St. John Lutheran Church
November 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.robinson@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

A Season of Thankfulness and Generosity

As November arrives, we are reminded to pause and give thanks. The apostle Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Our thankfulness is not dependent on everything going according to plan. Rather, it grows from the recognition that God is faithful, that grace surrounds us, and that we are never alone.

At St. John, we have so much for which to be thankful! God continues to bless our congregation through meaningful worship, growing ministries, generous giving, faithful volunteers, and the many ways we care for our neighbors. Every week, I see people putting their faith into action - sharing their gifts, welcoming others, serving those in need, and helping our congregation live out our mission of **Learning, Living, and Leading in Love, through God's Grace.**

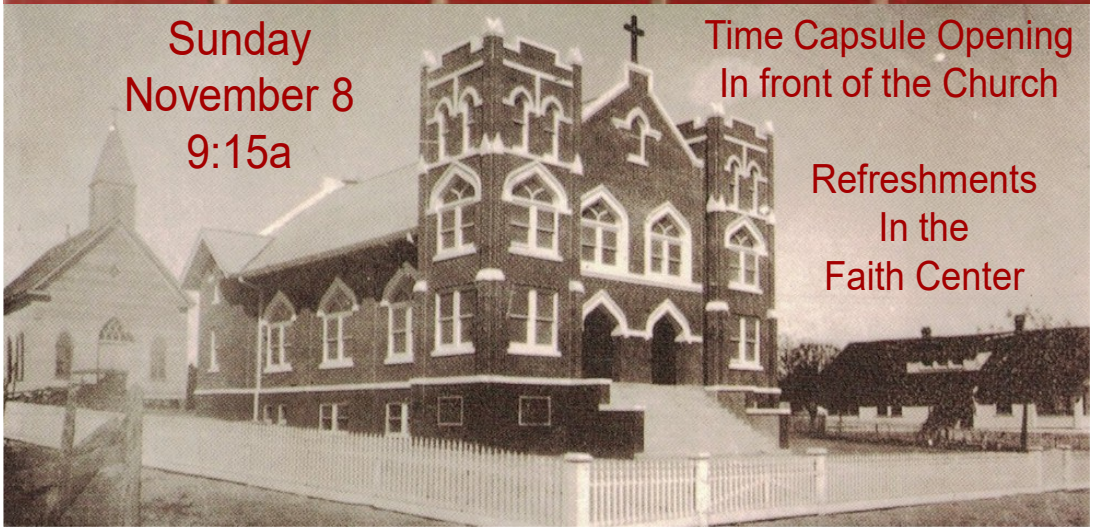
Biblical thankfulness also leads us toward generosity. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul reminds us that "God loves a cheerful giver." Stewardship is about more than our financial offerings; it is about recognizing that all we have is entrusted to us by God. Our time, talents, resources, and relationships are gifts we can use to share God's love with others. When we give generously, we participate in God's work in the world.

Our November newsletter is full of opportunities to do just that! Please take time to read through it carefully. There are many wonderful events, ministries, and gatherings ahead, and several offer a perfect opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to join you. **Please pay special attention to dates and times, as some events have changed.** We don't want you - or someone you'd love to bring along - to miss out!

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, may we give thanks not only with our words but also through our generosity, our service, and our welcome to others. God is blessing St. John in so many ways, and I am grateful to be part of this community of faith with you.

In Christ's gratitude and grace, Pastor Jay

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary Dedication of our "New" Brick Church



https://www.youtube.com/c/StJohnBellvilleTX

Faith Facts for October 24-25

Attendance

Saturday 6:00p - 72
Oktoberfest
Sunday 10:30a - 130
Sunday School – n/a
Wednesday 12:00p - 20

Budgeted Offering	$11,650.00
Actual Offering	$13,618.13
Difference	$ 1,968.13

Offering

General Fund: $13,618.13
Building: $200
Retreat Center: $1245
Food Pantry: $70
Heifer Project: $206
Youth: $245
Columbarium: $1050
OCC: $1200
LWR: $60
WELCA Quilt Raffle: $1290
Oktoberfest Meal Tickets: $5,048.25

