



News of Elizabeth Lutheran Church

February Highlights

February 1st

Altar Guild Mtg after worship

February 5, 12, 19 & 26

Craft Days @ 1pm

February 8th

Soup or Bowl Sunday Potluck Lunch after worship

February 16th

Council meeting @ 5:30

February 18th

Ash Wednesday service @ 6:30 pm

February 19, 20 & 21

Community pantry volunteer opportunities

February 22nd

Congregational Mtg after worship

February 24th

Newsletter info deadline @ 10AM

February 25th

The first Wednesday Lenten meal after 6:30 pm worship. Other dates are: March 4, 11, 18 & 25.

Elizabeth Lutheran Church

165 CR 307 (PO Box 675)

Caldwell, TX 77836

Office: 979-567-4286 (Mon-Thurs 9-1)

office@elizabeth-lutheran.org

www.elizabeth-lutheran.org

Pastor's email:

pastor@elizabeth-lutheran.org

Prayer Chain

Lisa Blum

Margaret Hibbeler

Clair Schulle

Connie Suehs

Debbie Skrabanek

Twana Benner

Sue Brinkman

Christie Havemann

Becky Goetsch

Penny Neal

Dianna Curington

Council Members

President – Cody Novosad

Vice Pres – Vince Neal

Secretary – Christie Havemann

Treasurer – Jaxton McNair

Property – Trent Groce

Worship – Vince Neal

Cong Life – Melanie Woods

Christian Ed – Rhonda Schroeder

Membership – Maryanne Rogers

Evangelism – Shawn Faust

Temp Pastoral Services – Richard Brunk

Loving God, loving others, sharing the Word.

Pastor's Post

THE WORD OF PROMISE IS ALIVE!

As I am writing this article, I am hunkered down waiting for the really cold front to come through Texas. Hopefully, by the time this is printed, we will all be much warmer and thinking about Spring.

Perhaps this is a reminder that we as Jesus followers are often distracted and even obsessed with the bad things of life. Do we lose sight of the Promise and the call that we receive through that Promise?

Let me explain. We walk a frustrating line in life.

On the one hand, we strive to do our best, achieve our goals, treat others well, and achieve success in every aspect of our lives. Sometimes we even strive to have fun.

On the other hand, we have daily (and even hourly reminders) that we are not doing those things as well as we would like, and certainly not to the expectations of the world around us. The world even takes away from the fun things we do by drawing comparisons with others.

Whether you played a good round of golf, caught a big fish, enjoyed a game, or painted a picture, some "kind" person will remind you that someone else did better or point out an area to improve.

My sister asked me to listen to her play a piece on the piano. I, being her younger brother, told her "Great, but you're rushing your eighth notes." I don't know an eighth note from a lawnmower, but, of course, I was just being an obnoxious little brother. OK, if I had been 10 years old it might be funnier, but this was about a year ago. I guess little brothers never change, but then again, neither does our hostile world.

February brings an odd mix of holidays, from Groundhog Day where an oversize rat predicts our weather to St. Valentine's Day where we have great romantic and commercialized expectations in the name of an imprisoned Christian from centuries ago. Then we have Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras where people dress up funny, dance in the streets, and overindulge because Lent starts the next day and there is no fun allowed until Easter. Ash Wednesday, February 18th this year, is a blend of depressing news and hope. We come to hear that we are going to die. (That is sure to pack in the crowds.) Fortunately, we also hear that through Christ's love we will live forever.

February in many ways combines a dose of reality, the Word of Promise, and a call to live as receivers of that promise and sharers of the hope that Promise brings.

Where is the world trying to distract you or trip you up? Some of you might answer, "everywhere", and that might be quite accurate. Our church family and our daily lives should be about receiving and sharing the Word of Promise. Let's remember that when we gather for worship, Bible study, service to others, and fellowship before and after church, as well as every other day.

