

Bethany Bells

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

www.bethanyfbg.com

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

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

January 2025

A Happy! New Year

By Pastor Kevin Haug

I know we are all going to say it as December 31st changes into January 1st...”Happy New Year!!!

But what is happiness? Where does such a thing come from? Well, Scripture, especially the Psalms--truly helps us understand where true happiness is found. Let’s take just a sampling:

Psalm 1: “Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread.”

Psalm 32: “Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”

Psalm 41: “Happy are those who consider the poor; the Lord delivers them in the day of trouble.”

Psalm 84: “Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise...O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.”

Avoiding wickedness, embracing forgiveness, caring for the poor, worshipping, and trusting in the Lord lead to happiness—what we might call joy. Maybe that’s not such a bad thing to focus on as we enter into 2025. Have a happy, joyous new year!

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



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Annual Congregational Meeting

January 26, 2025

Bethany's annual Congregational meeting will be held **Sunday, January 26th** after the late services. We will discuss and vote on the 2025 budget, receive reports, and elect nominees. A published "Annual Report 2024" will be distributed on Sunday, January 19th.

Annual Report Distributed January 19th

The "Annual Report" gives an overview of Bethany in 2024, summaries of the mission and ministries of all our committees and organizations, the proposed 2025 Budget, financial reports, the agenda for our January 26 meeting and nominees for Council, Preschool Board, Bethany Foundation, and Synod Assembly voting members. Plus a summary of the year by the pastors.



All Committee Meeting in February

All Committees will meet Sunday, February 2, to re-organize and set goals for 2025. New council officers and committee reps will be elected at the February 1 council retreat. We'll have a light lunch after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We'll most likely be done by 2 p.m. If you'd be willing to serve on a committee this year, we have committee descriptions available for you to read for these committees: CYFM (Children, Youth, & Family Ministry), Evangelism, Fellowship, Property, Social Concerns, Stewardship, Traditional Worship, Praise & Worship, Plus our BOAT group!



In Our Prayers

Hospital/Clinic/ER/Tests:

Jeanette Beckman Helen Feller Frankie Law
Charles Kuenemann Kiesha Priem Jarrod Stokes
Mike Sagebiel

Ongoing:

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

Our Sympathy to:

- The family of Carol Eckhardt, whose funeral at Bethany was December 6.
- The family of Hillary Rabke, whose funeral at Bethany was December 20.
- James Curtice and family at the death of his father.
- Aaron Cantwell and family at the death of his father.



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

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



January Birthdays

- 1 – River Andrichyn
- 2 – Kathy Crenwelge
Sweetie Dietz
Megan Jinright
Ken Oehler
Mike Sedgwick
- 3- Peggy Geistweidt
Iris Neffendorf
- 4- Lyn Linka
Kevin Haug
- 5- Dianna Blount
Garet Gold
Kiera Haug
Derek Jung
- 6 – Winnie Griffin
Casey Zesch
- 7- Crayton Rains
Kayla York
- 9 – Doris Herbert
- 11- Paul Hartmann
Dieter Kemper
Charles Kuenemann
- 12- Noelle Christensen
Denise Kunz
- 13 – Pat Maenius



- 14 – Richard Bruns
Pat Hoffman
Monica Jinright
Margie Oehler
Lilly Ottmers
Madeline Sagebiel
Aaron Steger
Nora Tronstad
Lilly Tronstad
- 15 - Oliver Deike
Kimberly Fritz
- 16 – Jason Itz
Russell Wipff
Gage Bertelson
Matthew Priess
- 17 – Judy Kramer
- 18 – Linda Schuch
James Wallendorf
- 19 – Shelba Fenimore
- 20 – Pansy Benedict
Lindsey Luckenbach

- 21 –Kim Sedgwick
- 22 – Kyle Grona
Jason Jenschke
- 23 – Kathy Laumann
Clayton Slaughter
- 24 – Ella Hartmann
Christa Peyton
- 25 – Shelby Beard
Sidney Beard
Zoe Castellano
Greyson Roarick
Brooklyn Schnelle
- 26 – Reagan Doerre
Collyns Koone
Ed Kramer
Michael Robison
- 27 – David Laughlin
Kathy Straube
Karen Rode
- 28 – Grant Pittman
- 29 - Guy Ristau
- 30 – Esther Holland
- 31 – Kathy Marquart
Nora Schoessow



Bulletin Announcements On Website

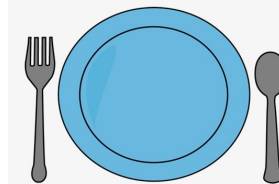
Want to see the Sunday bulletin and announcements? They're both posted each week on our website. Click on the worship tab for the drop down menu:

www.bethanyfbg.com

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

RETURNING:

DINNER FOR 6



The Fellowship Committee is bringing back Dinners for 6! This popular event was held a number of years back.

