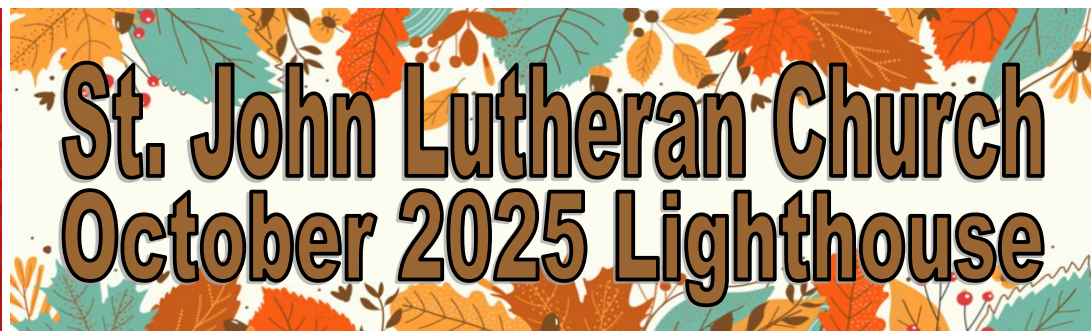




St. John Lutheran Church
520 North Holland
Bellville, Texas 77418
Phone: (979) 865-2081

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

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." – *Psalm 46:1*

This verse was a meaningful one for Martin Luther and the reformers. In a quickly changing world that seemed on soon to spin out of control Luther shaped the promises of the Psalm 46 into the powerful hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." God is a fortress in our lives as we keep busy in so many ways.

October is a month full of life for our congregation and community! It begins with my time away for continuing education, a gift I am grateful for as I grow and learn in ministry. During that time, Pastor Diane will be leading worship, including our annual **Blessing of the Pets** - a joyful reminder that God's creation is wide and good, and that our faithful companions also share in God's care.

October is also the month of our **Austin County Fair**, where we gather to celebrate tradition, hard work, and fellowship and a funnel cake or two! We give thanks for community life that reminds us of God's abundant provision and a place where we can reconnect with friends and neighbors.

Our younger (and young-at-heart!) members won't want to miss our **All-Ages NERF Event on October 18** - a day of laughter, energy, and fun as we grow together in faith and friendship. There is more information in the newsletter and on Facebook regarding the times for each age group!

In the life of our congregation, we will gather for our **Annual Meeting on October 19** between our two morning services. Together, we will vote on our 2026 budget and elect new council members. This is an important time to discern how we are called to live out our mission for the years ahead.

And of course, we close the month with one of the great highlights of our Lutheran tradition: **Reformation Sunday**. More than 500 years ago, Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, sparking a movement that reshaped Christianity and proclaimed anew that we are saved by grace through faith. On **Sunday, October 26**, we will celebrate our heritage with a festive **Oktoberfest Worship Service and Meal** at the Retreat Center. Tickets for the meal are now available, and we encourage everyone to come and take part in this joyful celebration of faith, food, music, and fellowship.

October holds much for us to be thankful for - our history, our traditions, our community, and our future together. I invite you to join in these many events, lifting your voice in worship, fellowship, and thanksgiving to God, who is indeed our refuge and strength.

In Christ, Pastor Jay

Faith Facts for September 20-21

Attendance

Saturday 6:00p - 75
Sunday 8:00a - 45
Sunday 10:30a - 78
Sunday School - 25+
Wednesday 12:00p - 12
Wednesday 6:00p - 8

Budgeted Offering \$10,580.00

Actual Offering \$ 6,985.38

Difference -\$ 3,594.62

Offering

General Fund: \$6985.38
Building: \$125 RC: \$100
Food Pantry: \$30
Local Benevolence: \$125
Youth: \$25 SS Offering: \$3
Heifer Project: \$100
Youth Mission Trip: \$115
Programs & Speakers: \$250
OCC: \$443
Bus Fund: \$1200
Eagle Scout Project: \$75



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

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 November Newsletter
is Wednesday, October 22nd.

WEEKLY INFORMATION PAGE

Deadline is the Wednesday of each Week.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

Deadline to sign up for Worship Assisting
is Wednesday October 15th.



