



St. John Lutheran Church

April 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

“Alive Again”: The Story We Step Into

“Because I live, you also will live.” - John 14:19

Every spring feels like a quiet resurrection. You don't always notice it at first. It starts small - the trees just beginning to bud, the air shifting, the first bluebonnets, the light lasting a little longer each evening. And then one day, it's unmistakable: life has returned.

That's what April feels like in the life of the Church.

We begin the month in a way that beautifully reflects who we are, gathering on April 1 for our **German language worship service** - a reminder of the deep roots that continue to shape our life together here at St. John. Those roots will be on full display later in April, as we host the **Texas German Society Annual Conference** for the second year in a row, welcoming guests from across the state to celebrate heritage, language, and community.

But at the heart of April is the story we never outgrow. As Holy Week unfolds, we walk together through the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry. On **Maundy Thursday**, we will gather not only as St. John, but alongside our Methodist neighbors for a special **Living Last Supper ecumenical service**, remembering the night Jesus gave us the gift of the table. On **Good Friday**, we pause at the cross. The story slows. The weight settles in. And then comes the quiet of **Saturday**... before the joy breaks wide open on **Easter Sunday**, when we proclaim again that Christ is risen - He is risen indeed!

And just when you think the month might slow down ... it doesn't. Because resurrection life has a way of spilling over into everything.

April 12, we will celebrate **Confirmation**, affirming the faith of our young people as they take their next steps in discipleship. We will gather for the **Annual Ladies Luncheon**, a time of fellowship, laughter, and encouragement. At the end of the month, we will celebrate with **Ashlin** at her congregational bridal shower - surrounding her with love and prayer as she and Will prepare for marriage.

Beyond our walls, many of our members will lift their voices in song as part of the Bellville German choir during **Saengerfest**, adding to the rich cultural and musical life of our community. These moments - whether in worship, in song, or around a table - are all signs of a church that is alive and engaged. Living, Learning, and Leading!

In the midst of it all, I'll be stepping away for a few days of **continuing education** - a chance to rest, learn, and return refreshed for the work God has given us to do together.

It's a full month. A joyful month. A holy month.

Continued

And through it all, we are reminded that the resurrection isn't just something we celebrate one Sunday a year. It's something we live. In every act of worship, every shared meal, every song sung, every life marked by grace - God is still bringing new life out of what once seemed still and silent.

Spring is here. Easter is here. And Christ is alive - among us, for us, and within us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jay

Faith Facts for March 21-22

Attendance

Saturday 6:00p - 75
 Sunday 8:00a - 37
 Sunday 10:30a - 68
 Sunday School - 42
 Community Meal - 95
 Wednesday 12:00p - 35
 Wednesday 6:00p - 7

Budgeted Offering \$11,650.00
Actual Offering \$ 6,194.13
Difference -\$ 5,455.87

Offering

General Fund: \$6,194.13
 From Trust Fund: \$100,000
 (For Jones Estate Purchase)
 Building: \$200
 Retreat Center: \$280
 Feeding The Flock: \$100
 Heifer Project: \$212
 Local Benevolence: \$100
 Youth: \$50
 Columbarium: \$125
 OCC: \$30

PRAYER LIST:

John Brandt, Doug Kloss, Evelyn Krenek, Bernice Gaskamp, Nathan Zaneck, Walt Vincent, Melinda Rodiek, Loris Maddox, Linda Wallace, Larry Wallace, Johnny Holmes, Paul Darst, Mona Tucker, Ronnie Luhn, Rachel Zwahr, Beth Lipperdt, Hudson Talk, Tatum Griffin, Karen Curtis, Kenneth Thuesen, 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.



