



**Bethel
Lutheran
Church**

Making Disciples!

July 6th—August 10, 2023

E-Memo



To the Saints

† Bd of Community Service

† Bd of Witness/Outreach

**"By this we know
love**, that he laid down
his life for us, ...
Little children, let us not love
in word or talk but in deed
and in truth" (1 JOHN 3:16-18).

Christ laid down His life for us.
1 JOHN 3
We love in deed and truth.



Life Ministry at Bethel

As Christians, we encourage moms and dads to "choose life" . . . but then what? The 1 John 3 Life Ministry Project at Bethel is a joint project between the Board of Witness and Outreach and the Board of Community Service in coordination with our existing community partner, Hope Pregnancy Center.

We have a unique opportunity to double the impact of funds we raise this summer for local beginning-of-life outreach through a LCMS [matching grant program](#). If our grant application is accepted, the Synod will match us dollar-to-dollar up to \$50,000. If you would like to support this effort financially, write a Memo of '1 John 3 Project' on checks to the church.

This project will have four components: Mentoring, Volunteering, Financial Support and Prayer.

For the next four E-Memo's we will focus on one of these components. Today's focus is Prayer.



1 John 3 Life Ministry Focus: PRAYER

The LCMS is currently offering a \$1 Million Matching Grant for Beginning of Life Ministries, with up to \$50,000 going to each partnering congregation. The 1 John 3 Ministry Project at Bethel began early in 2023 as a committee was formed and we began looking at organizations with which

to partner. HOPE Pregnancy Center of Brazos Valley has been a Bethel Ministry Partner for many years so we chose to work with them to determine how they would best use any funds we could raise. Our goal was set at \$55,000 to be matched up to \$50,000 for a total of \$105,000 going directly

to the work that HOPE does on a daily basis. We are about halfway through the fundraising portion and God has heard our prayers and we've received about half of our goal through the generosity of our congregation!!! God is SO good!

Although all the aspects of this ministry are very important, we are convinced that PRAYER is the most important one. As humans, we have limited resources, yet we serve a mighty God whose power is limitless! Let us each call upon our Father to bless this important ministry. The best part is, this portion of the ministry can be done by EVERYONE in our congregation!!!

Specific things that you could pray for:

- The women and families as they face tough decisions in a very uncertain time in their lives.
- Prayer for the unborn babies to grow & be healthy.
- The mission of HOPE Pregnancy & AggieLand Pregnancy Outreach in their efforts to lead mothers to choose life.
- The mission of Bryan ISD Pregnancy Related Services & Pro-Life Aggies as they assist moms in finishing school and getting their diplomas.
- Strength for the volunteers
- Our congregation as we look for ways to bring these families into our fold, mentoring the parents & sharing the hope & joy found in Jesus' perfect love for each of us.
- This ministry & the committee as we move forward in the planning & implementation of additional fundraisers, volunteer, and outreach opportunities.

**"And this is his
commandment,
that we believe in
the name of his Son
Jesus Christ and
love one
another"**

(1 JOHN 3:23).

Christ laid down
his life for us.
1 JOHN 3
We love in deed
and truth.



lcms.org/life

Time to Eat at C&J BBQ—July 19th— for our NEXT 1 John 3 Fundraiser — We have

arranged with C&J's to do a profit-share to benefit the 1 John 3 Life Ministry Project. They will donate 15% of profits for meals purchased on **July 19th from 4-8pm** at the WJ Bryan/Briargate Drive location only. (address is 2112 West Briargate Drive, Bryan, TX). **You will need to mention the profit share for Bethel Lutheran Church at the register when you pay.**





July Newsletter

Go ... Sell All You Have?

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, “No!” But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward oth-

er members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What’s more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don’t let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

THE LUTHERAN HOUR is on KAGC, 1510 AM on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. sponsored by Bethel. If you would like, you can sponsor a week's broadcast for \$25 or a month for \$100.

*The Lutheran Hour for the month of July is sponsored by
Ken & Bobbie Denmark - To God be All Glory!*

Ways you can SERVE

It's Never too Late to Fill Out Time & Talent Surveys!