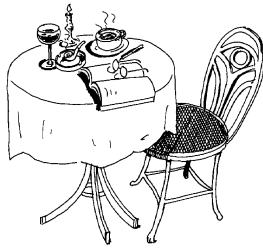
Six individuals will be grouped together, by the Fellowship Committee, to enjoy each other's company during the months of January, February, and March. It's open to both couples and single adults who would like to get to know other Bethany members in an informal, relaxed setting. Look for signup sheets in the Narthex and in front of the fellowship hall.

Each month two people will host. It can be at anytime of the day the 6 people involved decide. It can be for brunch, lunch, supper! It will be up to that month's host if they want to have a meal in their home with the host providing the main dish and the other 4 people bring sides. Or the next month the host can decide to go out to a restaurant (dutch treat). There are many possibilities such as meeting for coffee now that Fredericksburg has so many new, interesting coffee shops.

With 3 different services at Bethany, there are many of us who only visit with the people who attend the service they do. It's another opportunity to gather in fellowship with other members of Bethany.

We hope you will join us!

LADIES LUNCHEON



SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH
11:00 a.m.

The Fellowship Committee is excited to 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

Individual tickets will be sold at church in January or you can go by the church office on weekdays.

Tickets are \$25.00
For questions call Karen Oestreich,
830-889-0295

- **January 6th (Monday)**— WELCA board meeting—4:00 p.m. in the downstairs kitchen
- **January 8th (Wednesday)** —Quilters— 9:00 a.m. in the downstairs quilting/choir room. (see p. 24 for more quilting news!)
- **January 9th (Thursday)** - Leah Circle—9:30 am
In the downstairs kitchen
- **January 9th (Thursday)** - Lydia Circle—1:00 pm (for the months of January & February) meeting in the downstairs kitchen.
- **January 14 (Tuesday)** - Hope Circle—6:00 in the downstairs kitchen.
- **January 15 (Wednesday)** - Ruth Circle—9:00 am at the home of Lois Bush.

****Bethany WELCA offering for December will be going to Lutheran World Relief Disaster Fund-Hurricane Response****



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

President—Teri Ewing
Vice President—Sharon Browne
Treasurer—Debbie Tiemann
Secretary—Nancy Geistweidt
Mission in Action—Sharon Wendt
Mission in Growth—Karen Loeffler
Leah Leader—Beth Luckenbach
Lydia Leader—Sharon Browne
Hope Leader—Debbie Tiemann
Ruth Leader—Constance Schultz



January 2025 Assisted Living

Location	Day	Time	Location	Day	Time
Knopp Assisted	Fri. 12/31	9:30	Villages of Windcrest	Wed. 1/8	9:45
Knopp #2	Fri. 12/31	10:30	FBG NH	Wed. 1/8	10:45
Heritage Place	Thurs. 1/2	9:30	Knopp RC	Thur. 1/9	9:30
Enchanted Rock	Thurs. 1/2	10:30	Knopp #1	Thur. 1/9	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 * Frankie Law *Elizabeth Parsons

ALAMO RANCH, San Antonio

*Audelle Burkey



GriefShare – from Mourning into Joy

For the fourth year Bethany Lutheran Church is hosting a free grief support workshop for the community called GriefShare. Classes will begin on **Thursday, January 9**, and will be held each Thursday from 10:00 a.m. - noon.

Pastor Ray Tiemann, Visitation Pastor at Bethany, and a team of trained lay leaders will facilitate the 14 sessions that are part of this program, which end on April 10. Participants can register or get more information by calling (830-997-2069) or emailing (churchofficeblc@gmail.com) the church office. Or, come to the first class on January 9 and see if this is right for you.

During the two-hour session each week, the class will watch a short video and engage in group conversation. Each participant receives a personal workbook to help them continue their thinking and praying between sessions. Part of the group covenant assures complete confidentiality in the conversations.

Pastor Tiemann said, "This class is designed to provide grieving persons with sustained support and helps them turn mourning into joy." Persons can join the class at any time. Also, the videos are available online if someone should miss a week.

For more information, contact: Rev. Ray Tiemann, Visitation Pastor, (email) tiemann200@gmail.com or (mobile) 830-456-6948 or Wilma McAndrew, Team Leader, (email) dwmcandrew@yahoo.com or (mobile) 830-644-2092.

