



St. John Lutheran Church September 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

dr.drobinson@stjohn-bellville.org
Extension #14

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

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

September: Back to the Heart of Our Life Together

September feels like a beginning.

Summer schedules give way to school-year routines. Confirmation classes begin. Sunday School kicks off. Our Junior High youth are dancing, and the Brahmas are playing volleyball and football. We are planning our 2027 Egypt/Jordan pilgrimage, while the Church Council is already at work preparing the budget and considering nominations for the next council elections. And, perhaps most exciting of all, we are welcoming a new full-time **Worship & Music Director** to the St. John staff.

A lot is happening!

But in the midst of a busy September, it is worth pausing to remember *why* we do all of these things.

At St. John, we talk about our life and ministry through what we call the **5+1 Purposes: Worship, Evangelism, Discipleship, Fellowship, and Service**, with **Stewardship** as our "+1." These purposes give us a way to describe, organize, and manage what a healthy, growing Christian community looks like.

And while all six are equally important, I like to put **worship first**.

Worship is where we remember who we are and whose we are. Worship is the most public thing we do as a church. Worship is what people think of when they think of church.

Every week we gather around God's Word and the sacraments. We sing and pray on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays. We confess and receive forgiveness. We hear the story of God's grace again. We come to the table and receive God's gifts. We see familiar faces and meet new ones. We bring our joys, our grief, our questions, and our ordinary lives into the presence of God.

Then we are sent back into the world.

From worship comes **evangelism** - because people who have experienced God's grace have something worth sharing. From worship comes **discipleship** - because we want to grow deeper in our understanding and practice of faith. From worship comes **fellowship** - because God gathers us into a community rather than leaving us to follow Jesus alone. From worship comes **service** - because those who have received God's love are called to become God's love for their neighbors.

And then there is **stewardship**, our "+1." Stewardship reminds us that all of it involves what God has entrusted to us: our time, our abilities, our resources, our relationships, our buildings, our ministries, and our very lives. Stewardship is not simply what happens when we write a check. It is the lifelong practice of receiving God's gifts with gratitude and using them faithfully.

These purposes are not six separate programs. They are six ways of living out our calling as God's people.

And that brings me back to worship.

(Continued)

Worship attendance matters.

There is something powerful about hearing the congregation sing. There is something holy about standing beside another person as we confess our faith. There is something important about children seeing their parents and grandparents make worship a priority. There is something deeply Christian about gathering around the same table and receiving the same bread and wine. Hearing our prayers mingled together with the prayers of others.

When you come to worship, you are not simply receiving something from the church. **You are contributing something to the life of the church.**

Your presence matters. I know that can sound like an old-fashioned thing for a pastor to say. We have a vibrant online worshipping community, and we live in a world where almost everything can be recorded, streamed, watched later, or consumed on our own schedule. If you worship with us online, we are glad you join us. If you are worshipping from home, add a comment, sing out loud, close your eyes when we pray. When we worship, we are together!

Someone may need to see your smile that morning. Someone may be encouraged by hearing you sing. A child may learn from watching you participate. A visitor may decide that this really is a community where they can belong. A lonely neighbor may feel not so lonely. A person who has been struggling may discover that they are connected.

We sometimes think of church attendance in terms of what *we* get out of it. But Christian community also asks what we bring to one another.

That is especially important as we begin a new ministry year at St. John. The addition of a full-time Worship & Music Director gives us an exciting opportunity to invest in the worship life of this congregation - to strengthen our music ministries, involve more people, develop new possibilities, and continue making worship a place where people encounter the living God.

So as the calendar fills up again, I hope to see you on Saturday, or Sunday, or Wednesday.

Put worship on the calendar first.

Come when you can. Bring your family. Invite someone who has been away. Sing. Pray. Listen. Receive. Serve. Stay for fellowship. Find a place to participate. And then let worship send you into the rest of the 5+1: into evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, service, and stewardship. Because the purpose of all our activity at St. John is not simply to have a busy church. It is to become more fully the people God has called us to be.

