



St. John Lutheran Church

August 2025 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

Brandy Burns

Youth & Family Director
brandy@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

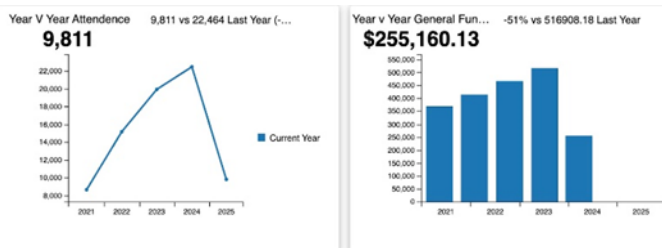
Uncharted: Preparing with Purpose:

Sometimes the best way to know where you're going is to look at where you've been - and wow, what a journey it's been so far in 2025! In the last articles, we were "Uncharted," not because we're lost, but because God continues to lead us into new, Spirit-filled territory. That's still true. But now, in midsummer, it's also time to begin charting the course ahead.

As we prepare for August - the official start of our church programming year - I would like to take a moment to celebrate our current position, acknowledge areas where we need clarity, and share the framework that will guide us as we move forward with intention and purpose.

What the Charts Show - and What They Don't:

If you take a look at the charts included with this article, you'll see some remarkable trends. Our worship attendance continues to climb, with more people attending in the first six months of 2025 than we had in all of 2021. Our yearly giving is also tracking well, on pace to exceed previous years.



But charts only tell part of the story.

This summer has been full of grace-in-motion moments that no spreadsheet can measure. We hosted Vacation Bible School, with many children in attendance and dozens of volunteers sharing the love of Jesus amid an Egyptian-themed market. I baptized two pre-teens into the family of faith. We presented scholarships to Sealy and Bellville High School graduates. Our 5 voting members (a new high) represented our congregation at the Gulf Coast Synod Assembly, where we prayerfully elected a new bishop. Our Growth Team, now chaired by Butch G. with Erik H. as chaplain, is meeting to shape new ideas for outreach and engagement through future staffing.

And of course, in June, I had the joy of leading a pilgrimage to Germany with 27 members and friends of St. John. We walked in the footsteps of Martin Luther, visited historic sites in Wittenberg and Eisleben, and reflected together on the enduring grace that sparked the Reformation. After that, my family and I took some time for rest and renewal, deeply grateful for the opportunity to recharge after a full first half of the year.

Purposeful Growth:

As we turn our attention to the fall, we're not starting from scratch - we're building on a **solid history of faithful ministry**. The plans we set in motion this past spring were carried out with consistency, energy, and purpose. Our worship leadership, community presence, service opportunities, and youth programming all reflected a congregation that's **engaged, committed, and thriving** in many key areas.

We'll also continue to refine and strengthen every area of our ministry through the lens of **Five Purpose Areas: Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, Service, and Evangelism**. Some programs will grow, some may adapt, and others will be clarified in the months to come. Even in areas where momentum wasn't quite what we had hoped, we are grateful for the structure that kept things moving and the opportunities ahead to build stronger engagement.

(Continued)

(Continued from Pastor)

5 PURPOSES OF PURPOSE DRIVEN

The Purpose Driven process moves churches through the 5 purposes found in the Great Commission and Great Commandment:

FELLOWSHIP:

Be Part of God's Family

DISCIPLESHIP:

Become More Like Jesus

WORSHIP:

Love Jesus

MINISTRY:

Serve in the Church

EVANGELISM:

Serve Out in the World/Share the Good News

Led by the Spirit, Focused on the Future. This has been a season of **intentional movement and Spirit-led progress**. We've stayed true to our mission, and the fruit is visible in both numbers and stories. As we head into August, there is **genuine excitement** about what's next.

The path ahead is clear: stay focused, stay faithful, and stay grounded in grace. Our newsletter highlights many ways you can be a part of this exciting ministry.

Thank you for walking this path with me, and with one another. I can't wait to see what God continues to do through our life together.

