

# APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



## News of Elizabeth Lutheran Church

### April Highlights

#### April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Maundy Thurs service @ 6:30 pm

#### April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30<sup>th</sup>

Quilting & crafts day @ 1pm in FH

#### April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Good Friday service @ 6:30 pm

#### April 5<sup>th</sup> EASTER Sunday

Sunrise service @ 7 am

Easter breakfast after sunrise serv

Regular Easter service @ 9 am

Easter egg hunt after 9 am service

#### April 12<sup>th</sup>

Suehs baptism & altar guild mtg.

#### April 12<sup>th</sup>

Altar Guild mtg in conference room  
after worship

#### April 18<sup>th</sup>

Community pantry -volunteer  
Opportunities Thurs, Fri and Sat

#### April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Council Mtg @ 5:30 in the FH

#### April 28<sup>th</sup>

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](mailto:office@elizabeth-lutheran.org)

[www.elizabeth-lutheran.org](http://www.elizabeth-lutheran.org)

#### Pastor's email:

[pastor@elizabeth-lutheran.org](mailto: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.**

# APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

## Pastor's Post

Have a Blessed Resurrection Day!

I invite you, your family, and friends to join together as we worship throughout this Holy Week and Easter Season:

Palm Sunday, March 29, 9 AM with Communion and Confirmation

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 6:30 PM with Communion

Good Friday, April 3, 6:30 PM

Easter Sunday, April 5:

\* 7 AM Sunrise Service with Communion

\* Followed by Breakfast

\* 9 AM Worship with Communion

\* Followed by Easter Egg hunt and Fellowship

The next Sunday, April 12, we also have a Baptism scheduled. This is an exciting time to be the Church.

I got some cards this year that caught my attention. They have the greeting, "Happy Resurrection Day" instead of Happy Easter. I think that is very meaningful. Even though I enjoy all the festivities of Easter, it is essential to not just remember, but to also truly celebrate the reason for this holiday.

We celebrate Holy Week and the Easter Season because of one thing, one essential event. Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, was tried, beaten, and executed in our place. He then surprised those who killed Him by coming back to life. Holy Week leads us to Easter and the empty tomb. Easter is Resurrection Day and the Easter Season is the time to focus on the Resurrection of Jesus and what it means to us, as the church and as individuals called by our loving God.

We may struggle finding the right words to describe what all this means, but in many ways, it is best said in seven words, "He Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!"

Have a Blessed Holy Week, Resurrection Day, and Easter Season,

Pastor Brunk

I am available for visits and pastoral care while Elizabeth Lutheran searches for a new pastor. Please call me at 832 483 0702 or email me at [brunkfin@aol.com](mailto:brunkfin@aol.com).

# APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

## CELEBRATIONS\*

### April Birthdays



### April Anniversaries



### April Baptisms



Aubrey Maurer	3
Yutta Vess	5
Georgia Brinkman	6
Makala Gerland	9
Hudson Novosad	12
Twila Brinkman	13
Brian Rok	20
Julianne Gerland	22
Randy Brinkman	26
Cole Johnson	28

Devin & Makala Gerland	19
Paul & Willie Hobbs	25
Weldon & Carol Coker	26
Jared & Kayla Johnson	28

Aubrey Maurer	5
Arlen Holle	5
Doris Sebesta	6
Aimee Curington	12
Abbey Stevenson	12
Jake Hibbeler	19
LaRisa Rok	24
Brittany McManus	30

\*For corrections or additions, please email [office@elizabeth-lutheran.org](mailto:office@elizabeth-lutheran.org)



We are grateful that our fellowship room can host bereavement gatherings, showers, parties, and other special events. To help keep this space welcoming for everyone, we kindly ask that all groups follow fellowship room etiquette. Please return tables and chairs to their original setup, remove all decorations and personal items, wipe down surfaces, and take out the trash before leaving. Restoring the room ensures it is clean, orderly, and ready to bless the next event that gathers here. Thank you for your care and consideration.

# APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

## April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Passover begins at sundown	Crafts & Quilting Day @ 1pm in the FH Maundy Thurs service @ 6:30 pm	Good Friday service @ 6:30 pm	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter Sunday Services @ 7 am & 9 am Breakfast in between and egg hunt after 9 am				Crafts & Quilting Day @ 1pm in the FH		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Baptism of Merritt Suehs Altar Guild mtg in conference room after worship				Pantry Volunteer 6 PM  Crafts & Quilting Day @ 1pm in the FH	Pantry Volunteer 9 AM	Community Pantry Distribution 7 to 10 AM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			Council Mtg @ 5:30 PM	Crafts & Quilting Day @ 1pm in the FH		
26	27	28	29	30		
		Newsletter info deadline by 10 AM		Crafts & Quilting Day @ 1pm in the FH		

