



# St. John Lutheran Church June 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

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

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

*"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."*

— Deuteronomy 31:8

There is an old saying that vacations and pilgrimages have one thing in common: no matter how carefully you plan, eventually you stop trying to control everything and simply follow the road in front of you. Maybe that is why some of the best stories happen when a map folds the wrong way, you take a side road, or you simply trust that you'll get where you need to go. Summer often feels like that. Schedules loosen up, people travel, routines change, and before long, we're all following a slightly different path than usual.

First, thank you to everyone who helped celebrate Ilsa's graduation. Your cards, gifts, encouragement, hugs, support, and help meant so much to our family. Congregations often talk about being a church family, but St. John really lives it. Time and again, this congregation steps up - not simply as people who worship together on Sundays, but as people who genuinely share life. We are so grateful to be surrounded by such kindness.

From June 10-19, I will be leading the St John trip to Italy. We have an incredible adventure ahead: morning devotions, Bible study, at least six miles a day of walking and sightseeing, classical art, a little wine, too much pasta, an overnight stay at the Monastery of St. Francis, and even a visit with the Pope. Please keep our 22 travelers in your prayers as we walk, worship, learn, and experience the faith in some remarkable places. I will post on Facebook with updates.

During these travels, if there is a pastoral emergency or congregational need, please contact the church office so we can make sure you receive care and support. Summer also means activity for our young people. Ashlin has several youth events planned, and I am excited for the opportunities our students will have to grow in faith, friendship, and community in the months ahead. Day camps, summer trips, and more!

I also wanted to provide an update regarding worship and music staffing. The Church Council and Worship & Music Team are actively advertising and collecting resumes from talented and faithful worship leaders. We have already received several promising applicants. We recognize that finding one gifted Christian who can meet all the needs of our congregation may be difficult, so we are trying to remain flexible and creative in our approach. Through all of this, we remain confident that God is already preparing the right person - or people - to lead our vibrant worship and music ministry in the future. Thanks to our interim helpers.

I will be away for a few vacation days in June. We'll be traveling through the mountains of Slovenia in a rented RV. I am hoping for fresh mountain air, good family time, and if all goes according to plan, a few fish.

*Continued*

Summer can feel scattered sometimes. People travel. Schedules shift. Familiar routines give way to new adventures. But one thing remains the same: God goes before us. Whether you find yourself on an airplane to Italy, in a church pew, at youth events, in an RV rolling through the mountains, or simply sitting quietly at home, the Lord continues to guide us.

See you this summer.  
Pastor Jay

## Faith Facts for May 23-24

### Attendance

Saturday 6:00p - 60  
Sunday 8:00a - 40  
Sunday 10:30a - 71  
SS Pancakes ☺  
Wednesday 12:00p - 12

### Offering

General Fund: \$13,697.50  
Building: \$1060  
Retreat Center: \$1540  
Food Pantry: \$550  
Heifer Project: \$1700  
Youth: \$510  
Columbarium: \$25  
OCC: \$1530  
Progs&Spkr: \$280.60  
Veggie Garden: \$2

**Budgeted Offering \$11,650.00**  
**Actual Offering \$13,697.50**  
**Difference \$ 2,047.50**

WELCA  
No Bake, Bake Sale  
Scholarship Fundraiser  
June 1 – July 1



Ways To Donate  
SJLC Website Online  
Offering Envelope  
(Designate – No Bake, Bake Sale)

### **PRAYER LIST:**

The Family of Bernice Gaskamp, The Family of Kenneth Thuesen, Joyce Ahrens, Bill Vogel, Joe Wells, Junior Luera, James Quinn, Evelyn Krenek, Maurice Newman, Shirley Crawford, Doug Kloss, Beth Metheny, Melinda Rodiek, Ronnie Luhn, Rachel Zwahr, Beth Lipperdt, Hudson Talk, Tatum Griffin, Karen Curtis, 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.**

**Blessing Box Sew In**  
**Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30a – 1:00p**

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

### 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

**2026 H.O.A. - Meals on Wheels**



**Bellville Semi-Annual Fundraiser**  
**BBQ Chicken & Sausage Plate**

BY SCHOVA&JSA

Friday, June 26, 2026 – Drive Thru From

11:30 AM until 1:00 PM at the Austin County Fair Grounds  
Under the C.W. Brandes Pavilion

Anita Kramer 979-885-8639

or

Brenda Stewart 979-877-4624

**Tickets \$15**

Purchase Tickets  
In Advance by June 12, 2026

At  
Austin County State Bank  
Bellville, TX

Or

Pay by Zelle@  
(First name) HOA, Inc. of  
(Last name) Austin, County  
Email: hoamow@gmail.com

Or

Venmo@BrendaStewart/61



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

**St. John Lutheran Church - Council Meeting  
May 11, 2026 @ 5:30p**

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

**Consensus Agenda:** April Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved. April Financial Report was discussed. CDs have been cashed out into bank account. Council is obtaining information from Cadence Bank and Austin County State Bank to determine best rates for CDs. Committee Reports were given.

**Discussion Agenda:** Some members of the safety committee were present. They introduced themselves and presented items that are being discussed at the safety meetings.

**Old Business:**

We are officially the owners of the Susan Joens Estate. Pews, Carpet. and Faith Center Cleaning – in the past we have used Coldwell Chem Dry, but they are no longer in business. Kirk has obtained a bid from Dust Busters totaling \$2,135. Upon discussion, council determined that the sanctuary, annex, and blue entryway and hallways were the priority. Brenda made a motion to have these areas cleaned totaling \$1,880.