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

PRAYER LIST:

Aline Jahnke, Ken Harding, Shirley Hoff, Elizabeth Janicek, Karen Curtis, Chris Singer, Neely Grawunder, Susan Scott, Weldon Haevischer, Beth Metheny, Noelle Stokes, Ray Stokes, Sandra White, Tonja Breaux, Kenneth, Ron Boggess, Brian Krause, 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.**



Caring Ministries Members Needed

LeRoy "Butch" Grebe

At St. John, we have a volunteer-led Home Communion and caring ministry. Started by Pastor David in 2005. Butch Grebe has been making these visits for almost 20 years and finds it to be a moving spiritual experience. This ministry is growing, and we are currently looking for a few more volunteers.

This caring ministry involves a volunteer visiting a St. John member, sharing holy communion, and a prayer. Members who, for whatever reason, can no longer attend services at St. John appreciate this regular connection to worship and our worshipping community. During the once-a-month visit, we also bring these homebound members up to date on St. John activities.

Each volunteer is paired with a homebound member or two to visit regularly. These long-term connections are a blessing to all involved.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Pastor Jay, Shelia, Joy, or Butch Grebe. We will soon have an organizational meeting with training. Thank you for considering sharing your time and your gifts in this way.

St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting September 8, 2025 @ 6:15p

The September Council Meeting took place Monday, September 8th, 2025 in the Adult Classroom. In attendance were Shannon Johnson, Lynn Martine, Christina Koehn, Kirk Hoppe, Jared Schubert, Tommy Kowles, Wendy Jackson, Amy Voelkel, Livia Marshall, and Fritz Nelius. The meeting was called to order by Fritz Nelius at 6:15pm.

Opening Devotion –
Fritz Nelius led us in prayer.

Consensus Agenda –
August Minutes, Financial & Committee Reports were reviewed & approved.

Discussion Agenda –
Old Business - The search continues to find new Council Members for the upcoming term. The upcoming Congregational Meeting will include voting for the Operational Budget for the New Year. Committee Budget Reports were due September 8th, 2025. A temporary roof repair has been made to the garden shed to address leaking. The Retreat Center roof has been evaluated and no current leaks have been discovered.

New Business - A request was presented to change the date of the scheduled Congregational Meeting to Sunday, October 19th, 2025, due to conflicts with the Oktoberfest Celebration, motion carried. Items presented for the Congregational Meeting include voting in new Council Members as well as voting to approve the Operational Budget for the new year. New Staff Members were announced - Ashlin Gordon will be coming on as the new Youth Engagement Leader & Rev. Diane Roth will be filling the role of Part- Time Assisting Pastor. The discussion on the Recovery Support Group was tabled pending more information. Discussion was had regarding funds donated for a flagpole at the columbarium site, motion was made to allow the Columbarium Committee to make decisions regarding the flagpole, motion carried. The Retreat Center requested funds for the removal of 5 dead trees primarily around Marshall's home site. They had a bid from Peschel Tree Services in the amount of \$3700.00, motion carried.

The next Council Meeting is October 13th, 2025 at 6:15pm in the Adult Classroom. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer at 7:10pm.

Welcome
Rev. Diane Roth
Part-Time
Assisting
Pastor



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 19 @ 9:00 a.m.
in the Church Sanctuary

All St John Members are encouraged to attend and vote

BLESSINGS
AT ALL
SERVICES
10/4 AND 10/5

Send us your pet
pictures for the...

PET BLESSING

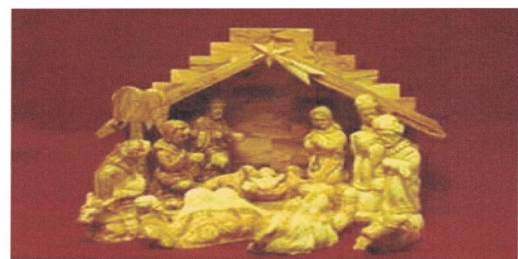
E-MAIL TO
SJLC@STJOHN-BELLVILLE.ORG
BY WEDNESDAY 10/1

BLESSINGS
AT ALL
SERVICES
10/4 AND 10/5



Bethlehem Christian Families

October 11 & 12
Handcrafted Olive Wood Carvings



<http://www.bethlehem-art.com/>



ALL AGES

NERF DAY

OCTOBER 18

START TIMES

- 1:00 PM - KINDER - 2ND**
- 2:30 PM - 3RD - 5TH**
- 4:30 PM - JUNIOR HIGH**
- 7:00 PM - SENIOR HIGH**

St. John Lutheran Church
Come Join the Fun!

