



The Eagle April 2022



St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool

122 Cheyenne Mesa
Hamilton, TX 76531

Pastor Kalbas: (512) 430-2034
Phone: (254) 386-3158
Preschool: (254) 386-3332
Fax: (254) 386-3159

Pastor—
pastorkalbas@gmail.com
Secretary—
stjohnlutheranoffice@gmail.com
Preschool—
stjohnlutheranpreschool@gmail.com

Website:

www.stjohnhamilton.org
www.pastoraaronkalbas.com

*May we continue to be used by
God and share the Gospel with
A Heart for Hamilton County*



Some Reflection on Holy Week

We are quickly coming to the end of the Season of Lent and Holy Week is about to begin. Lent is a 40-day season that gives Christians deliberate time to focus on the terrible reality that was the cross—that awful, wonderful fact that God died for us! As prepare myself for the beautiful services to come (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter) I find myself reflecting on the Apostle Paul's words in Romans 5:6-10 -- *"While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."*

I find myself thinking of a sermon illustration I've used a few times in the past. It's the true and terrible story of a Father who was willing to give up his own son:

It happened in the year 1294 and there was not a subject more loyal to King Sancho of Spain than Guzmán El Bueno, Guzmán the Good. In a time when Spain was partitioned into small kingdoms that constantly warred against each other, Guzmán was tasked with defending one of Sancho's most strategic castles from a rebellious attack by Sancho's younger brother Juan. I've seen this castle in person on a family vacation when I was a teenager. It's a formidable structure on it's own, but with Guzmán in charge, it was impenetrable. Despite Juan's best efforts there was no weakness to exploit. Well, almost no weakness...

In a strange and unfortunate turn of events, Juan wound up with an ace up his sleeve. He managed to kidnap one of Guzmán's son's named Pedro. Pedro wasn't even ten years old at the time.

Now, I'm sure you can guess how this story ends. After all, history has several occasions when young hostages, like Pedro, have been used to put pressure on their parents, and the occasions when the strategy worked are rarely conserved in the history books, because—as we all know—parents will do whatever it takes to save their child. It's what we expect. Therefore, you've probably already guessed that Guzmán surrendered the castle. But if you did, your wrong!

You see, for a man of honor like Guzmán, giving in to Juan was not an option. I'd like to picture Guzmán pacing the battlements, praying to God for guidance, talking for hours with his wife, desperate for some way out of the predicament. Maybe they hoped Juan was bluffing, that ultimately, he would stay his hand. But after hours of internal turmoil and torment, history tells us it was with a heavy heart that Guzmán returned to the walls. His enemy and his son were waiting to hear what he had decided.

"Well?" Juan called out. "What is it to be? The castle or your son?"



The Eagle April 2022

Guzmán looked down at the smirking Juan, likely wishing him to hell and back. Then Guzmán pulled his dagger and held it aloft. The blade glinted in the sun.

“Here,” he said, tossing his dagger down to Juan.

“Kill him with this, if that is your decision. I prefer to keep my honor and lose my son to keeping my son and living forever with a stain on my honor.”

Tough guy! But what a terrible father!

What an ultimately self-centered thing to do. I wonder what his son thought about it. I wonder at how a father can stand on his ramparts and watch as that nefarious Juan slaughtered his son and would later catapult his head over the castle walls.

Oh, what a different tale the Bible tells of God sacrificing his Son. **“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** The Son of God did not die to save God’s honor. The Son of God did not even die to save honorable people. He did not die to rescue friends. No!

What did St. Paul call us? **Powerless. Ungodly. Sinners. Enemies.**

But Almighty God, the Father, gave His Son to die for the likes of us. That’s beautiful!

I hope to see you all in worship during Holy Week.

Joyfully,

Pastor Aaron

If you are looking for devotional material to share with your family at home, you might want to check out:

pastoraaronkalbas.com

He also has interesting articles to read and other information posted on our Facebook page and website.

Pastor Aaron has a new blog, “Blogging Through the Gospels” He will be posting on Tuesdays and Thursdays . Check it out on our webpage.



Pastor Aaron has started a new bible study that doesn’t just skip over the surface of God’s word, but digs deep. Written by Pastor Aaron, this fascinating exploration into the Gospel—the very life and words of our Lord—will uplift you and give you insight to what it means to be Jesus disciple in a world gone crazy with sin. Besides, we all know we need to be in the Word a little more, anyway... take this opportunity and resolve to make it happen. The Pastor’s Bible Study is held every Sunday morning at 9:00 in the gym. There will be coffee, donuts and other refreshments, so join some friends – or make some new ones – and come to Bible Study at St. John.



