



St. John Lutheran Church

September 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

Ashlin Gordon
Youth Engagement Leader
ashlin.gordon2002@tamu.edu
281-770-9480

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: September Blessings and New Beginnings

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" – Isaiah 43:19

About a week ago, I was walking across our church parking lot on a Wednesday morning, and I stopped to take it all in. The parking lot was already filling up, the Care & Share Bible Study room was buzzing with conversation, exercisers leaving Refit were visiting in the parking lot, and Joy and Sheila were already managing tasks. Marshall and musicians were practicing for one of our many worship services. It struck me that this is *exactly* what the prophet Isaiah was talking about: **a God who is always stirring, always creating something new, always calling us forward in hope.**

And friends, this stirring, creating, moving sounds like September at St. John!

We are kicking off September with **Rally Day on September 7**, as our whole congregation gathers back into the rhythm of worship and study. A week later, on **September 14**, our new **rotational model Sunday School** begins. Much like the energy and creativity of Vacation Bible School, children, youth, and adults alike will experience God's Word through different learning styles—storytelling, crafts, music, games, and more. It's a model designed to help *discipleship* come alive for all ages.

Meanwhile, our youth ministry is bursting with excitement. On the horizon is our **Junior High Dance!** (9/12), where we're preparing to welcome more than 300 students from across the community to "dance the night away." And right alongside that, we are excited to introduce our first **Youth Engagement Leader, Ashlin G.** Ashlin will serve as a bridge between our teens and our traditional programs like Luther League, Confirmation, and Sunday School—helping young people find their place in the life of the church. It's a creative experiment, rooted in faith, and a powerful investment in the next generation of leaders.

But youth aren't the only ones finding their stride. Our brand-new group, the **Older Wiser Lutherans (O.W.L.s)**, is already planning exciting fellowship events that promise both fun and meaning. Their first event the Paint and Sip was a huge success. There was almost no room in the Faith Center! This ministry is a perfect expression of *fellowship*—gathering God's people together in joy.

We are also working toward a major new goal: raising funds for a **new mini-bus**. This vehicle will expand our ability to serve—making trips possible, providing rides, and creating opportunities for ministry that stretch well beyond our walls. A bus may seem practical, but in truth, it's about *service*—removing barriers so that more people can be part of what God is doing here. Be on the lookout, we are raffling off the Pastor Ponytail for this good cause! Tickets available soon!

We are currently preparing the ballot for our upcoming **Church Council elections** as well as the proposed **budget for approval** at our October Annual Meeting. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in serving on the Council, please contact the church office—we would love to hear from you!

(Continued)

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

Add to all of this our growing attendance, increased giving, and the packed house at **Care & Share Wednesday Bible Study**, and it's clear: As we continue to be faithful, God is blessing us abundantly. In each of our five purpose areas—*discipleship, fellowship, evangelism, service, and worship*—we see signs of life. Lives are being shaped, friendships are deepening, generosity is flowing, and the Gospel is reaching further.

So here we are, standing on the threshold of another season, with hearts full of gratitude and expectation. I hope you'll join me in prayer for all that is ahead this fall, and I invite you to jump in—attend, serve, invite a friend, bring your children, join a group, or simply show up to worship ready to see how God will meet you. Together, let us celebrate what God is doing and watch with joy as new things continue to spring up among us.

With hope and anticipation, **Pastor Jay**

Faith Facts for August 23-24

Attendance

Saturday 6:00p - 85

Sunday 8:00a - 37

Sunday 10:30a - 109

Sunday School - 21

Wednesday 12:00p - 16

Wednesday 6:00p - 4

Budgeted Offering \$10,580.00

Actual Offering \$14,771.89

Difference \$ 4,271.89



Offering

General Fund: \$14,771.89

Building: \$310

Retreat Center: \$220

Food Pantry: \$18

Local Benevolence: \$130

Music Fund: \$10

Heifer Project: \$110

OCC: \$529

Youth: \$50

Programs & Speakers: \$250

Special: \$4

Bus Fund: \$25

Eagle Scout Project: \$1000

PRAYER LIST:

The Family of Jerlene Ray, Charles Crawford, Elizabeth Janicek, Karen Curtis, Chris Singer, Neely Grawunder, Aline Jahnke, Susan Scott, Weldon Haevischer, Beth Metheny, Noelle Stokes, Ray Stokes, Sandra White, Tonja Breaux, Kenneth, Cara, Anna, Taylor, Aiden, Ron Boggess, Brian Krause, Mark Mikeska, Brenda Blum. Our friends at neighboring congregations 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.

