

# St. John Lutheran Church

## May 2026 Lighthouse

St. John Lutheran Church  
520 North Holland  
Bellville, Texas 77418

Phone: (979) 865-2081

E-mail: [sjlc@stjohn-bellville.org](mailto:sjlc@stjohn-bellville.org)

Website: [www.stjohn-bellville.org](http://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](mailto:rev.jgrave@stjohn-bellville.org)

*Extension #13*

Marshall Thompson

*Worship & Music Director*

[marshall@stjohn-bellville.org](mailto:marshall@stjohn-bellville.org)

*Extension #14*

Ashlin Gordon

*Youth Engagement Leader*

[ashlin@stjohn-bellville.org](mailto:ashlin@stjohn-bellville.org)

*Extension #12*

Sheila Richard

*Office/Finance Secretary*

[sheila@stjohn-bellville.org](mailto:sheila@stjohn-bellville.org)

*Extension #11*

Joy Seidel

*Asst. Administrative Secretary*

[joy@stjohn-bellville.org](mailto: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

#### “Come, Holy Spirit”

*“Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind... and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.” — Acts 2:2,4*

May is one of those months that feels like a gust of wind through the life of the church. It comes fast. It fills every room. It stirs things up. And before you know it, the Spirit has carried us into summer.

This year, May begins unusually. Due to the large concert in town and all the extra activity around Bellville, there will be **no worship service on Saturday, May 2**. But fear not—we’ll gather again as usual on **Sunday, May 3**, ready to worship together and give thanks for another busy and blessed season in the life of St. John.

And “busy” might be an understatement.

On **May 7**, St. John is honored to host our community’s **National Day of Prayer**. The National Day of Prayer has been observed in various forms since the earliest days of our nation, but it was officially established by Congress in 1952 as a day to call Americans to prayer and reflection. In a world that often feels divided and anxious, gathering as one community to pray for our nation, our leaders, our schools, our churches, and our neighbors feels especially meaningful. Prayer may not always make headlines, but it changes hearts—and hearts change the world.

May is packed with youth events and opportunities to celebrate the next generation. On **May 8**, we host another one of our famous **Junior High Dances**, where hundreds of students will gather for music, fun, and a safe place to just be kids. If you’ve ever seen our gym transformed and filled wall-to-wall with teenagers laughing and dancing, you know it’s one of the most joyful (and loudest!) ministries we do.

The weekend of **May 9 and 10**, we will recognize our **Graduating Seniors** and celebrate this important milestone in their lives. We give thanks for these young men and women, for all they have accomplished, and for the bright futures God has placed before them. Be sure to join us as we pray over them and bless them as a congregation.

Later in the month, from **May 15–17**, I will attend the **Gulf Coast Synod Assembly** along with three voting members from St. John. Because our church continues to grow, we are blessed to have expanded representation this year. The Synod Assembly is where churches from across our region gather for worship, fellowship, and the business of the wider church. As of now, there are no major resolutions on the docket, but it remains an important opportunity to listen, learn, worship, sing, and participate in the mission we share with other congregations.

*Continued*

And then, we celebrate **Pentecost**—the birthday of the Church. On Pentecost, we remember the day the Holy Spirit rushed in like wind and fire, filling ordinary people with extraordinary courage to proclaim the Gospel. It's one of my favorite Sundays of the year. We'll wear red, we'll celebrate the Spirit, and we'll remember that the same Spirit still moves among us today—stirring hearts, growing churches, and calling us into ministry.

Finally, on **Monday, May 30**, we observe **Memorial Day**, a solemn day when we pause to remember those who gave their lives in service to our country. Freedom always comes at a cost, and we honor the courage and sacrifice of those who laid down their lives for others. We give thanks, and we pray for peace.

So yes, May is full. Full of prayer. Full of celebration. Full of remembrance. Full of Spirit.

And that feels about right.

Because when the Holy Spirit shows up, things move. Ministries grow. Young people gather. Churches worship. Communities pray. Lives are changed.

Let the Spirit move mightily among us this month.

Grace and peace, **Pastor Jay**

## Faith Facts for April 18-19

### Attendance

Saturday 6:00p - 85  
 Sunday 8:00a - 48  
 Sunday 10:30a - 60  
 Sunday School - 43  
 Community Meal - 76  
 Wednesday 12:00p - 14  
 Wednesday 6:00p - 6

### Offering

General Fund: \$2824  
 Building: \$190  
 Retreat Center: \$30  
 SSO: \$0.51  
 Columbarium: \$100  
 OCC: \$35  
 WELCA: \$53  
 Ladies Luncheon: \$2340  
 Lilies: \$100  
 Prayer Garden: \$190  
 Shuttle Bus Gas: \$20