The Eagle April 2022



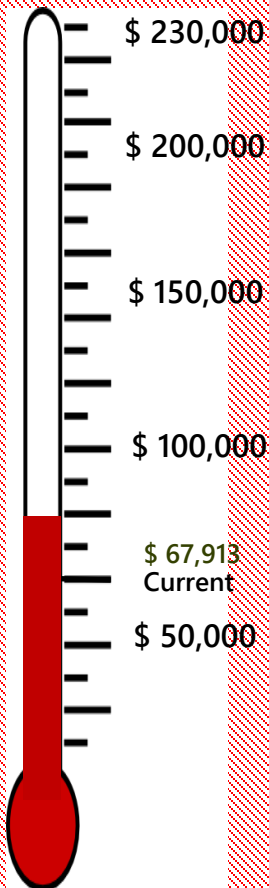
**Breakfast and
Sunday School
Sundays 9:00am**

**Church Worship
Sundays 10:00am
(Live streamed on
Facebook)**

**Youth Choir
Sunday 11:15am**

**Quilting
Tuesday 9:00am**

BUILDING FUND



T Our Military & Families:

Ross Bates, Travis Beach, Josh Chorenziak, Isaac Jerrell, Krista Jerrell, Matthew Medina, Ernie Mendez, Payden Nolen, Cade Roenne, John Slough, Warren Stanley, Micah Stork, Brennan Stroud, Keith Garrett White.

T Our Homebound & Nursing Facility Residents

Focused Care: Kendra Code, Lillye Sanders, Jewell Zimmerman, Geraldine Kautzsch John Schoedel **Hamilton Health Care:** Corene Streger, Katherine Hopper **Belton:** Maxine Wenzel **Homebound:** Frances Donahoo, Ricky Brown, Artie Peters, Mae Pietzsch, Frances Schrank, Nell Helmcamp, Barbara Jahns, Irene Zaruba,

T Our Members:

Mae Pietzsch - recovering at home

Bonnie Williams - recovering from surgery, facing cancer treatments

Jewell Zimmerman -stable

T Our Friends:

Oralia Alverado - (Angie Tawater's mother) various health issues

Noland Arbaugh - (Friend of Darryl & Michelle Beach) praying for complete healing of his paralysis

Molly Beach - (Niece of Darryl & Michelle Beach) suffering from an auto-immune disease

Doyle Billingsly - (Melanie Housden's father) declining

Bobby Cathey - (Tammy Wagner & Joe Cathey's father) various health issues

Gene DeLoach - cancer treatments continue, declining

Todd Lange - (Gary & Tootie Schoen's son-in-law) suffering with a brain tumor

Ossie Scott - (Doyle Robert's Sister) cancer has returned

T Praise and Thanks -

T For those who grieve - The Family of Harold Reich

T Special Prayers - Covid-19; Teachers & students; President & Government Officials; Medical Professionals; First Responders & Rescue crews; Fires and firefighters; Rain

Please contact the church office at 254-386-3158 with updates on prayer requests for friends and loved ones. Thank you.



The Eagle April 2022

Anniversaries

12th	Shirley & Bubba Gerald	47 Yrs.
20th	Brad & Sherri Tomlinson	26 Yrs.
22nd	Gene & Shirley DeLoach	58 Yrs.
26th	Wade & Jennifer Knutson	19 Yrs.

Birthdays

1st	Barbara Cook
2nd	Pat Keekley, April Kunkel
3rd	Brenda Schrank
4th	Helena Knutson, Mark Sellers
5th	Paul Odom
6th	Barbara Weidebusch
8th	Norma Marwitz, Rita Oldham, Maxine Wenzel
9th	Cole Bauman
10th	Robert Dellaughter, Clayton Hurst, Shirley Sellers, Grace Zschiesche,
11th	Gayla Squyres
12th	Alice Pietzsch
14th	Kolten Kensing, Cathy LeGrande, Bobbie Young
16th	Abbie Housden, Austin Kliener
17th	Sonny DeLaGarza, Piersyn Marwitz, Bonnie Williams
20th	Caden Hopper
21st	Mary Jeffers, Kase Kunkel, Frances Schrank
22nd	Sabrina Sellers
23rd	Kym Jeschke
24th	Tracy Seider,
25th	Jasmine Seider
30th	Paul Christensen

Baptisms

1st	Mary Kiely, Glenda Peace
2nd	Ernst Peters
5th	Michelle Cantara
9th	Juanita Seider
10th	Jack Bussey
11th	Tommy Deutsch, Sandra Witte
13th	Pat Keekley
14th	Tootie Schoen
16th	Allen Dodson
17th	Liz Graves
18th	Mischelle Bottlinger
22nd	Johanna Jeschke
24th	Anna Beber
27th	Sonny DeLaGarza
30th	Mason Hall



Upcoming

April

Events

3rd -	MITE BOX SUNDAY
	11:15am Bd of Elders
	1:30pm Nursing Home Devotions
10th	11:15am Bd. Of Trustees
	11:15am Bd. Of Outreach
12th -	1:00pm Glory Gamesters
	5:30pm Bd. Of Finance
17th	11:15am Preschool Bd.



The Eagle April 2022

Music Notes

By Gary Gromatzsky

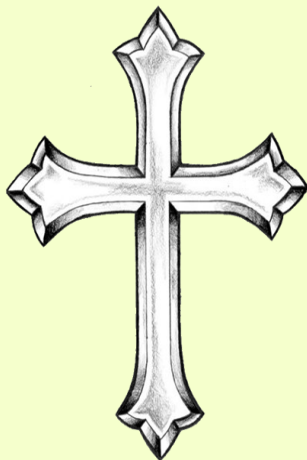
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of glory died.
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing so divine,
Demands my soul, my life my all.



When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Isaac Watts

1707

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14 (NKJV)

After Isaac Watts finished his college studies and returned home to Southampton, he wrote many of his now-immortalized hymns for Above Bar Congregational Church. In 1696, Isaac, twenty-two, left home for London to become a tutor.

All the while, he was feeling a clear tug toward ministry. On his twenty-fourth birthday, July 17, 1698, Isaac preached his first sermon. The following year, he became assistant pastor of London's Mark Lane Church.

In March of 1700, Isaac received a long letter from his brother, Enoch, urging him to publish the hymns he had written at Southampton. The letter said:

Dear Brother, In your last (letter) you (mentioned) an inclination to oblige the world by showing it your hymns in print, and I heartily wish ...that you were something more than inclinable thereunto...I am very confident whoever has the happiness of reading your hymns (unless he be either sot or atheist) will have a very favorable opinion of their author...There is...a great need of a pen, vigorous and lively as yours, to quicken and revive the dying devotion of the age...Yours now is the old truth, stripped of its ragged ornaments, and appears, if we may say so, younger by ages in a new and fashionable dress.

Isaac, however, hesitated. He had other obligations on his time. On March 8, 1702, he became Mark Lane's pastor. The next year, 1703, the church chose Samuel Price of Wales to assist Isaac, due to the latter's fragile health. Under the preaching of these two, the old, dying church revived. The building grew too small for the crowds, and a new house of worship was built down the street.

Finally in 1707, Watts published his hymns, selling the copyright to a Mr. Lawrence, the publisher, for ten pounds. This volume was an instant success. It was enlarged and republished in 1709.

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" appeared in his 1707 book of hymns. Inspired by Galatians 6:14, it was originally titled "Crucifixion to the World, by the Cross of Christ." Many consider it the finest hymn in English church history, and Charles Wesley reportedly said he would rather have written it than his own.

Ref: Then Sings My Soul book two by Nelson Reference and Electronic, a division of Thomas Nelson Publishers. Nashville, Tennessee



The Eagle April 2022

Finance Update

St. John Lutheran
Statement of Income and Expense by Major Group
February of Fiscal Year 2022
Responsibility: All
Fund: 01 - General

	Current Month		Year-to-date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income				
00-Group 00	39,520.00	39,197.78	86,432.00	92,918.19
Total Income	39,520.00	39,197.78	86,432.00	92,918.19
Expense				
04-Board of Outreach	623.00	120.00	1,246.00	290.00
10-Board of Elders	13,289.00	13,121.34	26,702.00	26,514.99
12-Board of Education	1,058.00	527.67	1,996.00	981.32
13-Board of Trustees	8,763.00	10,512.37	17,526.00	23,036.11
14-Board of Finance	4,020.00	89.17	8,039.00	5,017.58
16-Preschool Board	9,101.67	10,987.28	19,695.34	18,598.14
20-Memorial Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21-Non-Budget Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
Total Expense	36,854.67	35,357.83	75,204.34	174,438.14
Income Less Expense	\$2,665.33	\$3,839.95	\$11,227.66	-\$81,519.95

