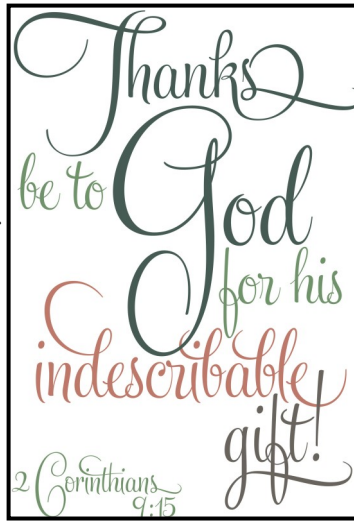




Thank You Jesus! On the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving we will gather for a few moments to remember our blessings and give praise to the Living God for them. At this time of nationwide stress, much of our focus rests on what is wrong with America. A day of national Thanksgiving gives us the chance to refocus on a countrywide abundance never before known in the history of the world. If worship on Thanksgiving eve has not been a part of your family's turkey-day traditions, I want to invite you to consider gathering



Joy and Thanksgiving Taste Like Bread and Wine

Jesus invites sinners to eat with Him. He gives His own flesh and blood to feed them. In the gift of the Lord's Supper, Jesus feeds His Church with His body and blood in and with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. This is a joyful feast. We come to the table with our sins and guilt, but walk away forgiven and free. We come to the table hungry for eternal food, and walk away filled with the promise of more to come. We come to the table wearied

THANKSGIVING SERVICE



with us to express appreciation to our Lord Jesus for grace, hope, and plentiful blessing. **Worship with Our Lord's Supper is at Noon and 6:45pm on Nov. 21st.**

by this life, and we walk away fed with the promise that Jesus bears our burdens and will come again to usher in His Kingdom, in which there is eternal rest. Find out more at www.joyfullylutheran.org.

In the world the "Christmas season" starts right after Thanksgiving. But in the church we start the "Advent Season". Advent begins the church year as we anticipate the coming of the Savior born into the world in Bethlehem. We'll celebrate His birth on December 24th and 25th, but now we are preparing our hearts to meet and greet Him aright. Take time for that preparation and take time out for it too. Don't rush to Christmas. Stop and smell Advent. Come to worship on **Sundays And Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12, 19 at Noon and 6:45PM.** Read carefully your Advent devotions. Slow down your life, your heart, your mind and get yourself ready – the Savior is coming!



An Advent Meal will be served each Wed. at 5:15pm. Cost is same as FFW, \$4.00/person or \$12/family of 4 and up.

Menus for these meals are:
Dec 5. Pasta, Meat or Alfredo Sauces, Salad, Bread
Dec 12. Pot Roast, Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans,
Dec 19. Soups, Salad, Hot Sandwiches

Looking for Advent/Christmas Decorating Helpers

Do you love walking into church that first service of the Advent Season? Everything has that magical Christmas touch from lights, wreaths, ornaments and trees. Well that's not magic... it takes a team of Helpers!

Here's an easy opportunity to help out at the church with three days to choose from (or come to all). **We will get boxes and trees out of the "closets and attic" on November 25th at 3:00pm.** We will start decorating on **Tuesday, November 27th at 5:30pm—8:00pm (or come when you can) then finish decorating on Wednesday, November 28th 5:30—finish.**

We will need lots of strong bodies including men! The more people available the quicker it will go!

Contact Holly Cheshire at 806-252-6992 or hollycheshire@gmail.com for more information and what day(s) you can help out!

Preparing for Christmas



From the Board of Stewardship



Listen my children and you shall hear....
Progressive Dinner assignments are **HERE!!!**

Check out the Stewardship bulletin board
Be sure to snap a picture.

Progressive Dinner
Saturday, December 1st
Appetizers 4:00 – 5:45
Catered Meal 6:00 – 7:00
Desserts 7:15 – 8:30

2019 offering envelopes are now available for pick-up on the tables at the cross wall in the Narthex. If you do not have a box of envelopes, please call Kathy Herwald at 822-2742.