Bethel's Board of Stewardship encourages everyone to complete our Time and Talent Survey to have up-to-date information for all our members. Here is a link to take you to the survey <https://ncv.microsoft.com/QvX8tPJJaQE> and here is the QR Code to use with your cell phone. Or fill out the paper survey available in the Narthex.



OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE here at BETHEL

- ♦ **AV Booth workers**—Steve Silber (979)-324-3529 Steve@SKSilber.net
- ♦ **Altar Guild**—Crystal Drager (979-492-0052)
- ♦ **Ushers** -Lance Lindsey ltlindsey@gmail.com
- ♦ **Greeters**—Debbie Smith (979) 776-2812 or debbienjim@verizon.net
- ♦ **Lay Readers**—Katy Ellison ellisonkaty@gmail.com
- ♦ **We Care** calls to visitors—Cindi Hannes (281) 794-5320 cahannes@outlook.com
- ♦ **Altar Flower Delivery**—Judy Dunn (979) 820-1273
- ♦ **Coffee Brewing**— Jim Anderson jamesa_1975@hotmail.com
- ♦ **Congregational Care Meals**—Sally Olson (979) 255-0918 solson92@gmail.com
- ♦ **Sunday School Teacher**—Connie Bard (979)822-2742 connie@blcbcs.org
- ♦ **Fun Family Wednesday**—DCE Jeff Bellach (979) 822-2742 dcejeff@blcbcs.org
- ♦ **Youth Ministry**—DCE Jeff Bellach
- ♦ **Music Ministry**—DPM Tetsuya Sugita (979) 822-2742 tsugita@blcbcs.org

PICK UP YOUR June/July *Lutheran Witness* Magazine in Room 105 OR at the Donation Location

Inside the Lutheran Witness you will find The Texas Messenger, a small Texas District magazine inserted each month. There are all sorts of articles from the different areas of ministry our Texas District is involved; always a great article by our president, Rev. Michael Newman and lots of pictures from churches celebrating different events. The Texas Messenger is also available on-line.

<https://txlcms.org/texas-messenger/> is the home page and provides links to 6 previous issues as well as the current issue.



Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

We are taking a break through the Summer.
We will start back up on September 5th.

Adult Sunday Bible Study

During the Summer we will have one adult Bible Study on Sundays. We will be studying the First Book of Thessalonians. Our Pastors Bard and Eden will take turns leading this. We will return to two classes in August.

Other Areas the Board of Parish Ed Needs Your Help

*Do you sew, crochet, knit or make dolls, stuffed animals or other creative items to be given to Bryan ISD pregnancy related services in December as an extra gift?

*We have 18 panels of a children's Nativity Book to be cut out and sewn. Let us know if you are interested in helping.

*This summer do you have time to wash Live Nativity costumes? Take one or ten home wash, dry and iron if necessary and return to church.

*There are still a few opening left for Summer Sunday School. Sign up for 1 or 2 Sundays this summer.

Please contact DCE Jeff or Children's Ministry Connie Bard if you can help in any of these areas.

Breakfast Tacos

We will not have breakfast tacos in the month of July. But will start back up in August with the approval of Council. Thank you for your continued support of our youth. Students are encouraged to sign up to help make breakfast tacos. The students who work are given money that goes into an account that helps them go on events and trips through the youth group.



Play and Pray ~ Mondays, 9-11 am

Come connect with other moms of babies and preschoolers! This group's purpose is for moms of young children to have a place for their children to play while they connect with and support other moms in this messy, tiring, and beautifully joy-filled phase of motherhood. Come for a devotion, fellowship, prayer and play! *During the summer we will be on the playground or in a room downstairs if it is too hot.* Coffee and snacks provided!



YOUTH NIGHTS are BACK!!

Come join the fun on Wednesday nights starting July 12th from 6 - 8 PM. We will have Bible Study, games and snacks. And we will do a little planning. Don't miss out on the great times with your friends!!

Tuesday Men's Bible Study Join them on Tuesdays at 7:00PM in Room 242

Let them know you are coming by calling George McIlhaney 979-229-0020 or George Luber is 979-777-6921. Or call if the doors are locked when you get here. They've begun a new study titled "Life of Jacob according to Martin Luther". This is a video course created by Rev. Brian Wolfmueller of St. Paul Lutheran, Austin.

Friday Men's Bible Study at 6:30AM with Breakfast In Room 232 each Friday!

Started new study from CPH titled An Apology for Faith In today's day and age, the need for strong foundations in the faith is always increasing, especially for young Christians. In 'An Apology for Faith' Dr. Jan Lohmeyer addresses essential topics in Biblical interpretation, creationism, evolution, and general apologetics to equip you with a defense of your faith. Join the Men on Fridays at 6:30AM for Bible Study and Breakfast.

The Moerbe Scholarship

The Board of Parish Education has a church worker scholarship grant named the Moerbe Scholarship. This grant is available for any student going to an LCMS school or seminary training to be a Pastor, Deaconess, Director of Christian Education, or Lutheran School Teacher. To apply for the grant you may contact the office of DCE Jeff to get the application.

If you are interested in helping support these students you can make a donation to the Moerbe Scholarship

Designated account. This money will be set aside to help future church workers from Bethel to be prepared for ministry.

Matthew Vathauer is our seminarian who receives this scholarship. Matthew is going to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO and received his Vicar assignment to The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills, Alabama. Please keep Matthew in your prayers as he is being prepared to serve as a professional church worker.

Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) Monthly Gathering

Our next monthly gathering will be on August 7th for Bible study and service projects. More details to follow in the upcoming bulletins.

Bethel's Helping Hands Quilters We Meet July 10th & 24th ~ 9AM in Rm 242

We put Mission quilts together for Lutheran World Relief. You don't need to know how to sew or quilt. We just need helping hands to tie the quilts. Go online to www.lwr.org for details on how these quilts get used throughout the world.



The Lutheran Women in Mission voting body adopted a \$2,350,000 mission goal for 2023–2025 at its convention last

month to fund 31 mission grants over the next two years. Each month, we will highlight some of these mission grant recipients as well as the 11 mission grants adopted by the LWML Texas District for 2022 – 2024. This month, we highlight the Bible Brigade with Lutheran Disaster Care. This organization shares God's Word to those affected by disaster. The Mite Grant monies purchase Bibles marked with verses that comfort disaster victims and gift cards to be distributed to those impacted by disaster.

Bethel's next Mites Gathering is the weekend of July 29 & 30.



News from Mtakuja, Tanzania

Good People of Bethel,
Greetings from Tanzania.

I hope all is well. I am doing okay, traveling around the country visiting brothers and sisters and their families.

I got a chance to visit Mtakuja Secondary School. Cheryl Kruckmeyer a friend from Bethel Lutheran who was visiting some friends in Tanzania was able to join me.

Mr. Mwijage, the head master of Mtakuja informed us that the school has received the amount of \$30,000 (from previous Bethel Adult Sunday morning Bible Class offerings) which Bethel Lutheran Church wired last week. The school hasn't retrieved the money yet. The Headmaster is planning to call Board Meeting this coming week. They will form a committee which will have the job to receive bidding in order to continue with the construction of the multipurpose dining hall. I will be visiting the school in two weeks to see how they have utilized the money.

For the time being, the school has no other sources of income apart from school fees and the help they have received from Bethel Lutheran Church.

Mr. Mwijage, two teachers Mr. Juma Msangi and Mr. Alfred Alfonso joined us as we tour the school after a brief visit.

The students were still on summer break. They will be back on Monday July 3rd to start the second semester.

On our tour the teachers proudly explained that Mtakuja fully adopt the "Quest Forward Learning"



Here is a picture of Mr Alfred Alfonso, Mama James, Cheryl Kruckmeyer, Mr Juma Msangi, and Mr. Mwijage.

framework as their main source of curriculum. In 2016 a team of Tanzanian quest designers created 286 quests that cover the topics and standards from the nine subjects – English, Swahili, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, History, Geography and Civics. Six Mtakuja teachers trained in the Quest Forward methodology now left their usual positions at the front of the classroom to spend class time checking in with individuals and groups of learners. These mentors help (or challenge) learners to find information, rather than instructing them by dispensing lectures." I thought it is worth mentioning.

Many blessings,
Flora Fleegeer (Mama James)

Bethel Preschool News

THE PRESCHOOL IS HIRING FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR! We have a lead Teacher position and several Teacher's Aide positions that are vacant for the coming school year. If you or someone you know is interested in working here and sharing Jesus with our littlest ones, please contact us at Preschool@blcbcs.org or call/ text (979) 446-1578. All positions are part-time and we have morning and afternoon shifts available.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR: Our 2 year old program is now full but we still have some space available in our 3 and 4 year old classrooms. If you or someone you know is interested in registering a child for next school year, please contact us soon! Preschool@blcbcs.org or call our preschool office 979-485- 9835.

You can support our Preschool through our Mabel's Labels fundraiser! This is an ongoing event so you can order anytime! Visit the link: https://mabelslabels.com/en_US/fundraising/support/ and search for Bethel Lutheran Preschool (Bryan). Monies raised through this campaign will go to replace tired playground equipment, refresh curriculum materials, and more! Thank you for your support!



Carolyn Janac

Director, Bethel Lutheran Preschool (979) 446-1578
Bethel Lutheran Preschool admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

Preschool Director Call Process

Bethel is forming a call committee to look for a Preschool Director. We are accepting nominations for this position from our congregation of possible candidates that are rostered by the LCMS who have the experience working in a preschool. You can pick up a nomination form on the elders credenza. More information will be coming in the next several weeks.

Thank You from the Federal Women's Prison Camp, Bryan

The LWML faithfully gives 100 Portals of Prayer to the Women's FPC here in Bryan. Pastor Stroud delivers them to the Chaplain each time. Chaplain Krone said to express his Thanks to Bethel for all the support they've given the ladies through the devotions, Bibles, books, etc.. The ladies truly appreciate these gifts. He said the Portals of Prayer are usually gone within a few days.

Thank you Bethel LWML.

Living with Grief Starting August 20th

This is a GriefShare nation wide program which includes a 13 week video series, bible study, and discussion for those who have experienced a loss. Meetings are held weekly on Sunday evenings beginning at 4:00 p.m. starting August 20th. Please let the church office know if you are interested—822-2742. There is no requirement that you attend all meetings but the first one you will receive a schedule and discover how this works to help you on your grief journey. If you have questions, please call or text Pat Wallace (979)229-3234.

Camp Lone Star—July 30, 2023

<https://camplonestar.org>

The last weekend in July each year, Camp Lone Star hosts the annual BBQ and Auction Fundraiser to support Camp and all that this ministry does to transform lives and grow God's kingdom. This event is one of the main events which supports Camp Lone Star each year and we work hard to be good stewards of the financial resources entrusted to us in order to best glorify God and transform lives through Adventurous Christ-Centered Experiences.

Our Guest Speaker will be Rev. John Karle from University Lutheran Chapel—A&M. The day includes an outdoor worship service under the canopy of trees near the lake (A/C live streamed service is available in the Koop Center) followed by that good 'ole Texas BBQ. After that, enjoy the great fellowship and fun of the live and silent auctions—you won't want to miss it!



THE SCHEDULE FOR THE BBQ & AUCTION IS AS FOLLOWS



9:45 AM
REJOICE
DINING HALL



10:45 AM
SPECIAL MUSIC



11:00 AM
OUTDOOR
WORSHIP



12:00 PM
BBQ LUNCHEON



1:00 PM
LIVE & SILENT
AUCTION



3:00 PM
CLOSING
REMARKS

Happy Birthday!!

To Our Bethel Family

July



Marty Criswell	1
Ethan Janac	1
Lisa Mahnke	1
Trevor Royder	1
Ridge Samford	1
Miley Deike	2
Joshua Stroud	2
Catie Bard	3
Connie Brocksmith	3
Karen Hall	3
Paul Lucht	4
Philip Schmidt	4
Earl Tomlin	4
Lyla Wigley	5
Kassidy Kujawski	6

Tripp Samford	6
Leigh Chipps	7
Georgia Fritsche	7
Brittney Huggins	7
Ryan Clements	8
Gayle French	8
Andrea Murphy	8
Kevin Kraeft	9
Nani Sanchez	9
Barrett Kujawski	10

Kevin Hightower	11	Jennifer Goodenow	21
Marvin Karstens	11	Shirley Jackson	21
Kayla Klose	12	Kenzie Sisco	21
Janis Frazier	13	Brady Kujawski	23
Betty Moerbe	13	Amy Moravec	23
Ellen Young	13	Charles Sanders	23
Barbara Schwartz	13	Tracy Nettles	24
Randy Grimes	14	Macie Anderson	25
Skye Hagemann	14	Ian Janda	25
Ben Segrest	14	Margaret Young	25
Averie Clements	15	Rosalind Young	25
Jeff Bellach	16	John Kappler	26
Michael Bentley	16	Fran Beard	27
Taylor Rutledge	16	Hollis Kujawski	27
Jennifer Klose	19	Garrett McIlhaney	27
Richard Siegel	19	Leah Sugita	27
Lydia Bentley	20	Mason Lustick	29
John Dalchau	21	Norb Mahnke	29
Eric DuPont	21	Grace Clark	31

It's Key Inventory Time!!!

If you have a hard key to the church building please email Joyce to let her know which key you have. joyces@blcbcs.org Thank you!

BETHEL'S LIBRARY

Our Bethel Library is located on the second floor behind the sanctuary. Many have seen our focus table in the narthex and the children's book nook on the second floor. Each of these areas are intentional in helping provide Christian Resources for our community.

Our library is easy to use. If you find a book you would like to explore check it out. There is a card in the back of the book. Put your name and date on the card and place it in the card location. The card locations can be found on the table in the narthex or upstairs in our library. Once you are finished with the book you can return it to our book return in the Library or in the Gathering room. In the Gathering room you can find a book return immediately as you enter on your left, next to the bookshelf.

Also, in our library we have a great selection of Christian themed movies and videos. Come check out our library.



Order BLC-branded merchandise from
M&M Apparel in College Station!



Ladies' Apparel



Men's Apparel



Fleece & Jackets



Headwear



Accessories

How It Works:

1. Shop at www.blcbcs.com
2. Place items in the cart.
3. Check out with a credit card.
4. Receive items in the mail or pick up at M&M Apparel in 2-3 weeks!

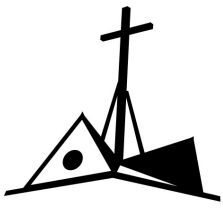


Scan to Go Directly to the Online Store!

The 2023 Flower Chart for Altar flowers is in the Information Center by the elevator. The cost is \$50 per sponsorship. There are a lot of empty spots on the calendar.

You can email the church office at office@blcbcs.org or call 822-2742 if you have any questions. Thank you.





Bethel Lutheran Church

4221 Boonville Rd, Bryan, Texas 77802
Phone: (979) 822-2742 | FAX: (979) 822-4082
www.BLCbcs.org | office@BLCbcs.org
Preschool phone: 485-9835 or cell: 446-1578

Staff:

Rev. Randall Bard, Senior Pastor, (979) 422-0046

Rev. Tim Eden, Associate Pastor

Mr. Jeff Bellach, Director of Christian Education

Mr. Tetsuya Sugita, Director of Parish Music

Mrs. Carolyn Janac, Dir., Bethel Lutheran Preschool

Miss Emma Schmeling, Assistant Director, Preschool

Mrs. Joyce Sutherland, Director of Operations

Mrs. Terry Frazier, Bookkeeper

Mr. Dave Lewis, Facilities Manager

Mrs. Ruthann Stroud, Church Secretary

Mrs. Connie Bard, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Rev. K. Lynn Stroud, Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Randall Moerbe, DCE Emeritus

July 6—August 10th, 2023

**Join us for**

Saturday - Worship at 4pm & Bible Class at 5pm

Sunday Mornings

8:30 AM	Divine Service (Traditional)
10:00 AM	Sunday School & Bible Class
11:15 AM	Divine Service (Contemporary)

Church Office Hours

Mondays—Thursdays	9am - 5pm
Fridays	9am—3pm