



St. John Lutheran Church October 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

Worship Services

Saturday

6:00p - Informal

Sunday

8:00a - Traditional

9:15a - Sunday School

(For Adult & Youth)

10:30a - Contemporary

Wednesday

12:00p - Sanctuary

OUR STAFF

Rev. Dr. Jay Grave

Pastor

rev.jgrave@stjohn-bellville.org

Extension #13

Dr. Demetrius Robinson

Music & Worship Director

d.robison@stjohn-bellville.org

Extension #14

Ashlin Diezi

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

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

October: Receiving, Celebrating, and Passing It On

October is always a special month at St. John. The calendar is full, the weather finally feels like fall, and we have plenty of reasons to gather, celebrate, serve, and simply enjoy being together.

The month gets started with one of my favorite annual events: the **Blessing of the Pets**, October 3 and 4. There is something wonderfully St. John about praying for our dogs, cats, and other beloved animals. We give thanks for the creatures who bring so much joy into our lives.

On October 7, I will have the privilege of offering the blessing at **Austin County Fair Senior Day**. It is always a wonderful opportunity to be part of the larger community that surrounds us and honor the traditions of our community.

October 13 and 14 will find me in Lake Jackson for a training event connected with my work as the **Bellville Volunteer Fire Department chaplain**. Ministry doesn't always happen in a church building. Sometimes it happens at a fair, around a picnic table, beside a fire station, or simply in the places where our neighbors live their everyday lives.

Then, on October 18 at 9:15 a.m., we will gather for our **Annual Congregational Meeting**. This is an important part of the life of our congregation as we look together at where we have been, where we are going, and how we will continue the ministry God has entrusted to us.

And then comes one of my favorite St. John traditions: **Reformation Sunday and our Oktoberfest Worship Service** on October 25. There will be **no 8:00 a.m. worship service that morning**. Instead, our 10:30 a.m. worship will take place at the Retreat Center, followed by our annual BBQ fundraiser.

I especially enjoy our Oktoberfest service because it reminds us that our Lutheran heritage is connected not only to a theological tradition but also to a particular history and culture. The Lutheran Reformation began in Germany, and generations of Lutherans carried that faith with them as they crossed oceans and established congregations in places like Texas. St. John is part of that story.

Of course, being Lutheran does not mean that we simply preserve everything exactly as it was handed down to us. Martin Luther himself was willing to ask difficult questions about what the church was doing and why. Reformation is, in part, the continuing work of asking what we have received, what remains faithful, and what we need to pass on to the next generation.

That brings me to one of our **5+1 Purposes: Stewardship**.

We often hear the word stewardship and immediately think about money. And certainly, our financial resources are an important part of stewardship. We have bills to pay, ministries to support, buildings to maintain, staff to employ, and missions to fund. As we prepare to pass our next budget, we are grateful that St. John is moving toward ending this year **in the black**. That is something worth celebrating.

But stewardship is much bigger than the church budget.

Stewardship is about recognizing that everything we have ultimately comes from God - and then asking how we will faithfully use what God has entrusted to us.

(Continued)

When someone teaches Sunday School, that is stewardship.

When a teenager gives an afternoon to serve someone else, that is stewardship.

When a musician shares a gift in worship, that is stewardship.

When someone volunteers at the BBQ, serves on Council, sings in the choir, welcomes a visitor, gives generously, or simply makes the effort to show up and participate in the life of the congregation, that is stewardship.

And when we make sure that the next generation receives a living faith rather than simply an old memory, that is stewardship too.

We have received something here at St. John. We have inherited a congregation with a history, a faith, a mission, a campus, traditions, stories, and people who have invested their lives in making this place what it is today.

Now it is our turn.

We are not simply paying the bills or keeping the doors open. We are caring for something that has been entrusted to us so that it can continue to serve God's purposes long after any one of us is gone.

