



# News of Elizabeth Lutheran

## February Highlights

### Feb 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29<sup>th</sup>

Crossways IV bible study @ 6:30 pm

### February 4<sup>th</sup>

Altar Guild Mtg after worship

### February 5, 12, 19 and 26<sup>th</sup>

WOW bible study @ 10 am

### February 14<sup>th</sup>

ASH Wednesday service @ 6:30 pm

### February 17<sup>th</sup>

Community Pantry

### February 18<sup>th</sup>

Council Mtg after worship

### February 21, 28

Lenten Meal after 6:30 PM worship

### February 25<sup>th</sup>

Congregational Mtg after worship

### February 27<sup>th</sup>

Info submission deadline for newsletter @ 10 AM

**ALTAR GUILD** is asking for two more volunteers to serve a 3-year term starting January 2024.

Contact: Makala @ 979-820-7167

## Elizabeth Lutheran Church

165 CR 307 (PO Box 675)

Caldwell, TX 77836

Office: 979-567-4286 (hrs. M-F, 9-1)

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

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

### Pastors

Dr. Bobby Leggett

210-215-7524

[BOBBYL3@gvtc.com](mailto:BOBBYL3@gvtc.com)

Rev. Dayna Leggett

210-275-5638

[DAYNAL@gvtc.com](mailto:DAYNAL@gvtc.com)

### Prayer Chain

Jayne Wolz – 979-324-9033

Margaret Hibbeler

Clair Schulle

Karen Speck

Connie Suehs

Sylvia Hein

Debbie Skrabanek

Lisa Blum

Twana Benner

Dianna Curington

## Council Members

Pres – Cody Novosad

979-204-1428

Vice Pres/Evang – Devin Gerland

979-820-8315

Secretary – Tiffany Parkin

979-255-5453

Treasurer – Vince Neal

979-224-6268

Property – Jaxton McNair

979-224-1284

Worship – Gabbo Goetsch

979-595-5158

Cong. Life – Lisa Blum

979-219-1549

Christian Ed. – Shawn Faust

979-220-8572

Membership – Maryanne Rogers

409-939-0666

*Please ask Council questions or share good news with them ☪*

## *Pastor Bobby's Post*

We are well into the New Year. My prayer daily is for the spiritual, psychological and physical wellbeing for you. I don't pray each person every day, but I do get around to you and your family. Please remember to pray for each other.

At the end of services, I always say, "Go in peace and pray for one another always." You respond, "Thanks be to God, and we will." Please keep that promise you made to God. Prayer is important. DOM John Main OSB wrote, "rather than merely a way of thinking. Indeed, because of the profound change meditation can work in one's life it is even more than a way of prayer; it is a way of life, a way of living from the deep center of one's being."

The focus of meditation is Christocentric. This means that it is centered on the prayer of Christ which is continuously poured forth in the Holy Spirit in the depth of each human being. Deeper than all ideas of God is God himself. Deeper than imagination is the reality of God. Thus, in this way of pure prayer we leave all thoughts, words and images behind in order to set our minds on the Kingdom of God before all else. In this way we leave our egotistical self behind to die and rise to our true self in Christ.

Meditation is the missing contemplative dimension of much Christian life today. It does not exclude other types of prayer and indeed deepens one's reverence for the sacraments and one's reading of scriptures.

This includes meditation. That is what Jesus did. Meditation is about relaxation for the mind, strength for the soul, and communion for the spirit. Meditation requires focus, scripture readings and consistency. If you appoint a time daily, in a quiet place, with eyes closed, except when reading, you will feel the power of the Holy Spirit sweep over you.

In practical terms here is a beginning for you. First, turn to Psalm 139, then read each phrase. After reading the phrase imagine the Holy Spirit standing in front of you and apply the phrase to you personally. Also try this with Psalm 141, but don't do too much at once. May be 3-5 minutes to begin with, then longer.

God be with you in 2024 and may you serve God faithfully, consistently, and whole heartedly. I will be going on this same journey with you as together we will kneel at the foot of the cross and serve God the best we can.

