



St. John Lutheran Church February 2026 Lighthouse

St. John Lutheran Church
520 North Holland
Bellville, Texas 77418
Phone: (979) 865-2081

E-mail: sjlc@stjohn-bellville.org
Website: www.stjohn-bellville.org
Facebook: St. John Lutheran Bellville

Monday-Thursday 8:30a-1:00p
Closed Friday's & Holiday's

Staff

Rev. Dr. Jay Grave

Pastor

rev.jgrave@stjohn-bellville.org
Extension #13

Marshall Thompson

Worship & Music Director
marshall@stjohn-bellville.org
Extension #14

Ashlin Gordon

Youth Engagement Leader
ashlin@stjohn-bellville.org
Extension #12

Sheila Richard

Office/Finance Secretary
sheila@stjohn-bellville.org
Extension #11

Joy Seidel

Asst. Administrative Secretary
joy@stjohn-bellville.org
Extension #10

Worship Services

Saturday

6:00p - Informal

Sunday

8:00a - Traditional

9:15a - *Sunday School*
(For Adult & Youth)

10:30a - Contemporary

Wednesday

12:00p - Sanctuary

6:00p - Sanctuary

If your contact information changes
Please let the church know.

This will ensure you do not miss out on
notifications from the church.

Thank You, From The Church Office

A Message from Rev. Dr. Jay Grave

I've been spending a lot of time lately in the book of Isaiah. It's a book that refuses to let faith stay abstract. Isaiah keeps pulling us back to the basics of faith: Showing God's love in care for your neighbor, feeding the hungry, praying boldly, living faithfully, and trusting that God is at work - even when the road ahead feels uncertain. That feels like exactly the right word as we step into a full and meaningful February together.

God speaks through Isaiah and says, "Is not this the fast that I choose: to lose the bonds of injustice, to share your bread with the hungry, and to bring the homeless poor into your house?" - Isaiah 58:6-7

This month we welcome many into our St John house, Saturday night and Sunday morning worships, of course, but also many special events! **Bingo Night on February 7** gets us rolling. This is always a favorite evening of laughter, fellowship, and just a little healthy competition. The funds from this night help our Youth program with their special summer trips, Bible Camp, and a Jr High Baptism retreat this summer. On **February 8**, we gather for our **Annual Congregational Meeting**, along with **New Member Classes**, as we reflect on where we've been and listen for where God is leading us next. These are new dates replacing the previous winter cancellations. Our **Church Council meets on February 9**, continuing the faithful work of leadership, prayer, and stewardship on behalf of this congregation.

Mid-month, the church year turns a corner. **Lent begins on February 18**, and as we do each year, we will pack away our *alleluias* and mark ourselves with ashes - signs of repentance, humility, and hope. We will once again offer **drive-through ashes**, meeting people where they are, quite literally in the parking lot, and reminding one another that God's grace meets us in parking lots just as surely as in pews. Regularly **Lenten worship will be held on Wednesdays at 12:00 and 6:00 p.m.**, offering space for prayer, reflection, and renewal in the midst of busy lives.

Even in this quieter, more reflective season, there is joy and connection. Our youth will gather for a **mid-year Valentine's-themed Junior High Dance**, filling our spaces with music, movement, and the kind of community that forms memories lasting far beyond middle school. This is another great Youth Fundraiser and Evangelism event. And don't forget to support the **Boy Scouts** at their **HUGE rummage sale** at our retreat center - one of those wonderful events that combines service, generosity, and a little treasure hunting. It is a busy month.

Through it all, the steady work of the church continues. We care for neighbors, feed the hungry, teach and learn, marry and bury, pray and worship. These are the holy rhythms Isaiah points us toward - not flashy, not always easy, but deeply faithful. And in them, God continues to shape us into a people of compassion, courage, and hope.

As we move forward into this new year and this sacred season, my prayer is that we hear Isaiah's call not as a burden, but as an invitation: to show up, to love deeply, and to trust that God is still doing something new among us.

