

Good News Journal September 2025

St. John Lutheran Church of Cat Spring

480 Ross Street Cat Spring Texas 78933 979-865-5444 www.stjohncatspring.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

9:00 am Adult Summer Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service /Children's Church

Patience in Christ

One of the most difficult virtues to practice in our fast-moving world is patience. We live in a culture that values instant results—instant messages, instant answers, instant gratification. Yet, Scripture reminds us again and again that patience is not only necessary, it is part of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

When we look at the life of Jesus, we see patience at every turn. He patiently taught His disciples, even when they misunderstood Him. He patiently welcomed crowds, even when He was weary. He patiently endured suffering, humiliation, and the cross—out of love for us. His example reminds us that patience is not simply waiting, but waiting with trust and hope in God's timing.

To have patience in Christ means to rest in the promise that God is at work, even when we cannot see it. It means believing that delays are not denials, but opportunities to grow in faith. It means offering grace to others when they fall short, just as Christ offers grace to us.

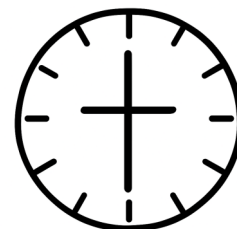
As we face daily frustrations, challenges, and seasons of waiting, let us remember the words of Psalm 27:14: "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" With Christ, we can wait with confidence, knowing that His love never fails and His purposes will always be fulfilled.

Devotional Thought

Take a deep breath today and invite Christ into your waiting. Whisper this prayer: "Lord Jesus, teach me to trust in Your timing. Give me patience to love others as You love me, and strength to wait with hope in Your promises. **Amen.**"

Your Sister in Christ,

Robin Haugen



SEPTEMBER NEWS

**YOUTH
GROUP** 



Welcome back to Sunday School! September 7

Sunday School starts at 9:00



Lacy Dittert will teach our younger youth K-5th in classroom #2.

She will be teaching from the New testament.



Christa Klar will teach Jr high and High school youth in classroom #3 starting in the Old testament.



Confirmation students are required to be in Sunday school for the bible segment of confirmation.



It's Grandparents day! September 7th

The Youth will host a celebration for our Grandparents with refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after church service.

Jr high & High school Youth service project to start Sept 7th after church.

Youth will give our two classrooms a fresh coat of paint.



Acolyte Schedule:

September- 7th Bexley Nelson 14th Rhett Reichardt 21st Layla Ordner 28 Riley Hewson

October- 5th Rinley Nelson 12th Hunter Hewson 19th Layla Ordner 26th Rhett Reichardt

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDEULE

9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office will be closed today .	2 St John Prayer Shawl Ministry 8:30 am	3	4	5 Decorate for private event on Saturday eve.	6 Private Event Rental Evening
7 RALLY DAY ! Sunday School / Choir Practice 9:00 am Worship Service / Children's Church 10:00 am Don Allphin	8 St John Bell Choir 4:00 pm Council 6:15 pm	9 St John Quilting Ministry 9:00 am	10	11	12	13
14 Sunday School / Choir Practice 9:00 am Worship Service / Chil- dren's Church 10:00 am Don Allphin Second meeting with Bishop Tracey Breashears-Schultz; 11:30 am -ish	15 St John Bell Choir 4:00 pm	16	17 Senior Serve Is BACK! 11:00 am End of Summer Picnic ! 	18	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:00 am St John Choir Performs Worship Service / Children's Church 10:00 am Don Allphin Noisy Offering	22 St John Bell Choir 4:00 pm	23 St John Quilting Ministry 9:00 am	24	25 WELCA Meeting 6:00 pm We'll be making the School Kits Light Dinner.	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service Children's Church 10:00 am Don Allphin	29 St John Bell Choir 4:00 pm	30 				

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

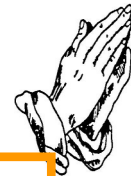
9-1 Kim George
 9-3 Danny Hengst
 Donald Zaskoda
 9-4 Jerry Henneke
 9-7 Christy Ordner
 9-7 Jennifer Brandes
 9-8 Carla Reichardt
 9-12 John Simpson
 9-14 Linda Petras
 9-15 Laurie Eckhardt
 9-15 Sherry Barr
 9-17 Rita Zaskoda
 9-17 Ruth Walker
 9-18 Molly Dittert
 9-21 Jennifer Logan
 9-24 Delores Dittert
 9-24 Frank Surovcak
 9-24 Calli Gray
 9-28 Kaston Tipp
 9-29 Jheri Sell