God Bless, Rev. Dr. Jay Grave



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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Deadline for September Newsletter is Wednesday, August 27th.

WEEKLY INFORMATION PAGE

Deadline is the Wednesday of each Week.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

Deadline to sign up for Worship Assisting is the second Wednesday of each Month.

Faith Facts for July 12-13

Attendance

Saturday 6:00p - 85

Sunday 8:00a - 55

Sunday 10:30a - 94

Sunday School - 28

Wednesday 12:00p - 14

Wednesday 6:00p - 0

Budgeted Offering \$10,580.00

Actual Offering \$ 7,000.38

Difference -\$ 3,579.62



Offering

General Fund: \$7,000.38

Building: \$55

Retreat Center: \$45

Local Benevolence: \$125

Columbarium: \$100

Programs & Speakers:
\$190 (cans)

HVAC: \$10 OCC: \$190

Youth: \$50

Kid's Camp: \$1,164.63

Flood Victims: \$625

Eagle Scout Project: \$525

PRAYER LIST:

The Family of Virginia Hollis, Beth Metheny, Noelle Stokes, Ray Stokes, Sandra White, Jim Ratley, Johnny Shupak, George Flowers, Ken, Tonja Breaux, Susan Donley, Kenneth, Ron Boggess, Brian Krause, James Hagen, James Chesson, Susan Jones, Dr. Joe, Joe (Sonny) Jackson, Meg Ferra, Mark Mikeska, Hoss Wisan, Brenda Blum, Jerlene Ray, Cara, Anna, Taylor, Aiden, 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

Keep Your Monthly Newsletter Handy For All The Dates & Times On Bible Studies, Committee Meetings, & Other Church Information



St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting
Monday, July 14, 2025
Was Cancelled - No Minutes To Report
The next Council Meeting will be
August 11, 2025 @ 6:15p



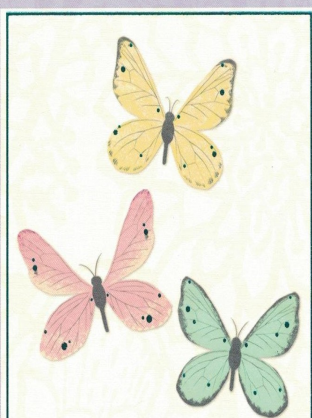
2025 Flower Chart
by the offices is ready.
Sign up to bring flowers or a
plant for the altar for that
special occasion in your life.
Flowers or Plants must be
at the church by 5:00pm
Saturday afternoon and
stay for all three services.
Thank You

New Member Class
Sunday
August 3, 2025
11:45a



Tackers & Packers

Wednesday – July 30
At 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall



*He has made everything
 beautiful in its time.*
 Ecclesiastes 3:11 ESV

*Dear St. John Lutheran,
 Thank-you so much
 for your recent donation
 to the Bellville Christian
 Food Pantry.*

*The generosity of your
 members is much
 appreciated and helps
 provide nutritious food
 items to our clients.*

*Without your support,
 our mission to serve
 the food insecure in
 our community would
 not be possible.*

*Blessings,
 Bellville Christian Food Pantry*

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.



Kid's Camp Decorating Boxes For OCC

WELCOME BACK WELCA

Come Join Us Wednesday August 13th
at 10:45a in the Fellowship Hall

Now that we have all had a much-needed break over the summer I hope we can jump right back to work on our Lutheran World Relief kits and other great projects. The month of August we will be filling Lutheran World Relief School kits. These are a little different than the 60 backpacks that St. John handed out on July 30 at the Methodist church for local kids. These have fewer items and are sent all over the world. All the ladies of the church are welcome to come to the meetings. If you have never been to a WELCA meeting come to this one and we will tell you all about the fun things we get to do. We start with a meal then a very short meeting and then we jump into whatever project is scheduled for that month.