Grace and peace, **Pastor Jay**

Faith Facts for January 17-18

Attendance

Saturday 6:00p - 75
 Sunday 8:00a - 47
 Sunday 10:30a - 56
 Sunday School - 45
 Wednesday 12:00p - 17
 Wednesday 6:00p - 0



Offering

General Fund: \$6,462.75
 Building: \$175
 Retreat Center: \$25
 Feeding The Flock: \$50
 Food Pantry: \$25
 Music: \$10
 SS Offering: \$2.55
 Columbarium: \$100
 OCC: \$20 WELCA: \$30
 HVAC: \$10

Budgeted Offering \$11,650.00
Actual Offering \$ 6,462.75
Difference -\$ 5,227.25

Faith Facts for January 24-25 (No Church)

Attendance

Saturday 6:00p - 0
 Sunday 8:00a - 0
 Sunday 10:30a - 0
 Sunday School - 0
 Community Meal - 0
 Wednesday 12:00p - 17
 Wednesday 6:00p - 5



Offering

General Fund: \$
 Building: \$
 Retreat Center: \$
 Feeding The Flock: \$
 Food Pantry: \$
 Music: \$
 SS Offering: \$
 Columbarium: \$
 OCC: \$ WELCA: \$
 HVAC: \$

Budgeted Offering \$11,650.00
Actual Offering \$ 0,000.00
Difference \$

PRAYER LIST:

The Family of Carol Rodgers, Kenneth Ueckert, Ronnie Luhn, Kenneth Priesmeyer, Rodney Gordon, Aline Jahnke, Grace Crawford, Herbert Schumann, Joe Wells, David Thomas, Tonja Beaux, Paul Schneider, Ken Harding, Weldon Haevischer, Kenneth Thuesen, Ron Boggess, Brian Krause, our friends at neighboring congregations who are seeking new pastors, and those who have been affected by natural disasters throughout the world.

We pray also for all members who are homebound or residing in the nursing homes; our First Responders, Veterans, and Military Personnel serving around the world.

The extra candle on the altar reminds us to continually pray and remember the men and women who work as First Responders and in the Armed Forces.

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MARCH NEWSLETTER
 Wednesday, February 25

WEEKLY INFORMATION PAGE
 Wednesday Of Each Week

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE
 Wednesday, February 18

NEW DATE
Annual Congregational Meeting
February 8, 2025
@ 9:15am
In the Sanctuary

Morning Prayer
Matins
with Marshall
Retreat Center
Monday – Friday
7:00a – 7:30a

Midweek Services

Recharge your faith with our midweek services. A perfect time to find peace in the midst of a chaotic week.

Every Wednesday

noon & 6pm

Celebrate Bulletins are available each weekend for you to take home. It contains the order of service and readings.

Celebrate
 Special Service of Prayer
 General Assembly & Bible Study

Midweek Worship Services

Ash Wednesday Feb. 18
Lent: Feb. 25 - Mar. 25
12:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Both in the Sanctuary

Ash Wednesday Salad Luncheon
 February 18th @ 11:00 a.m.

The ladies of the church will be hosting our annual salad luncheon before the noon service. We ask members to bring any type of salad to share.

**St. John Lutheran Church
Council Meeting - Retreat
January 4, 2025 @ 11:30a**

The St. John Lutheran Church Council met on Sunday, January 4th @ 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Council members in attendance were Christina Koehn, Newton Boriack, Sharon Boldt, Claire Zapalac, Kirk Hoppe, Livia Marshall, Brenda Stewart, Gregg Lange, Lynn Martine, Shannon Johnson along with Pastor Jay Grave. Members absent: Amy Voelkel

I. Opening Devotion/Blessing - Pastor Jay led us in prayer at 11:40 a.m. We enjoyed a nice meal together and introductions were made.

II. Council Retreat Information - New members were given their binders and Pastor Jay discussed each section of the binder with us, which outlined our duties/responsibilities as council members. Executive Committee Members will be authorized signers on the bank checking account and will need to sign new signatures at Cadence Bank. The 2026 Executive Council Members are: Christina Koehn, President; Newton Boriack, Vice President; Claire Zapalac, Treasurer; Sharon Boldt, Secretary. The members exiting council are: Fritz Nelius, Jared Schubert, and Wendy Jackson.

III. Discussion Agenda -

A. Old Business - The appraisal on the Susan Jones Estate Property has the property valued at \$196,000 and the appraisal district value is \$210,000. Pastor Jay has talked to Joe, who is the son of Susan Jones, and made an offer of \$195,000 to purchase this property. Joe is concerned with how he gets paid due to Australian Tax Laws. He is discussing how to proceed with a tax lawyer and will get back with Pastor Jay regarding this issue.

B. New Business - Kirk Hoppe is getting bids for the cost of a new pump at the Retreat Center. Kirk Hoppe submitted a bid (approved) in the amount of \$1243.26 to replace the closers and maintenance on the glass doors at the church. Kirk Hoppe is also looking into finding a door technician to service the metal doors at the church.

