



St. John Lutheran Church July 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

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

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

Why Pastors Need Passport Stamps and Library Cards

One of the kindest compliments I receive is when someone says, "Pastor, your sermons are relatable."

Often people mention the stories, the humor, or the way a biblical text seems to connect with everyday life. In seminary, there is a technical word for that process: *hermeneutics* - the art and practice of interpreting Scripture, but I think of it more like building a bridge from the Bible world to our world today.

Of course, every sermon begins with God's Word. But connecting ancient texts to modern people requires more than only understanding what happened in the past, "What happened then?", it also requires understanding the people sitting in the pews today, "What does this mean to me?"

Over the years, I've become convinced that two things have helped me grow as a preacher more than almost anything else: reading and traveling.

I read constantly. My Goodreads account keeps track of hundreds of books. My Kindle travels almost everywhere with me. I pick up magazines, read websites, and turn the pages of newspapers. Whether I'm reading theology, history, biographies, leadership, or even a good novel, every book expands my understanding of people, and the world God loves.

Travel does something similar.

When we visit another city, state, or country, we discover that people often see the world differently than we do. We encounter different customs, different assumptions, and we log 23,000 steps! We experience different challenges, different food, different road signs. and different joys. We learn. We listen. We grow.

As Christians, this matters because the Bible itself is a story that spans continents, cultures, languages, and generations. Every new experience helps us appreciate the richness of God's work in the world.

One of the blessings of serving at St. John is your support for continuing education. Remember "Learning, Living and Leading in Love, through God's Grace!" This includes my learning too. Whether through conferences, study opportunities, books, or planning and leading our annual pilgrimage trips, you have encouraged me to keep learning. I am deeply grateful for that support.

These trips also provide something else: stories.

Every preacher needs stories. The best ones aren't invented; they're lived. They involve real people, real conversations, real moments of surprise, laughter, and faith. Pilgrimage travel has given me many of those moments.

As I sometimes joke, these trips help me build a collection of stories - with our own congregation members as the characters!

(Continued)

Many of the illustrations that appear in sermons begin as conversations on a bus, meals shared around a table, moments of wonder in a historic church, or unexpected encounters with people along the way.

Most importantly, these experiences remind us that the Gospel is not just something that happened long ago. Jesus is still at work today - in Texas, in Europe, in airports, in bookstores, in conversations with strangers, and in the lives of the people of St. John.

So Thank You.

Thank you for supporting continuing education. Thank you for encouraging lifelong learning. Thank you for helping make these experiences possible. Thank you for encouraging me to find rest during times of vacation.

And thank you for giving me plenty of material for future sermons. I can't wait to tell you some stories from the group trip in Italy!!

God bless and See you soon! Pastor Jay.





Faith Facts for June 20-21

Attendance

Saturday 6:00p - 60
 Sunday 8:00a - 35
 Sunday 10:30a - 35
 Sunday School - 0
 Wednesday 12:00p - 3

Offering

General Fund: \$6,017.77
 Building: \$200 HVAC: \$10
 Retreat Center: \$190
 Food Pantry: \$5
 Heifer Project: \$100
 Local Benevolence: \$100
 Youth: \$70 VBS: \$225
 Columbarium: \$250
 OCC: \$205
 Cookbook: \$10
 Veggie Garden: \$18
 No Bake, Bake Sale: \$100

Budgeted Offering \$11,650.00
 Actual Offering \$ 6,017.77
 Difference -\$ 5,632.23

PRAYER LIST:

The Family of Lee Charles Goebel, Lincoln Tiemann, Tommy Stewart, Johnnie Thompson, Bennie Dahse, Joyce Ahrens, Bill Vogel, Joe Wells, Junior Luera, James Quinn, Shirley Crawford, Melinda Rodiek, Rachel Zwahr, Beth Lipperdt, Hudson Talk, Tatum Griffin, 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
 Retreat Center
 Feeding The Flock
 Focusing Families
 Food Pantry
 Heifer Project
 Local Benevolence
 Columbarium

Music
 Youth
 SS Supplies
 Programs & Speakers
 Operation Christmas Child
 Lutheran World Relief
 Indigent School Supplies
 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



KIDS SUMMER DAY CAMPS

JUNE 4TH - JULY 16TH

AGES K-6TH

9A-3P
BEFORE AND AFTER CARE AVAILABLE!

**WE SERVE :
SNACK & LUNCH!**

LINK TO REGISTER IS ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER YOUTH IN ACTION!