Worship Assistant - October 2025

4 / 5

11 / 12

18 / 19

25 / 26

Ushers				
6:00 PM	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson	Thuesen
8:00 AM	Hoppe	Hoppe	Hoppe	No 8:00a Chruch Service
10:30AM	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson	Stewart / Johnson
Choirs				
6:00 PM	Gospel Singers	New Song	Gospel Singers	New Song
8:00 AM	Senior	Men's	Senior	No 8:00a Chruch Service
10:30AM	Kids Contemporary Choir	Voices of Praise	Kids Contemporary Choir	OktoberFest - Retreat Center
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	No 8:00a Chruch Service
10:30AM	Shannon Froebel	Cheryl Pritchett	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
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	No 8:00a Chruch Service
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison & Shannon Froebel	Wendy Jackson & John Pritchett	Lori Jackson & Matt Johnson	Amy Wegner Sara Brenda Sheila
Lay Readers				
6:00 PM	Butch Grebe	Laura Metheny	Gregg Lange	Ann Peltier
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Brenda Taylor	No 8:00a Chruch Service
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison	Amy Voelkel	Matt Johnson	Sheila Richard
Greeter at Office Entrance (Ushers At Street Entrance)				
6:00 PM	Kathy Smith	Linda Acebo	Joy Seidel	Ann Peltier
8:00 AM	Patsy & Joe Ed Lynn	Laura & Herbert Schumann	Beth Hurtado	No 8:00a Chruch Service
10:30AM		Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson	Usher Team
Flowers				
Weekend		Cheryl Reynolds & Sheila Richard		
Camera Live Stream				
6:00 PM	Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson	Ronnie Robertson
8:00 AM			Beth Hurtado	No 8:00a Chruch Service
10:30AM		Sloan Jackson		OktoberFest - Retreat Center
Computer Service Slides				
6:00 PM	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard	Ronnie Robertson	Sheila Richard
8:00 AM	Sara Sowa	Gerald Fuchs	Beth Hurtado	No 8:00a Chruch Service
10:30AM		Wendy Jackson		OktoberFest - Retreat Center
Ipad Sound System				
6:00 PM	Marshall Thompson	Sheila Richard	Marshall Thompson	Sheila Richard
8:00 AM				No 8:00a Chruch Service
10:30AM				OktoberFest - Retreat Center
Youth Sunday School 9:15-9:30 Opening 9:30-9:50 Story 9:50-10:15 Activity				
Opening	Brenda Stewart		Brenda Stewart	OktoberFest - Retreat Center
Story	Sara Sowa	Sara Sowa	Sara Sowa	OktoberFest - Retreat Center
Activity				OktoberFest - Retreat Center

Go To signup.com, Log In, and sign up for the spots & dates that fit your schedule.

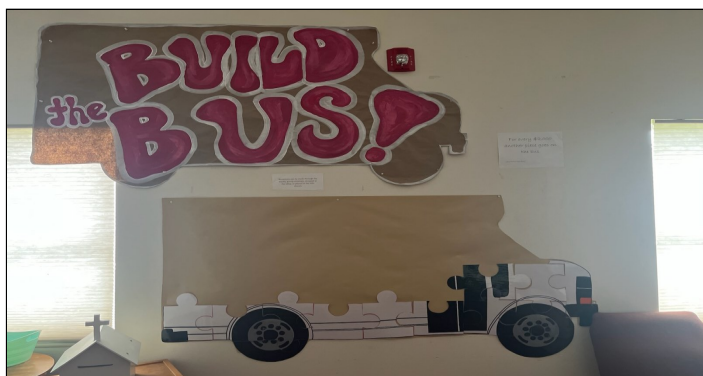
October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pumpkins A lady recently being baptized was asked by a co-worker what it was like to be a Christian. She replied, "It's like being a pumpkin: God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off. Then he cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."						
5 Blessing of the Pets ComKitBlessWknd 7:30a ChoirPrac-Senior 8a Traditional Worship Service 9:15a SS (Youth & Adult) 9:30a ChoirPrac-VoicesOfPrais 10:30a Contemporary Worship	6 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p FH/K Mtg - AC Aggie Mc 5:30p Mtg-SocialMinistries 6:30p Mtg-Evangelism	7 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC Home 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong 6p ChoirPrac-Kid'sContempor 6:30p Bible & Brew @ RC	8 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 9:30a Care & Share Bible Stur 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Worship Service 6p Worship Service	9 OFFICE CLOSED - Fair Parade 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 11:30a Grief Sprt Grp 7p Boy Scouts	10 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 11:30a RC Occupied till 1:30p	11 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choir
12 7:30a ChoirPrac-Men's 8a Traditional Worship Service 9:15a SS (Youth & Adult) 10:30a Contemporary Worship	13 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p Christian Education Cor 6:15p Mtg-Council	14 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC Home 12p Games Day for All (w/ Cor 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong 6p ChoirPrac-Kid'sContempor	15 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 9:30a Care & Share Bible Stur 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Library In Use 12p Worship Service 6p Worship Service	16 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 11:30a RC Occupied till 1:30p	17 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 11:30a RC Occupied till 1:30p 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group	18 8a Feeding The Flock - Kitchen 12p Nerf Event - All Ages 6p Informal Worship 6:05p Gospel Group
19 7:30a ChoirPrac-Senior 8a Traditional Worship Service 9a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 9:15a SS (Youth & Adult) 9:30a ChoirPrac-VoicesOfPrais 10:30a Contemporary Worship	20 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell 5:30p Mtg-Worship&Music	21 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 9a Mtg-Staff 9a Tackers&PackersQuiltingGr 10:30a Magnolia ALC Home 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong 6p ChoirPrac-Kid'sContempor	22 NEWSLTR DEADLINE 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 9:30a Care & Share Bible Stur 10:30a Colonial Belle 12p Worship Service 6p Worship Service	23 NEWSLTR PRINTS 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 11:30a RC Occupied till 1:30p	24 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 11:30a RC Occupied till 1:30p 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choir	25 6p Informal Worship 6:05p New Song Choir
26 OKTOBER FEST REFORMATION SUNDAY 10:30a Worship At Retreat Ce 11:30a Meal & Activities	27 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 4:30p ChoirPrac-Bell	28 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 9a Mtg-Staff 10:30a Magnolia ALC Home 12p GamesDayForAll 4:30p Scouts Dinner Fundrais 5p ChoirPrac-NewSong 6p ChoirPrac-Kid'sContempor	29 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 9:30a Care & Share Bible Stur 10:30a Colonial Belle 11:30a Oak Haven Industry 12p Worship Service 6p Worship Service	30 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 9:30a Care & Share Bible Stur 10:30a Colonial Belle 11:30a RC Occupied till 1:30p	31 REFORMATION DAY 7a RC - Morning Matins With M 8:15a Refit Fitness Class 11:30a RC Occupied till 1:30p	



October

Brooklyn Bettis	1	Lee Rush	15
Glenn Kaase	2	Lauren Ferris-Ayala	16
Vickie Monk	2	Blane Tatum	16
Doug Albrecht	3	Peggy Draehn	17
Bradley Froebel	3	Suzie Eubanks	17
Carson Krumrey	3	Whitney McDonald	17
Gregory Braun	4	Carmen Peck	17
Dylan Huffman	4	Jo Ann Cain	19
Beckett Winkelmann	4	Janice Gaskamp	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
Douglas Mewis	8	Bee Machac	25
Colby Lange	9	Mallory Ferreira	26
Steve Voelkel	9	Sherrie Hoppe	26
Fritz Nelius	10	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	Ernie Luera Jr	31
Harold Kendrick	15	Elyse Schubert	31



Puzzle Pieces are being add to our 15-passenger Bus, which means we are well on our way to "Building Our Bus". Thank You for your continued support.

Our goal is \$80,000.

We have already raised \$25,154.

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

In case you have not heard the good news, 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.

Help Us Build the Bus!



Lunch is served. Choose from soups and stews.

When: Sunday, November 2, 2025

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$15 for 24 oz to go and \$20 for all you can eat in house

Come sample all the choices and purchase your favorites!

This fundraiser is sponsored by the Social Ministries Committee. All money raised will go toward the purchase of a new bus.

33rd annual **St. John Lutheran's**



Sunday, October 26, 2025

St. John's Retreat Center

4740 Hwy 36 N

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Proceeds to benefit The Bus Fund

Dine in or Drive thru

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

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

Tickets - \$15 per meal

Advance Tickets Only

**Family event with German food,
fellowship, bounce house, & silent auction.**



Purchase Tickets Today!

**Bring A Dessert
To Share ☺**



SCOUT TROOP 36
Drive Through Dinner Fundraiser

Catered by Ben's Chuck Wagon
Chicken Fried Steak,
Green Beens, Potatoes, Gravy

Tuesday, October 28th
St. John Lutheran Church
4:30 - 6:30 pm

Tickets \$15.00 each

Baked Goods available for purchase.



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!