Bethel Financial At-a-Glance

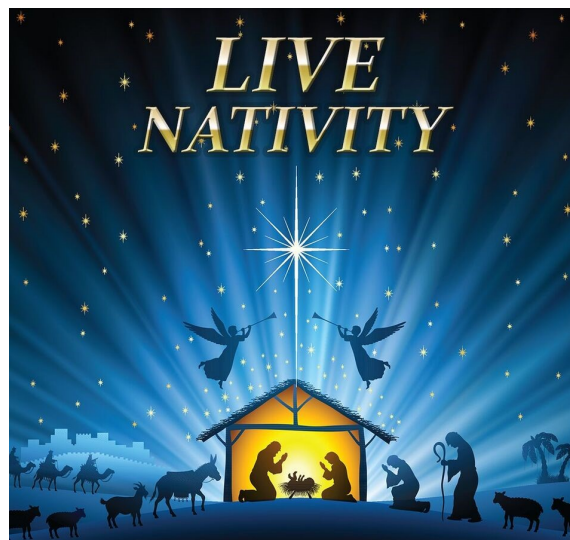
Income & Expense		Year to date (Sept 30, 2018)	
	2017	2018	
	Actual	Budget	Actual
Envelope/Plate Offering	\$ 652,124	\$ 770,477	\$ 682,079
Other Income	315,816	352,781	339,433
Expenses	(1,037,008)	(1,123,257)	(1,087,732)
Net Surplus (Shortage)	\$ (69,068)	\$ -	\$ (66,220)
Loan Balance (3% interest)		\$ 831,939	

From the Board of Witness/Outreach

HELP US GET THE WORD OUT, THE “FREE” WAY ABOUT OUR **LIVE NATIVITY!** Pick up **flyers** to put in coffee shops or at your workplace; also post the flyer to your social media accounts, especially **Facebook**. If you are on a **Next Door app or HOA website**, post the flyer to it. Pick up a **yard sign** for your yard. PLEASE HELP US **SPREAD THE NEWS!!** AND, DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT. IT IS A LOT OF **FUN** FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY TO PARTICIPATE IN; SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!



All volunteer sign-ups, flyers and yard signs are in the **information center** next to the restrooms.
THANK YOU!



December 7, 8, & 9
6:00 - 8:30pm

Free Community Event



Bethel Lutheran Church

- Drive Thru
- Photo Ops
- Petting Zoo
- Refreshments & Music
- Canned Food Collection for Brazos Food Pantry

4221 Boonville Road
Bryan, TX 77802

nativity@BlcBcs.org
www.blcBcs.org/LiveNativity

Stewardship of Our Lives

Did you know?



The BOARD OF WITNESS & OUTREACH is responsible for studying and promoting a greater understanding of the mission of Christ's Church. Our great desire is to promote, educate and inspire all of our members to Witness their faith to those around them every day, and to Outreach to the Lost in the world!

Wanting to make sure every person who walks into our church is greeted and feel welcome, we have a team of **Greeters** to do that very thing. Open doors, smiling faces, and just being there is a gift many of our members share. A host at the **Welcome Center** is ready to meet with visitors to answer any questions and provide a coffee mug with Bethel info, Lutheran info, Portals of Prayer, Bethel Card with service times/contact info, scripture cards and one of Jim Wuthrich's wooden crosses. We are blessed with wonderful coordinators to set up these schedules. As a follow up to visitors, a member of our **We Care** committee makes calls/contacts to first time members to confirm we are glad they came, to welcome them back, and to see if they had any questions.

By the Welcome Center is a **Project Connect rack filled with Lutheran Hour Ministry** brochures. Each brochure focuses on a specific item that may be affecting someone's life (ie. addiction, depression, loss of a loved one, etc.) and provides guidance based on God's Word, God's Truth and God's Love to grant peace and understanding to that person's "Why!" Members are encouraged to take and share these "connections".

Publicity is ongoing for Bethel and the neighborhood/community we live in. Advertising our presence during the year, especially at special times of the year, in magazines, radio, TV, newspapers and social media is an active part of our committee. However, we know the very best way of advertising and inviting people to come worship is via each member. Connecting to people around them, letting the Holy Spirit work through them and just being loving in outreach!

We are also working on **Bethel's Web Site**, to update and make more user friendly.

In the summertime, our board takes **VBS out into the neighborhood with Mission VBS**.

This has been held at an apartment complex, Still Creek Ranch and for the past two years assisting SOS Ministries of Bryan with their

VBS. Going into a neighborhood, knocking on doors and escorting children to the playground for games, snacks, crafts and bible study has been amazing. After 4 Monday evenings, you really get connected to many children, listening to them, teaching them God's Word, and praying with and for them.

