



Good News Journal

November 2023

St. John Lutheran Church of Cat Spring

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDEULE

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

From the Desk of Pastor Stark:

This month for the Moses Project we are reading the book *The Gravity of Joy* by the Rev. Dr. Angela Gorrell. After enduring the loss of three family members: one to suicide (her cousin's husband), a heart attack (her 22-year-old nephew), and opioid addiction (her dad), she found her way back to life in the most unlikely place. Grief is an emotion that none of us can avoid if we have loved someone. There is not a process to get through it, nor is there one to stuff it down so that you don't experience it. I have often described grief as waves on the beach. Sometimes they are soft, not causing too much commotion on the shore; while other times they are beating the sand till there is nothing left.

Have you ever heard it said, or maybe even said it yourself; God does not give you more than you can handle?

That's supposed to be a nice way to tell someone they are stronger than they might think in whatever moments they might find themselves feeling low, but it is simply not true. That saying is nowhere in the bible and there are instances like Angela's that are too much to bear.

Her grief came out as anger and fear. She lashed out at the world because it was still moving on as if these losses didn't happen. Then she began to fear who was next. Have you ever gone about life wondering when the shoe is going to drop? That was her. She went about life as a robot; doing what needed to be done, but not finding the right way to tend to her grief. She tried therapy and running, meditation, and prayer, but none of it worked to quiet the tsunami of grief that racked her. You might be thinking at this point that you thought her book was titled something about joy, and you would be correct.

It's hard to imagine finding joy when life has thrown some pretty nasty curve balls, but she did. In a women's prison bible study, she found joy. Through this group of women that struggled to maintain their humanity in a prison system that told them they were no longer human, she found joy in life again because they helped her remember her own humanity. She was more than the losses she endured. She was more than her grief, albeit it was now a significant part of who she was.

November 1 is All Saints Day. A day that we remember those saints that have gone on before us and give thanks for their lives. It's a somber day, one marked by the grief that we all share, but my hope is that you find comfort and peace in the assurance that God is with you through every twist and turn in this life; and join me at our cemetery either at 10am or 6:30pm to remember those who are just waiting on the other side.

November 2023

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

11-1 Alan Restivo
Rhett Reichardt

11-2 Jeff Brandes
Sharon Peck
Scarlett Ordnee
William Ordner

11-3 Connie Reibenstein

11-5 Lytha Wendt

11-7 Melissa Schmidt
Tommy Wade

11-8 Tara Reibenstein

11-9 James Tiner
TJ Menke

11-11 Shirley Hering

11-13 Ellie Haugen
Ken Wienken

11-17 Charlotte Reichert
Kaleigh George

11-18 Grant Blackmon
Riley Hewson

11-20 Peyton Blezinger

11-21 Hunter Hewson
Warren Severin

11-23 Janie Tipp

11-25 Nicole Otto

11-29 Layla Ordner

11-30 Rylan Reichardt

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

11-1 Melvin and Charlotte Reichert

11-5 William and Bonnie Hegemeyer

11-9 Neil and Deanna Ling

11-13 Wes and Audra Blackmon

11-17 Marty and Karen Reichert
Randy and Debbie Reichardt

11-21 Louis and Rebecca Blackmon

11-25 John and Martha Simpson

11-27 Richard and Ashley Hewson

MEMBERS IN OUR CARE

Argent Court –Brenham
Carrie Froebel

Kruse Village-Brenham
Elaine Thielemann

Columbus Oaks
Marilyn Wendt

HOMEBOUND:
Katherine Ludwig
Katherine Washburn

Prevailing Prayers

Gloria Tipp
Mike Mueller
Allan Boehm
Cindi Harrison
Fay Rice
Susan Boyett
Richie Butler
Colin Brock
Deana Keller
Paulette Miller
Deanna Ling
Sharon
Bubba Bencal
Darrell Grasb
James and Carol Wenzel
Dorothy Mersmann
Gloria Havemann
Hart Oshman
Johnny Griffin
Wes Redman
Melinda Brod
Betty Remmert
Jerry Ordner
Cecil and Vanna Froebel
Kelly Macha
Melinda Brock
Kendall Manna
Elaine Thielemann
JD Divin
Joe Brandt
Yanulis Family
Katie Johnston
Brian Carpenter
Micheal Pawelek
Maria Hahn
Zachary Schulke
Rita Jacobs
Colleen and Exi
Judy Johnson
Betty D.
Lynda Carson
Richard Kudlaxcek

The family of Cecil Froebel in their time of sorrow.