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



Thank You to the SJLC Trust Fund For The Donation Of \$20,000 To The Retreat Center Fund



Thank You to the SJLC Trust Fund For The Donation Of \$100,000 To The Purchase Of The Jones Estate

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

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

St. John Lutheran Church
Bellville

GERMAN LENTEN SERVICE

FOOD WORSHIP MUSIC

Wednesday, April 1
Dinner 5pm
Service 6pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Service - April 2
St. John Lutheran Church
12:00p




LIVING LAST SUPPER
THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND AT 5:30 PM AND 7:30 PM



Good Friday Service – April 3

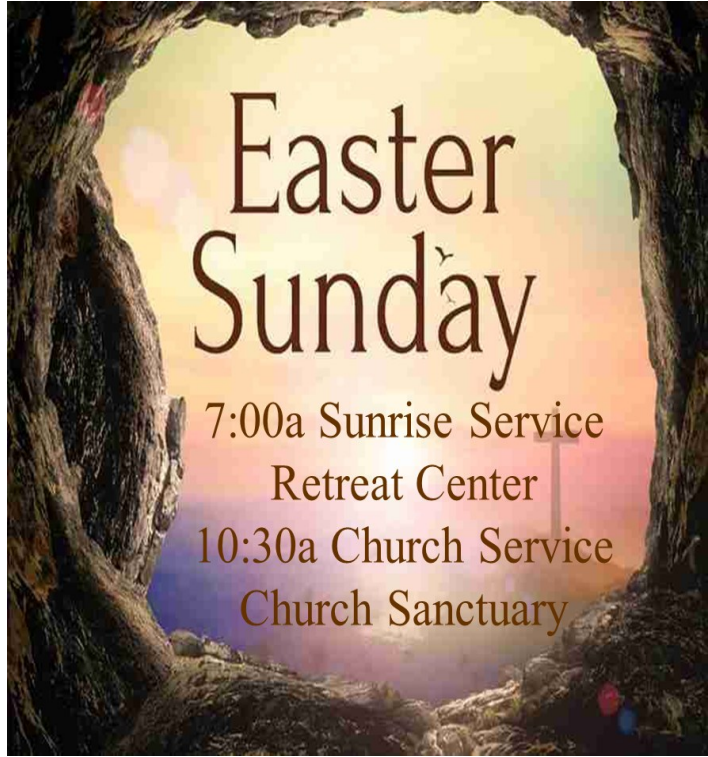
St. John Lutheran Church

7:00p



Easter Sunday

7:00a Sunrise Service
Retreat Center
10:30a Church Service
Church Sanctuary



NO 8:00a Church Service

Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall

Easter Story Time & Easter Egg Hunt



SJLC Sunday School

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
Council Meeting - Retreat
March 9, 2025 @ 6:15p**

Members in attendance were Pastor Jay, Christina Koehn, Newton Boriack, Claire Zapalac, Kirk Hoppe, Gregg Lange, Amy Voelkel, Lynn Martine and Shannon Johnson. Members Absent: Sharon Boldt and Livia Marshall. Pastor Jay opened with prayer.

Discussion Agenda:

February minutes were reviewed and approved with two additions needing to be made: Amy Voelkel was present and Gregg Lange suggested gathering information from Citizen State Bank in Sealy. February Financial Report was unable to be reviewed due to issues with Cadence Bank. Committee Reports were given.

Old Business

Gregg Lange will reach out to trust fund to determine if there are any funds available to utilize for the purchase of the Susan Jones Estate. Finance committee will continue to discuss options for the financing of the Susan Jones Estate Property. Continued discussion regarding possibility of moving accounts to another bank. Will also discuss Citizens State Bank in Sealy. The 2026 Synod Assembly Delegates are Adam, Christina, & Lily Koehn. Evangelism Committee is starting to work on the Time Capsule.

New Business

Still working with Cadence Bank on new signers getting added to account. A new gate is needed at the RC Lake House entrance because the arm opener is broken. The RC Mewis water well is being replaced & the funds were approved by the trust fund. RC will have some additional brush cleared & some grass planted. Kirk is working on obtaining a bid from a window company for windows with a shatter proof safety film & is meeting with a metal door company & will notify us of the results. This will also be discussed in the next safety meeting. Council discussed the future of the Living Nativity. Is a committee willing to take the lead on this project? If so, planning will need to begin soon. For those council members who will be leaving council at the end of this year, we need to begin thinking about other members with talents that are willing to serve on council. Kirk is looking into someone who can come professionally clean the pews, carpet and faith center. In the past we have used Coldwell Chem Dry, but they are no longer in business. A bid was discussed & approved to replace the controllers for the Columbarium irrigation. A bid was discussed & approved for the church flower bed updates (new mulch, new flowers, etc.).

