



St. John Lutheran Church March 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

From Darkness to Light

I love the season of Lent. It gives us permission, maybe even an invitation, to slow down and honestly reflect on our true selves. Lent reminds us that we don't have to pretend or polish things up for God. From the darkness to the light, and no matter what we discover when we look inward, this truth remains steady and sure: God loves us, forgives us, accepts us, and always welcomes us.

That promise shapes everything we do together this season.

Throughout March, we live out this grace in many ways. In addition to our Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday worship services, where all are always welcome, you'll find the life of our congregation buzzing with activity. In this newsletter, you can read more about our Bingo fundraiser supporting Meals on Wheels, the youth group's Day Camp during Spring Break, our final Confirmation Retreat, Games Day for seniors, Bible studies, and so much more. These moments of gathering, laughter, learning, and service are all expressions of God's welcome made visible among us.

Please also keep an eye out for updates regarding the potential purchase of the Jones property. More information will be shared as developments continue.

And looking just ahead, on **April 1**, we will once again host a **German-language worship service**. Nope, not joking! More details will be coming soon, and I hope you'll consider joining us or inviting someone who might especially appreciate this opportunity.

As we walk through Lent together, may we do so honestly, trusting that wherever we are on the journey, God meets us there with mercy and love.

"Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." Joel 2:13

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jay

Faith Facts for February 21-22 Offering

Attendance

Saturday 6:00p - 70
 Sunday 8:00a - 51
 Sunday 10:30a - 60
 Sunday School - 46
 Community Meal - 92
 Wednesday 12:00p - 40
 Wednesday 6:00p - 25

Budgeted Offering \$11,650.00

Actual Offering \$10,410.47

Difference -\$ 1,239.53

General Fund: \$10,410.47

Building: \$150

Retreat Center: \$110

Food Pantry: \$1,000

Heifer Project: \$245

Local Benevolence: \$100

Youth: \$50

SS Offering: \$0.78

SS Supplies: \$22.75

Columbarium: \$125

HVAC: \$10 OCC: \$165

Prog&Spkrs: \$100

Valentine's Dance: \$5,065



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

PRAYER LIST:

Rachel Zwahr, Gene Wietstruck, Laura & Luke Mueller, Beth Lipperdt, Deanna Porter, Mary Beckendorf, Hudson Talk, Maurice Newman, Tatum Griffin, Tomas Divin, Karen Curtis, Kenneth Ueckert, Kenneth Priesmeyer, Aline Jahnke, Grace Crawford, Herbert Schumann, Ken Harding, 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.



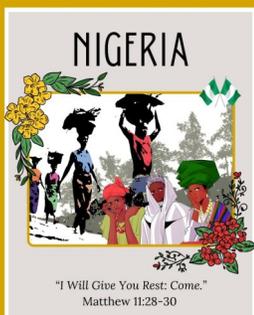
**Morning Prayer
 Matins
 with Marshall
 Retreat Center
 Monday – Friday
 7:00a – 7:30a**

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



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER | MARCH 6, 2026
 In partnership with World Day of Prayer International

World Day of Prayer

**Friday - March 6, 2026
 10:30am**

**St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church
 Bellville, TX**

**There will be a lunch
 following the service.**

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



Places To Give

Building	Music
Retreat Center	Youth
Feeding The Flock	SS Supplies
Focusing Families	Programs & Speakers
Food Pantry	Operation Christmas Child
Heifer Project	Lutheran World Relief
Local Benevolence	Indigent School Supplies
Columbarium	SJLC Garden



Midweek Worship Services

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

**St. John Lutheran Church
Council Meeting - Retreat
February 9, 2025 @ 11:30a**

**St. John Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
February 8, 2026 @ 915a**

The St. John Lutheran Church Council met on Monday, February 9th at 6:15 p.m. Members in attendance were Christina Koehn, Newton Boriak, Sharon Boldt, Clare Zapalac, Kirk Hoppe, Livia Marshall, Gregg Lange, Lynn Martine and Shannon Johnson. Members Absent: Brenda Stewart and Pastor Jay Grave.

Discussion Agenda

New Business: Austin County State Bank representatives Melissa Huffman and Amy Walton were in attendance to give a brief presentation regarding their banking products/services they could offer to St Johns in the event we would want to move our accounts with them. They indicated their rates on various accounts were competitive with those in the community.

Council requested that they give us a proposal in writing of various accounts, services and fees associated with each type of account that we may be interested in. It was mentioned in the Congregational Meeting that the addition of the new church bus was not added to the list of assets in the financial report. Council discussed that we should form a finance committee which would discuss options for finance of the Susan Jones Estate Property. Newton Boriak suggested we have Mike Mueller make an offer as to what his bank can offer us for financing options. It was also suggested that there may be a need for a Line of Credit for repairs to the property. Concerns were expressed about how our accounting system with Rick functions. We discussed the need for three 2026 Synod Assembly Delegates. The time capsule was discussed in regards to when, what to do, what was put in it, etc. This needs to be researched and it was determined to table this item until next month. Kirk Hoppe is getting bids for the irrigation repair or replacement and will report back to Council. Council agreed to continue the janitorial contracts for Shirley Gilmore (church) & Chris Gilmore (Mewis Center) for this year and discuss the next year.

Old Business: The door entry situation is on hold right now as they appear to be working fine.

Announcements

The next council meeting is Monday, March 9th (time to be determined).

Adjournment - Shannon Johnson led us in The Lord's Prayer and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Call to Order

- a. The Congregational Meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Council President Christina Koehn.
- b. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with a motion by Kelby Boldt and a second by Tony Stewart.
- c. A Quorum of 50+ was determined and the meeting began. (57 people)

Prayer

Pastor Jay led the congregation in opening prayer.

Reports

Pastor's Report

- a. Pastor Jay discussed the potential purchase of the Susan Jones Property and indicated that an unofficial offer has been made on the property. He also indicated that the seller has approved of a traditional payment at closing. Church council will meet and further discuss on Monday. Pastor Jay gave updates on church attendance and growth of the church. He also indicated that both general and designated giving amounts have increased.
- b. Tony Stewart indicated that the new church bus is not shown as added to our list of church assets.

2026 Synod Assembly Delegates

- a. We need 3 council delegates for the Synod Assembly in Sugarland, Texas which will be on May 15-16. Let Pastor Jay know if you are interested in serving.

Closing

- a. Ashlin Gordon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 a.m.
- b. Pastor Jay led in the Lords Prayer for closing





We are so happy to report on how many Lutheran World Relief kits that were shipped off on November 2, 2025

- School Kits - 64
- Personal Care kits - 72
- Baby Kits - 45
- Quilts - 60

It is time to get started on the kits for 2026.

On March 11, we will meet after Care and Share and work on Baby Kits. We have all we need, just come and help us assemble the kits for shipping. These kits are now being sent around the US also for disaster relief.

Come share a meal and fellowship with other ladies of the church.
ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME
 Brenda Stewart, WELCA President

CARE AND SHARE

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

Pastor Jay is leading the group in the study of Romans.
 Please join us!!!
 Wednesday's @ 9:15a
 In The Fellowship Hall
 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.

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



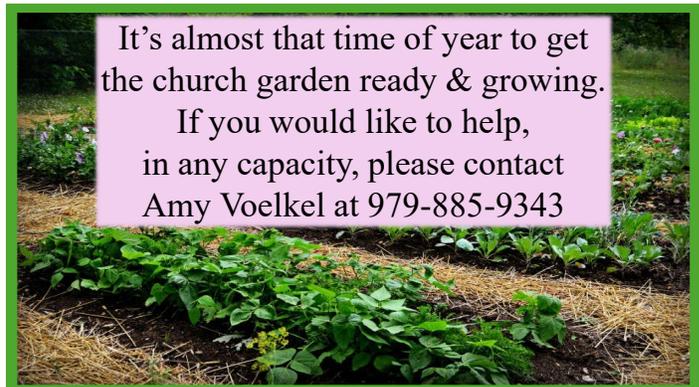
2nd and 4th
 Tuesday
 12:00p
 Fellowship Hall

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.



It's almost that time of year to get the church garden ready & growing. If you would like to help, in any capacity, please contact Amy Voelkel at 979-885-9343



*** DUE DATE ***

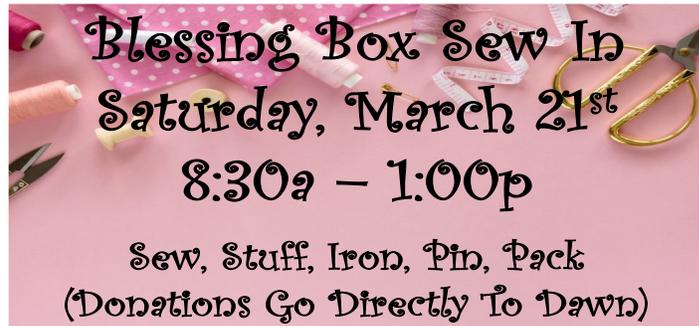
April NEWSLETTER
 Wednesday, March 25

WEEKLY INFORMATION PAGE
 Wednesday Of Each Week

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE
 Wednesday, March 18

Blessing Box Sew In
Saturday, March 21st
8:30a - 1:00p

Sew, Stuff, Iron, Pin, Pack
 (Donations Go Directly To Dawn)



Worship Assistant - March 2026

Feb. 28 / 1 7 / 8 14 / 15 21 / 22 28 / 29

Ushers					
6:00 PM	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson
8:00 AM	Hoff	Hoff	Hoff	Hoff	Hoff
10:30AM	Lange	Lange	Lange	Lange	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	Joy Seidel
8:00 AM	Kathryn Sledge	Frances Shiller & Kay Zwaahr	Beth Hurtado	Cheryl Pritchett	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Shannon Froebel	Sheila Richard	Lori Jackson	Brenda Stewart	Sheila Richard
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	Joy Seidel & Jill Collins
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	John Pritchett	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Jeanette H & Shannon Froebel	Jennifer Krumrey & Judy Luedke	Lori Jackson & Brenda Stewart	Amy & Wegner Voelkel	Wendy Jackson & Need Volunteer
Lay Readers					
6:00 PM	Butch Grebe	Ann Peltier	Shannon Johnson	Marsahll Thompson	Lyndell Aschenbeck
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	Cheryl Pritchett	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison	Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson	Elizabeth Grave	Ashlin Gordon
Greeter at Office Entrance (Ushers At Street Entrance)					
6:00 PM	Kathy Smith		Joy Seidel	Sheila Richard	Joy Seidel
8:00 AM	Patsy & Joe Ed Lynn		Beth Hurtado		
10:30AM		Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson		
Flowers					
Weekend	Sheila Richard				
Computer Service Slides / Camera Live Stream					
6:00 PM	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard / Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard / Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson
8:00 AM	Sara Sowa		Beth Hurtado		
10:30AM					

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

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	7
1	2	3	4	5	6		
RC - Set Up Rummage Sale - Boy Scout 7:30a ChoirPrac-Senic 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adt) 9:30a VOP & KCC War 10:30a Contemporary 11:30a Italy Pre-Meeti	RC - Morning Matin 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p FHI/K Mtg - AC / 5:30p Mtg-Social/Minis 6:30p Mtg-Evangelisn	K Reserved - Meals or 7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 4p ChoirPrac-NewSoni 6:30p Bible & Brew	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Library In Use +3 more	RC - Rummage Sale - Boy Scout 7a RC - Morning Matin 11a Community Brunt 5p Chrised meeting 11:30a RC Occupied t	WORLD DAY OF PRAY! 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 11:30a RC Occupied t	ComKitBless/Wknd 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choi	4th 12pm Worship Service 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 8th 10:30am Contemporary Worship 5pm 4H Meeting 11th 11:30am WELCA Meeting 12pm Worship Service 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 18th 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 25th 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 1st 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
RC - Regroup Rummage Sale - Boy Scout ComKitBless/Wknd 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men's 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adt) 9:30a VOP & KCC War +2 more	RC - Morning Matin 7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 12p Games Day for AI 4p ChoirPrac-NewSoni	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle +4 more	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle +4 more	RC - Rummage Sale - Church 7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Day Camp 7p Boy Scouts	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 11:30a RC Occupied t	RC - Clean Up Rumba 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group	11th 11:30am WELCA Meeting 12pm Worship Service 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 18th 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 25th 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 1st 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
RC - Clean Up Rumba 7:30a ChoirPrac-Senic 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adt) 9:30a VOP & KCC War 10:30a Contemporary 12p Confirmation	RC - Morning Matin 7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 9a Tackers&PackersQL 10:30a Magnolia ALC 4p ChoirPrac-NewSoni	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Library In Use 12p Worship Service +2 more	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Library In Use 12p Worship Service +2 more	RC - Morning Matin 4p Bluebonnet Opry-B	RC - BS Camp Out 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 11:30a RC Occupied t	8a BBP Sew In 8a Feeding The Flock 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choi	11th 11:30am WELCA Meeting 12pm Worship Service 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 18th 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 25th 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 1st 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
RC - BS Camp Out 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men's 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adt) 9:30a VOP & KCC War 10:30a Contemporary	RC - Morning Matin 7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 11:30a Oak Haven Inc 12p GamesDayForAll 4p ChoirPrac-NewSoni	NEWSLTR DEADLINE 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Worship Service +2 more	NEWSLTR PRINTS 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 11:30a RC Occupied t	NEWSLTR PRINTS 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 11:30a RC Occupied t	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 11:30a RC Occupied t	6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group	11th 11:30am WELCA Meeting 12pm Worship Service 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 18th 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 25th 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 1st 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service
29	30	31	1	2	3	4	
PALM SUNDAY 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adt) 9:30a VOP & KCC War 10:30a Contemporary 10:30a Palm Sunday C	HOLY WEEK 7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 4p ChoirPrac-NewSoni	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Library In Use 12p Worship Service	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Library In Use 12p Worship Service	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 11:30a RC Occupied t	6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group	11th 11:30am WELCA Meeting 12pm Worship Service 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 18th 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 25th 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service 1st 5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice 6pm Worship Service

March Birthdays

Shannon Froebel	1	Elizabeth Duebbe	17
Annie Vargas	1	Shawn Jackson	17
Whitley Noviskie	2	Monroe Wienecke	17
Stacy Okonski	2	Gina Springer	18
Zachary Richard	2	Clayton Stanford	18
Suzanne Braun	3	Amanda Tatum	18
Dottie Guthmann	3	Mandy Albrecht	19
Jason Lischka	3	Rhett Fromme	19
Allene Schmitt	3	Kathy Wiesepape	19
Haze Luedke	4	Jennifer Hampton	20
Haze Luedke	4	John Landua	20
Elizabeth Cubage	5	Cassidy Parks	20
Jenna Jackson	5	Asher Cevallos	22
Betty Johnson	6	Brenda Stewart	22
Isabelle Grave	7	Sugar Mae Gregor	23
Aline Jahnke	7	Lukas Hurtado	23
Curtis Kendrick	7	David Kloss	24
Hanna Kwiatkowski	7	Linda Wheeler	24
Lesia Schwarze	7	Garry Kroeger	25
Margaret Froebel	9	Luke Lassus	25
Amanda Hartman	9	Kinsey Johnson	26
Catherine Koehn	9	Cole Mathis	27
Mike Wheeler	9	Carrsyn Gregor	28
Linda Koehn	10	Clara Young	28
Ella Mae Dahse	11	Savannah Seelye	29
Hollie Noviskie	11	Evan Wisian	29
Amy Aschenbeck	13	Stephanie Fromme	30
Erin Lischka	13	Taylor Mikeska	30
Jewell Fontenot	14	Gary Guthmann	31
Robyn Wiley	15	Emma Wheeler	31

Confirmation Retreat #4

Sunday
March 15
11:30am



THE STORY OF JONAH

SJLC DAY CAMP

MARCH 12TH

9AM-3PM

BEFORE AND AFTERCARE AVAILABLE

LUNCH AND SNACK WILL BE PROVIDED

KINDER-6TH GRADE

REGISTRATION FEE: \$ 25

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

WITH ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT ASHLIN AT 979-865-2081



Invites you to the flowering of the cross!

Easter Sunday before the 10:30 service

Bring whatever kind of flowers bring you joy on this special holiday.

St. John Lutheran Church Scholarship Applications Are Available

through the church website link

Or by email request to
ashlin@stjohn-bellville.org

Deadline

to turn in completed applications is
Monday, April 6, 2026

COMMUNITY BRUNCH &

BINGO

Proceeds benefit Austin County Meals on Wheels

Due to the expansion of the population and funding cuts, Austin County Meals on Wheels needs our help to serve the less fortunate in our community.

PRIZES | FOOD | FUN

12:00PM-3:00PM

MEAL PROVIDED FOR \$3

BINGO CARDS- \$5/CARD

Thursday, March 5th, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church- Bellville



Boy Scout Troop 36

Rummage Sale

St. John Retreat Center

4740 Hwy 36 North, Bellville

Thursday, March 5th 8:00am-3:00pm

Friday, March 6th 8:00am-3:00pm

Saturday, March 7th 8:00am-2:00pm

Thursday, March 12th 8:00am-2:00pm

Friday, March 13th 8:00am-2:00pm

NEW ITEMS ADDED



Appliances, furniture, toys, dishes, pictures, tools, collector items, books, baby items & kitchen items everything you can imagine.



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!*

Ladies SPRING LUNCHEON

St. John Lutheran Church
520 N. Holland, Bellville

Saturday, April 18

11:00 a.m.

Presentation by
Sharon Stephens
Boys and Girls Club

\$15 per meal ticket

Table options: 6/8/10 seats per table

Tickets can be purchased from
the church office or from
Brenda Stewart 979-877-4624
Patty Thuesen 979-877-8112