



**Bethel
Lutheran
Church**

Making Disciples!

January 4—18, 2024

E-Memo To the Saints



Don't Forget!

Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes are
Starting back up **THIS WEEKEND!**

Saturday night Bible Class at 5:00pm
Sunday morning SS & BC at 10:00am

See You There!

FUN FAMILY WEDNESDAYS Starts up on January 10th!

We look forward to seeing everyone back at our Fun Family Wednesdays, Starting up on January 10th!

We start with a meal at 5:15pm. Cost is \$5/person with a max of \$20/family. MENU: Jan. 10—Soups & Salad; Jan. 17—Sausage, Potato Salad, Beans, Coleslaw

YOUTH CHOIR - We start up again from **6PM to 6:30PM** in the choir room. If you love to sing and praise God, please join us.

Other Activities for FFW begin at 6:30 pm, including: **KIDS BIBLE CLUB** in Room 234 for Kindergarten through 4th grade. Games, Devo, Crafts.

Youth CONFIRMATION in Room 232 for those starting in 5th Grade & 6th Graders.

YOUTH NIGHT—Crossroads for Grades 7 - 12. Crossroads Devotions/topic, some games, free time. Junior High will be meeting in the 7th and 8th Grade Classroom (237). The Senior High will be meeting in the Senior High classroom (232).

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Led by Pastor Tim Eden. We meet in Room 239.

Childcare available for children younger than K-5.

Living with Grief—Starting January 14th, 2024 - Each Sunday at 4PM, Rm 105

After a loss of someone close, how do you deal with the effects that it has on you and how can you go on? When we suffer such a loss, everything changes. Besides the emotional trauma often there are physical issues that develop too.

Living with grief is a “GriefShare” program that helps those suffering to learn why they feel the way they do and see that their reaction may be very common. The program uses videos of people who have had similar experiences and see how they were able to overcome the pain. The pain doesn’t go away but it can be managed.



This is a 13-week program will begin on Sunday, January 14th, 2024 and will meet each Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. here at Bethel. You are provided a workbook to follow and measure your progress. We watch a video, read Bible passages, share thoughts, and discuss what we saw on the video. You will find that this is an upbeat approach to a sad situation and for the most part, the participants enjoy the videos and find the fog of grief to be lifted.

If you are interested, contact the church office 979-822-2742 so we know how many workbooks we will need.

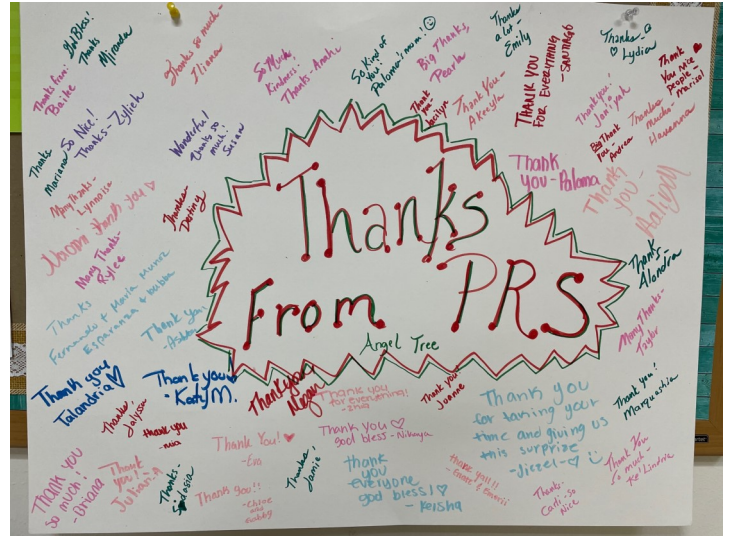
There are no fees or long term commitment. We look forward to meeting you.



Angel Tree Thank You's

There is a Thank You poster in the Information Center from the recipients of the Angel Tree Gifts (Pregnancy Related Services of BISD). It was a lot of fun having them come pick up the gifts, sit and chat while they ate some snacks and we played with the babies. SO CUTE! God Bless them.