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 October Newsletter is Wednesday, September 24th.

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.

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

Just A Friendly Reminder that if you would like to make a donation to the Blessing Box Project, it needs to go directly to Dawn Compton. THANK YOU :-)

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

St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting August 11, 2025 @ 6:15p

The August Council Meeting took place Monday, August 11th, 2025 in the Adult Classroom. In attendance were Shannon Johnson, Lynn Martine, Christina Koehn, Kirk Hoppe, Jared Schubert, Tommy Kowles, Wendy Jackson, Amy Voelkel, Lindsey Mikeska, Livia Marshall, and Pastor Jay Grave. The meeting was called to order by Christina Koehn at 6:17pm. There was no June meeting due to summer break. There was no July meeting due to not enough council members in attendance.

Opening Devotion -
Pastor Jay shared readings and led us in prayer.

Special Speakers -
Growth Team members Erik Haugen, Butch Grebe, David Maul, Vicki Monk, and Gerald Fuchs attended the meeting and made recommendations to the council to start a search process for another pastor. They shared various reasons for why another pastor is needed and why they would be beneficial.

Consensus Agenda -
The May Minutes were reviewed. The May & June Financial Reports were reviewed. May & June Committee Reports were reviewed.

Discussion Agenda -
Old Business - A request was presented to move \$1000.00 from Social Ministries Program & Speakers to Operation Christmas Child. All needed repairs to the Parsonage and the Lake house have been completed. Retreat Center gate concerns were discussed. Local area youth are breaking in through the main gate to fish and have caused damage to the gate. Lynn Martine brought up concerns about rugs causing trip hazards. Pastor reminded committee representatives to fill out budget reports for the upcoming budget review. Pastor also requested name nominations for prospective council replacements. Positions opening are Vice President being vacated by Christina Koehn. Christina is stepping into the role of President which is being vacated by Fritz Nelius. Secretary being vacated by Wendy Jackson, Treasurer being vacated by Jared Schubert, Social Ministries being vacated by Lindsay Mikeska, Evangelism being vacated by Tommy Kolwes, and Additional Council which was vacated by Braeg Stewart in December.

New Business - Kirk Hoppe reported that he will be investigating a roof leak at the Retreat Center as well as a roof leak in the Garden Shed. He will report back with his findings. Pastor Jay reported on the search for a new van. He shared that Tony Stewart has taken the lead on the Van Committee along with Chase Marshall. They proposed using funds from the Bank Line of Credit then fundraising in the same way we did for the air conditioners in the past. Brenda Stewart has volunteered to take the lead on fundraising for this project. The church also has \$20,000.00 set aside to go towards the purchase. A new van is in the neighborhood of \$80,000.00. Discussion on the van was tabled until more information could be collected. Discussion was had about setting budget limits in certain areas where youth events such as camps are concerned.

The next Council Meeting is September 8th, 2025 at 6:15pm in the Adult Classroom. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer at 8:00pm.



A BIG THANK YOU
to all those that came out to
give the gift of life at our
blood drive last week.
We collected 29 units,
which is Great !!



**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**



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.



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

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.

This month we will be helping Jeanette finish up all things OCC - Operation Christmas Child.

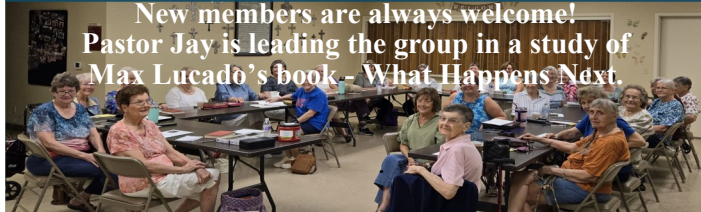
The Fall Western Cluster meeting will be held at Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Carmine on Saturday September 27, 2025. Let us know if you would like to go. Maybe we will get lucky and have our new buss by then.