Worship gathers us. God's grace forms us. And then God sends us out to love and serve the world.
See you soon, Pastor Jay

Faith Facts for August 22-23

Attendance

Saturday 6:00p - 65
Sunday 8:00a - 39
Sunday 10:30a - 83
Sunday School - 27
Wednesday 12:00p - 22

Budgeted Offering \$11,650.00
Actual Offering \$ 6,705.50
Difference -\$ 4,944.50

Offering

General Fund: \$6,705.50
Building: \$155
Retreat Center: \$480
Heifer Project: \$100
Local Benevolence: \$600
Youth: \$35
Columbarium: \$125
OCC: \$140
Ice Maker: \$1300

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**



Meet The Robinson's

Dr. Demetrius
Rebekah
Jeannie
Aria
Mackenzie



PRAYER LIST:

Vickie Funderburk, Hudson Talk, Mary Logan, Ella Mae Dahse, Wally Hill, Laura Schumann, Tommy Stewart, Chris Gilmore, Hunter Picard, Lincoln Tiemann, Mark Mikeska, Judy Evans, Junior Luera, James Quinn, Melinda Rodiek, 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 August 10, 2026 @ 5:30p

The St. John Lutheran Church Council met on Monday, August 10th at 5:30 p.m. Bellville, Tx. Members in attendance were Christina Koehn, Newton Boriack, Sharon Boldt, Claire Zapalac, Livia Marshall, Gregg Lange, Lynn Martine, Shannon Johnson, Amy Voelkel, Brenda Stewart, and Pastor Jay Grave. Members absent were Kirk Hoppe. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 and Pastor Jay led us in an opening prayer. The July minutes were reviewed and approved. The July Financial Reports were reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Lynn Martine and second by Brenda Stewart. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

Pastors Report - Pastor Jay noted that the summer months bring some fluctuation to the congregational life in both attendance and giving as both are down. Both of these areas typically increase with school starting back up. Gregg Lange suggested that we "talk up" online giving so that people who are out of town can still make their donations. Discussions are in the process of changing to Push Pay which is a new church management software. Discussed recent interview with potential Worship & Music Director. Pastor Jay has been asked to serve as the Chaplain of the Bellville Volunteer Fire Department. Pastor Jay will be out from August 30 - September 4th for Continuing Education. Christian Ed - Rally Day is September 6th. Evangelism - Octoberfest will be held on October 25th. Social Ministries - Country Gospel will be held on January 22nd.

Old Business

Flooring project is completed in the kitchen. Garden Shed and landscape timbers have been moved and cleaned up in the area. Bank accounts have been moved to Austin County State Bank.

New Business

Budget worksheets were passed out to the respective committees. Council Members for 2027/2028 are needed for the following: Worship & Music, Christian Education/Youth, Church Property, Retreat Center, and Stewardship.

Closing - The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 6:25p.m. The next Council Meeting is Monday, September 14, 2026 at 5:30p.m.



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 Max Lucado's book Fearless.

This study will end on September 16.

The following week, Pastor Jay will lead the group in a study of *The Lutheran Handbook*.

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!



Bible + Brew for Men

Tuesday - September 1

6:30 p.m.

601 Piney Creek Road
BYOB

Join the Men of the Church for
Beer, Snacks, and Bible Study.
Call Butch Grebe for more info
979-877-8933.



**Shipping And Supplies
Donations
Greatly Appreciated
Mark Your Offering Env.
"OCC"**

**2026 Packing Party
Sunday After Church
September 27
☺
Lunch Provided**



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.



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 help Jeanette finish up all things OCC - Operation Christmas Child.

The Fall Western Cluster meeting will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fayetteville on Saturday, September 24, 2026.

Let us know if you would like to attend.

Come Join Us on
September 9 at 10:45a
in the Fellowship Hall.