The next council meeting is Monday, April 13, 2026 at 5:30pm (NEW TIME).

Pastor Jay closed with prayer.

CARE AND SHARE

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

No Meeting Wednesday April 1st.

Pastor Jay is currently leading the group in the study of Romans, which will end 4/8.

He will then lead the group in a study of Ezekiel

Please join us!!!

New members are always welcome!



We will be having our meeting one week later this month because I will be out of town.

Meeting will be on **April 15th** following Care And Share.

We will be assembling Health Care Kits. If you wish to help purchase these items, please make your donations to the office or by weekly offering and mark if LWR kits. We will take stock of what we have on hand and be purchasing what we need the week before.

Come share a meal and fellowship with other ladies of the church.

All LADIES ARE WELCOME

Brenda Stewart, WELCA President

Tackers & Packers

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



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.

Worship Assistant - April 2026

4 / 5 Easter

11 / 12

18 / 19

25 / 26

Ushers				
6:00 PM	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson	Thuesen
8:00 AM	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson
10:30AM	Hoppe	Hoppe	Hoppe	Hoppe
Choirs				
6:00 PM	Gospel Group	New Song	Gospel Group	New Song
8:00 AM	The Early Birds	Men's	The Early Birds	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 - Intinction	Sheila Richard	Joy Seidel	Maurine Brack
8:00 AM	7a RC Sunrise - Sheila Richard	Sara Sowa	Beth Hurtado	Frances Shiller & Kay Zwahr
10:30AM	Shannon Froebel - Intinction	Cheryl Pritchett	Lori Jackson	Sheila Richard
Communion Assistants (6:00p & 10:30a - Stand in front of Pulpit & Lecturn) (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	7a RC Sunrise - Volunteers	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Jeanette H & Shannon Froebel	Jennifer Krumrey & Need Volunteer	Lori Jackson & Need Volunteer	Wendy Jackson & Need Volunteer
Lay Readers				
6:00 PM	Butch Grebe	Gregg Lange	Marshall Thompson	Judy Wells
8:00 AM	7a RC Sunrise - Sheila Richard	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison	Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson	Erin Lischka
Greeter at Office Entrance (Ushers At Street Entrance)				
6:00 PM	Joy Seidel	Sheila Richard	Joy Seidel	Sheila Richard
8:00 AM	7a RC Sunrise - Ushers	Sara Sowa	Beth Hurtado	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Sheila Richard	Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson	Doll Hoppe
Computer Service Slides / Camera Live Stream				
6:00 PM	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard / Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard / Ronnie Robertson
8:00 AM	7a RC Sunrise	Sheila Richard	Beth Hurtado	Sheila Richard
10:30AM	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth
Flowers				
Weekend				