Brenda Stewart, WELCA President

As you have seen on the screen and heard Pastor announce, the Methodist Church holds a backpack give away with the help from the local churches. St. John supplies 60 of those backpacks for the 4th and 5th grade. We were so blessed to have the full amount in our School Supply Drive line item for this year's purchase. We just want to thank everyone who has given to this fund in the past year. If you would like to help replenish this fund for next year just mark on your envelopes as School Supply Drive. Thank You, Brenda Stewart

Care and Share Book Study

Wednesday Mornings - 9:30-10:30

SJLC Fellowship Hall

New members are always welcome!

Pastor Jay will lead the group in a study of

Max Lucado - What Happens Next.

The next schedule is as follows:

August 13 - Made to Reign - Chapters 1-3

August 20 - God's Plan for the Ages - Ch 4-5

August 27 - The Rescue and the Rewards - Ch 6-8

Sept. 3 - Destination Wedding - Ch 9-11

Sept. 10 - God Will Have His Garden - Ch 12-13

Sept. 17 - The Great Homecoming - Ch 14-16

Bible & Brew

Join us for Bible Study
August 5th @ 6:30PM
Huff Brewery Downtown

The Pool Paralytic
John 5:1-15
Page 1484 MBB



August

Katherine Barnett	1	Gladys Ueckert	19
Beth Hurtado	1	Bruce Morlock	20
Derry Mikeska	1	Lois Rainer	20
Kay Zwahr	1	Eldon Zapalac	20
Judy Luedke	2	Dawn Brokmeyer	21
Timothy Weems	2	Blair Goebel	21
Krista Goebel	5	Randy Lassus	22
Jordan Luera	5	Sarah Lischka	22
Cathy Richardson	5	Taylor Vacha	22
Joyce Grebe	6	John Schmitt	23
Christie Whitesides	6	Tommy Stewart	23
John Brandt	7	Sarah Supak	23
Johnny Garcia	7	Carol Gubbels	24
Gina Vick	7	Charles Harrison	24
Carter Monk	8	Cade Mathis	24
Laura Metheny	10	Kermit Dittert	25
Ally Okonski	10	Wake Johnson	25
Shelby Bullard	11	Sandra Abel	27
Corey Khoryati	11	Belinda Jackson	27
Cord Noack	12	Katie Murski	27
Vernice Luhn	13	Lana Schubert	27
Dylan Talk	13	Makayla Makowsky	28
Nicole Weems	13	Philip Harrison	29
Jason Ferris	15	Kayla Durham	30
Gerald Fuchs	15	Harper Goebel	30
Travis Koehn	15	Grant Liescheski	31
Judy Robertson	15	David Ottmer	31
Jeszelle Burns	16	Katherine Rush	31
Cayden Becerra	17	Mathis Thuesen	31
Claire Zapalac	18	Happy August Birthday's	

Living Nativity at the Retreat Center

It takes a village!!!

**If you would like to hear about
the fun opportunities where you can help,
Contact Melissa Franke or the Church Office.**



Worship Assistant - August 2025

2 / 3

9 / 10

16 / 17

23 / 24

30 / 31

Ushers					
6:00 PM	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson
8:00 AM	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson
10:30AM	Hoppe	Hoppe	Hoppe	Hoppe	Hoppe
Choirs					
6:00 PM	Gospel Singers	New Song	Gospel Singers	New Song	TBA
8:00 AM	Senior	Men's	Senior	Men's	TBA
10:30AM	Kids Contemporary Choir	Voices of Praise	Kids Contemporary Choir	Voices of Praise	TBA
Acolytes					
The youth of St. John Lutheran Church are encouraged to volunteer at the service they attend.					
Camera Operator & Sound Tablet					
Office Staff 📧					
Computer - Service Slides					
The youth (or adult) of St. John Lutheran Church are encouraged to volunteer at the service they attend.					
Altar Guild (Wafers & Wine Cups)					
6:00 PM	Doris Hagen	Maurine Brack	Joy Seidel	Sheila Richard	Sheila Richard
8:00 AM	Kathryn Sledge	Sara Sowa	Beth Hurtado	Francis Schiller & Kay Zwahr	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Shannon Froebel	Cheryl Pritchett	Brenda Stewart	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	Sheila Richard & Need Volunteer
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	Joyce Bullard	Cyndi Zorn
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison & Shannon Froebel	Wendy Jackson & John Pritchett	Lynn Martine & Matt Johnson	Amy & Wegner Voelkel	Laurie & Gerald Fuchs
Lay Readers					
6:00 PM	Butch Grebe	Lyndell Aschenbeck	Gregg Lange	Ann Peltier	Marshall Thompson
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	Joyce Bullard	Cyndi Zorn
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison	Amy Voelkel	Matt Johnson	Lori Jackson	Gerald Fuchs
Greeter at Office Entrance (Ushers At Street Entrance)					
6:00 PM	Need Volunteer	Sheila Richard	Joy Seidel	Ann Peltier	Sheila Richard
8:00 AM	Patsy & Joe Ed Lynn	Laura & Herbert Schumann	Beth Hurtado	Need Volunteer	Cyndi Zorn
10:30AM	Doll Hoppe	Amy Voelkel	Need Volunteer	Lori Jackson	Laurie Fuchs
Flowers					
Weekend	Betty Johnson				