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



We Have A New QR Code For Giving

Places To Give

Building
Retreat Center
Feeding The Flock
Focusing Families
Food Pantry
Heifer Project
Local Benevolence
Columbarium
Music
Youth
SS Supplies
Programs & Speakers
Operation Christmas Child
Lutheran World Relief
Indigent School Supplies
Jared Box Supplies

PRAYER LIST:

The Family of Clarence Schmitt, Shane Forbes, Jody Radford, Hayes Mikeska, Donna Lyth, Danny Duebbe, Denise Harvey, Lynn Martine, Herbert Schumann, Tommy Stewart, Marissa Divin, Larry Hoff, Mary Smentek, Rodney James, Vicki Funderburk, Chris Gilmore, Mark Mikeska, Lincoln Tiemann, Hudson Talk, Junior Luera, Rachel Zwahr, 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.

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
In Honor Of Joy Seidel's Birthday
And
In Memory Of Harvey Aschenbeck
By Lyndell & Amy Aschenbeck

Happy Thanksgiving

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

Wednesday, November 25
Through
Friday, November 27

Join Us For Worship
Saturday, 6:00p - Informal
Sunday, 8:00a - Traditional
Sunday, 10:30a - Contemporary

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Call the church office
979-865-2081

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

St. John Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
Monday, October 12, 2026 @ 5:30p

The St. John Lutheran Church Council met on Monday, October 12, 2026. Members in attendance were Christina Koehn, 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 Lynn Martine. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 and Pastor Jay shared a devotional with the group. The September minutes were reviewed and approved. The September Financial Reports were reviewed and approved.

Dave Peltier, Safety and Security Committee, gave an update on bids for new doors located between the parking lot and office. 1st bid - $9300.00; 2nd bid $39,000.00; 3rd bid - $19,369.00. Council asked Dave to retreat to the 1st bid and get a current up-to-date price as this bid was obtained a few months ago.

Committee Reports

Pastors Report - Pastors Appreciation Day was celebrated after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, October 11th.

Christian Education / Youth - Sunday School numbers have increased this past year.

Evangelism - Oktoberfest will be on Sunday, October 25th. Ann Peltier is making angel ornaments and will donate all proceeds to Operation Christmas Child.

Social Ministries - Plans are being made for the Country Gospel which will be in January. The annual Thanksgiving Lunch will be on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The church will provide turkey and ham and members can bring a dish of their choice. St. Nicholas Tree will have tags for boys and girls and their age group for those interested in donating to a needy child.

Retreat Center / Church Property - There is a roof leak in the sanctuary. Kirk will obtain bids for repairs. Bids have been obtained for the lake house property demo. This will include demolition of the property and hauling off the debris and leave the slabs. 1st bid - $41,235.00; 2nd - $27,000.00; 3rd - $18,500.00. A motion was made by Gregg Lange to move forward with the $18,500.00 bid for demolition and a second by Brenda Stewart. Motion carried. Kirk indicated the Mavis Center is in need of renovations. He feels that if renovations were made that the property would be utilized more.

Old Business - Push Pay Financial Management System is being implemented and the office staff has training scheduled for October 15th.

New Business - Clyde Gordon has volunteered to oversee the Living Nativity at the Retreat Center. The 2027 Balance Operating Budget will presented. The 2027 proposed list of Council Members was approved. The Columbarium Board of Terms was approved to be added to the Congregational Meeting Agenda

Closing - The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 7:28 pm.

St. John Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, October 18, 2026 @ 9:15a

The Congregational Meeting was called to order at 9:15a by Council President Christina Koehn.
A Quorum of 50+ was determined and the meeting began.
Pastor Jay Grave led the congregation in prayer.

The minutes from the meeting held on February 8, 2026 were approved. Motion made & carried.

ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2027-2028 TERM

Recognition of Current 2026 Council Members
Christina Koehn - President
Newton Boriack - Vice President
Sharon Boldt - Secretary
Claire Zapalac - Treasurer
Gregg Lange - Evangelism
Brenda Stewart - Social Ministries
Amy Voelkel - Christian Education
Livia Marshall - Worship & Music
Kirk Hoppe - Retreat Center & Properties
Shannon Johnson & Lynn Martine

Recognition of Nominated 2027 Council Members
9 Nominees - 8 Positions Available
Miriam Bixler, Kirk Hoppe, Betty Johnson, Greg Kirk, Christina Koehn, Chad Luedke, Lynn Martine, Kyle Mueller, Kathy Smith

Nominations were requested from the floor.
None were offered.
Motion was made to close nominations and proceed with the ballot election. Motion Carried.
Ballots were passed out, collected, and counted.

2027 New Council Members Elected are:
Miriam Bixler, Kirk Hoppe, Betty Johnson, Greg Kirk, Christina Koehn, Chad Luedke, Kyle Mueller, Kathy Smith

APPROVAL OF THE 2027 OPERATIONAL BUDGET
There is an increase of insurance premiums and we are shopping for better prices. Motion was made and carried.

Columbarium Board Terms
Erin Lischka 2027, Jessica Kasprowicz 2028, Jill Quinn Collins 2029, David Maul 2030, Damon Hagen 2031.
Motion was made and carried.
An update was given about the niche rights that have been purchased to date.

CLOSING
Motion was made and carried to recess the meeting until January 2027.

Pastor Jay Grave concluded in prayer.
The next Congregational Meeting will be in January 2027.

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.*

The group will meet weekly except for the
Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 25.

Women of the ELCA

2nd Wednesday of each month
at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall.
Come join the fun
and see what the ladies of St. John
are working on through our church.

LWR - Tackers & Packers

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



Join us for our annual
Fellowship With Food
Sunday, November 22
@ 11:30 a.m.
in the Faith Center
Bring a side or dessert!

DO YOUR BEST
CUB SCOUTS

CUBSCOUT PACK 116
DRIVE-THROUGH DINNER FUNDRAISER
Catered by Big Boys Catering
Grill Pork Stk. Green Beans, Potatoes, Gravy
Thursday, November 12th
St. John Lutheran Church
4:30 -6:00 pm
Tickets $15.00 each
Baked Goods available for purchase

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

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

Bible + Brew for Men

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

Forgiveness – Mending Broken Relationships
Isaiah 5:1-7 and Matthew 21:33-45
Join the Men of the Church
for Beer, Snacks, and Bible Study.
Call Butch Grebe for more info 979-877-8933.

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

rship service, please call the church office 979-865-2081.