The Expansion Team continues to explore options to expand St. John's facilities with architectural firm CP&Y. After our last meeting with CP&Y architects on January 18th, an initial outline of expansion priorities has been produced to address current and future space requirements of our congregation. However, no sketches or formal proposals have yet been made. As the Expansion Team continues its work, we will periodically update the congregation on our progress. The committee members are:

Lucas Robinson, Brad Tomlinson, Robert Witzsche, Mischelle Bottlinger, Donna Abdou, Mark Sellers, Gary Gromatzky, Charles Jahns, Kerry Kensing, Tom White, and Lois Hungerford.

Robert Hoermann

St. John Lutheran Preschool: Paul & Kathy Christensen

In loving memory of



The Eagle April 2022

UPCOMING LENTEN WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Wednesday, April 6 – Pontius Pilate

Supper is at 5:30 pm. Menu: Casseroles served by St. Paul's Alema



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 10 – *Children's Palm Parade/ Confirmation Sunday*

Thursday, April 14 – Maundy Thursday – Judas Iscariot

A beautiful service remembering the night our Lord was betrayed in the garden of Gethsemane and handed over to be crucified. We will receive Holy Communion and the service will conclude with the poignant Stripping of the Altar.

Friday, April 15 – Good Friday – John the Gospel Writer

An especially somber and beautiful service remembering our Lord's suffering and death on the cross. This is a service of shadows. As the darkness falls in the sanctuary, we will be brought face to face with the reality of our sin and the price that was paid. Nothing prepares a person for the joy of Easter more than the sorrow of Good Friday. Don't miss it!



MORNING, APRIL 17

Sunrise Service with Holy Communion – 7:30 am

Breakfast – 8:30 am

Children's Easter Egg Hunt for any little ones up till 4th grade – 9:30 am

Celebration Service – 10:00 am



The Eagle April 2022

Ruth Guild News

The following is an important update from Lutheran World Relief in response to the CRISIS IN UKRAINE:

*Emergency cash support is being provided to Ukrainian refugees in southwestern Poland. LWR has committed over \$# million and expect that number to grow as additional funding is secured.

*Thanks to the dedication of Lutheran quilters and kit-makers, 8,000 care kits and 7,500 quilts are being shipped and distributed to those directly impacted by this crisis.

*LWR is coordinating with local organizations to move essential supplies into Ukraine, including medical supplies. Milk, energy biscuits, and personal hygiene products have been distributed to St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Krakow, which has established a hostel for Ukrainian women and children.

Ways to give to help the many families affected by this global crisis:

*Online at lwr.org/match

*Mail a check to—

Lutheran World Relief

PO Box 17061

Baltimore, MD 21297-1061

Please write "Ukraine Match" in the memo line.

Thank you, St. John, for your continued support of LWR.

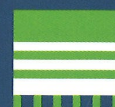
361,225

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

IN 19 COUNTRIES



122,400
QUILTS



3,230
BLANKETS



60,030
PERSONAL CARE KITS



103,880
SCHOOL KITS



38,850
BABY CARE KITS



915
FABRIC KITS



31,920
FACE MASKS

The 2021 quilt and kit numbers were impacted by delayed and rescheduled Ingatherings, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thankfully more churches have been able to open and volunteers have graciously increased their generosity.



The Eagle April 2022



Staffed Nursery

Every Sunday Morning

Here at St. John, we have a wonderful nursery for toddlers up to 3 years old. Ms. Jennifer Kidd, our nursery director, will always provide a clean, secure and Jesus-centered environment for your little one. Nursery is available during both the Sunday School & Bible Study hour and during the worship service.

OUR YOUTH CHOIR IS CURRENTLY MEETING SUNDAY'S IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP. ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME. WE HAVE SOME GREAT THINGS PLANNED FOR THEM. BRING YOUR KIDS TO BE A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL MINISTRY!



Children's Choir

The Board of Education is in need of candy and plastic eggs for our Easter egg hunt Resurrection Sunday. If you have any to donate, please drop them by the church office before April 10th.

GLORY GAMESTERS meet the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM.

Come join them for fun and fellowship!