9-2 Herbert and Elrose Kollatschny
 9-5 James and Shirley Hering
 9-10 Matt and Jill Thielemann
 9-15 Heath and Paula Wendt



Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Online Views
8-3	46	-
8-10	66	367
8-17	37	-
8-24	60	390



MEMBERS IN OUR CARE

Sealy Avir
 Delores Dittert
 Katherine Ludwig

Argent Court –Brenham
 Carrie Froebel

HOMEBOUND:
 Katherine Washburn

Prevailing Prayer List

James and Carol Wenzel
 Ronnie and Bonnie Smith

Deana Keller
 Roy Dierschke
 Carolyn Rash
 Mike Rankin
 Carol Smith

Nic Norboge
 Emily Drymala
 Kendall Manna
 Alfred Tomasek

Tristan
 Jerry Henneke
 Theresa Luetge
 Zachary Schulke
 Kathy Painchaud
 William Hegemeyer

Sara Wit
 MaryAnn English
 Val Kite

Victor Smith
 Charlotte Reichert
 Hope Griffin

Brian Dahl
 Bubba Bencal
 Nathan Schulke
 Kathy Weiss
 Shirley Hering

Carol Smith
 Rebecca Rabon

Steve Lackey
 Neely Faye Grawunder



School Kit List

FOUR 70-sheet note-books of wide or college-ruled paper, 8"x 10 ½" ; no loose leaf paper

ONE 30 centimeter ruler or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

ONE pencil sharpener

ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with rubber band

FIVE black or blue ball-point pens (no gel ink); secure together with rubber band

ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons

Hello -

The next **WELCA** meeting will be the **25th of September at 6p in the Fellowship Hall** with a "light dinner".

Our goal is to supply 24 kits this year and we are asking that whole kits be sponsored. The list is to the left. . Or if you prefer to give cash and someone else do the shopping please give your cash or check (made out to WELCA) to Gwen Reichardt.

We will assemble the school kits then for LWR.

Any questions, please feel free to talk with Jheri or Pauline :)

The St John Scholarship Committee

is proud to announce that **Avery Dittert and Rylan Reichardt** met all the requirements to received scholarship funds for the Fall 2025 semester. They are both in their sophomore year at Texas A&M.

Gig 'Em!



The St John Handbells

have resumed practice on **Monday's at 4:00 pm**
Next practice is 9-8-25

So, now is the time to come join the bell choir!

Anyone is welcome,

The schedule for September for the St. John Singers is as follows:

Practice, 9:00 am, is September 7, 14 and will perform during worship on September 21.

Please come join us !

Senior Service is returning

**September 17th
11:00 am**

End of Summer Picnic!!!

Everything you dreamed of, except the ants !

Sandwiches and Salads galore !

Food and Fun

Save the Date !





St. John Lutheran Church – Cat Spring Council Meeting

August 11, 2025 Page 1 of 2

Call to order: By Robin Haugen at 5:36 p.m.

Opening Devotional: Don Allphin

Members Present: Robin Haugen, Mary O’Neal, Tim Brune, Doug Neva, Laurie Eckhardt

Members Absent: Malcolm Dittert

Guests – Don Allphin, Christa Klar, Cheryl Mellethin, Lacy Dittert

Adoption of Agenda – Yes

Minutes for final approval –June approved per email, Yes Approved

Treasurer Report: Looking for options to move money from ELCA to another place. Laurie will look into the steps necessary to move the monies and place in another fund. Maybe Thrivent. Will present something to congregation as we get closer to making the move.

We have excess money sitting in the checking account for the church. Laurie suggested we place the monies into CD at Citizen State Bank in Sealy. Decision was made to move 100,000. To a 6 month CD and another 100,000 to a 9 month or 12 month CD whichever Laurie thinks has the best interest rate. Motion made by Doug Neva, 2nd by Robin Haugen. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Report – Good participation in the congregation meetings with the different synods, good fellowship and great food!! This is going to allow us to make an informed decision on which synod to go with.

Committee Reports

Youth (LYO) – Youth had a great time at Splashway and see attached for all the fun things the youth are doing!!

Cemetery Report – Lots of rain and lots of mowing!

House and Grounds – The bench at the church will be fixed on the morning of September 6th. The same day as the wedding.

There is an issue with the air conditioning unit that controls the kitchen. Doug is having that looked at this week.

Old Business: Research committee: Has given us a new schedule to follow now that we know the date The Bishop has acknowledged he received our letter July 9, 2025. Therefore our 90 days will be October 7th. We have scheduled our Final vote for October 19, 2025. We must schedule the Bishop for one more visit before our vote and Robin is working on getting that scheduled. She has emailed Tracy, the new bishop, for a date and not heard back from her.

Playground: We have a bid from Reichardt Construction, which Council voted to give him the entire job of fixing up the playgrounds. Hopefully soon we will have an area we can all enjoy looking at and watching the youth play! Motion to accept the bid: 1st Laurie, 2nd Tim all approved. Yes

See page 2 of 2 next page



St. John Lutheran Church-Cat Spring

Council Meeting Minutes

August 11 , 2025 Page 2 of 2

New Business: We had 400.00 which was donated to the church for the Relief fund for Kerr County. Laurie will check with the Bellville Police Department to see where the best place is to send the monies.

We were asked to donate to the Waco Fire Fighter Honor Guard to benefit Emily Bounds. See attached letter from Jheri Sell. Council approved \$250.00 Motion made: 1st Mary 2nd Doug all approved YES

September Council Assignments:

September 7: Doug

September 14: Mary

September 21: Tim Noisy Offering will go to Quilters

September 28: Laurie

Approve the Calendar: 1st Robin 2nd Laurie all approved, YES

Future Agenda Items:

Meeting adjourned 6:44 p.m.

Close with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. ONeal



August/September 2025 Ministry Duties

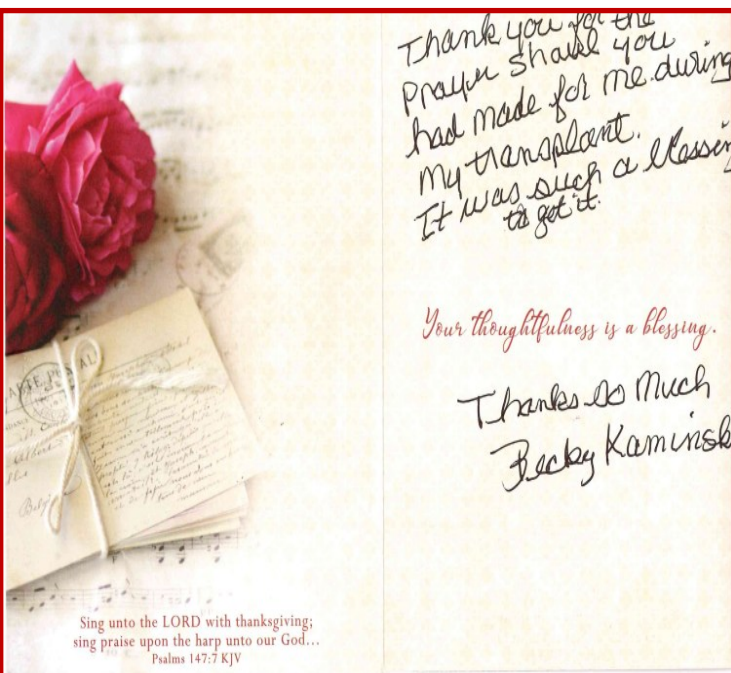
St. John Lutheran Church Cat Spring

Flowers: Unless there is an * asterisk by your name, the altar guild understands that you will supply the flowers or plant for that Sunday. If problem arises please call office at 979-865-5444 or **Ruth Walker, Flower Guild, at 713-816-0629**. If you cannot fulfil one of these duties, just call office! Council on Duty-- If you cant make it on scheduled day, please check with other Council to trade Sundays.

Date	Worship Leader	Council on Duty	Acolyte	Reader	Flowers
8-31	Don Allphin	Doug Neva	Hunter Hewson	Reese Reichardt	Rylan Reichardt
9-7	Don Allphin	Doug Neva	Bexley Nelson	Jennifer Logan	Nancy Hartmann
9-14	Don Allphin	Mary O'Neal	Rhett Reichardt	Robin Haugen	Open
9-21	Don Allphin	Tim Brune	Layla Ordner	Pauline Lapham	Open
9-28	Don Allphin	Laurie Eckhardt	Riley Hewson	James Tinerf	Open

In red indicates change from original calendar

August 2025 Altar Guild Tanra Ordner Christa Klar Cristy Ordner
September 2025 Altar Guild Jheri Sell Laurie Eckhardt
Flower Guild Ruth Walker Gwen Reichardt



Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving;
sing praise upon the harp unto our God...
Psalms 147:7 KJV

ELCA Disaffiliation Timeline – updated 08/17/25

Date	Description
06/22/2025	Congregational Meeting with Bishop Rinehart
07/06/2025	First of two votes regarding disaffiliation with the ELCA; requires 2/3 majority of voting members present (disaffiliation approved 59-2)
07/09/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to Bishop – certification of resolution (signed by Council Secretary) certifying voting results; <i>emailed on 07/09 (bishop confirmed receipt); also certified letter mailed to bishop on 07/09</i> Letter to congregation – certification of resolution (signed by Council Secretary) to all voting members; <i>emailed on 07/09; mailed to those with no email address on 07/10; will be posted in bulletin and next newsletter</i> <p><i>Section C6.05(b) - Both letters must be mailed within 10 days from date of vote (7/6)</i></p>
Begins: 07/09/2025 Ends: 10/07/2025	<p>90-Day Discernment Period begins when the Synod/Bishop receives the certification of resolution/voting results letter</p> <p><i>Bishop Rinehart confirmed receipt of notification on 07/09/25 officially marking the start of the 90-Day Discernment Period</i></p> <p><i>Section C6.05(c) - a period of at least 90 days following receipt by the synod of the notice</i></p>
08/06/2025 Missouri Synod 08/10/2025 LCMC 08/10/2025 WELS 08/24/2025 NALC	<p>Meetings with the Lutheran synods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missouri Synod (LCMS) – presentation on 8/6 at 6pm with Rev. Dr. David Bahn and Pastor John Davis (LCMS Texas Dist. 1st VP); snacks and drinks will be provided LCMC – presentation on 8/10 following church service with Pastor Bryce Formwalt (Director of Mission Growth); will present during congregational lunch Wisconsin Synod (WELS) – brief presentation on 8/10 following church service by Cheryl Mellenthin (previously a member of WELS) NALC – presentation on 8/24 following church service with Pastor Jared Stillions (St. Peter Lutheran Church - Hallettsville); will present during congregational lunch <p><i>Meeting dates need to be posted in the bulletin and Aug. newsletter; also need sign-up lists for snacks/meals for the meetings</i></p>

09/14/2025	<p>Second meeting with Bishop (Tracey Breashears-Schultz) following our church service (around 11:30 am)</p> <p><i>Meeting date needs to be posted in bulletin and Sept. newsletter; also need sign-up list for brunch items for the meeting</i></p>
10/01/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice to Bishop Tracey Breashears Schultz of intent to conduct second vote Notice to congregation (voting members) regarding special meeting/second vote <p><i>Note: Notices to the Bishop and the congregation must be sent at least 10 days prior to the special voting meeting; also, must be mentioned in announcements during church the (2) preceding Sundays (Section C6.05(d))</i></p>
10/19/2025	<p>Second special meeting and vote regarding disaffiliation; if passes with 2/3 majority of voting members, then hand out second ballot to vote on which specific Lutheran synod we will affiliate.</p> <p>For the Lutheran affiliation vote, the ballot will have all (3) synods listed (NALC, LCMC, Missouri Synod). If there is not a clear 2/3 majority, the synod with the least number of votes will be eliminated, and a second vote will be conducted with the remaining (2) synods.</p> <p><i>Note: Both the vote to disaffiliate and the vote for the new Lutheran synod/denomination require a 2/3 majority to pass (Sections C6.05(d) and (Section C6.05(e))</i></p>
Week of 10/20/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to Bishop – certification of resolution (signed by Council Secretary) certifying voting results and certifying with which Lutheran denomination we will affiliate Letter to congregation – send copy of certification of resolution (signed by Council Secretary) to all voting members Letter to synod with which we intend to affiliate notifying them of disaffiliation with ELCA <p><i>(Section C6.05(d))- Letters must be mailed within 10 days from date of vote (TBD)</i></p>
TBD – following second vote	Complete application with new Lutheran synod

Please find full size copies of the
ELCA Disaffiliation Timeline
 in the narthex of the church .