**Budgeted Offering \$11,650.00**  
**Actual Offering \$ 2,824.00**  
**Difference -\$ 8,826.00**

### PRAYER LIST:

Evelyn Krenek, Shirley Crawford, John Brandt, Doug Kloss, Beth Metheny, Bernice Gaskamp, Melinda Rodiek, Linda Wallace, Larry Wallace, Johnny Holmes, 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.**

### 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



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

**NO**  
**Saturday May 2**  
**6:00pm Service**  
**Join us for**  
**Worship Service**  
**With Communion**  
**Wednesday**  
**April 29 at 6:00p**



**St. John Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
April 12, 2025 @ 5:00p**

Members in attendance were Pastor Jay Grave, Christina Koehn, Newton Boriack, Sharon Boldt, Claire Zapalac, Greg Lange, Amy Voelkel, Lynn Martine, Shannon Johnson and Brenda Stewart. Members absent were Livia Marshall and Kirk Hoppe. Pastor Jay opened with prayer.

**Discussion Agenda:**

March minutes were reviewed and approved. Current financial reports were reviewed and approved. Committee reports were given. Social Ministries Ladies Spring Luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Funds from this will be donated to the Boys & Girls Club. Evangelism Committee is looking into giving out two scholarships this year. Octoberfest will be held on October 25th.

**Old Business**

Susan Jones Estate Closing is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>. We are primarily using funds from the Trust Fund (\$100,000) with the remaining funds coming from a CD that is set to mature in April. We will discuss later if these funds need to be replenished. The church is discussing moving the bank accounts to Austin County State Bank. Austin County State Bank has agreed to pay their stated Money Market Rates on all deposit accounts. Additionally, for Certificates of Deposits, they have agreed to provide the church with a rate that is 10 basis points above their stated jumbo CD rate regardless of the deposit amount. Newton and Brenda have agreed to contact Austin County State Bank and Cadence Bank to get the Certificate of Deposit Rates. The deposit accounts will be moved to Austin County State Bank. Certificates of Deposit will be moved to the bank that offers the best rates for us. Authorized signers on these accounts will be: Christina Koehn, President; Newton Boriack, Vice President; Sharon Boldt, Secretary; Claire Zapalac, Treasurer. We are waiting on a bid for carpet and pew cleaning. Brenda will check on the bid for redoing the faith center floors.

**New business**

A recent inspection of the lake house was done and it was noted that there are a number of areas requiring attention. Miriam Bixler would like to rent the Jones property for \$1000 per month. She would like the lease to begin effective May 1<sup>st</sup> but will not move in until the end of June or beginning of July. A decision was made that we will not meet in June since many of the members will be on vacation.

**The next council meeting is Monday, May 11, 2026 at 5:30pm (NEW TIME).**

**THE NATIONAL  
DAY OF PRAYER**

May 7, 2026

**9:00a - Sanctuary Open**

**10:00a - Prayers**

**11:00a - RefreshmentS**



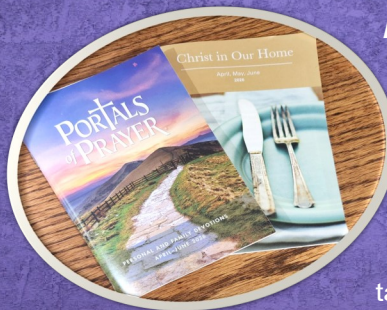
**Morning Prayer  
Matins  
with Marshall  
Retreat Center  
Monday – Friday  
7:00a – 7:30a**

**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



**Portals of Prayer  
and  
Christ in Our  
Home**

The devotionals are available for you to pick up at the ushers table and by the office.



**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.





**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF**

Meeting will be on **May 13th** following  
Care And Share.

We will be working with Jeanette on  
Operation Christmas Child (OCC)  
projects for the boxes.

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 currently leading the group in  
the study of *Ezekiel*, which will end 5/20,  
and then we will take a summer break.

Classes will resume in August.

Please join us!!!

New members are always welcome!

## LWR - Tackers & Packers

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



### **Bible + Brew for Men**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month  
6:30 p.m.

**601 Piney Creek Road**  
BYOB

Join the Men of the Church for  
Beer, Snacks, and Bible Study.  
Call Butch Grebe for more info  
979-877-8933.

**Games Day For All**  
St. John Lutheran Church  
520 North Holland Street  
Bellville, TX



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

Did Somebody Say "FOOD"!!!!

Let's come together  
to share a meal and conversation.  
Who knows where this may lead.