Peace,
 Ray Tiemann, Visitation Pastor
 Bethany Lutheran Church
 Fredericksburg, TX

BLC Dollars & Cents

	<u>November 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Gen Fund Income	\$59,360.64	\$751,414.74
Gen Fund Expenses	\$73,447.54	\$771,729.25
Net:	\$(14,086.90)	\$(20,314.51)

Balances Other Funds

Designated Accounts: \$185,128.27

Capital Improvement/Hennig Fund (SSBT): \$30,385.36

Capital Improvement/Hennig CD (Guadalupe): \$83,964.75

Pre-School Building Fund:

SSBT:	\$371,051.50
TX Hill Country CD:	\$209,162.98
Ed Jones:	\$1,769,776.97 (includes 6 \$225K CDs)
Total:	\$2,349,991.45

BBF Donations qualifying for matching grant: \$363,053.90

Emergency Aid Fund (Chase): \$779.56

Contingency (Guadalupe) - Money Market Account \$109,154.69

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

Broadway Bank (CD-Hein Gift(GF or Hennig)) \$177,028.08

Monthly Special Offerings—2024

January—Der Stadt Freidhof—\$4,390

February—Bethany Preschool—\$9928

March—Mision ‘de Candellia—\$2715

April—Synod Assembly—\$1840

May—Bandera Foster Closet—\$3000

June—Crosstrails Ministry—\$3,390

July—Bethany Foundation—\$3245

August—Gideons—\$1755

Sept—Kairos Prison Ministry—\$2400

Oct—New Horizons/Living Well College/Advantage Care Services—\$3260 (\$1086.66 each)

Nov—Hunger—\$6973 (\$3486.50 each) to ELCA World Hunger and Fbg Food Pantry)

January 2025 PRAISE & WORSHIP (10:30)

	Leader	HOSTS	Communion Assistants
	Kid’s Message		Prayer Minister
Sun. Jan. 5	Beth Iverson Beth Iverson	Elizabeth White Ken Smith	No Communion Beth Iverson
Sun. Jan. 12	Mary Evans Mary Evans	Elizabeth White (2)	Karen & Ralph Rode Linda Pape, Steve Evans Mary Evans
Sun. Jan. 19	Ken Smith Ken Smith	Larry Ahrens Jackie Kneese	No Communion Ken Smith
Sun. Jan. 26	Beth Luckenbach Beth Luckenbach	Jennifer & James Jenschke	Jaye Treibs (2) Erik Iverson, Beth Iverson Beth Luckenbach



When You Are Hospitalized

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

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

January 2025 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

DATE	TIME	USHERS
Sun. Jan. 5	8:15	Max Beckmann- captain, Bonnie Beckmann, Jerald Klett, Beth Luckenbach
	10:30	Kenneth Treibs, captain Jaye Treibs, Jayecee Treibs, Jennifer Jenschke
Sun. Jan. 12	8:15	Bubba Schnelle- captain, Pam Schnelle
	10:30	Tom Roarick, captain Sharon Roarick, Dorothy Klier, Wayne Klier
Sun. Jan. 19	8:15	Brad Holland- captain, Autumn Holland, Dawson Holland, Gary Stehling
	10:30	Ernie Loeffler- captain Karen Jo Loeffler, Kevin Kunz, Kathy Meybaum
Sun. Jan. 26	8:15	Dwight Oestreich—captain Linda McCann
	10:30	Willard Dearing—captain Logan Ketron, Colleen Ketron, Shelley Gibbens

Thank You So Much !!!!!

“The Christmas Journey” spread Christmas cheer through the story of the birth of Christ to over 1,867 people, and we were able to donate over \$5,194 to the Fredericksburg Food Pantry!

We are so blessed to give this gift to the community and to the people all over the nation. The Journey is a journey, and it takes a village to put this on. This whole thing is a work of the heart from our church! It’s truly beautiful to see everyone donate in their own ways to making it happen,

Love,

Kenneth & Jaye Treibs Danny & Cheryl Flink

*Dear Bethany members,
Words can't express how grateful and blessed we feel to be a part of this amazing congregation of friendly, generous members!*



Thank you to all who have been active in supporting our Christmas Journey and who have donated funds or food for the local Food Pantry. We had so many members fill Christmas shoeboxes for underprivileged children in foreign countries. Then as soon as the Angel Tree Christmas cards were put on the trees, they disappeared! We hope that you looked in the back of the church and saw the pews overloaded with food, staples, and gifts for the children of families who need a little help this year.