That is why October's celebrations matter. The Blessing of the Pets reminds us to give thanks for God's creation. The Austin County Fair reminds us that our ministry extends into the community. My work with the fire department reminds me that pastoral care often happens beyond the walls of the church. Reformation reminds us where we have come from. Our Oktoberfest service allows us to celebrate some of the German heritage woven into our Lutheran story. Our Congregational Meeting reminds us that we have responsibilities in the present. And our budget reminds us that we are making decisions about the future.

Stewardship holds all of those things together.

So this October, I hope we will celebrate what we have received - and then ask ourselves what we can faithfully pass on. The Lutheran Reformation gave us a faith centered on God's grace.

Our German Lutheran ancestors gave us a heritage.

Those who came before us built St. John.

And now, by God's grace, **we get to be part of the story.**

Let's celebrate it. Let's care for it. And let's pass it on.

See you this weekend. God bless, Pastor Jay

Altar flowers are given
to the Glory of God
In Memory of
Valarie Babin &
Her Love for OCC
By John & Cheryl Pritchett
And Family



Faith Facts for September 26-27

Attendance

Saturday 6:00p - 67
Sunday 8:00a - 50
Sunday 10:30a - 82
Sunday School - 57
Wednesday 12:00p - 12

Offering

General Fund: \$12,775.88
Building: \$125
Retreat Center: \$150
Food Pantry: \$5
Music: \$20
Youth: \$35
SS Offering: \$7.50
Columbarium: \$125
OCC: \$142
Adult Studies: \$50

Budgeted Offering \$11,650.00
Actual Offering \$12,775.88
Difference \$ 1,125.88

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	Jared Box Supplies

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Call the church office
979-865-2081

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

DID YOU FORGET YOUR CASH OR CHECK IN YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPE ?

**Consider
Texting
"Give" To
979-432-5051
OR**



**Set Up An
ONLINE
Recurring
Offering At
STJOHN-BELLVILLE.ORG**



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 18 @ 9:15 a.m.
in the Church Sanctuary

All St John Members are encouraged to attend and vote.



PRAYER LIST:

The Family of Ella Mae Dahse, Evelyn Krenek, Rodney James, Denise Harvey, Bradley Schwarze, Hudson Talk, Vicki Funderburk, Wally Hill, Tommy Stewart, Chris Gilmore, Hunter Picard, Mark Mikeska, Lincoln Tiemann, Junior Luera, Rachel Zwahr, 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.

St. John Lutheran Church - Council Meeting September 14, 2026 @ 5:30p

The St. John Lutheran Church Council met on Monday, September 14, 2026. Members in attendance were Newton Boriack, Sharon Boldt, Claire Zapalac, Livia Marshall, Gregg Lange, Kirk Hoppe, Brenda Stewart, Amy Voelkel, Shannon Johnson and Pastor Jay Grave. Members absent were Christina Koehn and Lynn Martine. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 and Pastor Jay led in an opening prayer. The August minutes were reviewed and approved. The August Financial Reports were reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports

Pastors Report – Dr. Demetrius Robinson was introduced to the members of council. Staff annual reviews will be held on September 15. The trip to Jordan and Egypt will be cancelled due to the ongoing turmoil in the middle east. Pastor Jay is looking into possibilities for other trips next year and will update once he has information. Pastor Jay has been asked to serve on the Bellville ISD LRFP. He has also been asked to serve at TAMU Lutheran Ministry as they currently do not have a pastor there. He plans to do that as needed on Sunday evenings.

Christian Education/Youth - There were 33 children that attended Rally Day and many attended the following Sunday as well. There were 17 at confirmation on September 13. Amy said more help would be welcome if the attendance numbers remain high.

Social Ministries - Brenda indicated that planning for the Country Gospel in January is ongoing.

Retreat Center/Property - The brush clearing and mulching at the Mavis Center and Chapel area of the retreat center has been done and its now very walkable in the area. Kirk will contact San Bernard Electric to have the electricity disconnected at the Lake House and Camp House and will look into cancelling insurance on those properties. Kirk said there is a list of minor repairs that need to be completed at the parsonage. Pastor Jay will update that list and get with Kirk.