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
ComKitBlessWknd EASTER 7a Easter Sunrise Serv 9:15a Breakfast & You 9:30a VOP & KCC War 10:30a Easter Contem	OFFICE CLOSED Scholarships Deadlin 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p FH/K Mtg - AC f +2 more	OFFICE CLOSED 7a RC - Morning Matin 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 Worship Service 5p VOP & KCC Choir P 6p Worship Service	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7a RC - Morning Matin 12p Worship Service 5p ChrisED meeting 5:30p Methodist Last 7:30p Methodist Last	GOOD FRIDAY 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 11:30a RC Occupied t 7p Worship Service	ComKitBlessWknd 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
ComKitBlessWknd EASTER 7a Easter Sunrise Serv 9:15a Breakfast & You 9:30a VOP & KCC War 10:30a Easter Contem	OFFICE CLOSED Scholarships Deadlin 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p FH/K Mtg - AC f +2 more	OFFICE CLOSED 7a RC - Morning Matin 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 Worship Service 5p VOP & KCC Choir P 6p Worship Service	7a RC - Morning Matin 7p Boy Scouts	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 9a Set Up TX German 11:30a RC Occupied t	TX German Society 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choi
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
ChoirPrac-Men's Traditional Worship SS (Youth & Adl VOP & KCC War Confirmation S Contemporary 4H Meeting	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p Mtg-Council	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 12p Games Day for All 4p ChoirPrac-NewSoni	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle 11:30a WELCA Meetir 12p Library In Use +3 more	7a RC - Morning Matin 4p Bluebonnet Opry-B	FC - Luncheon Decorz 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 11:30a RC Occupied t	Spring Ladies Lun Feeding The Flock 12p Kids Worship Wee 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Kids Worship Weeken ChoirPrac-Senic Traditional Worship SS (Youth & Adl VOP & KCC War Contemporary	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p Mtg-Worship&N	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 9a Tackers&PackersQl 10:30a Magnolia ALC 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	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 11:30a RC Occupied t	12p Ashlin's Brida 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choi
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
RC Rental - Kaase Reu ChoirPrac-Men's Traditional Worship SS (Youth & Adl VOP & KCC War Contemporary	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 11:30a Oak Haven Inr 12p GamesDayForAll 4p ChoirPrac-NewSoni	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Worship Service 5p VOP & KCC Choir P	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	

6th
5:30pm Mtg-SocialMinistries
6:30pm Mtg-Evangelism
15th
12pm Worship Service
5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice
6pm Worship Service

22nd
5pm VOP & KCC Choir Practice
6pm Worship Service





Thomas	Grawunder	1	Jon	Falk	18
Elinor	Harrison	1	Aven	Sanders	18
Brandon	Morlock	1	Sharon	Schroeder	18
Kellie	Pressel	1	Brandon	Swearingen	18
Adele	Sanders	2	Hayden	Ferris	19
Case	Tatum	2	Michelle	Fielder	19
James	Harrison	3	Carlos	Becerra	20
Sara	Barnett	4	Carroll	Boriack	20
Catherine	Burger	4	Leighton	Hackemack	20
Catherine	Landua	4	Julie	Sherrill	20
Joy	Mueller	5	Jaxon	Seelye	22
Kelly	Schumann	5	Parker	Ellis	23
Melanie	Ueckert	5	Cheryl	Kiekens	23
Ashlyn	Fielder	7	Kyler	Mikeska	23
Matt	Johnson	7	Dori	Harrison	24
Colin	Susen	7	Mia	Kasprowicz	24
Maya	Khoryati	8	Emil	Kloss	24
Sandra	Froebel	9	Carson	Ruiz	24
Olivia	Rettig	10	Debby	Sherrill	24
Katie	Lovejoy	11	Lane	Emshoff	25
Livia	Marshall	11	Evelyn	Krenek	25
Justin	Schroeder	12	April	Stringer	26
Brandon	Luedke	13	Sharon	Boldt	27
Julie	Grebe	14	Damon	Hagen	27
Jennifer	Krumrey	15	Dylan	Rush	27
Kelley	Lowes	15	Douglas	Kloss	28
Jennifer	Huffman	16	Patsy	Marek	28
Dorothy	Mikeska	16	Nick	Wolff	30
Tara	Seelye	17	Happy April Birthday's		



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.



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



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

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

The Annual Ladies Spring Lunch is coming up fast.

You can purchase tickets from
Joy in the church office.

If you would like to sponsor a table to decorate,
please let us know by April 13.

We will have tables set up if you just wish to buy a
ticket for the event, please do so by April 13.

The meal this year will be
Chicken Bacon Ranch Casserole with Salad & Roll.

We will also be looking for Donations of
Desserts and Silent Auction Items.

This year's program is from the
Austin County Boys and Girls Club,
and all proceeds will go to this organization.



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!



Boots, Blooms, and a Bride to Be!

BRIDAL BRUNCH

IN HONOR OF

Ashlin Gordon

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 • 11 O'CLOCK AM
520 N HOLLAND • ST. JOHN FAITH CENTER

Let's bless their new life together! The couple is registered at
Buck Ferguson, Michelle's Jewelry, and Treasure Crafts here in Bellville!
Also on Amazon.



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