We'd also like to thank Mr. Gatti's Pizza who always supplies our church with free pizza when members are working on church projects like the Christmas Journey.

Bethany truly follows our mission statement: Being, living as, and making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Karen & Dwight Oestreich



**January 2025 Altar Guild
Traditional:**

Margie Ottmers, Sarah Eckhardt

Contemporary:

**Sandra Swearingen,
Krystal Geistweidt**



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 January:

Jan. 5: No Breakfast Bar or Sunday School on this Sunday.

Jan. 12: Team 4—Monica Jinright/Krystle Schnelle— Elizabeth White, Valerie Nimitz, Vickie Smith, Katie Jinright, Mary Greene, Chelsea Usener

Jan. 19: Team 5—Mary Alice & Oliver Deike - Kim Sedgwick, Elizabeth Warriner, Dawna & Kiera Haug, Donna Mittel, Katie Jung, Joyce Richey

Jan. 26: Team 6—Kelly Urbanec— Kay Stech, Nancy Geistweidt, Janie Bailey, Vonnie Maner, Cherry Woods, Kathy Meybaum, Lindy Haley, Jessica Mittel

January 2025 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP COMMUNION

Date	Time	Communion Assistants
Sun. Jan. 5	8:15	Todd & Wesley Keener
	10:30	Jody & Sheila Donovan Leland Geistweidt
Sun. Jan. 12	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion
Sun. Jan. 19	8:15	May Eilers, Rose Marie Mazanke
	10:30	Weldon & Jet Itz Kiesha Priem
Sun. Jan. 26	8:15	No Communion
	10:30	No Communion

(Continued from p. 32.)

The new Preschool will increase the number of classrooms that will double student enrollment and will offer care for infants as young as 6 weeks old, as well as afterschool care for children up to the age of 12. This is truly a community project as 85% of students enrolled at Bethany Preschool are not members of Bethany Lutheran Church.

Campaign Chairman, Jody Donovan said, “We are blessed and grateful to be as far along as we are but need some others to dig deep in their pockets and get us over the line.” Donations can be made by check payable to Bethany Preschool Building Bright Futures, charitable donations from IRAs to avoid taxes, cash, or online at BethanyFBG.com.



Over \$5.19 Million Pledged or Donated to Building Bright Futures

Affordable, quality childcare is not a new issue for Fredericksburg. A 2023 survey of employers conducted by the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce revealed 97% of local businesses have employees with young children and more than 60% reported staff disruptions—on a weekly or monthly basis—caused by childcare availability problems.

Bethany Preschool plans to tackle this issue by building a new, bigger, state-of-the-art preschool building. The capital campaign that Bethany Preschool has launched is called Building Bright Futures. It is doing well but needs a little more help.

With generous donations received from the Bethany Lutheran Church congregation of over \$2 million and local organizations like Create Healthy, St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary’s Church and many others, we are close to 75% of our goal of \$7 million with over \$5.19 million pledged or donated. So, we only need \$2 million more!

There is currently \$500,000 in matching grants for businesses and individuals that can donate to the project and double their impact before March of 2025.


Bethany’s Preschool has been in continuous operation for more than 40 years, offering families from across Gillespie County and Kerrville quality childcare and appropriate early childhood education.

(Continued on p. 33.)



January 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-  **Adult Classes**

The Adult Bible Class meets in the overflow area at the back of the sanctuary with the pastors. People of all ages are welcome. Please come and join us!



The Transitions Class-

The Transitions Class will be beginning a new class in January. It is entitled, “Context.” It is a study that looks deeply at familiar passages in Scripture with consideration of their origins and meaning, sometimes adding a new insight of interpretation. 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 January

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!

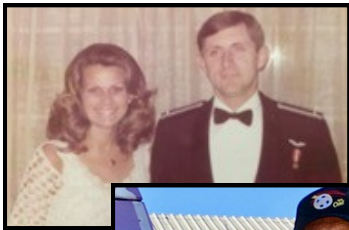
Members Highlighted this Month:

Constance & Jim Schultz—p. 11

Jackie Kneese & Larry Ahrens—p. 12

Richard & Roxanne Bruns—p. 13

Marilyn & Joe Butcher—p. 14

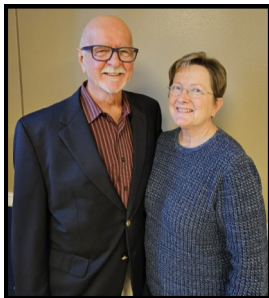


Jackie Kneese & Larry Ahrens

Constance & Jim (then & now!)