### Monthly Financial Information:

2026 Annual Budget:	\$257,375.00
Amount needed monthly:	\$ 21,447.92
Amount needed weekly:	\$ 4,949.52
Operating acct rec'd in March:	\$ 17,238.00
Building Funds rec'd in March:	\$ \$1,785.00 (\$555.0000 current principle balance owed)
Kimmel acct rec'd in March:	\$ 3,237.00 (new playground)
Average Sunday attendance:	92

# APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

## April Worship Responsibilities

9 AM Service	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
USHERS	John Hoffman, Justin Brinkman, Gabbo Goetsch, Vince Neal, Stephen Skrabanek and Mike Stevenson			
ALTAR GUILD	Maryanne Rogers & Marissa Brinkman			
ACOLYTES	Avery Stevenson	Bowen Gerland	Houston Gerland	Aubrey Maurer
READERS	Gail Broussard	Willie Hobbs	Vince Neal	Barbara Warren
AUDIO/ VISUAL	Mike Stevenson	Cody Novosad	Devin Gerland	Vince Neal
COMMUNION SERVERS	April Ushers	April Ushers	April Ushers	April Ushers

## WOMEN OF THE WORD NEWS

- ✚ 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? 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!

# APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



## **Please support weekly fellowship time after church**

We would love your help in supporting our weekly fellowship time after church service! This is a special opportunity for our church family to gather, connect and encourage one another over light refreshments and conversations. You can help in one of two ways:

1. Host Weekly Fellowship: Volunteers are to help host our fellow-ship time. Hosting may include setting out snacks, making coffee, cleaning up and helping create a warm inviting atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. Please sign up on the fellowship chart on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.
2. Replenish Cookies or Snacks: You can bring cookies or other simple refreshments to replenish what we share after service. This is a wonderful way to contribute even if you are unable to host. Your participation helps strengthen our church community and provides a meaningful space for friendship and fellowship each week. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!

## **CRAFTS & QUILTING DAYS - EVERY THURSDAY at 1 PM**

*Crafts and quilting days continue each Thursday at 1 pm. It is never too late to join the fun & fellowship with a wonderful group of ladies!*



Easter lilies can be picked up following the 9 am Easter Sunday service. Please take them home by Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. They will be in the multipurpose room.

# APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

The ELC Brotherhood recently had the privilege of supporting the Caldwell High School Varsity Baseball Team by providing a meal for the players. Caldwell High School is home to the Hornets, whose baseball program is part of the community's proud tradition of athletics and teamwork. The Brotherhood's act of service reflects their commitment to encouraging young athletes both on and off the field. Sharing a meal is more than just providing food—it's a way to build relationships, show support, and remind these players that their community is behind them. The ELC Brotherhood is grateful for the opportunity and wishes them a successful and memorable season.





Texas District

# Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth



HARVEST  
WORKERS

## Too Good to Keep Locked Up

It has been more than a decade since I pastored a church and experienced the special blessing it is to lead a community of faith in the Resurrection celebration on Easter morning. If you are a pastor, then you likely know what I mean. I remember fondly the anxious anticipation for crowds of people to gather and worship the risen Lord. As many pastors do, on Saturday night I would sit alone in an empty sanctuary and pray for God to fill the church and bring together those who needed to hear the Easter story anew. Sunday dawn would rise and with it, excitement as the church filled with all the familiar faces and many new ones, too. The greetings would ring out: "Christ is Risen! – He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" Easter lilies adorned the sanctuary and special music triumphantly proclaimed God's glory. For those of us entrusted to preach, it is a special privilege to share the greatest story ever told to a full room of eager listeners. All around the church on Easter Sunday there is a joy that is so powerful and uplifting.

But just seven days later, on the Second Sunday of Easter, I would often wonder, "What happened?" What happened to the joy and enthusiasm? What happened to the crowds and the packed sanctuary? What happened to all that was special the week before? For those who follow the lectionary, the Second Sunday in Easter centers on the story of Jesus breaking in on the disciples who gathered together on Easter evening. After the crucifixion and the discovery of the empty tomb, the disciples were confused and afraid. They had heard the reports from Mary Magdalene, but the fear had not yet become faith. So, they locked themselves in the Upper Room.

And then Jesus appeared. He stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." He showed them his hands and his side. John tells us simply that the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. But Jesus was not only there to comfort them amid their fear and confusion. And he wasn't just there to prove that he was alive. Jesus was also there to send them out. He said it again: *"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." And he breathed on them: "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

On Jesus' word, the locked room was transformed from a place of hiding into a place of sending. The peace Jesus spoke did not only quiet their fears, it redirected them with a mission. The disciples who were paralyzed by what happened to Jesus were now mobilized to share the Good News of Jesus to the world. But this is the part of the Easter story that is so easy to miss: The resurrection is not only an event to celebrate; it is the Good News we are sent to proclaim. Just as the Father sent Jesus, Jesus sends us. And he sends us not with our own courage or confidence, but with his peace, presence, power, and purpose.