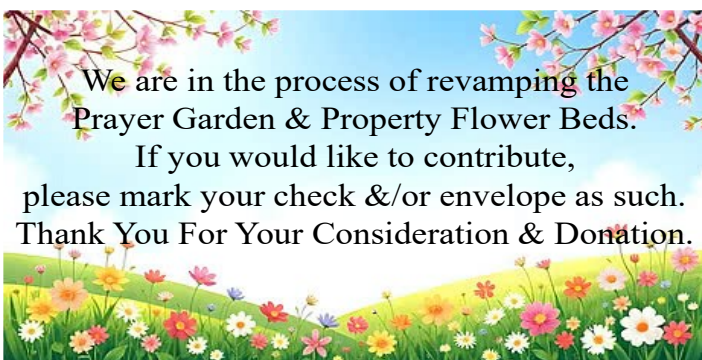


**5<sup>th</sup> Saturday  
Fun Bunch Potluck  
May 31 at 6:45p  
Fellowship Hall**

**Pardon the bus sitting out getting a bath.**  
Dawn has been super busy getting ready  
for a Blessing Box Project 2-day Retreat  
at St. Roch Catholic Church April 25-26  
where they will be boxing up 800 boxes  
to ship out and needed the space. What A  
Great Blessing for those in need !!!

### CHURCH GARDEN

If you would like to help,  
in any capacity, please contact  
Amy Voelkel at 979-885-9343



We are in the process of revamping the  
Prayer Garden & Property Flower Beds.  
If you would like to contribute,  
please mark your check &/or envelope as such.  
Thank You For Your Consideration & Donation.

# Worship Assistant - May 2026

2 / 3      9 / 10      16 / 17      23 / 24      30 / 31

Ushers					
6:00 PM	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson
8:00 AM	Lange	Lange	Lange	Lange	Lange
10:30AM	Hoff	Hoff	Hoff	Hoff	Hoff
Choirs					
6:00 PM	<b>No Church Service</b>	New Song	Gospel Group	New Song	Gospel Group
8:00 AM	The Early Bird's	Men's	The Early Bird's	Men's	The Early Bird's
10:30AM	VOP & KCC	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	<b>No Church Service</b>	Sheila Richard	Joy Seidel	Maurine Brack	Joy Seidel
8:00 AM	Kathryn Sledge	Sara Sowa	Cheryl Pritchett	Frances Shiller & Kay Zwahr	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Sheila Richard	Shannon Froebel	Lori Jackson	Brenda Stewart	Faith Center
Communion Assistants (6:00p & 10:30a - Stand in front of Pulpit & Lecturn) (8:00a Assist At Rail)					
6:00 PM	<b>No Church Service</b>	Sheila Richard & Ronald Koehn	Joy Seidel & Jill Collins	Allene & John Schmitt	Joy Seidel & Jill Collins
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	John Pritchett	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison &	Shannon Froebel &	Lori Jackson &	Amy & Wegner Voelkel	Faith Center
Lay Readers					
6:00 PM	<b>No Church Service</b>	Ann Peltier	Shannon Johnson	Mary Logan	Marshall Thompson
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Cheryl Pritchett	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison	Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson	Rachel Divin	Faith Center
Greeter at Office Entrance (Ushers At Street Entrance)					
6:00 PM	<b>No Church Service</b>	Ann Peltier	Joy Seidel	Kathy Smith	Joy Seidel
8:00 AM	Patsy & Joe Ed Lynn	Sheila Richard	Sara Sowa	Sheila Richard	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Laura Schumann	Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson	Gladys Grawunder	Ushers
Computer Service Slides / Camera Live Stream					
6:00 PM	<b>No Church Service</b>	Sheila Richard / Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard / Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson
8:00 AM	Sara Sowa	Sheila Richard	Sara Sowa	Sheila Richard	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth	Faith Center
Flowers					
Weekend	Cyndi Zorn		Stanford	Peters & Reynolds	

Email Sheila at [sjlc@stjohn-bellville.org](mailto:sjlc@stjohn-bellville.org) OR Go To [signup.com](http://signup.com), Log In, and sign up for the spots & dates that fit your schedule.

# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
ComKitBlessWknd 7:30a ChoirPrac-Senic 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adt) 9:30a VOP & KCC War 10:30a Contemporary	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p FH/K Mtg - AC / 5:30p Mtg-SocialMinis 6:30p Mtg-Evangelism	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 5p 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 12p Worship Service +2 more	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a SJLC - NATIONAL D: 5p CHRISED meeting	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 8p JR High Luau Danci	ComKitBlessWknd 6p NO CHURCH SERVI
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
MOTHER'S DAY 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men's 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adt) 9:30a VOP & KCC War 10:30a Contemporary +2 more	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 5p ChoirPrac-NewSoni	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 9:15a Care & Share 10:30a Colonial Belle 11:30a WELCA Meetir 12p Worship Service +2 more	7a RC - Morning Matin 7p Boy Scouts Ascension of Our Lord	7a RC - Morning Matin 8a Synod Assembly In Sugar Land TX 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 6:05p Gospel Group 7p Wedding-Huristone 8p FH Reserved (Wed	8a Feeding The Flock 8a RC Rental - Janice C
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
7:30a ChoirPrac-Senic 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adt) 9:30a VOP & KCC War 10:30a Contemporary	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p Mtg-Worship&W	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 9a Tackers&PackersQ: 10:30a Magnolia ALC 5p 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	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choi	8a RC Rental - Janice C 8a FC Reseved Gradur 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choi
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
RC Rental - Janice Gas PENTECOST 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men's 8a Traditional Worship 9a Scholarship Recogr 9:15a SS (Youth & Adt)	Memorial Day - Office 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 5a 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: 6p BISS Graduation	8a BBP Sew In 12p LutherHill open c: 6p Informal Worship 7p Fun Bunch Pot Luci