Old Business - Committees have been given their budget worksheets. Working on a list for new council members. Push Pay is a digital giving, and church management software program designed mainly for faith-based organizations and nonprofits. We currently utilize Shelby software for this and have not been pleased with the service and fees associated with this. Newton Boriack called for a vote to move forward with discontinuing our service with Shelby and move forward with Push Pay, the motion carried.

New Business - There is a hazardous recycle day on September 19 in Bellville. Amy mentioned there are items to be cleaned up around the Jones Property which could be taken here and discarded.

Closing - The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Care and Share Study Group

Wednesday mornings at 9:15a in the Fellowship Hall at the church.
Each study session lasts approximately 1hr 15m.

Pastor Jay is currently leading the group in a study of *The Lutheran Handbook*.
We encourage you to read the book, but it is not required.

The group will meet weekly except for the Wednesday during the Austin County Fair, October 7, and the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 25.

Please consider joining this group.
New members are always welcome!



LWR - Tackers & Packers

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



Bible + Brew for Men

1st Thursday of each month @ 6:30 p.m.
601 Piney Creek Road

Forgiveness – Mending Broken Relationships
Psalm 51 (2 Samuel 11 & 12)

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



WELCA

Wednesday mornings at 10:45a in the Fellowship Hall at the church.

All the ladies of the church are welcome to come to the meetings. We will start with a meal, then a very short meeting, and start assembling Jared Boxes for the Local ER to hand out to youth that find themselves in the ER. Donations are appreciated to fill these boxes.
Mark you offering LWR/JaredBox.

Come Join Us on
October 14 at 10:45a
in the Fellowship Hall.

The Fall Western Cluster meeting will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fayetteville on Saturday, October 24th.
Let me know if you would like to attend.

NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER
We need volunteers to bake Turkeys and Ham's for the Thanksgiving Meal on November 22nd.
Please Call Brenda Stewart 979-877-4624 if you would like to help.

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Quilt Raffle



Proceeds Benefit Student Scholarships
Drawing will take place at the
2026 St. John Oktoberfest

Tickets cost \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00
and can be purchased at the church
office or from any WELCA member.

Value: \$500

Need Not Be Present to Win

Join us for a guided tour of
The Painted Churches
through the Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce



October 22, 2026

Departing SJLC at 8am

Tour begins at 9:15 am

\$25/ person cash

With any questions or interest, please reach out to Ashlin at 979-865-2083

If you would like a ride to and from church to attend a wo

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	 *** DUE DATE *** NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER Wednesday, October 28 WEEKLY INFORMATION PAGE Wednesday Of Each Week WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE Wednesday, October 21		30	1	2	3
BLESSING OF THE PETS  ComKitBlessWknd 7:30a ChoirPrac-The Early Birc 8a Traditional Worship Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary Worship	4  Blessing of the Pets ComKitBlessWknd 7:30a ChoirPrac-The Early Birc 8a Traditional Worship Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary Worship	5 Austin County Fair Week 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 5:30p FH AggieMoms 5:30p Mtg-SocialMinistries 6:30p Mtg-Evangelism	6 Austin County Fair Week 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 10:30a Austin County Fair 10:30a Senior Citizens Brunch 2p ChoirPrac-NewSong 5:30p Bell Choir Practice	8 OFFICE CLOSED Watch For SJLC Parade Float 7p BS District Roundtable 	9 8:15a Refit Fitness Class	10 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choir
11 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men's 8a Traditional Worship Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary Worship 5p 4H Meeting	12 Columbus Day Holiday 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 5:30p Mtg-Council	13 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Argent Ct. Communion 12p GamesDayForAll (w/ Com	14 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 9:15a Care & Share 11:30a WELCA Meeting 12p Worship Service 2p ChoirPrac-NewSong 5:30p Bell Choir Practice	15 8:15a Refit Fitness Class	16 8:15a Refit Fitness Class	17 8a Feeding The Flock - Kitchen 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
18 Bells Angels Play 7:30a ChoirPrac-The Early Birc 8a Traditional Worship Service 9a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary Worship	19 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 5:30p Mtg-Worship&Music	20 9a Mtg-Staff 9a Tackers&PackersQuiltingGr	21 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 9:15a Care & Share 12p Worship Service 2p ChoirPrac-NewSong 4p 1st Holy Communion Retre 5:30p Bell Choir Practice	22 OFFICE CLOSED 8a Painted Churches Bus Trip \	23 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 3p 4H Set Up	24 ELCA WesternClusterFallGathe REFORMATION 8a 4H Event 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choir
25 OKTOBERFEST - REFORMATION! 9a Desserts To Mewis Bldg 9a Silent Auction Items 10:30a Worship At Retreat Cei sath annual St. John Lutheran's 	26 8:15a Refit Fitness Class	27 9a Mtg-Staff 12p GamesDayForAll	28 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 9:15a Care & Share 12p Worship Service 2p ChoirPrac-NewSong 5:30p Bell Choir Practice	29 6p Trunk Or Treat	30 8:15a Refit Fitness Class	31 NO FUN BUNCH POTLUCK RC Rented 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group

ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Worship Assistant - October 2026

3 / 4

10 / 11

17 / 18

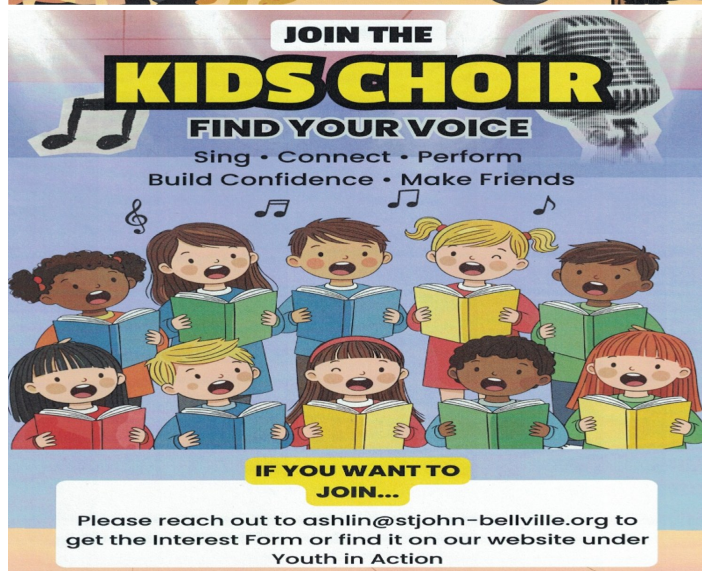
24 / 25 OktoberFest

31 / Nov. 1

Ushers					
6:00 PM	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson
8:00 AM	Hoppe	Hoppe	Hoppe	No 8:00a Service	Hoff
10:30AM	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson	Lange
Choirs					
6:00 PM	Gospel Group	New Song	Gospel Group	New Song	Gospel Group
8:00 AM	The Early Birds	Men's	The Early Birds	No 8:00a Service	The Early Birds
10:30AM	Voices Of Praise	Youth Choir	Voices Of Praise	Special	Voices Of Praise
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	Maurine Brack	Joy Seidel	Sheila Richard	Doris Hagen
8:00 AM	Kathryn Sledge	Cheryl & John Pritchett	Beth Hurtado	No 8:00a Service	Kathryn Sledge
10:30AM	Brenda Stewart	Shannon Froebel	Lori Jackson	Sheila Richard	Brenda Stewart
Communion Assistants (6:00p & 10:30a - Stand in front of Pulpit & Lectern) (8:00a Assist At Rail)					
6:00 PM	Doris Hagen & Butch Grebe	Allene & John Schmitt	Joy Seidel & Jill Collins	Sheila Richard & Joy Seidel	Doris Hagen & Butch Grebe
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	John Pritchett	Brenda Taylor	No 8:00a Service	Joe Ed Lynn
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison &	Shannon Froebel &	Lori Jackson &	Pastor Sheila Sara Amy Wegner Brenda	Jeanette Harrison &
Lay Readers					
6:00 PM	Butch Grebe	Lyndell Aschenbeck	Shannon Johnson	Mary Logan	Butch Grebe
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Cheryl Pritchett	Brenda Taylor	No 8:00a Service	Joe Ed Lynn
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison	Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson	Elizabeth Grave	Jeanette Harrison
Greeter at Office Entrance (Ushers At Street Entrance)					
6:00 PM	Butch Grebe	Sheila Richard	Joy Seidel	Sheila Richard	Butch Grebe
8:00 AM	Patsy & Joe Ed Lynn	Sheila Richard	Beth Hurtado	No 8:00a Service	Patsy & Joe Ed Lynn
10:30AM		Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson	Usher Team	
Flowers					
Weekend		Sheila & Cheryl			
Computer Service Slides / Camera Live Stream					
6:00 PM	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard / Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard / Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson
8:00 AM	Sara Sowa	Sheila Richard	Beth Hurtado	No 8:00a Service	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Youth	Youth	Youth	OktoberFest	Youth