The Live Nativity is under the Board of Witness/ Outreach due to the significant outreach into the community. It was established and is put on each year by an extremely dedicated group of people. They are continually evaluating and revising the program to make it an amazing welcome to outsiders. It is the only Live Nativity in the Bryan/College Station area and God is working through this effort to connect people to the true meaning of Christmas!

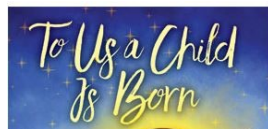
Every year we also provide **Advent & Lenten Devotions** from the Lutheran Hour Ministries. Watch for the Advent Devos "The Coming King" to be out in the narthex soon.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS from Lutheran Hour Ministries—The Coming King! Once again, our Board of Witness & Outreach is providing the Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent devotional booklets to help you and your family focus on the true meaning of the coming gift of Jesus' birth. It is titled "The Coming King!".

There are two ways to receive the daily devotional reading: The easiest way is to subscribe to the devotion series online at <http://www.lhm.org/advent>. You can choose to receive the devotion in either email or podcast format. Arriving daily to your computer, it will serve as a reminder to spend some time in meditation each day during this busy season. As in the past, there will also be print copies (regular and large print) of *The Coming King* available at the Ushers' table in the Narthex. We pray that you and your family will find these devotions helpful as you prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Children's Christmas Program

Our annual Christmas program will be held December 16 during the 11:15 service. Children will be practicing on Sundays as well as Saturday December 1 & 15 from 9 to noon. The preschool children, other than on Sundays, will not practice on the 1st but will join in around 10:30 on the December 15 practice. The theme of our 2018 Christmas program is "To Us a Child is Born."



Do you like to sew? Bethel is in need of some new toddler/ littles Christmas costumes. We need some angel and shepherd robes. We will provide the pattern, thread and material. Interested?? Contact Children's Ministry Coordinator at connie@blcbcs.org or 979-422-0138. Help us celebrate Christmas with new costumes for our littles.

LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING—

We are signed up and our registrations have been confirmed! We are blessed with having 26 youth and 6 adults registered (one of our highest totals ever). This event will be held July 11-15, 2019 in Minneapolis, with over 25,000 LCMS youth and adults attending. Your continued support is much appreciated! Our "before the Voters Meeting" meal netted \$530. We are planning additional fund raisers this spring.

One thing you might consider is to "adopt" one of our youth that is going that might need some assistance. We have some that are fairly new to the church and in a single parent household with other children. In some cases we have multiple children from one family that are going. Total cost for the event (registration, lodging, food and travel) is just under \$1200. With church assistance we still need \$900 per student (although there are some who have just about raised this via past fundraising and breakfast tacos). In some years special gifts have greatly assisted some of our young people to attend. Again, thanks for your continued support.

FULL SIZED BED (MATTRESS, FRAME AND BOXSPRING) NEEDED—Someone associated with our church is in desperate need of a full sized bed set (at this time they are using a mattress on the floor). If you have something in surplus and in good condition and could donate it, please contact DCE Randy or Children's Ministry Coordinator Connie Bard. We can arrange pickup if needed.

YOUTH PECAN SALES—As part of our fundraising for the 2019 National Lutheran Youth Gathering our youth are taking orders for 1 lb packages of pecans. These are local, new crop pecans, and we're asking \$14 each for them. We are taking orders now (you can sign up in the Narthex) and expecting to get the pecans the first part of December. As always thank you for your support of our 26 youth heading to Minneapolis next summer.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ANGELS

The annual Christmas Angel drive begins November 17/18. You can be a "Christmas Angel" to someone in need! The way it works is this:

1. You take an angel from the display (there will be some information on it about the needs and wishes for this individual).
2. Sign the check-off list so we know who has taken each angel.
3. Do your shopping.
4. Bring back the wrapped gifts (with the angel taped to the gift and/or the name on the angel clearly marked) by **December 16.**

Our congregation has always had a tremendous response to this and we assume no less this year. We will have three types of recipients of gifts. The first two are from Still Creek Ranch, where we'll be collecting for resident students there plus children of staff members.

Still Creek Ranch was started in 1988. On their website they describe their work as: Since 1988 Still Creek has rescued boys and girls from crisis environments including abuse, neglect, abandonment, and sexual exploitation. They do this solely through private donations, accepting no state or federal funding. As mentioned above, the children come from a variety of backgrounds. Each child would have their own story, and Still Creek Ranch is certainly doing the Lord's work with them.