Joe & Marilyn Butcher 10



Richard & Roxanne Bruns

(Continued from p. 30.)

The organizations receiving grants this year are: Cross Trails Ministry, The Good Samaritan Center, Heart of the Hills Pregnancy Resources, Salvation Army of Fbg, VFW Post 7105, Wounded Warriors at Nebo, Willow City Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Vereins Quilt Guild of Fbg, Mercy Gate Ministries, Bethany WELCA, Living Well Learning Center, Hill Country Community Needs Council, Little Hearts Child Development Center, FISD Education Foundation, Gillespie County Historical Society, and the Texas Ramp Project.

Since 2008, the Foundation has distributed \$539,206. The investment balance as of November 30, 2024, is \$809,591.



Photo credit: Standard Radio Post/Ken Esten Cooke



Bethany Lutheran Foundation Distributes 2024 Grants

The Foundation was formed in 2007 with a generous gift to our church from the estate of Alma Braeutigam of \$642,331. Our equally generous congregation decided to convert this one-time gift to a perpetual fund that supports not only our church, but also our preschool, and community organizations. Each year, since 2008, 5% of our annual investment balance has been distributed to BLC (25%), BPS (25%), and community organizations (50%). August 1st through September 15th is the grant submission process. The Ministry and Mission Committee than reviews all applications and decides which organizations will receive grants and how much they will receive.

For 2024, a total of \$35,000 has been distributed. On December 5th, the recipient organizations were presented with their checks for a total of \$17,500. On December 15th, BLC and BPS each received their checks for \$8,750 during church services.

(Continued on p. 31.)

Constance & Jim Schultz

After relocating from Houston in 2007 Jim and Constance Schultz joined Bethany. Both Constance and Jim serve as ushers, communion stewards, Food for Kids, pre-school Thanksgiving meal servers and Christmas Journey. Constance also sings with the Chancel Choir, cantors, serves on Altar Guild, the Funeral Reception Committee, Ruth Circle/WELCA Board, and served on Church Council. Jim also facilitated two visioning sessions for Church Council.

Jim and Constance met when she was 11 and he was 13 when Constance's father was assigned as senior pastor to Jim's family church in Arizona. Three years later her family transferred to California and a new congregation. Not deterred by miles, a smitten Jim stayed in touch. Finally, in college, he at Arizona State University and she at Cottey College in Missouri, Jim made his move. They married in Temple City, California in 1971 during semester break and both returned to studies at ASU. Their life includes many career related relocations together (25+) and the blessing of three children and six grandchildren including their son Jason (Laura) who has 3 children and lives in Boise, Idaho, Lisa is becoming a new member of Bethany and has a son, and Erin (Heath) who lives in Austin; she has 2 children.

Constance had several career positions outside the home, including procurement for U S Navy aircraft, and roles in banking, education and human resources. A certified Water Safety Instructor, Constance managed swimming programs on military bases where Jim was assigned, including a unique opportunity as personal lifeguard for visiting VIPs, including the US Secretary of State and his wife. She enjoyed leading female roles in several musical theatrical productions.

Jim served 10-years in the USAF as a supersonic jet fighter pilot and US security force operations. After USAF he held leadership positions in the U S Federal Senior Executive Service and in Fortune 200 industry. In 2007 Jim established a leadership consulting practice and has addressed thousands internationally in keynote and workshop presentations. He published two books currently used in course curriculums at the University of Southern California and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Jim is a licensed FAA commercial pilot and is listed on the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum Wall of Honor in Washington D.C.

Jackie Kneese & Larry Ahrens

Jackie Kneese and Larry Ahrens are lifelong residents of Gillespie County who cherish everything Fredericksburg has to offer. Jackie was born at the Fredericksburg Clinic, grew up in the Stonewall area, and attended Stonewall Elementary School for eight years before moving on to FHS. She participated in 4-H and FFA, showing pigs during her youth. After high school, Jackie earned her cosmetology license in 1975 and has been running her own shop ever since. She has lived in the same house on Mulberry Street since 1980. Jackie is the proud mother of three boys: Russell, Kyle, and Troy, who passed away in infancy. Russell is a pig farmer and has two children, while Kyle is a carpenter and has two children.

Larry was also born at the Fredericksburg Clinic and grew up on the family homestead on Ahrens Road. He attended FISD schools for all 12 years and was active in agriculture and FFA. Larry has two daughters: D'Lynn, who lives in Hilda, and Serena, who resides in Galveston and has two grandchildren. Over the years, Larry pursued a diverse range of careers, including seven years at CTEC, seven years at UPS, self-employment in fence building, metal buildings, and small engine repair, as well as 15 years with the Postal Service in Johnson City and another 15 years in Fredericksburg before retiring.

Both Jackie and Larry are lifelong Lutherans. Jackie attended Trinity Lutheran Church in Stonewall until 1976, when she joined Bethany. Larry attended Cave Creek Lutheran Church, where he served as Church President and was a member of the Finance Committee. After Jackie and Larry began dating seven years ago, Jackie invited Larry to visit Bethany. Since then, they have been attending both the traditional and contemporary services together.

Jackie fondly remembers working at the Fredericksburg Bakery and being involved in her family's peach business, Behrends Peaches. She also cherishes memories of playing baseball, attending events at Pat's Hall, the Tower, and South Heights HUT. Today, Jackie is active in the Contemporary Service, the Fellowship Committee, Christmas Journey, and ushering for both services. Larry enjoys hunting, fishing, ranching, farming, and singing with the Hermann Sons choir. Some of his favorite memories include hunting moose in Alaska and visiting Washington, D.C., with his niece.

Together, Jackie and Larry have a close-knit circle of friends and enjoy dancing and traveling with them. They feel incredibly blessed to be part of both the Fredericksburg community and Bethany Lutheran Church.

Brother Steward

Get a Grip for the New Year!



Let's spend less time about falling off the fiscal cliff and more time about securing and holding on to our Spiritual Cliff. Our only safety-net is through using our many gifts!

We need to increase our prayer and worship-time to reaffirm our faith. We need to increase our Good Works through our talents to help the desperate, the needy, the homeless. And we need to increase our support of our community and church and its ministries.

Strength through stewardship will keep us from falling. So, let us fold our hands in prayer. And get a firm grip on our faith. It's our lifeline to the Lord.

God Bless!



Joe & Marilyn Butcher

Joe and Marilyn both grew up and lived for much of their lives in Bloomington, Illinois. Though they've been married ten years this February, their story began long before that when Marilyn first met Joe canoeing on "her" river.

Joe's career was built on a foundation of service beginning at Illinois State University where he earned a BS in Geography. He is a US Army veteran with the Military Police. He served nearly 40 years with Bloomington Police Department, retiring in Command of Investigations. Over the years Joe held a variety of positions, each offering him a fresh perspective.

As public information and crime prevention officer, he recognized the importance of getting information to the public. He also dedicated 9 years to the school board. Joe humorously reflects, "It was the worst job I never got paid for."

One of the roles Joe is most proud of was his time as crisis intervention, community mental health officer serving for 15 years on the board for Center for Human Services in Illinois, addressing mental health needs of his community. Marilyn proudly shares Joe's picture, which hangs on a wall in their high school, honoring students who have shown exceptional commitment, initiative and dedication to their work.

Marilyn's career was equally impressive. As a single mother she worked 2 jobs many years before retiring as head cook in the tallest student dorm in the country at Illinois State University. The best part of the job, she says, was the interaction with the students, learning about different cultures, and especially working with students.

They decided to move to Texas to be closer to their children (one son living in Boot Ranch) although they recently returned to Illinois where they attended her 105-year-old mother's funeral.

They love Texas and declare they have more friends here than back home. After her son was diagnosed with cancer they felt the outpouring of support, thankfully he's now in remission. As they put it, no matter what your problem, there's always someone to give you a hug.

Through the years, they have built a life filled with meaningful work, and a deep love for family and friends. They are grateful for the blessings life has brought their way. Their story is one of resilience, love and the enduring power of friendship and family.



Special Offering for January **Der Stadt Friedhof**

Our church cemetery is overseen by a board of representatives from Bethany, Zion, and Holy Ghost Lutheran Churches and supported by donations from these 3 churches and sometimes other congregations. We will hear about new plans for the cemetery during our Temple Talk from Susan Stroehler, current board president, on the second Sunday in January.

You may write a check payable to Bethany and stub it "cemetery". Use your January special offering envelope or a pew envelope on any Sunday morning in January or mail it to the church:

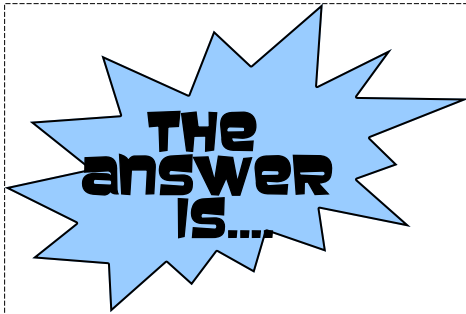
Bethany Lutheran Church
110 W. Austin St.
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Bethany representative is Ralph Rode.