Brenda Stewart, WELCA President

CARE AND SHARE

The 1st Wednesday Of Each Month
At 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall

New members are always welcome!
Pastor Jay is leading the group in a study of
Max Lucado's book - *What Happens Next*.



Tackers & Packers

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



Bible & Brew

Join us for Bible Study
September 2nd @ 6:30PM
Huff Brewery Downtown
A Workman No Ashamed
2 Timothy 2:14-26
Page 1658 MBB



Good News - Great Joy

SAVE THE DATE !!! September 28th is St. John's Operation Child Packing Party!

After the 10:30a service, please join us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall and then we will pack around 600 shoebox gifts in the Faith Center. These shoebox gifts are sent around the world in Jesus' name. Each shoebox gift is an expression of God's Love as ministry partners share the Good News of Jesus Christ, God's Greatest Gift. Join us for worship, lunch, pack some shoeboxes, and get in the big picture!

Operation Christmas Child Packing Party 2024



St. John Lutheran Church



Worship Assistant - September 2025

6 / 7

13 / 14

20 / 21

27 / 28

Ushers					
6:00 PM	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson	Thuesen	
8:00 AM	Lange	Lange	Lange	Lange	
10:30AM	Hoff	Hoff	Hoff	Hoff	
Choirs					
6:00 PM	Gospel Singers	New Song	Gospel Singers	New Song	
8:00 AM	Senior	Men's	Senior	Men's	
10:30AM	Kids Contemporary Choir	Voices of Praise	Kids Contemporary Choir	Voices of Praise	
Acolytes					
The youth of St. John Lutheran Church are encouraged to volunteer at the service they attend.					
Camera Live Stream					
6:00 PM	Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson	
8:00 AM					
10:30AM		Sloan Jackson			
Computer Service Slides					
6:00 PM	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard	
8:00 AM	Sara Sowa	Gerald Fuchs	Beth Hurtado	Sheila Richard	
10:30AM		Wendy Jackson			
Altar Guild (Wafers & Wine Cups)					
6:00 PM	Doris Hagen	Maurine Brack	Joy Seidel	Sheila Richard	
8:00 AM	Kathryn Sledge	Sara Sowa	Beth Hurtado	Francis Schiller & Kay Zwahr	
10:30AM	Shannon Froebel	Cheryl Pritchett	Brenda Stewart	Lori Jackson	
Communion Assistants (6:00p & 10:30a - Stand in front of Pulpit & Lecturn) (8:00a Assist At Rail)					
6:00 PM	Doris Hagen & Butch Grebe	Sheila Richard & Ronald Koehn	Joy Seidel & Jill Collins	Allene & John Schmitt	
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	Cyndi Zorn	
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison & Shannon Froebel	Wendy Jackson & John Pritchett	Brenda S. & Jennifer Krumrey	Amy & Wegner Voelkel	
Lay Readers					
6:00 PM	Butch Grebe	Laura Metheny	Shannon Johnson	Judy Wells	
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	Cyndi Zorn	
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison	Amy Voelkel	Erin Lischka	Lori Jackson	
Greeter at Office Entrance (Ushers At Street Entrance)					
6:00 PM	Laura Metheny	Sheila Richard	Joy Seidel	Linda Acebo	
8:00 AM	Patsy & Joe Ed Lynn		Beth Hurtado	Cyndi Zorn	
10:30AM	Laura & Herbert Schumann	Amy Voelkel	Gloria & Frank Zapalac	Lori Jackson	
Flowers					
Weekend		Patti S. & Belinda J.			
Youth Sunday School					
Opening	9:15-9:30 Opening	9:30-9:50 Story	9:50-10:15 Activity		
Story	Rally Day				
Activity	Welcome Back	Sara Sowa	Sara Sowa	Sara Sowa	
	Sunday School				