There are Thank You Cards on the table in the Information Center from the Still Creek Ranch Children who received the Angel Tree Gifts. Look through them to find the one from the child you gifted.



COME HELP UN-DECORATE THE CHURCH Wednesday, January 10th, 2024 ~ 6-8pm

We will meet Wednesday night to take down the Christmas decoration here at Church. If you are able we would appreciate the help. The more helping hands the faster we can get this done. Thank you!

Life Ministry at Bethel

We have two opportunities this month for you to help us share the love of Jesus with new mothers.



January 15th (Monday) - Baby Shower

This shower benefits parents that have completed the most recent parenting class at Hope Pregnancy Center.

Hope has had 4 wonderful moms and 2 dads who have invested some time learning to care for their babies in their

classes who will be graduating! One mom doesn't want to know the gender until the baby is born and of the remaining 3, 1 is having a boy, 2 are having girls.

The baby shower will be held at Bethel in the Parish Hall on January 15th, 4:30-6:30 pm.

We will have prayer quilts for the moms these next two weekends. Please take time to stop and write an encouraging message or a Bible verse.

We encourage members to attend and support these Moms and Dads. There will be games and refreshments so all are welcome to join in the fun!

If you would like to donate gifts for the moms, please deliver them unwrapped by January 14th. There will be a basket in the Donation Center where you can place the gifts.

January 30th (Tuesday) – Meal for Mama's Club



Aggieland Pregnancy Outreach hosts a weekly Mama's Club during the school year where teen moms and dads come with their children to connect, have fun, and learn how to be great parents.

We will need people to provide and/or serve a pasta meal. We will have sign-ups for that later this month.





The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table,

ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

The Next “Life with God @ Bethel” new member series will begin on January 28th

If you are interested in learning more about our congregation or if you are considering becoming a member, Pastor Bard leads us for 8 weeks immediately following the late service (12:30 pm in Room 239). We always finish by 1:30 pm and snacks are provided. If you are interested in membership, there is an attendance requirement which Pastor will talk about at the first meeting. We would love to have you come and find out more about Bethel. If you or your family are planning on attending, please contact Randy Moerbe (255-0824). Child-care is provided upon request.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Bethel is Starting a Supper Club!

The Board of Stewardship invites you to participate in a new fellowship opportunity- Supper Club! Attendees will be assigned to 1 host home and asked to bring either an appetizer or dessert to share with everyone. Host homes will be in charge of drinks and the main course. Sign up today on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jennifer at jennifer@robertsranchiniv.com or at 979-716-8015



Ladies Tuesday Bible Study—Resumes Jan. 9

We meet at 10AM in Room 239. Pastor Bard leads this Bible Study. Child Care is provided.

Fun Family Wednesdays Will Start Up again on January 10th, 2024

Check the article on the front page.

Monday Men's Bible Study & Fellowship Mondays at 7:00PM in Room 242

LifeLight: The Minor Prophets

This study is part of the *LifeLight* Bible study series of in-depth studies of Bible books. The goal of *LifeLight* is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture, more and more Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ.

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.

Friday Men's Bible Study at 6:30AM with Breakfast In Room 239 This group is starting a new study—from CPH “Faith that Sees Through the Culture” by Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa. Through this study, you can discover new vistas for faith to see more clearly and live out your faith more effectively in our culture.

Breakfast Tacos



We are now serving Breakfast Tacos for a donation on Communion Sundays as a fundraiser for the Youth. 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.

High School Youth Reset Retreat January 12-14, 2024

We will be doing the Reset retreat this year for youth in 9th – 12th grade. We have a sign up in the narthex. Registration will cost \$150.

The weekend will consist of worship, large group speaker sessions, breakout sessions on a variety of topics, small group time with your church, games, camp activities such as rumble ball, camp fires, and more. We will be staying at Mt. Lebanon Camp, Cedar Hill TX. Just south of Dallas. For more information contact DCE Jeff.



Bethel's OWLS (Older, Wiser, Lutheran Souls) January 18th, 2024 at Noon

The Bethel OWLS will begin the New Year, January 18, 2024, with a 12:00 noon Luncheon in the Parish Hall. Please bring a dish to share.