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Youth Org. Canned Food Drive ALL SAINTS DAY ComKitBlessWknd **7:30a** ChoirPrac-The Early Birc **8a** Traditional Worship Service **9:15a** Sunday School **10:30a** Contemporary Worshi	2 **8:15a** Refit Fitness Class **5:30p** Combined Choir Rehear **5:30p** CombinedChoirPrac **5:30p** Mtg-SocialMinistries **6:30p** Mtg-Evangelism	3 **9a** Mtg-Staff	4 **8:15a** Refit Fitness Class **9:15a** Care & Share **12p** Worship Service **2p** ChoirPrac-NewSong **5:30p** Bell Choir Practice	5 **6:30p** Bible & Brew	6 **8:15a** Refit Fitness Class	7 ComKitBlessWknd **6p** Informal Worship **6:05p** New Song Choir
8 Youth Org. Canned Food Drive 100yr Church Bldg Anv Celebr **7:30a** ChoirPrac-Men's **8a** Traditional Worship Service **9:15a** Sunday School **10:30a** Contemporary Worshi +2 more	9 **8:15a** Refit Fitness Class **5:30p** CombinedChoirPrac **5:30p** Mtg-Council	10 Martin Luther Bday 1483 **9a** Mtg-Staff **10:30a** Argent Ct. Communior **12p** GamesDayForAll (w/ Com	11 VETERANS DAY **8:15a** Refit Fitness Class **9:15a** Care & Share **11:30a** WELCA Meeting **12p** Worship Service +2 more	12 K/FC Reserved **3p** CS Meal Fundraiser **7p** BS District Roundtable	13 **8:15a** Refit Fitness Class	14 FH/K Reserved **9a** SynodCouncilMtgHost **6p** Informal Worship **6:05p** Gospel Group
15 Youth Org. Canned Food Drive BlessCouncilMembers **7:30a** ChoirPrac-The Early Birc **8a** Traditional Worship Service **9:15a** Sunday School **10:30a** Contemporary Worshi **6p** NYG Meeting	16 **8:15a** Refit Fitness Class **5:30p** CombinedChoirPrac **5:30p** Mtg-Worship&Music	17 **9a** Mtg-Staff **9a** Tackers&PackersQuiltingGr	18 **8:15a** Refit Fitness Class **9:15a** Care & Share **12p** Worship Service **2p** ChoirPrac-NewSong **5:30p** Bell Choir Practice	19	20 **8:15a** Refit Fitness Class	21 **8a** Feeding The Flock - Kitchen **6p** Informal Worship **6:05p** New Song Choir
22 CHRIST THE KING ThanksgivingLunch **7:30a** ChoirPrac-Men's **8a** Traditional Worship Service **9:15a** Friendsgiving-Youth **9:15a** Sunday School **10:30a** Contemporary Worshi	23 NEWSLTR DEADLINE **8:15a** Refit Fitness Class **5:30p** CombinedChoirPrac	24 NEWSLTR PRINTS **9a** Mtg-Staff **12p** GamesDayForAll **2p** ChoirPrac-NewSong	25 OFFICE CLOSED **8:15a** Refit Fitness Class	26 THANKSGIVING - OFFICE CLOS	27 **8:15a** Refit Fitness Class	28 **10a** FH Reserved - Dorothy **6p** Informal Worship **6:05p** Gospel Group
29 ADVENT 1 HangingOfTheGreens **8a** Traditional Worship Service **9:15a** Sunday School **10:30a** Contemporary Worshi	30 **8:15a** Refit Fitness Class **9a** Hanging Of The Greens **5:30p** CombinedChoirPrac					

8th

11:30am Confirmation Retreat 2
5pm 4H Meeting

11th

2pm ChoirPrac-NewSong
5:30pm Bell Choir Practice





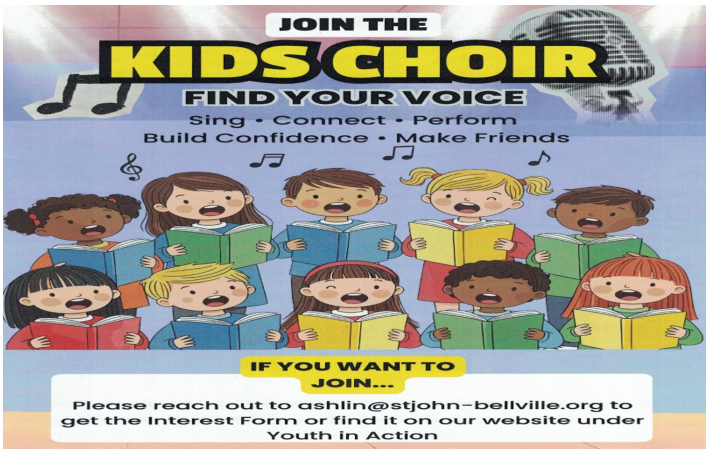


Worship Assistant - November 2026

	31 / Nov. 1	7 / 8	14 / 15	21 / 22	28 / 29
Ushers					
6:00 PM	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson	Thuesen	Robertson
8:00 AM	Hoff	Hoff	Hoff	Hoff	Hoff
10:30AM	Lange	Lange	Lange	Lange	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	Men's	The Early Birds
10:30AM	Voices Of Praise	Youth Choir	Voices Of Praise	Voices Of Praise	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	Joy Seidel
8:00 AM	Kathryn Sledge	Cheryl & John Pritchett	Beth Hurtado	Frances Schiller & Kay Zwahr	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Lori Jackson	Shannon Froebel	Lori Jackson	Shannon Froebel	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	Sheila Richard & Ronald Koehn	Joy Seidel & Jill Collins	Sheila Richard & Ronald Koehn	Allene & John Schmitt
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	John Pritchett	Brenda Taylor	Sara Sowa	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison &	Shannon Froebel &	Lori Jackson &	Jennifer Krumrey &	Judy Luedke &
Lay Readers					
6:00 PM	Butch Grebe	Ann Peltier	Shannon Johnson	Mary Logan	Gregg Lange
8:00 AM	Joe Ed Lynn	Cheryl Pritchett	Brenda Taylor	Sara Sowa	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Jeanette Harrison	Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson	Ashlin Gordon	Rachel Divin
Greeter at Office Entrance (Ushers At Street Entrance)					
6:00 PM	Butch Grebe	Ann Peltier	Joy Seidel	Sheila Richard	Kathy Smith
8:00 AM	Patsy & Joe Ed Lynn	Sara Sowa	Beth Hurtado	Gladys & Gary Grawunder	Sara Sowa
10:30AM		Amy Voelkel	Lori Jackson	Ashlin Gordon	
Flowers					
Weekend	Lyndell & Amy Aschenbeck	Irene Frank & Cheryl Reynolds		Cyndi Zorn	
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	Sara Sowa	Beth Hurtado	Sara Sowa	Sara Sowa
10:30AM	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth



Patty	Thuesen	1	Lucille	Gross	15
Randy	Aguirre	3	Ainsley	Hancock	15
Josh	Bullard	3	Woody	Johnson	15
Rowdy	Luera	3	Spencer	Kloss	15
Rowdy	Luera	3	Nikki	Peck	16
Sharlon	Minshew	3	Kenneth	Peters	16
Gracie	Peck	3	Madeline	Berglund	17
Dakota	Slovak	3	Susan	Donley	17
Kylie	Springer	3	Melissa	Finke	17
Haley	Aguirre	5	Lillie	Hancock	17
Curtis	Koehn	5	Anna Beth	Hicks	17
Chad	Noack	5	Cordell	Durham	18
Tyler	Okonski	5	Angela	Hoppe	18
Ryker	Schmitz	5	John	Thuesen	18
Joy	Seidel	5	Davis	Kloster	19
Ari	Ferreira	6	Darlene	Pfeffer	19
Landon	Schmitz	6	Anthony	Gast	21
Jimmy	Grawunder Jr	7	Trace	Hoppe	21
Sherry	Noack	7	Dewitt	Nehrkorn	21
Henry	Blezinger	9	Melissa	Miller	22
Vonnie	Grawunder	9	Phoebe	Landua	23
Harvey	Schiller	9	Harper	Lischka	24
Lauren	Lassus	10	Tony	Stewart	24
Alexander	Garcia	11	Dorothy	Thiel	24
Sheila	Richard	11	Rick	Cano	25
Patty	Richter	11	Sandra	Nelius	25
Aeson	Sanders	11	Joy	Sorensen	28
Dennis	Thuesen	11	Sandy	Szako	28
Colin	Vargas	11	Troy	Ashorn	29
Kyndal	Bettis	12	Julieanne	Feland	30
Kami	Falk	13	Jorja	Feland	30
Kinsley	Hackemack	13	Sara	Fromme	30
Jeanette	Harrison	13	Kyle	Fuchs	30
Stanley	Jackson	13	Kaden	Mikeska	30
Tina	Swonke	14	Shepherd	Supak	30
Dylan	Fielder	15	Laura	Swearingen	30
Susan	Forbs	15	Happy Birthday		









Yeah!!!
Our Living Nativity Is Back
Thanks To Volunteer
Clyde Gordon *(and Family)* ☺
If you would like to volunteer
Before, During, or After,
Please Contact Clyde at
281-380-7600


SLJC YOUTH GROUP
Thanksgiving
Food Drive
Let's help those in need
November
1st-20th
Items needed:
Canned food and non perishable items
Drop-off location:
At the church during office hours or at Sat/Sun Services
For more information:
Call 979-865-2081


OKTOBERFEST
2027
MUNICH • SEPTEMBER 18 - 24, 2027
SPACES ARE LIMITED
Join Pastor Jay in Bavaria
REGISTRATION IS
OPEN


Oktoberfest
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!
WHAT A GREAT TURNOUT
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT AND DEDICATION
TO A WONDERFUL EVENT
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR