



**Bethel
Lutheran
Church**

Making Disciples!

April 9—23, 2026

E-Memo To the Saints

Bethel Board of Elders will host a town hall meeting in conjunction with Prs. Bard & Eden on Sunday, April 12th at 12:45 pm in the Sanctuary.

This town hall meeting will present the needs, opportunities, and challenges of adding an SMP pastor to Bethel's staff.

An SMP pastor would provide support for our growing congregation and offers us the possibility of expansion with a mission plant or daughter congregation.

If you would like to read more about the SMP program, here is the link to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis' SMP page: <https://www.csl.edu/academics/programs/specific-ministry-pastor-smp/>

Ladies Salad Supper "A Time for Beauty" May 4th, 2026

All ladies are invited to join LWML for a **Salad Supper on Monday, May 4, at 6:30 PM!** Our program for the evening is "A Time for Beauty". This will be a delightful evening of Devotion, food & fellowship. Just bring your favorite salad and a friend to share the evening with. As a special treat, your **friend will receive a gift** for attending! Please **RSVP Joyce Sutherland (979-224-1349) by Friday, May 1.** Sign Up Sheets are in the Narthex!! We can't wait to see you both there!



Come to Bethel's Regular Scheduled Voters Assembly at 1:30 pm Sunday, April 26th, 2026

The purpose of this meeting will be to Elect Board and Council Members
(Slate of Nominees will be emailed soon.)
Nursery/Child Care will be provided for this meeting.

The Pictorial Directories are here, and the Board of Stewardship will be in the Narthex to deliver these to members who participated in the photo sessions. A limited number is available for purchase at \$8 each by families who did not have their pictures taken.



Bethel Preschool's 3 Week Summer Program



Summer is approaching fast, Bethel Lutheran Preschool is providing a Summer Program for 3 weeks in June. This summer program is for 2s, 3s, and 4s (the class that was just completed). This summer camp program will run June 1st-5th, June 8th-12th, and June 15th-19th. Hours are 8:00-4:00 with a 30 min. early drop off and a 30 min. Late pick up option. We have limited spots available. Please reach out to Emma Schmeling preschoolad@blcbcs.org for a flyer and registration form.

Volunteers Needed to Help Get Ready for Bethel Preschool's 3 Week Summer Program



Bethel Lutheran Preschool is looking for volunteers to come help us get ready for our Summer Program! We will need help with getting rooms, supplies, and lessons put together for our three weeks of the program. If you are available, the week of May 26th-29th we would love your help! Please reach out to Emma Schmeling by email preschoolad@blcbcs.org, call 979-485-9835 or fill out the google form by the QRcode.



A Better Way

Originally published in April 2023

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn’t necessary because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won’t be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one’s income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no

time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we’re ecstatic that you’re giving, and that you’re giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

Lutheran Women in Mission



Join Bethel's LWML Monthly Gathering! May 4th!

Join us May 4, at 6:30 PM for our May Salad Supper in the Parish Hall. Please bring your favorite salad, dish, dessert and your friend, mom, daughter, niece, aunt, grandma, granddaughter, or special lady that makes you feel loved. We will enjoy a program, devotion, and visiting.



LWML Mites ((coins, cash, checks) will be collected April 25 & 26 at all worship services. All Mite monies collected here and at other LCMS churches fund 47 mission grants that will help in Texas, the US, and around the world. One funded grant is described below:

The Apple of His Eye Mission Society -- \$100,000 -- Reaching Jewish People with the Gospel in Israel

Six million unsaved Jewish people live in Israel, and they need to hear the saving words of the Gospel. The Apple of His Eye Mission Society is part of a consortium to plant

Lutheran Churches in Israel in partnership with LCMS World Mission and others.

A new Lutheran church will be planted in Tel Aviv under the leadership of Israeli Jewish believer, Sahar Sadlovsky. He is completing his theological studies through Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and has been serving with Jews for Jesus in Tel Aviv for the past five years and is well prepared to build this ministry. To strengthen this new Lutheran church, short-term mission teams of lay people and clergy will go to Tel Aviv and assist in reaching people with the Gospel.

This grant will provide funds to develop training materials for volunteers and support their travel to spread the Gospel in Israel.

Heavenly Father, You alone are worthy of our praise and worship. Guide the hearts and minds of all those working with The Apple of His Eye Mission Society as they share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people of Israel. Grant them safety and wisdom and use them as a light to share Your Word with those who do not yet know You. In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Easter potluck such a success! Whether you brought a delicious dish, helped with the setup, or stayed late to clean, your hard work and generosity made the day truly special. It was wonderful to see everyone come together and share such a great meal. We couldn't have done it without all of you—thank you for your support!



Camp Lone Star Work Weekend May 15-17, 2026

Want to **support Camp Lone Star** and help us get ready for an amazing summer of ministry? Join us for our annual **Work Weekend** at our La Grange campus as we prepare to welcome 2,000+ campers!

This is an awesome chance to meet and **serve alongside our 2026 summer staff and connect with other volunteers.** Projects may include: power-washing, picking weeds, planting flowers, moving firewood, cleaning, moving supplies, and more.

Kids are welcome too! They'll join some of our summer staff for hands-on work projects and still have plenty of time to enjoy a few of their favorite Camp activities.

This event is FREE, but lodging is limited—so **register early**. We can't wait to serve with you!

**Learn More
& Register**

Location: La Grange Campus
Ages: All Ages
Cost: FREE
Registration Deadline: May 1



Still Creek Ranch

LAUNCH into College & Career

Still Creek is converting a portable classroom building into an efficient cabin for young adult graduates in their “LAUNCH into College & Career” Program.

It will be set up like a dorm room. They had a donation of 4 twin bed frames and mattresses and will need the following items to go with them.

4 pillows, 4 pillowcases, 4 twin fitted and flat sheets, and 4 twin top blanket comforters.

Help us take care of this need for them.



Life Ministry at Bethel Thank You!

Thanks to Bethel and Bethel's Community Outreach Board for providing food for the Mama Club "Easter" event. Special thanks to the serving team of Rosie Schoenfeld, Brandi Jones and Presley Luckey and to our food donors Christy Everette and Georgia Fritsche.

We were able to serve over 100 family members with young children and to assist Aggie-land Pregnancy Outreach's mission to support women and men in unplanned pregnancies and to promote Christian parenting.



Dear Pastor Bard, Pastor Eden, and Bethel Congregation,

Thank you so much for allowing Pro-Life Aggies to host a bake sale and for the incredible generosity that you all showed. We are so blessed to have raised \$2,000+ through one weekend of bake sales for our scholarship. Your kindness enables us to bless pregnant and parenting Aggies by supporting their families as they continue in their education and to encourage them in their decisions to choose life. We thank God for the people of Bethel supporting God's gift of life with us. THANK YOU!!

Eva Nitsch, Caroline Klein & Pro-Life Aggies

Dear Bethel Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the BEE Community! Your commitment to our purpose allows us to thrive right now and dream for the future. We are so grateful for your partnership in building a place of belonging and meaningful work for adults of all abilities. Because of people like you we can continue doing what we love at a place we love with people we love!!

Gratefully, *The BEE Community*



The Habitat for Humanity Faith In Action Committee's Run for the House On April 11, 2026

At the Lake Walk Pavilion (4107 Lake Atlas Dr., Bryan, TX)
Check In: 7:00am – 7:30am and
Race Starts: 8:00am

Bethel's Helping Hands Mission

Quilters—We will meet on Mondays, April 13 & 27 am in room 242.

We put Mission quilts together for Lutheran World Relief (www.lwr.org). 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 and Mission work.



Bethel OWLS (Older, Wiser, Lutheran Souls) Potluck Luncheon Thursday, April 16th at Noon In the Parish Hall.

Come have Potluck lunch with the OWLS on April 16th, 2026, the third Thursday of the month. Please bring a dish to share. Our Guest Speaker will be Doug Box and he will be sharing information about how to create a video legacy, preserving stories for tomorrow to bridge generations and life stories. Please come join us for fun & fellowship! See you April 16th!! Please remember to enter under the awning. Wishing You a Blessed Easter!