Remember Ash Wednesday and Lenten Midweek services. Give me a call anytime you or someone you know needs or wants a visit, whether hospital, shut-in, or just a conversation over coffee.

Let's have a blessed February together,
Pastor Brunk

During this transition period I will be helping with visitation, hospital calls and other pastoral services. Give me a call if I can help in any way. 832-483-0702 or brunkfin@aol.com

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATIONS*

February Birthdays



February Anniversaries



February Baptisms



Luke Novosad	1
Trent Groce	1
Peyton Skrabanek	2
Marcus Blum	3
Dustin Vess	3
Larry Blum	8
Mike Cook	12
Daniel Vess	13
Arlen Holle	13
Pat Seymour	15
Jaxton McNair	16
Vince Neal	17
Kevin McManus	18
Kathy Brunk	19
Aimee Curington	20
Ciara Coker	23
Brad Novosad	25
Sonja Brinkman	26
Betty Gold	29

None this month

Cody Novosad	3
Raelea McManus	9
Gail Broussard	10
Debbie Skrabanek	15
Justin Brinkman	15
Kayla Johnson	15
Reed Curington	19
Ann Amaya	22
Duane Gold	26

*For corrections or additions, please email office@elizabeth-lutheran.org



The Easter season is approaching quickly! Groups, individuals, and organizations, please be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet to provide one of the Lenten meals on a Wednesday within the season. What a wonderful gift as we prepare for the resurrection of our Lord! The sign-up sheet will be available soon!

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Altar Guild Mtg after worship				Craft Day @ 1pm		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Soup or Bowl Potluck Lunch				Craft Day @ 1pm		Valentine's Day 
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Council Mtg @ 5:30 PM		Ash Wednesday worship @6:30PM 	Pantry Volunteer 6 PM Craft Day @ 1pm	Pantry Volunteer 9 AM	Community Pantry Distribution 7 to 10 AM
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Congregational Meeting after worship		Newsletter info deadline by 10 AM	Mid-Week worship@ 6:30PM Lenten meal after worship	Craft Day @ 1pm		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Mid-Week worship@ 6:30PM Lenten meal after worship	Craft Day @ 1pm		

Monthly Financial Information:

2026 Annual Budget:	\$257,375.00
Amount needed monthly:	\$ 21,447.92
Amount needed weekly:	\$ 4,949.52
General Funds rec'd in Jan:	\$ 13,294.00 (for 3 Sundays)
Building Funds rec'd in Jan:	\$ 540.00 (\$570.0000 current principle balance owed)
Average Sunday attendance:	92 (for 3 Sundays)

February Worship Responsibilities

9 AM Service	Feb 1	Feb 8	Feb 15	Feb 22
USHERS	Mike McManus, Bubba Frieda, Pat Rogers, Emmitt Wolz, Fritz Wolz, and Jeff Zgabay			
ALTAR GUILD	Makala Gerland and Julianne Gerland			
ACOLYTES	Savanah Faust	Avery Stevenson	Bowen Gerland	Houston Gerland
READERS	Barbara Warren	Devin Gerland	Larry Blum	Vince Neal
AUDIO/ VISUAL	Vince Neal	Mike Stevenson	Britt Lloyd	Cody Novosad
COMMUNION SERVERS	February Ushers	February Ushers	February Ushers	February Ushers

WOMEN OF THE WORD NEWS

- ✚ All women are invited 😊
- ✚ Do you know of someone in need of prayer? Prayer chain contact info on the front page or call the church office @ 567-4286.
- ✚ All ELC women, 18 years and older, are automatically WOW members!
- ✚ Has your contact info changed? Would you like to serve on a 2026 committee? Please contact: Joni 979-220-0417



Guys! Looking for the perfect birthday or anniversary gift? How about flowers? Listen, this is win-win: Sign up for flowers for the altar and note the special occasion. On that Sunday, take the pats on the back and congratulations for being such a caring husband, then take the flowers home to be enjoyed and adored by your sweet wife. This beautifies the church and makes momma very happy, true story!.....but we really do ask for people to sign up to provide flowers for the Altar. The process is very easy: Call a local florist to deliver to the church, pick up potted plants, or arrange your own live arrangement. Won't you sign up? Thank you for making our Altar and service even more beautiful!



Texas District

Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



HARVEST
WORKERS

One Spirit, One Team

The world is preparing to watch the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan, Italy in just a few short weeks. Every four years, we are captivated by the extraordinary performances of elite athletes who have dedicated their lives to pursuing excellence in their respective sports. It is amazing and awe-inspiring to see them compete on the world stage, proudly representing their nations with skill and determination.

I love the Winter Games as they highlight sports you rarely get to see any other time. One of my favorite winter events is the 4-man bobsled. Four athletes climb into that sled, each with a specific role to play. The driver steers, the brakeman controls the finish, and the pushers provide explosive power at the start. To have a successful run, the team members each need to perform their task at peak performance and in perfect synchronization. The team members place absolute trust in one another as they set aside their individual pursuits for the team's shared goal. They train together, sacrifice together, and either succeed or fail together. When they cross the finish line in record time, it's not because one was great, it's because four athletes became one unified team.

This image of Olympic athletes striving together in pursuit of a common goal reminds me of Paul's words in Philippians 1:27-28a: *"Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, working side by side for the faith that comes from the gospel, not being frightened in any way by your opponents."*

Paul reminds all followers of Jesus of our calling to live out our faith together with the same kind of unity, commitment, and shared mission that we see demonstrated by world-class Olympians pursuing a team victory. As followers of Jesus gathered into local congregations, we are called to stand firm in one spirit and with one mind, working side by side for the mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And like athletes on an Olympic team, we each have different roles and bring different gifts, abilities, and strengths to the body of Christ. But working together and setting aside our individual agendas for the sake of the Gospel mission, we share in the victory of God's kingdom among us. As we pray, may God's kingdom come and will be done, here on earth, as it is in heaven.

Friends, as you tune into the Winter Games, remember that God calls us to work together for Gospel mission. This is a key reason why the Lord gathers us into communities of faith. We are Lutheran Congregations in *Mission for Christ*. As we witness Olympic athletes inspire us with their dedication and teamwork, I pray that you and everyone in your church can remember God's call to set aside individual pursuits in order to work together in love and pursue the mission that Jesus has given your congregation! One Spirit...one team.

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at www.harvestworkers.net). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Please contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org.

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

January Birthdays Celebration at Avir at Caldwell

The WOW women's birthday committee celebrated January birthdays with residents at Avir at Caldwell. Left-Right: Clair Schulle, Marcia Post, Eileen Barnes, Doris Sebesta and Joni Cook (group members not pictured are Dianna Currington, Connie Suehs, Pat Tolbolka, Kim Holle and Lisa Blum)



🏈 Mark your calendars for Soup or Bowl Sunday Potluck Lunch – February 8th !! 🏈

Stay after worship for a fun potluck lunch filled with soups, chili, and anything served in a bowl — plus desserts (of course!) All donations will go toward our church playground — helping create a fun, safe place for our kids to laugh, play, and grow!

CRAFT DAYS - EVERY THURSDAY at 1 PM

Craft days continue, and we have exciting news! On the 1st and 2nd Thursday of each month, our very own quilting expert, Twana Benner, will be teaching us how to quilt! Our first project is a lap quilt. Do not fret if you missed the first week of instruction. Twana assures us that **WE CAN DO THIS!** On the 3rd and 4th Thursdays of each month, please bring your own project or your adventurous spirit to learn a new craft. All of the projects are so fun and interesting, but the fellowship with our sisters in Christ is even more so. There has also been discussion of opening this up to other time(s) to accommodate working ladies and busy mommas. Stay tuned!