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Youth Beach Camp - Van Reserved						
					7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Clz	ComKitBlessWknd 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ComKitBlessWknd 7:30a ChoirPrac-Senior 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Adult) 10:30a Contemporary ● 11:45a New Meml	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Clz 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p Mtg-SocialMinis 6:30p Mtg-Evangelism	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong 6p ChoirPrac-Kid'sCon 6:30p Bible & Brew	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Clz 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Library In Use 12p Worship Service 6p Worship Service	8:15a Refit Fitness Clz	8:15a Refit Fitness Clz	RC Rental - Joy Seidel 8:30a BBP Sew In 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choir
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7:30a ChoirPrac-Men's 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Adult) 9:30a ChoirPrac-Voice 10:30a Contemporary 5p 4H Meeting	8:15a Refit Fitness Clz 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 6:15p Mtg-Council	9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 12p Games Day for All 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong 6p ChoirPrac-Kid'sCon	8:15a Refit Fitness Clz 9:30a Care & Share B 10:30a Colonial Belle 11:30a WELCA Meetir 12p Worship Service 6p Worship Service	11:30a Grief Sprrt Grp 12p RAP Meeting in Ft 7p Boy Scouts	8:15a Refit Fitness Clz	8a Feeding The Flock 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
7:30a ChoirPrac-Senior 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Adult) 10:30a Contemporary	8:15a Refit Fitness Clz 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell	9a Mtg-Staff 9a Tackers&PackersQu 10:30a Magnolia ALC 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong 6p ChoirPrac-Kid'sCon	8:15a Refit Fitness Clz 9:30a Care & Share B 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Library In Use 12p Worship Service 6p Worship Service	8:15a Refit Fitness Clz	8:15a Refit Fitness Clz	6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choir
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
7:30a ChoirPrac-Men's 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Adult) 9:30a ChoirPrac-Voice 10:30a Contemporary ● 11:30a Confirmati	8:15a Refit Fitness Clz 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 12p GamesDayForAll 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong 6p ChoirPrac-Kid'sCon	NEWSLTR DEADLINE 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Clz 9:30a Care & Share B 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Worship Service	NEWSLTR PRINTS 7a RC - Morning Matin	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Clz	6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group

A Word From Our Worship & Music Director

The months of the Holy Spirit are upon us, and we are shown that prayer and worship gives us contact with that which is in all of us. A love and grace beyond any flesh or mind-based understanding.

Morning Matins 7am Monday through Friday - Retreat Center Chapel

1. Contact - "Oh Lord Open My Lips"
2. Recognition - Learning God creates our Day
3. Praying - Living in Spirit
4. Chanting - Leading in song
5. Accepting - Love unending given by God's grace through the Holy Spirit.
6. Sweating - It's Texas for crying out loud.