**New business:**

Marshall has been terminated as of today (May 11, 2026). He is to remove all of his personal belongings from the church by May 15, 2026. He will be paid through the end of the month of May. He has been informed that he is to vacate the Lake House property by June 15, 2026. Following June 15<sup>th</sup>, a walkthrough of the property will be conducted to determine if deposit is to be given. There was also some discussion regarding the long-term plans of the retreat center. Kirk presented a bid for additional flowerbed work near the columbarium (new borders, some mulch, leveling, possible sprinkler repair, removal of dead plants, etc.) with funding coming from the designated columbarium funds. Kirk is working to obtain quote from Wendt Flooring for possible replacement of flooring in the faith center and kitchen. Kirk is working on a bid for new doors. This will be further discussed at the next meeting. Now that we own Susan Jones Property, Bellville Lawn Care is requesting an increase in payment to now service that property as well - approved increase of \$300.

**No meeting in June. The next council meeting is Monday, July 13, 2026 at 5:30pm.**  
Pastor Jay closed with prayer.



Dylan	Carroll	1	Jaxon	Richter	16
Kirk	Hoppe	1	Terrell	Stamnitz	16
Todd	Kasprowicz	1	Chad	Swearingen	16
Rhett	Fricke	3	Karolyn	Ottmer	17
Tasha	McDonald	3	Stephen	Babin	18
Dylan	Becerra	5	Laura	Schumann	18
Grace	Moore	5	Samantha	Gelsthorpe	19
Frances	Schiller	5	Doni	Richter	19
Johnnie	Ottmer	6	Megan	Kendrick	21
Sarah	Wiley	7	Newton	Boriack	22
Keenan	Woehst	7	William	Fielder	22
Cami	Garner	8	Eric	Cano	23
Angie	Grawunder	8	Lynn	Martine	23
Maxine	Ottmer	8	Kamryn	Kloss	24
Anita	Kramer	9	Sharon	Lange	24
Donna	Lyth	9	Tyler	Patek	24
Bethany	Ellis	10	Whitley	Grawunder	26
Linda	Hill	10	Cindy	Kendrick	26
Jessica	Kasprowicz	10	Crystal	Wallace	26
Laura	Kaye	10	Draven	Ashorn-Hejl	27
Lyndell	Aschenbeck	11	Joseph	Wells	27
Luke	Schumann	11	Hank	Hoppe	28
Peggy	Koehn	12	Blake	Huffman	28
Addison	Hollomon	13	Bud	Cain Jr	29
Amy	Voelkel	13	Lila	Kloster	29
Sara	Sowa	14	Gregg	Lange	29
Emily	Wagner	14	Jollee	Grawunder	30
Bill	Miller	15	Don	Luedke	30
Kennedy	McDonald	16	HAPPY BIRTHAY		

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**



Call the church office  
979-865-2081

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

**WALK WITH PAUL IN  
ROME!**



ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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**JUNE 22-26**  
5:00-7:30P

AGES 3YO-  
5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE




**KIDS  
SUMMER  
DAY CAMPS**



**JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>** **AGES K-6<sup>TH</sup>**  
**JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>** **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



**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!*

**SPLASH INTO YOUR FAITH!**


**BAPTISM  
RENEWAL  
WATERPARK  
RETREAT**

**JULY 6 - 10  
2026**

**\$200\*  
PER  
STUDENT**



**SCHLITTERBAHN  
WATERPARK & RESORT  
NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS**



# June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 5:30p Mtg-Worship&M 6:30p Mtg-Evangelisin	2 9a Mtg-Staff 5p ChoirPrac-NewSon;	3 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 12p Worship Service 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell ^Date Change ^	4 9a Summer Day Cam 6:30p Bible & Brew ^ Date Change ^	5 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl:	6 ComKitBlessWknd RC - Maggie Thuesen 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
7 ComKitBlessWknd 7:30a ChoirPrac-The E 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Adult) 9:30a ChoirPrac-VOP 10:30a Contemporary	8 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 9a Mtg-Staff 12p GamesDayForAll 5p ChoirPrac-NewSon;	9 9a Mtg-Staff 12p GamesDayForAll 5p ChoirPrac-NewSon;	10 Italy Trip with Pastor Jay 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 12p Worship Service 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell	11 7p Boy Scouts	12 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl:	13 OCC Temple Talk RC Rental - Julie Greb 8a BBP Sew In 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choi
14 Italy Trip with Pastor Jay OCC Temple Talk 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men: 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Adult) 9:30a ChoirPrac-KCC +2 more	15 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 9a Mtg-Staff 12p GamesDayForAll 5p ChoirPrac-NewSon;	16 Van Reserved for Boy Scouts 9a Mtg-Staff 9a Tackers&PackersQl 5p ChoirPrac-NewSon;	17 NEWSLTR DEADLINE 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 12p Worship Service 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell	18 NEWSLTR PRINTS	19 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl:	20 8a Feeding The Flock -
21 7:30a ChoirPrac-The E 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Adult) 9:30a ChoirPrac-VOP 10:30a Contemporary 12p Fathers Day- Recc	22 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 3p VBS 12p GamesDayForAll 5p ChoirPrac-NewSon;	23 9a Mtg-Staff 12p GamesDayForAll 5p ChoirPrac-NewSon;	24 NEWSLTR DEADLINE 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 12p Worship Service 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell	25 NEWSLTR PRINTS	26 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl:	27 FH/K Rented - Gordon 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choi
28 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men: 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Adult) 9:30a ChoirPrac-KCC 10:30a Contemporary	29 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 9a Mtg-Staff 5p ChoirPrac-NewSon;	30 9a Mtg-Staff 5p ChoirPrac-NewSon;	1 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl: 12p Worship Service 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell	2	3	4

**June & July**  
 NO Care & Share  
 NO Welca  
 No Social Ministries  
 NO ChrisEd  
 NO Youth SS