NO WELCA
Meeting In October
Go & Enjoy The ACFair

LWR - Tackers & Packers

The 3rd Tuesday Of Each Month

At 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall



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

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

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
ComKitBlessWknd 7:30a ChoirPrac-The Early Bird 8a Traditional Worship Service 9a RALLY DAY 9:15a SS (Adult) 10:30a Contemporary Worship	LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 5:30p Mtg-SocialMinistries 6:30p Mtg-Evangelism	9a Mtg-Staff 6:30p Bible & Brew	8:15a Refit Fitness Class 9:15a Care & Share 12p Worship Service 2p ChoirPrac-NewSong 5:30p Bell Choir Practice	9:30a Brazos River Conferenc 4p FC&K Rented - ACWildlifeCt	8:15a Refit Fitness Class 4p FC&K Rented - ACWildlifeCt	ComKitBlessWknd 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
6 ComKitBlessWknd 7:30a ChoirPrac-The Early Bird 8a Traditional Worship Service 9a RALLY DAY 9:15a SS (Adult) 10:30a Contemporary Worship	7 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 5:30p Mtg-SocialMinistries 6:30p Mtg-Evangelism	8 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Argent Ct. Communion 12p GamesDayForAll (w/ Com	9 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 9:15a Care & Share 11:30a WELCA Meeting 12p Worship Service 2p ChoirPrac-NewSong 5:30p Bell Choir Practice 6:30p Egypt/Jordan Informatic	10 11:30a OCC Service Project 7p BS District Roundtable	11 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 6p BISD Homecoming Game	12 8a BBP Sew In 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choir
13 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men's 8a Traditional Worship Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary Worship 11:45a Confirmation Retreat & 5p 4H Meeting	14 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 12p FH Reserved 5:30p Mtg-Council	15 9a Mtg-Staff 9a Tackers&PackersQuiltingGr 12p Staff Reviews	16 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 9:15a Care & Share 12p Worship Service 2p ChoirPrac-NewSong 5:30p Bell Choir Practice	17	18 8:15a Refit Fitness Class	19 7a Bell Choir Autumn Adventui 8a Feeding The Flock - Kitchen 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
20 7:30a ChoirPrac-The Early Bird 8a Traditional Worship Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary Worship 3p Nat'l Youth Gathering Meet	21 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 12p FH Reserved 5:30p Mtg-Worship&Music	22 9a Mtg-Staff 12p GamesDayForAll	23 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 9:15a Care & Share 12p Worship Service 2p ChoirPrac-NewSong 5:30p Bell Choir Practice	24	25 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 8p Jr High Dance	26 OCC Set Up 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choir
27 OCC Packing Party with Lunch 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men's 8a Traditional Worship Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary Worship	28 8:15a Refit Fitness Class	29 9a Mtg-Staff	30 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 9:15a Care & Share 12p Worship Service 2p ChoirPrac-NewSong 5:30p Bell Choir Practice	1 6:30p Bible & Brew	2	3

Worship Assistant - September 2026

5 / 6

12 / 13

19 / 20

26 / 27

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 Group	New Song	Gospel Group	New Song
8:00 AM	The Early Bird's	Men's	The Early Bird's	Men's
10:30AM	VOP	KCC	VOP	KCC
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
8:00 AM	Kathryn Sledge	Sara Sowa	Beth Hurtado	Frances Shiller & Kay Zwahr
10:30AM	Sheila Richard	Shannon Froebel	Lori Jackson	Brenda Stewart
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 R. & Ronald K.
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	John Pritchett
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison &	Shannon Froebel &	Lori Jackson &	Amy & Wegner Voelkel
Lay Readers				
6:00 PM	Butch Grebe	Ann Peltier	Scott Schumann	Judy Wells
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	Cheryl Pritchett
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison	Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson	Marissa Divin
Greeter at Office Entrance (Ushers At Street Entrance)				
6:00 PM	Butch Grebe	Ann Peltier	Joy Seidel	Sheila Richard
8:00 AM	Patsy & Joe Ed Lynn	Sheila Richard	Beth Hurtado	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Kathy Smith	Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson	Gloria Zapalac
Computer Service Slides / Camera Live Stream				
6:00 PM	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard / Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard / Ronnie Robertson
8:00 AM	Sara Sowa	Sheila Richard	Beth Hurtado	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Sara / Sheila	Sara / Sheila	Sara / Sheila	Sara / Sheila
Flowers				
Weekend				



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
Erin	Koehn	4	Virgia	Wienecke	19
Melissa	Franke	6	Ona Lea	Goodnight	20
Heath	Lowes	6	James	Goodnight Jr	20
Kristi	Mathis	6	Wegner	Voelkel	20
Elizabeth	Grave	8	Aidan	Wheeler	20
Grace	Crawford	9	Logan	Froebel	22
Jamie	Feland	9	Lauren	Moore	22
Jonas	Feland	9	Nathan	Grawunder	23
Layne	Grawunder	9	Kase	Kloss	23
Trudy	Durham	10	David	Maul	23
Colby	Grawunder	10	Katherine	Johnson	25
Cody	Kendrick	10	Daryl	Okonski	25
Cody	Kendrick	10	Suzie	Little	26
Alan	Sucheki	10	Chad	Luedke	26
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		






AUTUMN ADVENTURE

SAVE THE DATE!
September 19, 2026
Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church
11507 Huffmeister
Houston, TX




Autumn Adventure is a handbell event planned and organized by the Greater Houston Handbell Association (GHHA). All current and future handbell musicians are invited, adults and teens; you don't have to be a bell choir member or a GHHA member to register. Want to try ringing handbells for the first time? Join us! The Rookie Ringer track is the ideal adventure for you. Sign up with your friends! Are you an experienced handbell ringer? We have fun, music, and ideas on tap for your adventure, too.