Our second group are the children of Still Creek staff members. You can well imagine that the finances of staff members of Still Creek are tight as well, so your gifts help make the lives of children whose families are making sacrifices to be in this ministry a little more joyful.

Our third group of names comes to us from one of our own members, Joyce Jones. Joyce has for years worked with teen moms in the Bryan School District, with a goal of having these young ladies be able to graduate High School. No, we don't agree with the behavior that has gotten things to this point, and giving a Christmas gift does nothing, we believe, to condone it. We can also consider that while a bad choice was made, at least this wasn't compounded by the horrific choice of abortion. So, if we look forward, it is an act of mercy to help these individuals toward the goal of graduation and better choices in the future. One of the biggest indicators of a lifestyle of poverty is to be a teen mom and then not get a High School diploma. Your gifts here are then helping both the teen moms toward that goal, as well as to bring some joy into the lives of their little ones. Plain and simple, it is an act of mercy. For the most part their lists are about baby clothes, diapers and baby wipes – pretty basic (and needed!) stuff. (DCE Randy)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN A BAG

This year to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Bethel Lutheran Church we are collecting "Happy Birthday in a Bag." The Brazos Church Pantry will give this bag to families who have a birthday coming up. What is "Happy Birthday in a Bag"? Take a gallon Ziplock bag place a cake mix, can of icing, candles, napkins or plates, and anything

else to celebrate a birthday. Ideas for extras might be balloons, tooters, little toys, candy or anything else that would make for a fun birthday. These "Happy Birthday in

a Bag" are for adults and children. Make it a themed party or generic, just make it fun. Bethel will provide you with a card to place inside with scripture, a prayer and Bethel information. You are welcome to place a hand written note of encouragement or prayer and don't forget to say "Happy Birthday!" in the bag. Bethel will also have some gallon Ziplock bags available if necessary. Make sure you check the expiration date on all food products. The area Food Bank and Church Pantry are excited to partner with Bethel on this project. There will be a collection box in the Narthex the whole month of December. May Jesus Christ bless your efforts! Happy Birthday Jesus! As we bless others. Questions email Connie@blebcs.org.

Join Bethel's Ladies in Bible Study and Fellowship

*For Those Signed Up
Advent By Candlelight
November. 17, 2018 ~ 6:00 PM
Blessings On the Tree*

If you have to last minute cancel, please call Lois Erickson 979-774-7904. Don't forget to bring a non-perishable food item for the Brazos Church Pantry.

Thrivent Financial
Sponsored Action
Team.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL**

Connecting faith & finances for good.™



Ladies Lunch Bunch - meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month (Nov. 21st & Dec. 3rd) at Blue Baker on University Dr. at 11:30 or whenever you can get there. We'll gather for our devotion and have great conversation and food. We hope you can join us for a spiritual respite from your hectic day.

Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets 10:00-11:15AM in room 232, led by Pastor Bard. Child care is provided upon request only. Please Note: We will take a break and not meet on Dec. 18, 25, & Jan. 1. We will start back on Jan. 8.

Save the Date—February 23, 2019 for A Women's Retreat to be held in Bethel's Parish Hall from approximately 8:30 until 4:00. The topic will be lessons on prayer by **Donna Coppersmith, author of Seven Skirts for Seven Sisters.** All women of Bethel are welcome along with any friends you would like to invite. Watch for registration and details after the holidays!

*LWML Christmas Social
A Cup of Christmas
December 3 at 6:30 pm
Parish Hall*

The LWML Christmas Party will be held on December 3 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. All women of Bethel and guests are invited. Bring your favorite Christmas snack, sweet or savory. We will have a short program and assemble bags for the homeless. A list of items that will go into the bags is provided below. We would encourage and appreciate all donations. A box is provided at the LWML table next to the Parish Hall. Come and share "A Cup of Christmas."

Items needed for the Homeless

Granola bars	beef jerky
small bottles of water	combs
warm socks	warm caps and gloves
Chapstick	band aids
Travel size soap	shampoo
Toothpaste	toothbrush
Handiwipes	

Join Bethel's Men in Bible Study and Fellowship

Men's Monday Evening Bible Study & Fellowship Group meets at 7:00 PM in Room 232. They are studying LHM's Men's Network study titled: *Out of Nothing: The Word, Creation and Faith* by Rev. Steve Misch.

Friday Morning Men's Bible Study/Breakfast Group each Friday morning at 6:30 AM in the Parish Hall. The Journey from Unbelief to Faith. A DVD series with Rev. Dr. John Nunes. This Bible study conveys in frank language the lives of individuals who traveled from the outer edge of unbelief and apathy to the Christ-centered faith they now devotedly embrace. **We Will NOT Meet Nov. 23rd.**

From the Board of Community Service



NOVEMBER...

WE THINK ABOUT
TURKEY, FOOTBALL, FAMILY,
FRIENDS, TWO DAYS OFF FROM WORK &
THE **QUARTERLY FOOD DRIVE** AT THE
BRAZOS CHURCH PANTRY,
ALL MONTH LONG.

THE BOX IS IN THE INFORMATION CENTER
WAITING FOR YOUR DONATIONS
THANK-YOU IN ADVANCE
COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD



During this month of November, we have much to be thankful for in our **Preschool!** Our program continues to be full just by word of mouth. We have wonderful members who help to support our preschool ministry through their donations and their prayers. God continues to bless us with great staff that love their Lord and want to serve Him by teaching His little ones. We have supportive parents and children that love to come to preschool and love to learn about Jesus. *We, indeed, are richly blessed!*

If you have not picked up your **Butter Braids**, you may pick your order up after the worship services this weekend or anytime during the week. They are in the church freezer (in storage closet in parish hall) and all Braids are wrapped and marked with names. *Thanks so very much for all who ordered Butter Braids from the Preschool fundraiser!* We had a great response and we will make over \$3,200 from the sale! For more information, please talk to Debbie Sadler (979-446-1578). *Again, thanks so much for your support!*

Be sure to check out our **PRESCHOOL TURKEY** on the bulletin board in the hallway by the preschool office. Our children and their families decorated turkey feathers to show some of the things they are thankful for.

HOPE Pregnancy Center DEMO DAY! Friday, November 16 ~ 9:00AM @ HOPE Pregnancy Center

Bring your tools and your brawn and your appetite! Donuts, Coffee, Pizza, furniture moving and floor removal! What an AWESOME DAY the LORD WILL HAVE!

Please email hello@hopepregnancy.org to let us know you are coming so we won't PANIC!
We need you!

Hope has been blessed by a donor with the funds to replace flooring, but the furniture moving and floor removal is up to us! So we've scheduled DEMO DAY this Friday, November 16th. It's come and go, but come and stay would be preferred, if possible! :-)

Please bring any tools you may have for floor removal and furniture moving, such as chisel, floor scraper, work gloves, hammer, dolly, and back belt, as we have only a very limited supply.
Donuts, coffee and pizza provided!
We will likely be working past 5:00. We will post our progress throughout the day on Facebook, so that if you have signed up for a later time, you will know what is needed when you arrive.

Bethel's Preschool News

We will have our **Thanksgiving Feast for the preschool on Friday, Nov. 16.** The children will dress as Native Americans, Pilgrims and turkeys and we'll eat a "kid's version" of a Thanksgiving dinner. The children will also sing songs for the parents. *It promises to be a fun day for all!*

The preschool will be closed Nov. 19 through Nov. 23 for our Thanksgiving break.

We look forward to the preschool children singing for the Live Nativity on Friday, December 7.

Please keep our preschool in mind when you do your **CHRISTMAS SHOPPING** this year. When you order online through **AmazonSmile**, a portion of the sale will be sent to the preschool. To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will need to select Bethel Lutheran Church to receive the donations from the eligible products. This selection will then be remembered the next time you use smile.amazon.com. The eligible products are marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail page. It costs you nothing to help out the preschool while getting your shopping done also!
Thanks for considering this benefit to the preschool!

Happy Birthday!!

Our Bethel Family

November

Mike Dobrovolsky	1	Dorothy Lorenz	10	Brynnley Boyd	20
Noah Pratt	1	Nila Reece	10	Grace Moravec	20
Eileen Svec Hugo	1	Karen Theiss	10	Debbie Perez	20
Glenn Frazier	2	Michael Thompson	11	Holly Schautschick	20
Mackenna Goodenow	2	Rebekah Zehnder	11	Justin Ellison	21
Allison Lewis	2	Glenda Duncan	12	Braxton Kasper	21
Joe Muller	2	Kathy Zelenka	13	Abby Malkey	21
Marie O'Neill	2	Wilson Wendler	13	Paden Sisco	22
Kelly Schmid	3	Amy Loke	14	Barry Boyd	24
Brian Herwald	5	Margaret Marriott	14	Lisa Kuhlmann	24
Irwin Carroll	6	Kirk Grimes	15	Josh Zehnder	24
Robert Schulz	6	Gabriel Pratt	15	Mary Beth Vanderpoorten	25
Luke Beyer	7	Aimee Thomas	15	Eunice Lorenz	27
Vivian Peacock	8	Barbara Frazier	16	Klint Brocksmith	28
Rob Clark	9	Carolyn Janac	16	Jill Flippin	28
Chase Klatt	10	Henry Kindt	17	Barbara Schroeder	28
Stephanie Klatt	10	Travis Engram	18	Ellisyn Cheshire	29
		Adalyn Lewis	18	Larry Yung	29
		Roy Byer	19	Ede Compton	30
		Terry Paholek	19	Jeffrey Herwald	30

Dear Bethel Friends,

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, and well wishes following my surgery in October. God is restoring me to good health.

Blessings,
Donna Beto



whom your gifts will provide an opportunity to learn about Him. Please also pray for me and the rest of the Disciples of the Way team that we may be His voice and hands of love as we reach out to them.

Saving the Lost together in Christ,

Rev. Karim Baidaoui

Disciples of the Way Ministries

www.disciplesoftheway.org

Dear Bethel Family,

We are so thankful for the love, support and prayers from all of our Bethel Family. We are so thankful for the meals. We are blessed with a wonderful church family!

Love, Meagan, Jacob & Baby Jude Brown

Dear Members of Bethel,

Thank you for sending Pastor Wiechman to visit me and give me communion. I enjoy having visitors and welcome them any time.

Yours In Christ,
Milton Reim

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

I thank the Lord of the harvest for your continuing partnership in the Gospel to reach out to our Muslim neighbors. We thank you for the love you have shown this ministry and the refugees from all nations that we reach out to in the name and love of Jesus. We are very grateful your generous gifts of support. Please continue to pray for the individuals from all nations who do not yet know Jesus and

Flower Delivery People Needed

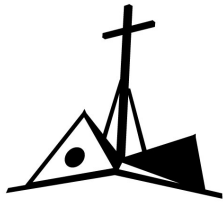
If you are interested in delivering flowers to our Beloved (Shut-In) members, please call Rosie Schoenfeld at 979-820-0126. We need some additional team members to help with this effort.

The Lutheran Hour is on KAGC, 1510 AM on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. sponsored by Bethel. If you would like to sponsor a week's broadcast for \$25 or for a month for \$100. Thank you to all who have given to this ministry.

The Lutheran Hour for the Month of November is sponsored to the glory of God by

Gladys Byer

In Loving MEMORY of Milton Byer and for God's Gracious Blessings always and for giving me such a wonderful family. To God be all Glory!



Bethel Lutheran Church

4221 Boonville Rd, Bryan, Texas 77802
Phone: (979) 822-2742 | FAX: (979) 822-4082
www.BLCbcs.org | office@BLCbcs.org
Preschool phone: 485-9835 or cell: 446-1578

Staff:

Rev. Randall Bard, Pastor, (979) 422-0046
Rev. Steve Wiechman, Care Ministry
Rev. K. Lynn Stroud, Pastor Emeritus
Mr. Randall Moerbe, Director of Christian Education
Mrs. Debbie Sadler, Dir., Bethel Lutheran Preschool
Mrs. Kathy Herwald, Director of Operations
Mrs. Ruthann Stroud, Church Secretary
Mrs. Connie Bard, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Mr. Nic Duncan, Facilities Manager
Mrs. Katie Bentley, Office Assistant
Mr. Jeremy Shilling, *His Praise* Band Leader



Celebrating the Lutheran Reformation

November 15—29, 2018



Church Office Hours

Mondays—Thursdays	9am - 5pm
Fridays	9am - 3pm

Join us for

Saturday Night

Worship at 5PM

Bible Class at 6PM

Sunday Mornings

8:30 AM Divine Service (Traditional)

9:30 AM Fellowship Time

10:00 AM Bible Class/SS

11:15 AM Divine Service (Contemporary)

Holy Communion is served on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th weekends of the month.