days.
2. In May of 2001, when we poured the first slab of concrete for the Christmas Journey storage shed, how much did we pay per cubic yard of 3000psi ready-mix from Ingram Readymix Inc?
 - a. \$62.50
 - b. \$95.75
 - c. \$175.50
 - d. We bought it from Wunderlich Readymix in the early years; therefore nothing to Ingram.
3. In December of 2001, where was the Annunciation scene displayed for the Christmas Journey drive-thru?
 - a. By the steps to the Bethany Preschool kitchen
 - b. Right where it is currently set up; near the entrance from Adams Street.
 - c. At the far West end of the Hennig parking lot.
 - d. We didn't have an annunciation scene in 2001. The annunciation wasn't added until 2014.



Answers on page 27.



18



GriefShare – from Mourning into Joy

Bethany began its 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



Spring Break is March 17-21

23

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!



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.



Dear Bethany members,

I want to thank you for your prayers, thoughts, cards and kind words expressed to me and my family at the passing of my mother Evelyn Geistweidt. She was a great person and will be greatly missed. We lean on the fond memories of her every day.

*Leland & Peggy Geistweidt
and family*

Calendar

Calendar