November News



Oktoberfest was a lot of fun! Good food, music and fellowship. We had quite a few that came in Halloween costumes too! Everyone was deserving of a Skeleton trophy for such awesome costumes! Face painting, bashing the pinata, and the walk about trick or treat were a hit with the youth.

*Thank you to all who brought cakes and treats and participated in our Cake walk!
It brought in \$170 for our youth.*

????????????????
 ? Mystery Youth Event ?
 ? November 19 after ?
 ? worship. Meet in the ?
 ? Fellowship Hall. ?
 ? 5th graders and up. ?
 ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?



IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

Peyton Blezinger was the Youth spotlight for October. Lots of talents for a young lady.

Come and see who will be in the Spotlight in November and enjoy some refreshments too!



Fantasy of Lights

Sealy Christmas Parade
Saturday Dec 2 7:00

Youth will have a float in the parade again this year. Come enjoy the festivities!

Work days on float will fall into the last 2 weeks of November. TBD

Christmas program Practice will begin November 26 during Sunday school and Children's church.



Acolyte Schedule November: 5th Brooklynn Logan 12th Addilynn Divin
19th Marissa Divin 26th Riley Hewson

Dec: 3rd Bexley Nelson 10th Brooklynn Logan 17th Marissa Divin 24 Volunteer 31st Riley Hewson

NOVEMBER 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 All Saints Day Prayer Service St John Cemetery 10:00 am 6:30 pm,	2 St John's Hand- bell Practice 5:30 pm	3	4 
5 St. John Singers & Sunday school 9 am Worship with Holy Com- munion 10 am All Saints Day Remembrance Candle Service	6 St John's Quilting Ministry 8:30 am	7 Election Day Poling Location St John Fellowship Hall 7 am to 7pm	8 Confirmation Class 630 pm	9 St John's Hand- bell Practice 5:30 pm	10	11
12 St. John Singers & Sun- day school 9 am Worship 10 am Austin County Cho- rales Concert 4:00 pm St John Bellville	13	14	15 Senior Service 11:00 am ! Turkey and dressing with all the trimmings !! Confirmation Class 630 pm	16 St John's Hand- bell Practice 5:30 pm	17	18
19 St. John Singers & Sunday school 9 am Worship with Holy Communion 10 am Noisy Offering Gathering of Thank offering WELCA Meeting After Worship	20 St John's Quilting Ministry 8:30 am	21	22			25
26 St. John Singers & Sun- day school 9 am Worship 10 am Time to decorate for Christmas After Worship Service !!!	27	28	29	30 WELCA 6:30 pm St John's Hand- bell Practice 5:30 pm		Advent begins on December 3rd. 

November 2023 Worship Service

Ministry Schedule

Readers

5 Confirmands
12 Ralph Grinde
19 Gwen Reichardt
26 Margie Lovell

Acolytes

5 Brooklynn Logan
12 Addilynn Divin
19 Marissa Divin
26 Riley Hewson

October 2023 Worship Attendance



Date	In Person	Online
1	57	25
8	41	33
15	64	58
22	93	131

November 2023 Council On Duty

November 5: Ryan Chad
November 12: Jennifer Kyle
November 19: Mary Robin
November 26: Jennifer Chad

All Saints Day Services

All Saints Day Prayer Services

Wednesday, November 1st

St John Cemetery

10:00 am

6:30 pm

Bring a Lawn Chair

All Saints Day Church Service

Sunday, November 5th

St John Church

10:00 am

Remembrance Candle Lighting

**Both events will be honoring those
who have gone before us.**

It should still be day light at the 6:30
pm service, November 1st, but bring
a flashlight just in case.

November Altar Guild

*Sharon Koehne, Chris Beckendorff,
Sherry Barr*



November 2023 Altar Flowers

5 Jim Tiner
12 Robin and Faith
19 Chad and Mandy Blezinger
26 Johnnie Klatt

Flower Guild: Ruth Walker

A Note from the Cemetery Sexton

There has been a change in Cemetery Policy. Per discussion during the church service on August 13th, and with approval of the Church Council on August 14th, concrete curbing around gravesites will no longer be allowed after January 1, 2024. This is not really a change in policy, but more of a clarification, since the Church Bylaws currently state that ; (e. A newly plotted section of the cemetery as defined in the cemetery policy will have a restriction where no curbing is allowed around the grave site.)

The new Cemetery Policy wording is; (Curbing around gravesites in any area of the cemetery will not be allowed after January 1, 2024. This will include the placement of any items that would impede the mowing of the grass on the grave, such as footstones, park benches, trees, shrubs, flowers, etc. Headstones and concrete foundations for headstones will be allowed. Flowers placed next to headstones will also be allowed.)

This policy is being implemented to make it easier to care for the cemetery and to reduce the erosion currently taking place in the cemetery.

Regards

Ken Wienken



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
SEPTEMBER 2023

ASSETS

Bank Accounts

AUSTIN COUNTY STATE BANK - CEMETERY OP 18,068.85

Citizen's State Bank 45,814.61

Citizen's State Bank - Building/Property 95,364.12

Citizen's State Bank - ELCA Benevolence 540.00

Citizen's State Bank - ELCA Disaster 150.00

Citizen's State Bank - LYO 5,759.98

Citizen's State Bank - Music Fund 493.84

Citizen's State Bank - Prayer Shawl 622.52

Citizen's State Bank - Scholarship Fund 6,855.24

Citizen's State Bank - Sealy Pantry Fund 0.00

Citizen's State Bank - Thrivent Choice 348.00

Citizen's State Bank - Wedding Fund 1,833.05

Citizen's State Bank-Cemetery 0.00

Citizen's State Bank-Memorial Fund 9,306.58

Citizens State Bank - Patio Fund 0.00

Citizens State Bank - WELCA 45.00

Citizens State Bank-Community Care Fund 6,344.98

Citizens State Bank-Senior Day 2,135.94

Total Citizen's State Bank 175,613.86

Citizens State Bank MM 51,464.15

ELCA Endowment E272908 232,127.13

ELCA Endowment E272909 27,440.48

ELCA Endowment E273030 50,000.00

Industry State Bank- CD Cemetery 74,856.38

Petty Cash 100.00

Total Bank Accounts \$629,670.85

Total Current Assets \$629,670.85

Fixed Assets

12488 Newberg Rd., Cat Spring 110,813.00

208 Madison Avenue 141,458.24

Carport Canopy 12,515.48

Choir Loft Risers 2,451.19

Fellowship Hall 132,941.75

Furniture & Equipment 16,281.03

Land (School Lot) 33,365.00

Lots 3 & 4, Block 15 30,000.00

Parsonage 175,000.00

Sanctuary 273,001.03

Sound System 9,698.51

Storage Building 5,611.55

Total Fixed Assets \$943,136.78

TOTAL ASSETS \$1,572,807.63



Christmas Season Worship Dates

Pastor Stephanie has announced the **Holden Evening Prayer; an Advent Service**, on Wednesday nights ,
this Advent Season.

The dates will be **December 6,13 and 20.**

This service will begin at 6:30 pm .

We will also have an
Advent Souper Supper, at 6:00 pm, right before the Advent
Service begins at 6:30 pm

If you would like to host one of the dinners,
see the **“Advent Souper Supper” sign up sheet** in Narthex.

Christmas Eve Prayer Service

10:00 am December 24th

4th Sunday in Advent

No Communion

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

6:00 pm December 24th

Communion

**No Worship Service on
December 25th**



St. John Lutheran Church – Cat Spring

Council Meeting October 9, 2023 Page 1 of 2

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 by Jennifer Logan

The Opening devotional given by Pastor Stephanie Stark was: Isaiah 64:8

Members Present: Pastor Stephanie Stark, Jennifer Logan, Robin Haugen, Mary O’Neal, Chad Divin, Kyle Eckhardt, Ryan Reibenstein

Members Absent: None

Guests – Christa Klar, Ken Wienken, Dan White

Dan White spoke as guest speaker about the cameras for the church. He has offered to place 4 cameras in the church free of charge. We still need sound equipment moved and new wiring. Council is getting quotes on this.

Adoption of Agenda – Motion made by Chad and 2nd by Robin.

Minutes for final approval – September meeting approved by Mary and 2nd by Chad

Treasurer Report: The budget committee met on Sunday and have come up with a budget for 2024. Motion made to approve the report by Jennifer and 2nd by Chad.

Pastor Report – Pastor Stephanie Stark many calls, visits, and funerals. First Call Retreat was finalized. Working on the newsletter. Oktoberfest and the All Saints Prayer Service.

Committee Reports

Youth (LYO) – Christa Klar: Bible lessons are going very well. Gods Gifts on Baptism. Theme is A Circus Christmas. Setting up face painting and Halloween parade for the children at Oktoberfest.

Cemetery Report – Ken Wienken report was there were no sales at the cemetery. They are looking for bids to weed eat and spray at the cemetery. They are also pricing Columbarium’s for the cemetery. He would like to form a committee to establish pricing, and where to place the niches.

House and Grounds – Kyle Eckhardt reported he has installed all the handrails, AC filters are all changed. They are locating the septic tank in the backyard at the parsonage in order to have it cleaned out.

Old Business:

Removal of broken playground equipment. Thanks to Malcolm Dittert it was removed. Cheryl Mellenthin has offered a playset like the one that was taken away, but much newer.

Quotes on update of sound system, cameras, internet, media. Still working on this.

New Business:

Oktoberfest: Discussed how much food and Kenneth Blezinger is going to pick up the food. There will be a “free will” offering plate at the Oktoberfest. There will be a sermon, food, dance, and cake walk.

October Congressional Meeting: WE need a quorum, to approve the budget and to install money counters.

Christmas Eve: Decision made to have a short Mass Sunday morning at 10:00 and also an evening service.

November 2023 council assignments:

November 5: Ryan Chad

November 12: Jennifer Kyle

November 19: Mary Robin

November 26: Jennifer Chad

Approve the Calendar: Calendar approved by Robin and 2nd by Ryan

Future Agenda Items

Adjournment: Motion made by Jennifer seconded by Chad. Motion passed

Unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Close with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Mary ONeal



2023 Advent Souper Suppers



Sign Up to Host one of the ADVENT Souper Suppers!

Meal begins at 6:00 pm. A soup of your liking and maybe crackers or bread

Holden Evening Prayer Service will be begin at 6:30 pm .

Wednesday , December 6th _____

Wednesday, December 13th _____

Wednesday, December 20th _____

**If you would like to host one of the
Souper Suppers, the sign up sheet will
be in the Narthex**

**THE AUSTIN COUNTY
CIVIC CHORALE**
IN THEIR 39TH SEASON
PRESENTS

**A Musical
Celebration
of Then & Now**

Bellville's 175th Birthday!

**NOVEMBER 12, 2023
4:00 PM**

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAITH CENTER
BELLVILLE**

**NO ADMISSION
DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

It is Poinsettia Order Time!

RED Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to purchase one or more of these flowers, fill out the order form and place your order and donation of **\$10 each, per poinsettia** into the labeled envelope and place it in the box provided, in the Narthex.

Everything you need to order will be in the Narthex starting **Sunday, November 5th.**

Order deadline Sunday, December 10th.

ORDER FORM



RED Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to purchase one or more of these flowers, fill out this form and place your order and donation of **\$10 each** into a labeled envelope and place it in the box provided.

Order deadline is Sunday, December 10th.

Please place my flower(s):

In Memory of _____

In Memory of _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

Or _____ **To the Glory of God**

Please use the back of this form for additional orders if needed.

Be sure to indicate "Memory of" or "Honor of" or

"To the Glory of God" on additional orders.

Purchased by: _____

Total number of flowers: _____ Total Paid: _____

Please make checks payable to: St. John Lutheran WELCA

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

480 Ross Street

Cat Spring, Texas 78933

November 2023 Newsletter