ACTIVITIES:

- ARTS & CRAFT
- WATER GAMES
- MUSIC & DANCE
- FUN SPORTS



SPLASH INTO YOUR FAITH!

BAPTISM RENEWAL WATERPARK RETREAT

JULY 6 - 10 2026

\$200* PER STUDENT

SCHLITTERBAHN WATERPARK & RESORT
NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS



Blessing Box Sew In

Saturday, July 11th

8:30a - 1:00p

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



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

WE NEED YOU

Altar Guild
Communion Assistant
Lay Reader
Greeter
Computer (8am Only)
Usher
Choir

Call the church office
979-865-2081



Tammy	Luera	1	Frank	Zapalac	14
Hannah	Haugen	2	Addilyn	Divin	15
Ann	Peltier	2	Edward	Kasprowicz	15
JoAnn	Quinton	3	Reva	Loesch	15
Gladys	Grawunder	4	Allie	Barnett	16
Hayden	Stallings	4	Emma	Lischka	16
James	Lindemann	5	Kenneth	Kramer	17
Amanda	Mueller	5	Crissy	Marshall	17
Matthew	Pressel	5	Jacquelyn	Sabrsula	17
Hayes	Mikeska	6	Jesse	Vargas	17
Marissa	Divin	7	Darly	Grawunder	18
Rachel	Sandoval	7	Donald	Rodgers	18
Brandi	Garcia	8	James	Wietstruck	19
Tony	Hancock	8	Rebecca	Abel	21
Joyce	Bullard	10	Summer	Ignasiak	21
Shannon	Johnson	10	Baylee	Gregor	22
Ronald	Koehn	10	Patti	Kramer	22
Trace	Ashorn	11	Martin	Biehle	23
Glenn	Lange	11	Bryce	Froebel	23
Brad	Tatum	11	Tylin	Jackson	24
Maggie	Thuesen	11	Neely	Grawunder	26
Cooper	Hollomon	12	Paul	Landua	26
Kaleb	Weems	12	Christina	Koehn	27
Brie	Donley	13	Lola	Landua	27
Connie	Maul	13	Harold	Mueller	27
Kenneth	Priesmeyer	13	Joe	Lynn	29
Jason	Mathis	14	Kenneth	Ueckert	29
Charlotte	Tallerine	14	Mike	Wiesepape	30

St. John Lutheran Church - Council Meeting
June, 2026 @ 5:30p

No meeting in June.
The next council meeting is
Monday, July 13, 2026 at 5:30pm.

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 ComKitBlessWknd 7:30a ChoirPrac-The E 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Adult) 10:30a Contemporary	29 Baptism Retreat Trip JH&SH 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 6:30p Mtg-Evangelism 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 12p Worship Service	30 9a Mtg-Staff 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 12p Worship Service	1 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 12p Worship Service	2 9a Summer Day Camp 6:30p Bible & Brew	3 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl	4 ComKitBlessWknd 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
5 ComKitBlessWknd 7:30a ChoirPrac-The E 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Adult) 10:30a Contemporary	6 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 6:30p Mtg-Evangelism 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 12p Worship Service	7 9a Mtg-Staff 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 12p Worship Service	8 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 12p Worship Service	9 7p Boy Scouts 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl	10 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl	11 8a BBP Sew In 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choir
12 RC DRIVE THRU MEAL 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men's 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Adult) 10:30a Contemporary 12p New Member Class 5p 4H Meeting	13 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 5:30p Mtg-Council 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 12p GamesDayForAll 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong	14 9a Mtg-Staff 12p GamesDayForAll 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong	15 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 12p Worship Service	16 9a Summer Day Camp	17 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl	18 8a Feeding The Flock 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group 7p RC Wisian Fishing
19 7:30a ChoirPrac-The E 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Adult) 10:30a Contemporary	20 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 5:30p Mtg-Worship&M 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 12p Worship Service	21 9a Mtg-Staff 9a Tackers&PackersQu 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong	22 Carpet / Pew Cleaning 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 12p Worship Service	23 RC Rented - AC4H Tra	24 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl	25 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choir
26 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men's 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Adult) 10:30a Contemporary	27 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 12p GamesDayForAll 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong	28 9a Mtg-Staff 12p GamesDayForAll 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong	29 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 12p Worship Service	30 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 2p S&FH Reserved for	31 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl	1 ComKitBlessWknd 3p Wedding-Gordon/D 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group