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Labor Day - OFFICE C 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p Mtg-SocialMinis	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 5p ChoirPrac-NewSoni 6p ChoirPrac-Kid'sCon 6:30p Bible & Brew	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 9:30a Care & Share B 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Library In Use 12p Worship Service +2 more	7a RC - Morning Matin 5:30p Christian Educa 7a RC - Morning Matin 11:30a Grief Sprt Grp 12p FH Rented 7p Boy Scouts	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 4p FC&K Rented - ACV	ComKitBlessWknd 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choi
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
ComKitBlessWknd 7:30a ChoirPrac-Senic 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a Rally Day & SS 9:30a ChoirPrac-Voice 10:30a Contemporary 4p Synod Bishop Insta	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p Christian Educa 6:15p Mtg-Council	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 12p Games Day for Al 5p ChoirPrac-NewSoni 6p ChoirPrac-Kid'sCon	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 9:30a Care & Share B 10:30a Colonial Belle 11:30a WELCA Meetir 12p Worship Service 6p Worship Service	7a RC - Morning Matin 11:30a Grief Sprt Grp 12p FH Rented 7p Boy Scouts	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 6p Jr High Dance	RC - Thompson Event 8:30a BBP Sew In 3p FH/K Gloria Pfeffer 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
7:30a ChoirPrac-Men's 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adt 10:30a Contemporary ● 11:30a Confirmati 5p 4H Meeting	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p Mtg-Worship&M	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 9a Tackers&PackersQL 10:30a Magnolia ALC 5p ChoirPrac-NewSoni 6p ChoirPrac-Kid'sCon	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 9:30a Care & Share B 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Library In Use 12p Worship Service 6p Worship Service	7a RC - Morning Matin	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl	8a Feeding The Flock - 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choi
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
7:30a ChoirPrac-Senic 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adt 9:30a ChoirPrac-Voice 10:30a Contemporary	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 12p GamesDayForAll 5p ChoirPrac-NewSoni 6p ChoirPrac-Kid'sCon	NEWSLTR DEADLINE 7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 9:30a Care & Share B 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Worship Service 6p Worship Service	NEWSLTR PRINTS 7a RC - Morning Matin	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 6p FC/K Occupied	FC/K Rented All Day 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
7:30a Choir Practice - 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a SS (Youth & Adt 10:30a Contemporary 11:30a OCC Packing P	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell	7a RC - Morning Matin 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC 5p ChoirPrac-NewSoni 6p ChoirPrac-Kid'sCon	7a RC - Morning Matin 8:15a Refit Fitness Cl 9:30a Care & Share B 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Library In Use 12p Worship Service			

3rd

6pm Worship Service
6:30pm Mtg-Evangelism





John	Krumrey	1	Storm	Feldmann	15
Vernell	Dittert	2	Brayden	Voelkel	15
Daniel	Wisian	2	Mark	Swonke	16
Jerome	Gregor	3	Brianna	Noviskie	17
Kody	Kloss	3	Ashlin	Gordon	18
Cassie	Moses	3	Seth	Grawunder	18
William	Johnson	4	Virgia	Wienecke	19
Erin	Koehn	4	Ona Lea	Goodnight	20
Melissa	Franke	6	James	Goodnight	20
Heath	Lowes	6	Wegner	Voelkel	20
Kristi	Mathis	6	Aidan	Wheeler	20
Elizabeth	Grave	8	Logan	Froebel	22
Grace	Crawford	9	Lauren	Moore	22
Jamie	Feland	9	Nathan	Grawunder	23
Jonas	Feland	9	Kase	Kloss	23
Layne	Grawunder	9	David	Maul	23
Trudy	Durham	10	Katherine	Johnson	25
Colby	Grawunder	10	Daryl	Okonski	25
Cody	Kendrick	10	Suzie	Little	26
Cody	Kendrick	10	Chad	Luedke	26
Alan	Sucheck	10	Sara	Thompson	27
Stacy	Kloss	11	Kensey	Landua	28
Gloria	Pfeffer	11	Dawnielle	Slovak	28
Jonathan	Kloss	12	Avery	Goebel	29
Holden	Schubert	12	David	Hoff	29
Mason	Wolff	12	Chet	Richter	29
Kinley	Kokemor	13	Colby	Haevischer	30
Colson	Tielke	13	Payton	Wolff	30
Parker	Monk	14	Happy Birthday		



Funds are being requested for the purchase of a 15-passenger bus for SJLC. This bus will transport homebound individuals to & from church and for group events. It will feature low steps for easy access. For every \$2,000 raised, a puzzle piece will be added to our picture until our goal is reached.

Our goal is \$80,000.

We have already raised \$20,754.

Every dollar counts!!! Let's Build The Bus!!!





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!