Irene Luther has pictures and information to share about her trip to Costa Rica. Please come join us for fun and fellowship.

Play and Pray Mondays, 9-11 am, Room 241

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! Coffee and snacks provided!





Happy New Year!

I am so honored to be able to write my first E-News as the Director of Bethel Lutheran Preschool. I want to thank you all for your love and support as I transition into this new role. I especially want to thank Carolyn Janac for her dedication to

the Lord, the preschoolers, and the families of Bethel. Being under Carolyn's guidance and leadership the last several months has been a huge blessing to me. She worked all the way up until the last minute to make sure we were ready to start the new year successfully.

Please continue to pray for our preschool, asking God to guide Emma and I in the way that He wants the school

to go...His will be done. We are very excited for all the upcoming special events that we have planned. God is going to do GREAT THINGS!

May the Lord bless you all!

*In Christ,
Shelly Schultz*

Director

Bethel Lutheran Preschool

979-845-9835 office

979-446-1578 cell phone

[PRESCHOOL - Bethel Lutheran Church \(blcbcs.org\)](http://PRESCHOOL - Bethel Lutheran Church (blcbcs.org))

Bethel Lutheran Preschool admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

2024 Offering Envelopes Are Here! - Everyone who has offering envelopes - You will find your 2024 box of envelopes in the narthex—beyond the Elder's Credenza in front of Room 105. Please pick these up and take them home. They will be displayed on the table until the end of January. After that, they will be in Joyce's office. Any questions contact her at JoyceS@blcbcs.org.



Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML)

January Mission Service Project

We are supporting the Board of Community Service's Baby Shower for Hope Pregnancy Center on January 15 with refreshments and decorations. If you can help, please contact Terry Frazier at 979-777-0724

Mite Collection

January 27 & 28

Mites (coins, cash, checks) will be gathered at all 3 worship services. All monies collected here and other LCMS churches fund 42 mission grants in Texas, the US and around the world. One grant recipient is Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW). LBW provides Scripture-based materials at no cost to the blind and visually impaired. A \$100,000 grant will allow LBW to add over 50 new book titles in Braille and specialized large print.

February Gathering

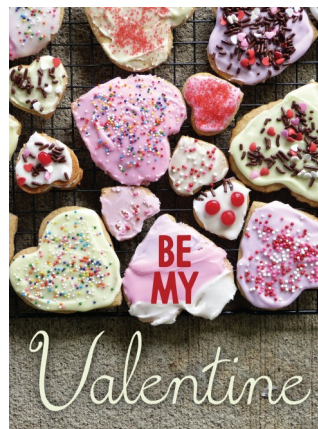
Monday, February 5, 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall

All ladies invited.

Refreshments/Fellowship, Bible Study

Mission Service Project: Valentine's goody bags for the Confirmands

If childcare is needed, please call the church office by Feb 1st.



Bethel LWML

Annual Bake Sale

After all services on February 10 & 11

Proceeds fund our local mission efforts – devotions for Bryan's Federal Women's Prison, Helping Hands quilting supplies, and other projects.

Bethel's Helping Hands Mission Quilters

We Meet two times a month. We will meet on
January 8th & 22nd at 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. Join us for Christian Fellowship.



We cannot use fabric that has religious symbols or messages, patriotic symbols, or camouflage since they are donated through Lutheran World Relief all around the world.
<https://www.lwr.org>

If you wish to donate money for the purchase of batting, you can write a check to Bethel and on the Memo line write that it is for Helping Hands Quilting.

We take Donations

If you have items these are some things we can use.

- Flat Sheets (twin size is big enough)
- Fabric suitable for quilt top (cotton, cotton blends, corduroy, wool, upholstery fabric) We make 60"x80" quilts.



DPM Tetsuya Sugita, Deliberating a Call

Brothers and sisters in Christ at Bethel Lutheran Church,

A few weeks ago, I was extended a divine call to serve as Minister of Music at St. John's Lutheran Church in Arnold, MO. Through conversations, deliberation, and pray-

er, the Holy Spirit has led me to continue serving here as Director of Parish Music at Bethel Lutheran Church in Bryan, TX. Therefore, I have declined the call to St. John's.