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.



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

(See p. 18 for the questions.)

1. Our first Christmas Journey performance was in December of 2001, making December of 2024 our 24th year. We have only been rained out once in 48 nights of presentation.
2. In the early days, several men spent 2 days chain sawing cedar (Ashe Juniper), several ladies spent many hours using loppers to cut the boughs, and then the set-up crew created the pathway by placing the boughs, each overlapping the previous one so no wooden stem would show. Finally, strings of white lights were placed atop the cedar.
3. Margaret Hannum and Cole Lewis painted almost all the original backdrops, and those backdrops are still in use today. Those backdrops have been rained on, sleeted on, and wind whipped. The fact that they remain beautiful and functional is a testament to the care that the Christmas Journey leaders, the scene captains, and the set-up and tear-down crews have shown for all 24 years. There have been years when the scenes had to be taken down in light rain and then dried in a controlled environment before they could be returned to storage.



**December Sunday School
Offering will go to
Angel Tree
-chosen by CYFM**

Nominations

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

COUNCIL NOMINEE SLATE FOR 2025

(vote for 4):

- Case Fischer
- Callie Stech Peters
- Bobby Wendt
- Stacey Blount York

PRESCHOOL BOARD (vote for 3):

- Jim McAfee
- Camille Williamson
- Della Zey

SYNOD ASSEMBLY NOMINEES (vote for 2):

TBA in annual report

BETHANY LUTHERAN FOUNDATION OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.

(vote for 3):

- Beth Luckenbach
- Tom Swearingen
- Elizabeth White



YOUTH AND FAMILY

Don't Forget!!!

No Sunday School or Breakfast Bar **December 29** or **January 5.**
We will start everything back up on **January 12.**

January 26th: Middle School -
"Souper Bowl of Caring"

We'll meet after church to eat & hand out bags in the neighborhoods; then head to BB's bowling!



February 9th: Middle School & High School
Pick up cans for "Souper Bowl of Caring".



Bethany YARD heARTS Fundraiser

We will be starting our YARD heART fundraiser soon!
Money raised will help towards camp and other activities. Look for order forms soon!!!

("Quilters' Corner" continued from p. 24.)

It's because of Jeanne that our high school graduates receive a very special quilt. In fact, she chooses these quilts specifically with the boys and girls in mind who will receive them. She also makes diapers out of used T-shirts to be included in the Baby Care Kits.

Thank you Jeanne for using your God given gifts to serve others. You are a mentor and inspiration to us all.

Also, we thank those who have brought and continue to bring donations of fabric so the work of LWR can continue!



WANTED

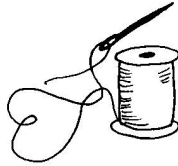
Empty ink cartridges

Help us keep items out of the landfill.
Bring your empty ink cartridges in a baggie and put them in the cardboard box clearly labeled for these items. It is under the tall table as you enter the Fellowship Hall

Thank you,
Bethany WELCA

Quilters' Corner

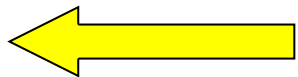
The Quilters will be meeting on their regular day—Wednesday, January 8th at 9:00 am—noon. They meet in the downstairs quilting/choir room.



Happy New Year from the Bethany Quilters! We are so grateful to the amazing ladies who are faithful in their ministry of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief as well as giving a quilt to our high school graduates. They are: Sharon Browne, Carolyn Carson, Jeanne Dietrich, Helen Feller, Carlene Grobe, Karen Keener, Linda McCann, Marilyn Probst, Dorcella Sunday, Sylvia Van Antwerp and Sharon Wendt. Working from home are Sandra Swearingen (sewing tops and bottoms), and Betty Buchmeyer who supplies us with fabric, sewing supplies and infant items for our Baby Care Kits all from thrift stores and garage sales.



This month we highlight Jeanne Dietrich who has been a part of the quilters for over 20 years.



Making quilts, as if she was running a factory, is something she calls (with a chuckle), "cheap therapy". She makes these quilts at home and brings them to church to be tacked by the group of "quilter bees" listed above.