Come join our Quilters! They meet every Tuesday at 9:00am. You don't even have to know how to sew to help these ladies with this very important mission project



The Eagle April 2022

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord.
PSALM 127:3

DADDY *daughter* **DANCE**

Thursday
April 21, 2022

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

*St. John Lutheran Church
Family Life Center*

All girls
ages 3 to current 5th graders
and their escorts
(father, grandfather, uncle
or the special father figure in their life)
are invited to join us for
dancing, snacks, photos and fun!

Hosted by St. John Lutheran Church Board of Outreach



The Eagle April 2022

April 2022

St. John Youth Activities



Play at the Park Youth Day

Kickball, Volleyball, Creek
Walking, Hiking
Snacks

Saturday, April 30

6:00-8:00

Confirmation

April 3 Confirmation (8th Grade Only)

April 7 Confirmation Rehearsal

April 10 Palm Sunday Confirmation

Bret Bauman

Halston Haile

Colter Johnson

Austin Kleiner

Destini Ranaghan

Kayla Tawater

Kaitlyn Walton

Grant Bauman

Trint Jeschke

Elizabeth Kalbas

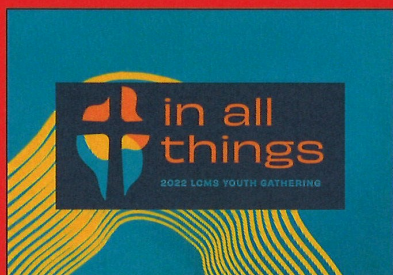
Amalia Knutson

Kaytlyn Schrank

Henlee Wagner

Lexie Ward

Lawson Yates



NYG BIBLE STUDY AND MEAL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

6:00

Youth Plant Sale

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

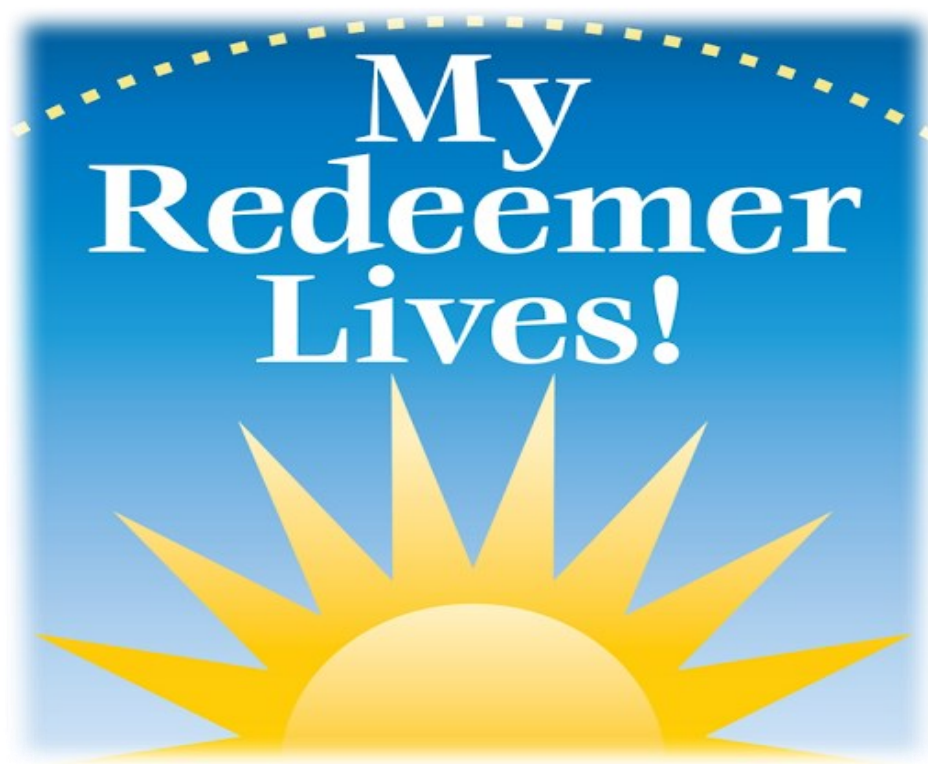


We will be asking you to help for about a one hour shift. We will need help hauling plants in pickups/cars then assistance with carrying to cars from the church. Watch for text of times to help or sign up in the Family Life Center Youth Board.





The Eagle April 2022



St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool

122 Cheyenne Mesa

Hamilton, Texas 76531

«First Names» «Last Names»

«Address»

«City, State Zip (5-digit)»