In Lent we embark on an inward journey of repentance that leads us outward – set free to witness. In Easter, we celebrate the fulfillment of our freedom in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The empty tomb confirms the Good News of sins forgiven, death defeated, and new life in Christ – news too good to keep behind locked doors.

*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](http://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](mailto:bryce@lcmctexas.org).*

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# APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



**Elizabeth Lutheran Church**  
165 CR 307/ P.O. Box 675 Caldwell, Texas 77836  
(979)567-4286 office@elizabeth-lutheran.org

## **Elizabeth Lutheran Church 30<sup>th</sup> Annual July 3<sup>rd</sup> Celebration & Fireworks Display**

Dear Friend:

We hope you and your families are doing well! The members of Elizabeth Lutheran Church enjoy providing Caldwell and the Brazos Valley with a safe, friendly, and fun Independence celebration for everyone. **This year we are hosting a triple celebration:**

**United States of America's 250 years of Independence,  
Elizabeth Lutheran Church's founding 141 years ago, and  
Elizabeth Lutheran's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual July 3<sup>rd</sup> Celebration & Fireworks Display**

We look forward to having a magnificent evening of fun and festivities to celebrate these milestones. **Reserve the date now: Friday, July 3, 2026**, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Elizabeth Lutheran Church on Highway 21 East (165 CR 307) in Caldwell. This festivity has grown far beyond Caldwell, attracting visitors from throughout the Brazos Valley and surrounding areas.

Your support helps provide a night full of fellowship, great food, live music, children's games, a silent auction, raffle and a glorious array of fireworks for all to enjoy.

When you participate as an event underwriter, a sponsor, or a raffle item donor your name will appear on our banners, display lists, raffle tickets, our church website and in the local newspaper.

We welcome and appreciate your support with this event as a sponsor, donor of raffle items and/or silent auction items, or financial supporter.

**Please complete and remit the enclosed donation form to the church to show your support of this glorious event to the attention of Betty Gold, P. O. Box 675, Caldwell, TX 77836.**

**To have your sponsorship or raffle items listed on our raffle tickets, we need your RESPONSE by May 7, 2026. Raffle items don't have to be in the church at this time, just on our list so we can get them to the printer.**

**Donations, raffle items and silent auction items will be accepted until June 30, 2026.** If you have any raffle or sponsorship questions, please contact Betty Gold at 979-777-1964. For silent auction items contact Penny Neal at 979-220-7886 or Becky Goetsch at 979-676-0523. You can also contact the church for general questions at 979-567-4286. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you for making this event an enjoyable time for all.

Sincerely,

*Betty Gold*

Betty Gold, ELC July 3<sup>rd</sup> Planning Committee

View our website at [www.elizabeth-lutheran.org](http://www.elizabeth-lutheran.org) for more information.

# APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

## Elizabeth Lutheran Church 30<sup>th</sup> Annual July 3<sup>rd</sup> Celebration & Fireworks Display

If you wish to be a sponsor in one of the categories below, or if you wish to donate a raffle item, silent auction item or monetary gift, please mark your choice(s) below.

Please RESPOND AND/OR REMIT this form along with your monetary donation, sponsorship, or raffle item to the church by May 7, 2026 to be listed on raffle tickets.

*If you have questions, contact Betty Gold at 979-777-1964 for raffle or sponsorships. For silent auction items Penny Neal at 979-220-7886 or Becky Goetsch at 979-676-0523.*

### Sponsorship Levels

**Fireworks Finale Sponsor\*** \$ 5,000 (+) \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Includes 4 reserved parking spaces

**Stars Sponsor\*** \$ 2,500 (+) \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Includes 2 reserved parking spaces

**Stripes Sponsor** \$ 1,000 (+) \_\_\_\_\_

**Red Sponsor** \$ 500 (+) \_\_\_\_\_

**White Sponsor** \$ 300 (+) \_\_\_\_\_

**Blue Sponsor** \$ 200 (+) \_\_\_\_\_

**Raffle item:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Silent Auction item:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Monetary Donation:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please list below exactly how you wish your name to appear for our event and complete the address and contact information:*

**Business/Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation enclosed:** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* If you need an invoice, please mark here:** \_\_\_\_\_

Donations, raffle items and silent auction items will be accepted until June 30, 2026. Thank you again for making this event an enjoyable time for all.

Mail to: ELC July 3<sup>rd</sup> Planning Committee  
Attention: Betty Gold  
P. O. Box 675, Caldwell, Texas 77836