("Quilters' Corner" Continued on page 25.) 24



A Few Words from Bethany Preschool:

Ariana Cisneros
Assistant Director



It has been a fun and busy time for us this month. We have had so many fun Christmas activities. Including our Winter Wonderland, where we had a surprise visit from Santa. Thank you to all the amazing volunteers for helping us make this day so special for the children. We will end the week with classroom Christmas parties. It really is the most wonderful time of the year.



The staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!



Bethany History Trivia JANUARY



1. When was the first performance of Bethany's drive-thru, the *Christmas Journey*?
 - A. December of 2001.
 - B. The Friday after Thanksgiving, 2005.
 - C. Nobody recorded the date so we don't know.
 - D. The very first scheduled performance was rained out Friday, December 17th 2007; so technically the first performance was on Saturday, December 18th, 2007.
2. What was used to light the driving pathway for vehicles during the first years of the *Christmas Journey*?
 - A. Traditional Luminaries with real candles.
 - B. Ashe Juniper boughs covered with strings of white Christmas lights.
 - C. Bales of oat straw lined up end to end with 6 foot spacing.
 - D. Volunteers stood along the path with flashlights directing the cars to keep moving.
3. What two people (and helpers) painted the original backdrops of almost all our current *Christmas Journey* scenes?
 - A. Jorge Brion and Frank Forbes, both from Dallas.
 - B. Pastor Casey Zesch and Pastor Lucinda Zesch, with the help of Zach & Ben.
 - C. Sue and Eric Zey with the help of their niece.
 - D. Margaret Hannum and Cole Lewis.
 - E. The original backdrops were destroyed by rain and mildew, so the current backdrops are all corrugated plastic reproductions.



(ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE 26.)

Friendly Reminders

RECEIPTS A MUST: When you're a servant volunteer at Bethany, we want to provide the tools & supplies you need, as approved by the overseeing committee or staff. We must have a **receipt** for any purchases you make using the Bethany business charge cards or when you need personal reimbursement. Thank you for your help and understanding!

PRIVATE EVENTS: Please do not block EXIT doors at any time during your private event in the fellowship hall.

FOOD PANTRY: You can put your donated items in the cabinets. There is a Narthex location and also a similar location outside the Fellowship Hall.

RADIO SERVICE: Bethany's service is broadcast on Sundays at 9:00 am on KNAF-AM 910.

COMMUNION IN CHAIRS/PEWS: For those with walking difficulties in worship services, the pastors & communion assistants are glad to bring the Lord's Supper to them. Please do 3 things to help. Sit near an aisle, tell an usher or worship host when you enter, & raise a hand as communion distributors walk by.

***CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Normal hours are Mon-Fri 8:30 am—5:00 pm. Staff meeting are usually held Tuesday morning beginning at 9:00 am. (The second week of the month staff meeting is held on Wednesday due to the Pastors' Deanery on Tuesday.)

TURN OUT THE LIGHTS AFTER MEETINGS, PLEASE!

***FLOWER CHART:** This is now located in the Workroom. You can simply call Layne and he will coordinate with you.

***TAKING OUT THE TRASH:** Whenever anyone serves food in the Fellowship Hall, please take the trash to the dumpster.

***LOCK IT TWICE:** Please remember when you leave the church at night to lock each glass door twice. (1) crash bar (2) outside knob




Council Highlights

December 17, 2024



- The council accepted the 2025 Budget to present at the congregational meeting.
- Approved the final invoice for the restroom renovations.
- Approved compensation for temporary personnel filling in for Director of Christian Education.
- Appointed Becky Dittmar to the Financial Committee and Kay Stech to the Audit Committee.



If you have items from the downstairs kitchen that have been taken home to be washed, please return them soon. Those items are needed for the various events that take place in the kitchen.

Thank you!



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.

Lifeboat Log : January 2025

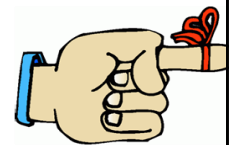


As a new year begins for Bethany, BOAT wants to thank you for your support of the Lifeboat little free food pantry, Car Day, monthly notes of encouragement to inmates at the correctional center, and Willing Helpers. It is a pleasure representing the caring folk of Bethany as we attempt to minister to our neighbors in town who could use a little help. We are always thinking of new ways to advocate for others, and we will need your continued support in 2025. Thank you in advance!

And many thanks to the generous Bethany member who donated funds to purchase a beautiful new storage bench for the Hennig House porch! May it serve the community well as we enter year 6 of this ministry, this month.

Happy New Year and God bless you all!

-Bethany Outreach and Advocacy Team
(BOAT)



**Next monthly BOAT meeting:
Thursday, January 16, 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.**



Calendar

Calendar