Contact Marshall
818-450-6843 cell
marshall@stjohn-bellville.org

We have a shared book in our Church. It is red and on page 299 it starts our day in perfection if we can get to it before the worries of the day begin. We have portals of prayer, psalms, proverbs, all sprinkling clues leading to the center of the cross. All of us have and are allowed to have a personal conversation with the creator. At the same time all of us have and are driven by fear, neglect, and our own nature as fallen angels to have a personal conversation with our nemesis. If we are seeking light, we must let God open our mouths before the circumstances in the flesh decide our fate into falsity. Offerings taken are given to the retreat center fund.

12pm Wednesdays - St. John Sanctuary - We reflect on the words of St. Paul's letter to the Galatians the steps to take to be in the Spirit. Accompanied by hymn favorites and guest musicians. This is such a great way to absorb this message of God's Armor keeping the Spirit pure.

6pm Wednesdays - St. John Sanctuary - Evening Vespers are a time of self-reflection involving chant, praise, scripture, prayer, and favorite hymns thanking our creator for the grace received and given that day.

6pm Saturday - St. John Sanctuary - Informal service with communion. Not as quick as a drive through, but a spirit filled congregation and a perfect way to invite others with or without a church home to confession, scripture, communion, and a down-to-earth simplicity in sharing the gospel as written with one another.

8am Sunday - St. John Sanctuary - Outlined in Lutheran Liturgical format, we conform to structure and to all the pieces we believe pleases God in Worship. Important for those improvisors like myself to reign in the making stuff up as we go along. Step by step we eventually are ready for our mission and a great way to prepare for the amazing adult bible study we have following this service.

10:30am Sunday - St. John Sanctuary - Christian Contemporary Radio Music in and outside the box with the Kids Contemporary Choir and the Voices of Praise.

Kid's Contemporary Choir (KCC)

If your child is singing all the time in the car then they need to be in this choir.

Everyone from 3rd to 8th grade is encouraged and invited to join this fall's Kids Contemporary Choir.

This choir regularly sings at the 1st and 3rd Sunday 10:30a service a host of contemporary and kids classics from Jesus Loves Me and Every Move I Make to songs from Christian Radio Artists of today and a few days ago.

Each youth this year will have a song that they choose to work on as a solo or with all singers to be premiered on Christ the King Sunday.

Rehearsals are every Tuesday at 6:00-6:45p at the church starting in September and will consist of learning to follow a lead sheet that guides them through the song that they know by ear.


We have our own Spotify playlists of Christian songs that they can listen to, with adult supervision, and make suggestions of what they would like to do right on the app.

I am going to teach tonal recognition through the age-old practice of chanting our Psalms, one of the easiest ways to learn to hold a pitch. Rehearsals will alternate between our service repertoire one week and new material with voice and music learning and music games.

Voices Of Praise (VOP)

That's what this choir is. No joke. The Joyful Noise heard around the world. We sing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at the 10:30a service. We need all sorts of instruments and voices from all sorts of people 9th grade to 90th grade. Looks like we will be adding a clarinet. Rehearsals are every Wednesday at 5:00p at the church starting in September.

Thanks to all that support this church and ministry. Choir is family.



**BACKPACK/SCHOOL SUPPLY
GIVEAWAY**

Bellville Methodist Church
234 S. Masonic St.

July 31, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

****MUST BRING A REPORT CARD FROM LAST YEAR.
MAY NOT PICK UP SUPPLIES FOR ANYONE ELSE**

**Area Churches have joined together to hand out
backpacks filled with school supplies for each grade
level for the Bellville School District.**

BLOOD DRIVE

St. John Lutheran Church - Bellville

Tuesday, August 19
1:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

All Successful Donors Will Receive:

A 50th Anniversary T-Shirt
AND
A Voucher for a Free Pint of Blue Bell Ice Cream

sponsor code: 2044
Scan Below for an Appointment:



Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome.

Iris, blood recipient



EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.

Save lives on
the go with **CFL EXPRESS PASS**

Complete your Health History Interview before you
come in for your donation.

Go to <https://cflxpress.giveblood.org/> and complete
the same day as your appointment.



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!