Early Bird registration for the full day and lunch is \$35 per person through July 31, 2026, and regular registration (\$45) continues through August 31. This cost is covered through our Music Fund. See Sara Sowa or Sheila Richard for more information.



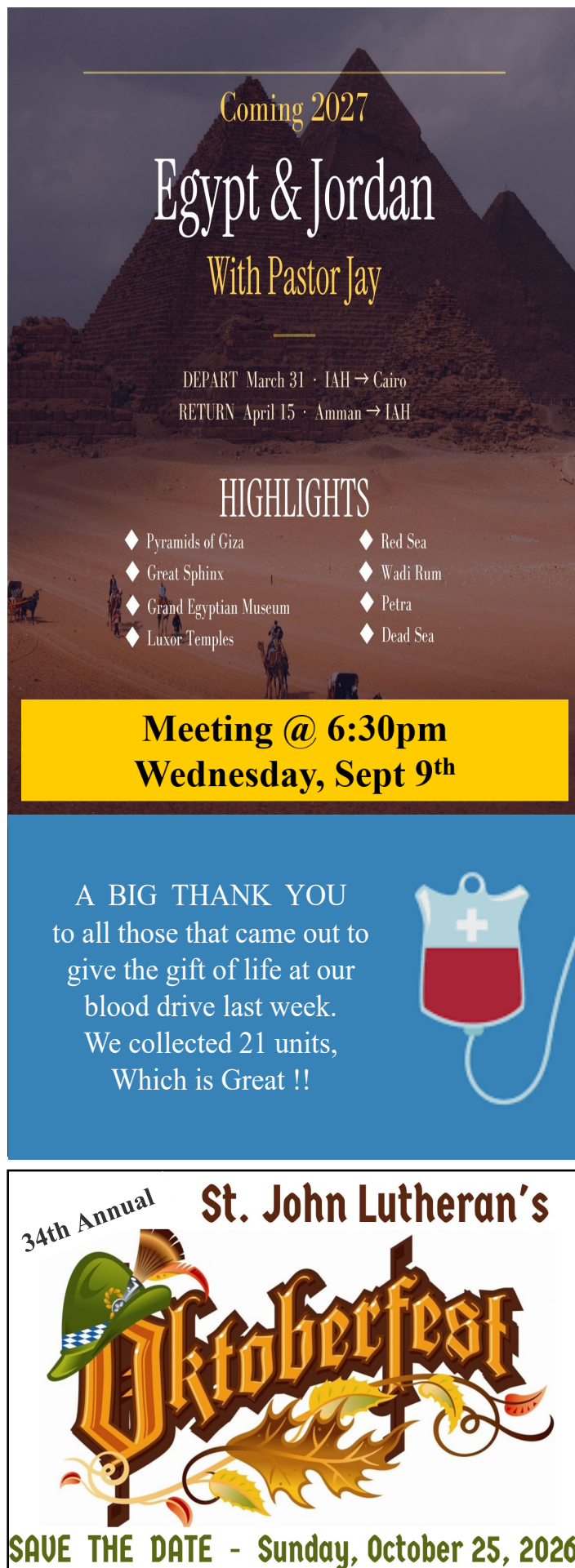

Games Day For All
St. John Lutheran Church
520 North Holland Street
Bellville, TX

2nd and 4th
Tuesday
12:00p
Fellowship Hall



Blessing Box Sew In
Saturday, September 12
8:30a - 1:00p

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



Coming 2027

Egypt & Jordan

With Pastor Jay

DEPART March 31 · IAH → Cairo
 RETURN April 15 · Amman → IAH

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Pyramids of Giza
- ◆ Great Sphinx
- ◆ Grand Egyptian Museum
- ◆ Luxor Temples
- ◆ Red Sea
- ◆ Wadi Rum
- ◆ Petra
- ◆ Dead Sea

Meeting @ 6:30pm
Wednesday, Sept 9th

A BIG THANK YOU
 to all those that came out to
 give the gift of life at our
 blood drive last week.
 We collected 21 units,
 Which is Great !!



34th Annual **St. John Lutheran's**

Oktoberfest

SAVE THE DATE - Sunday, October 25, 2026