Monday Evening Men's Bible Study & Fellowship ~ 7:00 pm in Room 240
CPH study Life By His Word:
Paul's Mission Work and Epistles Set: Philippians

Call George McIlhane 979-229-0020 if the doors are locked when you get here.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesday Women's Bible Class meets at 10:00-11:15AM. Pastor Eden leads this class in room 239. They are currently studying the Book of Romans.

Friday Men's Bible Study at 6:30 am with Breakfast In Room 239

New Study starting December 5th.

Concordia Publishing House's

Embracing Godly Character by Kenneth Kremer

We live in a godless culture. What are we to do when the faith of the next generation is threatened and challenged? We respond by embracing godly character. Join us on Friday Mornings.

Sunday Breakfast Tacos

Thank you to everyone for helping support the youth with our Breakfast Taco fundraiser. We will provide tacos on communion Sundays. This opportunity helps youth raise money for their youth account to attend events. Thank you for supporting our youth in this way.



Fun Family Wednesday Starts up on April 15 and runs through May 6

Join us on Wednesdays for Fun for the Whole Family!

We start with a meal at 5:15. Cost is \$5/person with a max of \$20/family.

Then at 6:30pm we have our different activities. 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 Grades.

YOUTH NIGHT— 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 in room 239. Childcare available for kids younger than K-5.

Bethel Small Groups

Some of our Small Groups have started. If you are interested in starting a small group please contact DCE Jeff. We have some training videos online for leaders.



New Small Group Started Proverbs 31 Mom's Meet-Up Thursdays at 9am-11am Here at Church in Room 240

The Proverbs 31 small group is for young moms interested in connecting with other moms through regular meet-ups, prayer, and workshops. This semester, we meet Thursdays from 9-11 in Room 240. Childcare is provided. Can't make the time? We would still love to connect with you! It is our hope to match everyone with one or two prayer partners who meet on their own, in person or via text. Contact Ellen Young at 979-676-7694 for more information.

Small Group for Ladies Women in the Word Thursdays at 7:00 pm

All women are invited to join us on Thursday evenings as we study God's word, growing closer to God + Each other. We will be going through LifeLight: 1 Corinthians. Can't wait to see you there! For location and more information call or email Lauren Smith at 817-229-9907 or laurenleannsmith12@gmail.com or DCE Jeff at dcejeff@blebcs.org, 822-2742.

SAVE the DATES

Vacation Bible School

June 21-25

Sign Up in the Narthex

Mission Trip

June 28-July 5

Sign up in the narthex!



We have been busy in preschool! Donuts with Dad was a sweet morning filled with donuts, juice, activities and a little one on one time with our preschoolers and their dads (or uncle, grandpa, friend!) I love seeing these important male figures in our students lives, take time out of their busy schedules to make precious memories. After we celebrated our dads, we jumped straight into Holy Week! We started the week by taking a quick trip next door to Carriage Inn, where our students sang their chapel songs about Jesus and had an egg hunt! The residents of the Carriage Inn were extremely thankful for us coming over to share the resurrection of our Lord with them. We ended Holy Week with Easter brunches and our very own classroom egg hunts. We are so thankful for the parent volunteers who came to the school to help hide eggs and set up the brunches! After returning from our Easter Break, we found that our caterpillars had emerged from their

chrysalises and were now beautiful butterflies. All our classes have enjoyed releasing them outside in the prayer garden or on the playground. So, if you see a few more butterflies around the church grounds, they could be from our preschoolers!

We are now gearing up for End of the Year activities! Be watching for ways to volunteer to help us celebrate another amazing year loving on children in the name of Jesus.