By God's Grace,

Pastor



*Jesus First - Others Second - Yourself Last*



## CELEBRATIONS

### February Birthdays



### February Anniversaries



### February Baptisms



Luke Novosad	1
Trent Groce	1
Peyton Skrabanek	2
Marcus Blum	3
Dustin Vess	3
Kerry Ondrasek	4
Clay Goodin	6
Larry Blum	8
Mike Cook	12
Daniel Vess	13
Pat Seymour	15
Jaxton McNair	16
Vince Neal	17
Kevin McManus	18
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
Reed Curington	19
Ann Amaya	22
Duane Gold	26

\*For celebrations corrections or additions, please let the office know by email at: [office@elizabeth-lutheran.org](mailto:office@elizabeth-lutheran.org) or leave a note on the office desk.

### Monthly Financial Information:

2023 Annual Budget:	\$188,359.00
Amount needed monthly:	\$ 15,696.59
Amount rec'd in Jan :	\$ 9,829.00
Average weekly attendance:	77

# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Crossways IV @ 6:30 PM		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany  Altar Guild Mtg after worship	WOW Bible Study "When You Pray" @ 10AM			Crossways IV @ 6:30 PM		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Transfiguration of Our Lord	WOW Bible Study "When You Pray" @ 10AM		ASH Wednesday Service @ 6:30	Crossways IV @ 6:30 PM		Community Pantry 7-10 AM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent  Council Mtg after worship	WOW Bible Study "When You Pray" @ 10AM		Lenten Meal after 6:30PM worship	Crossways IV @ 6:30 PM		
25	26	27	28	29		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent  Congregational Mtg after worship	WOW Bible Study "When You Pray" @ 10AM	Newsletter Info Deadline by 10 AM	Lenten Meal after 6:30 PM worship	Crossways IV @ 6:30 PM		

## Feb. Schedule of Worship Responsibilities

9 AM Service	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25
USHERS	Mike McManus, Bubba Frieda, Pat Rogers, Emmit Wolz, Fritz Wolz, and Jeff Zgabay			
ALTAR GUILD	Alexia Goolsby & Martha Streetman			
ACOLYTES	Jenna Hibbeler	Brynleigh Parkin	Savanah Faust	Avery Stevenson
READERS	Willie Hobbs	Barbara Warren	Devin Gerland	Clair Schulle
AUDIO/ VISUAL	Gabbo Goetsch	Britt Lloyd	Gerlands	Vince Neal
COMMUNION SERVERS	Jaxton McNair & Vince Neal	Gabbo Goetsch & Shawn Faust	Lisa Blum & Tiffany Parkin	Maryanne Rogers & Devin Gerland

## WOW-WOMEN OF THE WORD NEWS

- ✚ WOW-Women of the Word new bible study "When You Pray" Jan 22 thru March 4.
- ✚ All women are invited. Please feel free to bring a friend!
- ✚ In need of prayer? Prayer requests can be placed on the Prayer Wall located in the church entrance, request on attendance card or contact prayer chain individuals listed on page 1.
- ✚ We are updating our 2024 directory: contact info updates to Clair or Lisa, please.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Bradley Lynn McNair born Dec 28, 2023

Parents: Jaxton & Bailey McNair

Grandparents: Randy & Sonja Brinkman, John & Lisa McNair

Great Grandparents: Doris Sebesta, Ray & Sue Brinkman





# Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth



## How to Grow Your Church

In my role as Director of Mission Growth, a common question that church members and even some pastors ask me is “How do we grow our church?” I love this question because it tells me a few things about the person asking it. First, the very question itself communicates that the person asking recognizes that their church has a purpose to connect to more people and reveals a “holy discontent” with the present reality. Secondly, the question also informs me that the asker is genuinely interested and open to learning and implementing new ideas. Both having a heart to connect with more people and a teachable spirit are key components to ministry success and congregational revitalization.

The question also presents a bit of a challenge: Growing a bigger church should never be the mission of the church! Instead, church growth is a byproduct of a church engaging in and accomplishing its true mission and purpose. So, what is the true mission and purpose of the church? In my opinion, it can be summed up with “connecting people to Jesus.” Exactly what this looks like in each congregation and community can and should be very different: no two congregations are alike; nor are the contexts in which those congregations minister.

I truly believe that churches who prioritize connecting people to a life-giving relationship with Jesus will indeed grow. Yet growth, in and of itself, should not be the actual goal. What would happen if we stopped obsessing over worship attendance or confirmation class size or Sunday School participation and started prioritizing and praying for those in our community whom God is calling us to befriend with the purpose and intent of gently and lovingly connecting them with Jesus? How can churches prioritize this activity as their mission, encouraging and equipping one another for everyday mission work?

