

October 2025 Newsletter

Fall Blessings to All

News of Elizabeth Lutheran

October Highlights

Oct 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30th

Crafting Day @ 1pm in the FH

Oct 6, 13, 20 & 27th

Women's morning bible study @
10am in the FH

October 12th

Call Committee Initial Input due

October 15th

Council Mtg @ 5:30 pm in the FH

October 16, 17 & 18th

Community pantry volunteering

October 22nd

Brotherhood meal @ 6 pm in the FH

October 29th

Newsletter info deadline @ 10 am

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 Mark'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 – Devin Gerland

Secretary – Christie Havemann

Treasurer – Vince Neal

Property – Jaxton McNair

Worship – Devin Gerland

Cong Life – Melanie Woods

Christian Education – Shawn Faust

Membership – Maryanne Rogers

Evangelism – Gabbo Goetsch

Pastor – Mark Neumann

Loving God, loving others, sharing the Word.

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Pastor Mark's Post

Reformation: A Fire Still Burning

Each October, as the leaves turn and the air cools, we remember a moment that changed the course of history—and the heart of the Church. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, igniting what we now call the Protestant Reformation. But the Reformation was never just about one man or one moment. It was—and still is—a call to return to the heart of the gospel.

At its core, the Reformation was a rediscovery of grace. In a world tangled in religious performance and institutional power, Luther's voice rang out: "The righteous shall live by faith." That cry echoed the apostle Paul, and it still echoes today in every congregation that proclaims Christ alone, Scripture alone, grace alone, faith alone, and to God alone be the glory.

But the Reformation wasn't just theological—it was deeply pastoral. It asked hard questions:

- Are we pointing people to Jesus or to ourselves?
- Are we building systems that serve the gospel or obscure it?
- Are we willing to be reformed—not just once, but continually?

This October, I invite us to reflect not only on what the Reformers did, but on what the Spirit is still doing. Reformation is not a museum piece—it's a movement. It's the Spirit's ongoing work to renew the Church, revive our hearts, and refocus our mission.

Let's be a congregation that welcomes reform. Let's be willing to ask hard questions, to listen to God's Word afresh, and to follow Jesus with courage and joy. The fire of the Reformation still burns—not in protest, but in passion for the gospel.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Mark Neumann

pastor@elizabeth-lutheran.org

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CELEBRATIONS*

October Birthdays



October Anniversaries



October Baptisms



Dennis Brinkman	1	Larry & Sylvia Hein	6	Brice Woods	1
Sterling McManus	1	Brad & Mandy Novosad	12	Levi Weatherly	5
Mackenzie Brinkman	3	Lynn & Marcia Post	12	Connie Suehs	23
Seth Suehs	4	Blaine & Kodi Suehs	17	Patrick Rogers	23
Kaitlin Novosad	5	Mike & Tammy Stevenson	24	Ayden Rok	27
Holdyn Novosad	9	Paul & Debbie Skrabanek	28	Nicholas Havemann	27
LJ Graves	11			Blaine Suehs	29
Luke Johnson	11			Adilyn Rok	30
Paul Skrabanek	12				
Patrick Rogers	13				
Karen Speck	14				
Lila Supak	14				
JoAnn Degelia	17				
Penny Neal	19				
Dana Skrabanek	24				
Jackson Lloyd	29				
Rhonda Schroeder	30				
Slade McManus	30				

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

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October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Crafting @ 1pm in the FH		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Women's Morning Bible study - 10am			Crafting @ 1pm in the FH		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Call Committee survey due	Women's Morning Bible study - 10am		Council Mtg @ 5:30 pm in the FH	Pantry Volunteer 6 PM Crafting @ 1 pm in the FH	Pantry Volunteer 9 AM	Community Pantry 7 to 10 AM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Women's Morning Bible study - 10am		Brotherhood Meal @ 6 pm in the FH	Crafting @ 1pm in the FH		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Women's Morning Bible study - 10am		Newsletter info deadline by 10 AM	Crafting @ 1pm in the FH		

Monthly Financial Information:

2025 Annual Budget: \$287,635.00
 Amount needed monthly: \$ 23,969.59
 Amount needed weekly: \$ 5,531.45
 General Funds rec'd in Sept: \$ 14,793.00
 Building Funds rec'd in Sept: \$ 3,270.00 (695.0000 current principle balance owed)
 Average Sunday attendance: 100

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October Worship Responsibilities

9 AM Service	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26	
USHERS	John Hoffman, Gabbo Goetsch, and Vince Neal				
ALTAR GUILD	Melanie Woods				
ACOLYTES	Lila Supak	Jenna Hibbeler	Savanah Faust	Avery Stevenson	
READERS	Joni Cook	Rylie Lloyd	Makala Gerland	Hudson Novosad	
AUDIO/ VISUAL	Gerlands	Vince Neal	Britt Lloyd	Novosads	
COMMUNION SERVERS	Cody Novosad & Shawn Faust	Gabbo Goetsch & Christie Havemann	Maryanne Rogers & Jaxton McNair	Devin Gerland & Christie Havemann	

WOMEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY

- ✚ 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.
- ✚ Join us this fall for Bible Study each Monday @ 10 a.m.! We will start a new study in October.
- ✚ All ELC women, 18 years and older, are automatically WOW members!
- ✚ **Thank you, Clair Schulle, for serving as WOW coordinator for the last 10 years! She is stepping down at the end of the year. Please contact a WOW member or the office if you feel called to step up.**

All Saints Day on November 2, 2025

Historically, the first Sunday in November each year, the Church celebrates the life and faith of church members who have gone to heaven since last November. To prepare for this year's commemoration, you are invited to submit the names of Christian loved ones who have passed since November 1, 2024. Please provide the church office with the birthday and the day of their passing, along with a nice picture NO LATER THAN noon on Monday October 27th.