31 Next ChMS Calendar on: 04/23/2026 9:59am

- 8a Traditional Worship Service
- 9:15a SS (Youth & Adult)
- 9:30a VOP & KCC WarmUp
- 10:30a Contemporary Worship

\*\*\* DUE DATE \*\*\*

**JUNE NEWSLETTER**  
Wednesday, May 27

**WEEKLY INFORMATION PAGE**  
Wednesday Of Each Week

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE**  
Wednesday, May 20



Maurine Brack	1	Carly Lange	16
Liam Alanis	3	Lori Jackson	18
Denise Haugen	3	Miriam Bixler	19
Brooke Klausmeyer	3	Lexi Lovejoy	19
Maurice Newman	3	Ross Pressel	19
Kayla Froebel	6	Stevie Youngblood	19
Barbara Kokemoor	6	Mae Emshoff	20
Lainey McDonald	6	Kelly Hancock	20
Debbie Stewart	6	Christopher Krueger	21
Carey Kokemor	7	Brenda Willingham	22
Kennedy Vargas	7	Adrianna Cevallos	24
Linda Acebo	8	Autumn Ignasiak	24
Ethan Schumann	8	Lauren Malm	24
Jennifer Demers	9	Amber Khoryati	25
Gale Priesmeyer	9	John Pritchett	25
Haylee Turner/Rogers	9	Wynnston Harrison	27
Stephen Kaye	10	Henry Mikeska	27
Michael Cano	11	Wyatt Noviskie	27
Charlotte Hoff	11	Aiden Wendt	27
Steven Jackson	11	Riley Richter	28
Aron Lovejoy	11	Emily Wisian	28
Betty Priesmeyer	11	Aubrie Youngblood	28
Coleman Cubage	12	Trent Davis	29
Mac Johnson	12	Anna Rose Canton	30
Caroline Pritchett	13	Haley Haugen	31
Kyler Froebel	14	Hudson Tatum	31
Spencer Cubage	15	James Wiley	31
Ava Kasprowicz	15	<b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b>	

# JUNIOR HIGH LUAU DANCE

STUDENT  
REGISTRATION



VOLUNTEER  
REGISTRATION



**MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
**8:00-11:00 PM**

**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 purchase**

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

**SJLC Youth Event**  
**May 17th - 12pm**



We will leave after church and go to Brenham to see a movie. We will stop for lunch on the way, so bring a little money for lunch and popcorn fun!



*Congratulations*  
**GRADUATES**

*You did it!*

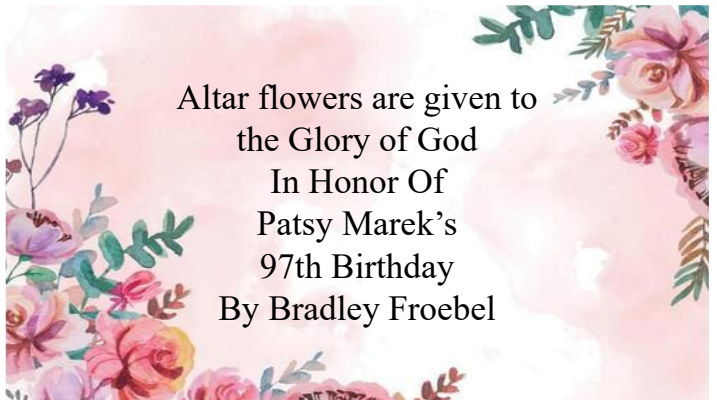
Regan Fielder  
Ilsa Grave  
Isabella Hurtado  
Kensley Landua  
Ross Pressel  
Riley Richter  
Samantha Weems

**CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026**



Back Row  
Eldon Zapalac  
Braeden Kuecker  
Ashlin Gordon  
Jamie Sorenson  
Pastor Jay Grave

Front Row  
Ellie Harrison  
Mason Wolff  
Parker Monk  
Lily Koehn  
Harper Goebel



**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!*