In the book *7 Habits of Healthy Churches*, Marcus Carlson notes that “Healthy churches are focused more on those outside the church than those inside the church.” I couldn’t agree more with Carlson’s assertion. To be clear, this does not mean that healthy churches do not care for one another within the church; healthy churches always love one another. What the author is pointing out is a reality I routinely observe: in the absence of a clear, outward-focused mission, congregations always default to pleasing their own members as their de facto purpose. Whenever a congregation focuses on member satisfaction, it becomes unhealthy and ultimately, inevitably declines.

God is calling the church to more. That more isn’t simply to worry about stopping decline and growing our congregation. The more God is calling the church to is a mission that extends beyond our church walls and prioritizes connecting people to Jesus.

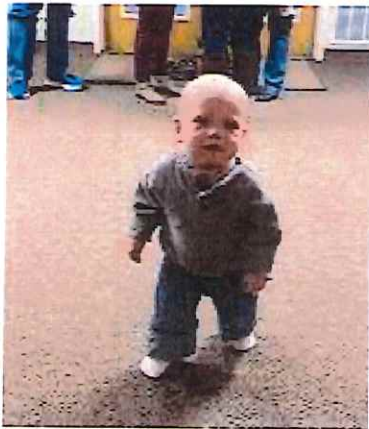
*Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at [www.harvestworkers.net](http://www.harvestworkers.net)). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations 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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## New Acolyte, Aubrey Maurer

Sunday, January 14, Aubrey served as acolyte for the first time. Aubrey is the daughter of Angelina Perkkio and the granddaughter of Yutta Vess. Welcome to your next step in your Faith-Growth Journey.



## LOOK WHO'S Walking !

For the very first time, L.J. Graves came walking into church. He chose the coldest day of the year, to insist that his mom not carry him in. He was bundled in his heavy duty Carhart jacket. No gloves were needed as the sleeves went almost to the ground. I captured his picture right after worship. He's growing fast and almost ready to come up for Children's Sermon. We are so blessed to watch L.J. grow up.!

He is the son of Kelsey and John Graves; and the grandson of John Hoffman.



## Sunday School News

### Attendance Awards for Fall & Winter 2023

We have some amazing students who received awards for their attendance for the Fall and Winter of 2023.

Pre-K/Kinder : Peyton Skrabanek; Grades 1-2-3: Carson Parkin, Abbey Stevenson and Levi Weatherly; and Grades 4-5-6: (Their awards include bringing their Bibles to class) Houston Gerland, Brynleigh Parkin and Avery Stevenson. Also receiving a "Faithful Servant Award" was Julianne Gerland (8th Grade) for her serving as a teachers' assistant. Please take a moment to thank them for their faithfulness.

### Sunday School Teachers Needed (2) for Grades 4-5-6

We are in need of two adults willing to co-teach the 4th-5th-6th graders beginning Feb. 4th through the end of May 2024. Please contact Pastor Dayna if you can help out.

### February Children's Ministry Curriculum: "Chosen Child"

"Chosen Child" is designed to help children understand that God loves and values them just as they are. Through lessons on repentance, inheritance, and living a life that reflects their faith, the curriculum seeks to instill in children confidence in their relationship with God and encourage them to live a life that honors God. Our Memory Verse will be Romans 8:38-39, "<sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



## OUR KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY



January was a very busy month for our kids and their extra-curricular competitions. Pictured on the right are three of our 4th-5th and 6th graders playing Top Gun's "Highway to the Danger Zone" after Sunday School. In front is

**Brynleigh Parkin** who placed **THIRD**

with her team in her Cheerleading competition in Cedar Park, Texas, on Jan. 20-21. Next in line is **Ayden Rok**, who placed **FIRST** in the 4-H, Genesis D-9 Juniors Archery Competition in Bryan, Texas, also on Jan. 20-21. See his photo on the left. Next is **Avery Stevenson**, who placed **FIRST** in the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Annual Food Show Intermediate category. See the photo below for more information on Avery.