Brooklyn Bettis	1	Lee Rush	15
Glenn Kaase	2	Lauren Ayala	16
Olive Merle	2	Blane Tatum	16
Vickie Monk	2	Peggy Draehn	17
Doug Albrecht	3	Suzie Grimm	17
Bradley Froebel	3	Whitney McDonald	17
Carson Krumrey	3	Carmen Peck	17
Gregory Braun	4	Ellyson Swansey	17
Dylan Huffman	4	Jo Ann Cain	19
Beckett Winkelmann	4	Janice Gessmann	19
Bob Donley	5	Patsy Lynn	19
Bill Gelsthorpe	5	Judy Wells	19
Ken Harding	5	Keith Huffman	20
Richard Noack	5	Jeremy Moore	20
Taylor Swansey	5	Dave Peltier	20
John Harrison	6	Lenora Zander	21
Jennifer Kloss	6	Rhonda Bullard	22
Colton Landua	6	Wendy Jackson	22
Kylie Pavlicek	6	Mike Mueller	22
Cody Springer	6	Laurie Fuchs	24
Samantha Hagen	7	Tracye Lassus	24
Brenda Taylor	7	Lindsay Hackemack	25
Colby Lange	9	Bee Machac	25
Steve Voelkel	9	Mallory Ferreira	26
Fritz Nelius	10	Sherrie Hoppe	26
Aria Pressel	11	Karen Mueller	26
Ronnie Robertson	11	Maverick Alanis	27
Doris Zaneck	11	Kyle Kulow	27
Bekah Malm	12	Nancy Swearingen	27
Nicholas Pritchett	12	Cutter Kaye	28
Herbert Schumann	12	Kenadie Kaye	28
Gene Zapalac	12	Barbara Reinhardt	28
Irene Frank	13	Amy Pieper	29
Stacey Lange	13	LaVerne Remmert	29
Kimberly Patek	13	Maci Alanis	30
Kendall Thuesen	13	Lorelei Goebel	30
Brayden Ashorn	14	Levi Goebel	30
Andrew Eckert	14	Sloan Jackson	30
Tiffany Emshoff	15	Jase Maynor	30
Grant Jackson	15	Junior Luera	31
Harold Kendrick	15	Elyse Schubert	31



34th annual

St. John Lutheran's



Sunday, October 25, 2026

St. John's Retreat Center

4740 Hwy 36 N

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Proceeds to benefit Church Activities

**Bring A Dessert
To Share** 🍌



**Items Needed
Bring To Church**

Silent Auction



Dine in or Drive thru

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**BBQ Chicken, sausage, sauerkraut,
potatoes, & beans**

\$15 per meal

Cash or Check Only

No Advanced Ticket Sales - First Come, First Served

Family Event with German Food,

Fellowship, Youth Activities, & Silent Auction.