C. Upcoming Business - Shannon Johnson will contact SecureTec and talk with them about our wishlist to upgrade the security system at the church.

IV. Announcements - The next council meeting is February 9th @ 6:15 p.m.

V. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.

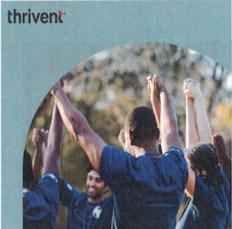


If you would like a ride to and from church to attend a worship service, please call the church office 979-865-2081

Thrivent Choice®

Thank You

for choosing us



Thank You, Thrivent members, for directing Choice Dollars® to us. We are excited to share that St. John Lutheran Church of Bellville received over \$4000 through the Thrivent Choice® program in 2025. Please make sure to direct your Choice Dollars by March 15, 2026. Want to learn more about Thrivent Choice or Thrivent's other generosity programs? Contact your local Thrivent advisor or go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients with membership and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at thrivent.com/thriventchoice. ©2025 Thrivent - All Rights Reserved 27106 R10-25



2026 Flower Chart

Sign up to bring flowers or a plant for the altar for that special occasion in your life. Flowers or Plants must be at the church by 5:00pm Saturday afternoon and stay for all three services. Thank You



February 11, 2026

After Care and Share Bible Study In Fellowship Hall
Join us for Lunch and learn what the ladies do with LWR blankets on Tacking & Packing Day

Brenda Stewart, WELCA President

Tackers & Packers

The 3rd Tuesday Of Each Month
At 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall



Games Day For All

St. John Lutheran Church
520 North Holland Street
Bellville, TX

2nd and 4th
Tuesday
12:00p
Fellowship Hall

If anyone in the congregation would like to work with the church garden this spring, please call Maggie Thuesen (979-885-8724) or Brenda Stewart (979-877-4624). Any help, big or small, is greatly appreciated. This is a great way to help the members of the church get fresh produce. Plus, we love our garden so let's keep it going!!!!



Blessing Box Sew In
Saturday, February 7th
8:30a - 1:00p

Sew, Stuff, Iron, Pin, Pack

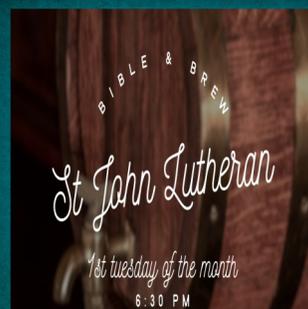
CARE AND SHARE

Wednesday's at 9:15a In the Fellowship Hall

Pastor Jay is currently leading the group in a study of Paul's missionary journeys. This study will be completed on February 11th. The class will not meet on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, due to the luncheon. At the class meeting on February 25th, Pastor Jay will lead the class in the first lesson of Max Lucado's book "Romans: In The Grip Of Grace".

Please join us!!!

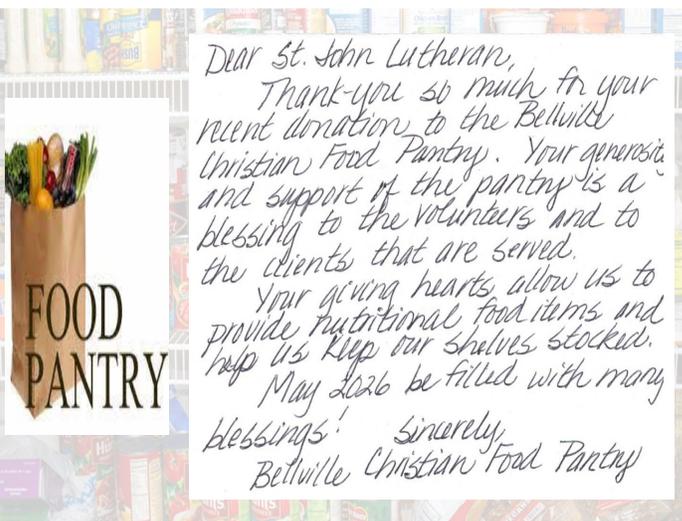
New members are always welcome!



Bible + Brew for Men
will meet on the 1st Tuesday
of each month @ 6:30 p.m.
@ the Retreat Center
BYOB

Join the Men of the Church for
Beer, Snacks, and Bible Study.
Call Tony Stewart for more info
979-877-8028.

Peter's Windfall - Luke 5:1-11 - Page 1428 MBB



Columbarium News

Niches are currently available for purchase. The application & policies are available prior to purchase. Please visit the church office during business hours for more information.



Just A Friendly Reminder that if you would like to make a donation to the Blessing Box Project, it needs to go directly to Dawn Compton. THANK YOU :-)

Worship Assistant - February 2026

31 / Feb. 1 7 / 8 14 / 15 21 / 22 28 / Mar. 1

Ushers				
6:00 PM	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson	Thuesen
8:00 AM	Hoppe	Hoppe	Hoppe	Hoff
10:30AM	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson	Lange
Choirs				
6:00 PM	Gospel Group	New Song	Gospel Group	New Song
8:00 AM	Senior	Men's	Senior	Men's
10:30AM	VOP & KCC	VOP & KCC	VOP & KCC	VOP & KCC
Acolytes				
The youth of St. John Lutheran Church are encouraged to volunteer at the service they attend.				
Altar Guild (Wafers & Wine Cups)				
6:00 PM	Doris Hagen	Joy Seidel	Maurine Brack	Sheila Richard
8:00 AM	Kathryn Sledge	Sara Sowa	Beth Hurtado	Frances Shiller & Kay Zwahr
10:30AM	Shannon Froebel	Cheryl Pritchett	Lori Jackson	Brenda Stewart
Communion Assistants (6:00p & 10:30a - Stand in front of Pulpit & Lectern) (8:00a Assist At Rail)				
6:00 PM	Doris Hagen & Butch Grebe	Allene & John Schmitt	Joy Seidel & Jill Collins	Sheila Richard & Ronald Koehn
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Jeanette H & Shannon Froebel	John Pritchett &	Lori Jackson & Brenda Stewart	Amy & Wegner Voelkel
Lay Readers				
6:00 PM	Butch Grebe	Lyndell Aschenbeck	Marshall Thompson	Judy Wells
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison	Cheryl Pritchett	Lori Jackson	Travis Koehn
Greeter at Office Entrance (Ushers At Street Entrance)				
6:00 PM	Kathy Smith	Bee Machac	Joy Seidel	Sheila Richard
8:00 AM	Patsy & Joe Ed Lynn	Laura & Herbert Schumann	Beth Hurtado	
10:30AM		Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson	
Flowers				
Weekend			Sara Sowa	Sheila Richard
Computer Service Slides / Camera Live Stream				
6:00 PM	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard / Ronnie	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard / Ronnie
8:00 AM	Sara Sowa		Beth Hurtado	
10:30AM				

Go To sign up.com, Log In, and sign up for the spots & dates that fit your schedule.

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Shuttle Bus Unavailable Van Unavailable	2 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Ci 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p FH/K Mtg - AC +2 more	3 7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 4p ChoirPrac-NewSon 6:30p Bible & Brew	4 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Ci 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Library In Use 12p Worship Service +2 more	5 7a RC - Morning Matin 5p Chrised meeting	6 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Ci 11:30a RC Occupied t	7 ComKitBlessWknd RC Rented - George S 8a BBP Sew In 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choi 7p Bingo Night
8 ComKitBlessWknd 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adl 9:30a VOP & KCC War 10:30a Contemporary	9 AC-TEEA Luncheon Scholarships Availabl 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Ci 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 6:15p Mtg-Council +3 more	10 7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 12p Games Day for Al 4p ChoirPrac-NewSon	11 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Ci 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle 11:30a WELCA Meetir 12p Worship Service +2 more	12 7a RC - Morning Matin 7p Boy Scouts	13 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Ci 11:30a RC Occupied t	14 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
15 7:30a ChoirPrac-Senic 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adl 9:30a VOP & KCC War 10:30a Contemporary 11:30a Confirmati	16 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Ci 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p Mtg-Worship&W 10:30a Contemporary	17 7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 9a Tackers&PackersQl 10:30a Magnolia ALC 4p ChoirPrac-NewSon	18 ASH WEDNESDAY Drive Thru Ashes - AH 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Ci 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle +4 more	19 7a RC - Morning Matin 4p Bluebonnet Opry	20 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Ci 11:30a RC Occupied t 8p JR High-Valentines	21 8a Feeding The Flock 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choi
22 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adl 9:30a VOP & KCC War 10:30a Contemporary	23 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Ci 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell	24 7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 11:30a Oak Haven In 12p GamesDayForAll	25 NEWSLTR DEADLINE 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Ci 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Worship Service +2 more	26 NEWSLTR PRINTS 7a RC - Morning Matin	27 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Ci 11:30a RC Occupied t 2p RC - Rummage Sale - Boy Scout	28 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
1 RC - Rummage Sale - Boy Scout	2	3	4	5	6	7
7:30a ChoirPrac-Senic 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adl 9:30a VOP & KCC War 10:30a Contemporary						

2nd
5:30pm Mtg-SocialMinistries
6:30pm Mtg-Evangelism
4th
5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice
6pm Worship Service
8th
10:30am Contemporary Worship
11:30am New Member Class
5pm 4H Meeting
11th
5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice
6pm Worship Service
18th
12pm Library In Use
12pm Worship Service
5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice
6pm Worship Service
25th
5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice
6pm Worship Service

Happy Birthday



Taylor Bullard	1	Patricia Sommerlatte	16
Jennifer Ferris	1	Kathy Zapalac	16
Shirley Hoff	1	Pat Sechelski	17
Denise Murski	3	Justine Albrecht	18
Eden Swansey	4	Reagan Fielder	18
Peggy Ueckert	4	Cara Vargas	19
Beth Metheny	5	Nathan Zaneck	19
Samantha Weems	5	Matt Noviskie	20
Barb Conway	8	Jason Pieper	20
Lisa Gast	8	Martha Lischka	22
Lucas Stringer	8	Jill Collins	23
Dylan Luera	9	Doris Hagen	24
A C Pacher	9	Kayleigh Kendrick	24
Jason Pavliceck	10	Mildred Lange	25
Kelly Pavliceck	10	Doug Patek	25
Bradley Schwarze	10	Melissa Huffman	26
Taylor Canton	11	Adam Koehn	26
Justin Brandt	12	Greyson Winkelmann	26
Gage Lovejoy	13	Casey Hollomon	27
Vicki Morlock	13	Jake Price	27
Courtney Schmitz	15	Mary Sauer	27
Lanette Fuller	16	Myra Aguirre	28
Erik Haugen	16	Tessa Franke	28
Janice Kokemor	16	Happy Birthday	

Confirmation Retreat #3

Sunday
February 15th
11:30am



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN OF BELLVILLE

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN

Games to Play
ACROSS, DIAGONAL, CRISS CROSS, FOUR CORNERS & BLACK OUT

PRIZES

Saturday, Feb. 7th
7:00- 8:30pm
St. John Faith Center
520 N. Holland

Concessions available!
Suggested donation of \$10 per two cards

Hosted by St. John Youth
979 865 2081



SJLChurch Scholarship Applications will be available online through the church website link or hardcopies at the church office starting February 9, 2026. Deadline to turn in completed applications will be April 6, 2026.

Students who are seniors in high school, attending college or trade school are eligible to apply. Students may receive a scholarship no more than four times.

Please follow the application guidelines and turn in completed applications to the church office via email to sjlc@stjohn-bellville.org.

College students applying must document current activities and letters of recommendation.

Two representatives from Women of the ELCA, Men In Mission, the Evangelism Committee, and the Youth Committee will join together to review the applications and will decide as a group who will receive a scholarship. Scholarships come from WELCA, MIM, SJLC, Iselt, Kaechele-Reinecke, and Nehr Korn Funds.

Junior High
VALENTINE'S
Dance

FEBRUARY 20TH
8:00-11:00PM

St John Lutheran Church
520 N Holland St, Bellville Tx 77418

♥ MUST ATTEND JR HIGH IN BELLVILLE; BE HOMESCHOOLED IN BELLVILLE; OR MEMBER OF SJLC

♥ STUDENT ID AND REGISTRATION FORM REQUIRED

♥ DRESS CODE ENFORCED

\$10 ADMISSION AND CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFO FOR PURCHASE
CONTACT
Ashlin Gordon
(979) 865-2081



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FOOD
&
WINE**

ITALY

WITH
PASTOR JAY

Professional Guides
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Breakfast & Dinner Daily
Transportation



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\$3890
/per person
double occupancy
airfare NOT included



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and to Book!

rev.jgrave@gmail.com
+1 325-248-8867

Included

- 8 Nights in 4 Star Hotels
- Breakfast & Dinner Daily
- All Entrance Fees
- Private Tour Bus
- Personalized Devotions by Pastor Jay
- Best Travel Companions in the World!!



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

520 North Holland
Bellville, Texas 77418

(979) 865-2081
(Address Service Requested)

Mission Statement
St. John-Bellville, TX
Learning,
Living, &
Leading in Love
Through God's grace!