Pictured below, is **Abbey Stevenson**, (left) who won first place in the Texas AgriLife Extension's Annual Food Show, Junior Appetizer category. The competition was held on Saturday,

January 20th. **Abbey** entered "Cranberry Pecan Cheese Ball Bites" appetizer.

On the right of the same photo, is **Avery Stevenson**, (right) who competed in the Intermediate category for "Healthy Appetizers" and won first place with her recipe for "Black Eyed Pea Dip."

## Congratulations Brynleigh, Ayden, Avery and Abbey!

*We're so proud of each one of you!*





## COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

# OH SO COLD !!!



At 7 am on Saturday, January 20th, the weather was just barely above freezing with an icy wind making it soooo COLD! Elizabeth Lutheran's volunteers showed up in some crazy winter disguises. From left to right are: Maryanne Rogers in the **White "Llama" costume**. Next (in the sunglasses) is Jayne Schouweiler, a Winter Texan volunteer from Minnesota, Then Willie Hobbs, Karen Billberry, D.J. Oliver (also in sunglasses), Judy Muzny and Kim Boetger. There were many others working the distribution line, but it was time to begin our work.

**Your faithfulness and service in Jesus' name are very much appreciated.**

# LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2024

Lent 2024 begins with **ASH WEDNESDAY**, which falls on February 14th. We are aware that February 14th is a huge "commercial holiday" full of chocolate and flowers. Won't you consider including some time with Jesus this year? Join us at 6:30 pm for both the Imposition of Ashes and Communion.

The following Wednesday, February 21st, begins our **Mid-week Lenten Services** at 6:30 pm., followed by a meal. Dates for **Wednesday Evening Services** will be on Feb. 21, Feb. 28, Mar. 6, Mar. 13, and Mar. 20.

**Palm Sunday** is March 24th

**Holy Week:** Maundy Thursday - March 28th @ 6:30 p.m.  
Good Friday - March 29th @ 6:30 p.m.

**Easter:** Sunrise Service - March 31st @ 7 a.m.  
Breakfast from 8 to 8:45 a.m.  
Easter Worship - March 31st @ 9 a.m.

## February 2024 Newsletter



BHRC Caldwell: 979-567-3200  
1108 Woodson, Caldwell, TX 77836  
BHRC Somerville: 979-596-2315  
17202 St. Hwy 36 Ste. 110, Somerville, TX 77879  
Email: [BHRC@burlesoncounty.org](mailto:BHRC@burlesoncounty.org)

December 27, 2023

Elizabeth Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 675  
Caldwell, TX 77836

Subject: Summary of BHRC 2023 Activities and THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Dear Elizabeth Lutheran Church,


On behalf of the Burleson County Family Resource Commission, I am writing to thank you for the support you provided for our work in 2023 and provide you an overview of our activities last year.

As you know, our board members are appointed by the Burleson County Commissioners Court for two primary purposes, 1) to serve as the community advisory body to the Burleson Health Resource Center, which serves all residents of the county to gain access needed services, and 2) to serve as Burleson County's Child Protection Board, providing support to Child Protective Services in meeting the needs of abused and neglected children in our community, in part by managing the County's Rainbow Room.

In the past year:

- Case managers helped over 500 households, including working families with children, the elderly and disabled, victims of domestic violence, abuse or neglect, access a broad range of medical, housing, mental health, protection and basic needs.
- An average of 47 county residents per month, 61% of whom were over the age of 60, with the majority of those disabled, were provided rides to get to medical and social service appointments.
- 137 referrals were received for substance use disorder counseling, provided individual and group counseling to 89 clients, including 17 in the county jail, and provided preventive and educational outreach to 160 students.
- Provided direct assistance to 75 families with children at an average cost of \$165 per family and to 138 elderly or disabled individuals at an average cost of \$101 per household.
- The Rainbow Room provided clothing, infant supplies, toiletries and other necessities to 28 abused, neglected and at-risk children referred by Child Protective Services and BHRC case managers.

These results would not have been possible without your generous support of folks like you over the past year. We are blessed to be of service to this community. Please feel free to contact me or my staff if we can provide with more information or assist you or someone you know in any way. I look forward the results of our partnership in the next year and to sharing with you again a summary of our work in 2024.

  
Albert Ramirez  
Executive Director  
Burleson Health Resource Center

*Thank you for your  
ongoing partnership  
& support!* 