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



Faith and Miracles

Recently, my intern, Kyle McGinnis, and I had the privilege of sitting down with Greg Garcia. Greg and I have been friends for nearly a decade. We connected as fellow Texans and members of Church Planting Leadership Fellowship, a peer learning community of denomination and network leaders with church planting responsibilities. Greg is pastor of Creekside Christian Fellowship in Needville, Texas, a church plant that he and a team of folks began about 20 years ago. He continues to invest in planting churches by coaching church planters. Since Kyle is discerning a call to be a church planter, Greg made time for a conversation when we were in the Needville area.

Greg blessed us by telling us the story of Creekside. To see all the ways that God has moved through this ministry was inspiring. When we expressed our amazement, Greg responded with something profound that has impacted both me and Kyle. He said that at Creekside they like to operate in the realm of faith and miracles.

Greg explained that when it comes to making decisions about what they are going to do or pursue in the future, there are typically three categories of response. The first is "We can do this." This is how you respond when you have confidence that you have all that you need to pursue the new project: people, money, time, participation, etc. The second response category requires "Faith and miracles." These are ideas that stretch you beyond your confidence in your own resources and require you to have faith that God will provide that which you need. The third category of response is what Greg called "Ain't never gonna happen!" This is when the idea crosses over into foolishness and is clearly beyond the scope of what God is calling the ministry to pursue.

Reflecting on this, I wonder how many of our ministry decisions are made in the realm of "We can do this." I sense that many of our churches primarily operate with this mindset. Yet it is clear to me that when we make our decisions in the realm of "We can do this," there are two pitfalls. First, we are guilty of self-reliance, which is a sin. Secondly, we miss out on the bigger opportunities that God is inviting us to pursue.

When Jesus multiplied two small fish and five loaves of bread to feed the 5,000, he first instructed the disciples to begin feeding the crowd. The disciples began distributing food with a very limited supply. Only when the disciples were obedient to the Lord's call to distribute the food did they experience the miracle of the Lord's provision.

If we only operate out of our own confidence of what we can do, we miss out on what the Lord is calling us to pursue. While all church leaders have a calling to be responsible stewards, we are also called to have faith and trust that God will provide and make a way for that which he wills. So how is the Lord calling you and your church to trust him more deeply? What miracles might he have in store for you?

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.

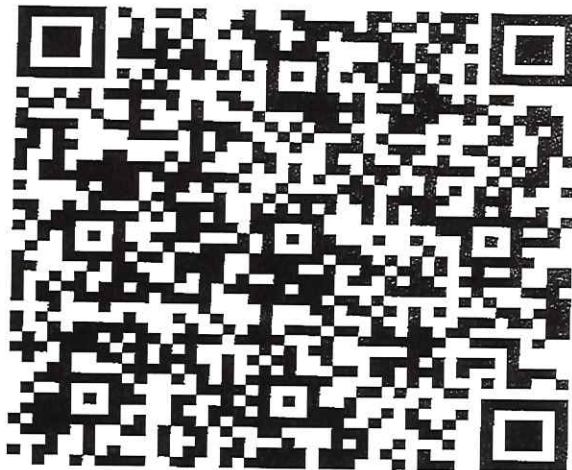
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ELC Call Committee Initial Input Survey for Submission by Oct 12

On behalf of the Call Committee, your input is sought in regard to the pastoral search. By October 12th, please complete and return a paper copy (return hard copy to the church), online at: Elizabeth Lutheran Church — Call Committee Initial Input, or scan the QR Code below.



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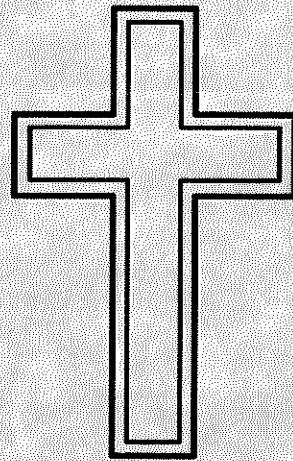
SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY

We are WILD about Sunday school! On September 7th, we celebrated beginning Sunday school this Fall...Everyone had a wonderful time of fellowship, games, music and FUN!



**Together, Let's Honor & Celebrate
the Retirement of Our Pastor,**

Terry Bage



**Sunday, October 26, 2025
St. John Lutheran Church
8235 FM 141-Dime Box, Texas**

**Special Church Service - 9:00 AM
Farewell Brunch Celebration
following the service**

RSVP- Call or Text: 979-777-6888