Julie and I appreciate your prayers and support. Thank you for taking the time to share your kind words during the deliberation. We feel blessed to be part of the Bethel family and look forward to impacting God's Kingdom by spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please keep St. John's, Arnold in your prayers as they continue to seek the next Minister of Music whom God has in mind for them.

The peace and joy of Jesus be with you.
Tetsuya Sugita, Director of Parish Music

Bethel Music Ministry Starting Back on January 11, 2024

Bethel's **ADULT CHOIR** meets on Thursdays! If you enjoy singing, we invite you (High school to senior adult) to join the Choir and help us worship the Lord through song on Sundays and festival services! Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 7:00PM to 8:00PM in the choir room. For more information, please contact our Director of Parish Music, Tetsuya Sugita, @ 979-822-2742 (church) or email tsugita@blcbcs.org Childcare is available upon request.

Bethel's **HANDBELL CHOIR** meets on **Thursdays from 6:00PM to 7:00PM** in the choir loft. The spots are limited. If you are interested, please be sure to contact our Director of Parish Music now. 979-822-2742 (church) or email tsugita@blcbcs.org Childcare is available upon request.

Bethel's PRAISE TEAM: We are looking for more musicians for our Praise Team! If you like to sing or play the instruments like keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, or drums, please contact our Director of Parish Music, Tetsuya Sugita (tsugita@blcbcs.org). Audition is required.

Happy Birthday!!

To Our Bethel Family

January



Evelyn Schlipf	1	Rawley Murphy	9
Allen Busse	2	Nic Duncan	10
Dave Lewis	2	Sam Johnson	10
Matthew Vatthauer	2	Brayden Kasper	10
Llewellyn Hagemann	4	Rollin Bard	12
Carrie Hildebrandt	4	Jimmy Favors	12
Theresa Nipps	4	Nikki Pratt	12
Willann Thomas	4	Sherry Tomlin	12
Chyanne Boyd	6		
Ashley Nored	6		
Landon Theiss	6		
Allen Kunze	7		
Claudia Carroll	8		

Vickie Deike	13	Jason Chippis	21
Tim Everett	13	Jeremy Drager	22
Joyce Juntune	13	Heather Segrest	22
Shawna Meyer	13	Bill Duncan	23
Lillian Byer	14	Al Bell (90)	25
Charlotte Hold	14	Leslie Janac	25
Hopper Janac	14	Mark Jones	25
Logan Maltz	14	Brandy Scott	25
Whitney Pratt	14	Tobey Lindsey	27
James Anderson	17	Lynn McIlhaney	27
Nancy Benfer (93)	17	Martin Erickson	29
Virginia Billig (94)	17	Dena Favors	29
Les Olson	17	Brittney Birdwell	30
Meagan Brown	18	Tanya Hackney	31
Howard Kappler	18	Kyle Kasper	31
Rusty Pfeffer	18	Craig Murphy	31

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

Bethel's Board of Stewardship encourages everyone to complete our Time, Talent and Treasure Survey to have up-to-date information for all our members. There are paper copies of the Survey in the narthex or you can go online to Bethel's website to download and print it at home. Use this QR Code to take you there. Please turn in your filled out survey to the church office.



Bethel Lutheran Church

M&M Apparel

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

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!

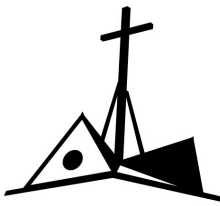
Scan to Go Directly to the Online Store!

PICK UP YOUR January Lutheran Witness Magazine
And the *Portals of Prayer Devotion* Booklet—January—March, 2024
HERE AT CHURCH in The Gathering Room—Room 105!

The 2024 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.



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 January is not sponsored by anyone yet.* **The 2024 Sign Up Chart is in the Information Center next to the elevator.**



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. Shelly Schultz, 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

Mrs. Katie Bentley, Tech & Communications Assist.

January 4th—18th, 2024



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