In Christ, Shelly Schultz

Director, Bethel Lutheran Preschool

979-485-9835 office

979-446-1578 cell phone

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

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



Happy Birthday!! To Our Bethel Family



Emily Bard	1
Ida Mae Kaspar	1
Rhonda Kappler	1
Cortney Largent	1
Brighton Kasper	2
Karen Sanders	2
Natalie Bachmeyer	2
Rita Baumann	2
Aurelia Eden	3
Jennah Smitherman	3
Kelly Cammack	3
Patsy Hartmangruber	3
Grant Murphy	4
Ann Samuelson	4

Taylor Wendland	4
Juanita Garrison	5
Adam Mahlmann	5
David Wendeborn	5
Dylan Yung	5
Sierra Wendland	5
Malinda Klein	6
Quentin Burns	6
Tucker Largent	7
George Segrest	7
Amy Dahmann	8
Lilly Clements	8
Mary Ann Luber	8
Violet Addison	8
Nathan Segrest	9
Paul Shoenfeld	9
Rodney Murphy	9
Wallace Hahn	9

Flora Fleeger	10
Anthony Barth	12
Justin Cockroft	12
Kim Rutledge	14
Reiney Cumbie	14
Zachary Smitherman	14
Whitley Wilder	14
Kylie Ouellette	16
Noah Drager	16
Troy Yung	16
Hailey Simmons	17
Peter Nettles	17
Anslyn Favors	18
David Kettle	18
Lisa Loke	19
Stephen Sorensen	19
David Ellis	20
Magdalyne Delovio	20

Sheila Hightower	20
Carisa Torralva	21
James Lindsey	22
Luke Ramirez	22
Jessica Cumbie	25
Sandra Burns	25
Beth Busseau	26
Terry Hausenfluck	26
Brenna Scott	26
Joyce Jones	27
Suzanne Black	27
Sandy Hemann	28
Katie Stroud	28
Preston Kissman	28
Manuel Martinez-Arias	29
Susan Moore	29
Elaine Thompson	30
Madison Jochen	30



Happy Anniversary!! To Our Bethel Couples



Vincent & Sarah Jochen	11 years	April 5
Rex & Shirley Jackson	52 years	April 6
Richard & Evelyn Siegel	28 years	April 10
Shelton & Cortney Largent	11 years	April 10
Owen & Connie Brocksmith	41 years	April 13

Chris & Charly Byer	8 years	April 14
Dave & Cheryl Dinwoodie	40 years	April 19
Nathan & Valerie Markert	20 years	April 22
Colt & Autumn Helton	7 years	April 22
Jeremy & Joalla Shilling	18 years	April 26
Jonathan & Abbie Gilmore	12 years	April 26
David & Dania Hildebrandt	8 years	April 27
Bryan & Caralynda Theiss	8 years	April 28
Josh & Erin Stroud	6 years	April 29

The 2026 Flower Chart for Altar flowers is in the Information Center by the elevator. The cost is \$50 per sponsorship. 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 pm. sponsored by Bethel. If you would like, you can sponsor a week's broadcast for \$25 or a month for \$100. **The 2026 Sign Up Chart is in the Information Center next to the elevator.**
The Lutheran Hour for the month of April is sponsored to the Glory of God by David & Rita Baumann.

Bethel Financials	Mar 2026 Actuals	Jan - Mar 2026 Actuals	% of Jan - Mar Budget
General Fund Income	\$271,618.88	\$480,917.42	97.1%
General Fund Expenses	\$145,995.19	\$405,230.94	86.9%

Note: March Income includes \$14K Mortgage Loan Rebate plus \$115K one-time donor gift.



Bethel Lutheran Church

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www.BLCbcs.org | office@BLCbcs.org
Preschool phone: 485-9835 or cell: 446-1578

Staff:

Rev. Randall Bard, Senior Pastor
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 & HR
Mrs. Terry Frazier, CPA, Accountant
Mr. Jeremy Shilling, Facilities Manager
Mrs. Ruthann Stroud, Church Secretary
Mrs. Connie Bard, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Mrs. Autumn Helton, Office Assistant



April 9—23, 2026

Join us for

Saturday -

Worship at 4:00 pm & Bible Class at 5:00 pm

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 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Fridays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm