



The Eagle May 2021



St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool

122 Cheyenne Mesa
Hamilton, TX 76531

Phone: (254) 386-3158
Preschool (254) 386-3332
Fax: (254) 386-3159

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

Website:

www.stjohnhamilton.org

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



“Keep your chin on the windowsill of heaven.” This was a quote a sainted pastor would keep telling his people. It’s a great encouragement for us to never lose our focus on God.

During St. John’s vacancy, we repeatedly asked God to bless the entire process. We asked God to anoint the call committee with His Holy Spirit so that the names presented to the congregation would be the names God want the congregation to consider. When Pastor Kalbas was issued the call, we continued to pray for God’s Spirit to anoint Pastor Kalbas’ decision. We said we wanted God’s will to be done.

God has shown Himself to be powerful and gracious to this congregation and to Pastor Kalbas. After the congregation rejoiced in hearing of Pastor Kalbas’ acceptance of the call, I encouraged all of us to keep our focus on what God had done. God showed us that He is indeed alive and living with His people. It is His desire that St. John continue to keep looking to Him for direction in ministry and life.

It is my prayer that this is the beginning of seeing God move in and through this congregation to accomplish God-led ministry in Hamilton and beyond. To do that, you will need to continue to seek His will, be in His Word as a congregation and in each home, and rejoice in what He will reveal to you. Yes, keep your chin on the windowsill of heaven.

Pastor Ken Hennings



To the Members and Friends of St. John Lutheran Church, Hamilton:

After weeks of diligent thought, conversation and prayer, I have decided - by the leading of the Holy Spirit - to ACCEPT the Call to become your pastor.

My Family and I want to thank you for the hospitality extended to us during our visit. If the conversations I had with the leadership are any indication of St. John’s commitment and resolve to grow God’s Kingdom of Grace in Hamilton and the surrounding area, then we will be blessed indeed as partners in the Gospel of our Savior, Jesus.

Though this decision to accept brings with it a sense of joy and excitement at the ministry opportunities that lay ahead for us, please know there is are two other congregations which face disappointment—Trinity, Tyler and, especially, St. Paul, Thorndale. Please keep the people of St. Paul Lutheran Church in your prayers as they seek God’s guidance in this time.

In the weeks ahead as we continue to minister in Thorndale for a short time longer, we ask that you would please pray for us that the Lord would open doors to a smooth transition as we sell our home and transition to a new home among you.

Joyfully,

Pastor Aaron Kalbas



The Eagle May 2021



Anniversaries

2nd	Don & Alanda Tyson	23 Yrs.
3rd	Kyle & Ruth Zschiesche	8 Yrs.
6th	Kasey & April Kunkel	14 Yrs.
17th	Klayton & Chrissy Kensing	18 Yrs.
	Paul & Susie Odom	41 Yrs.
18th	Maranda & Cody Weiser	8 Yrs.
21st	Reagan & Alex Reich	5 Yrs.

Birthdays

1st	Jerome Pietzsch
3rd	Kathy Kensing
4th	Donna Abdou, Micah Stork
5th	Tommy Deutsch
8th	Forrest Jenson, Tom White
11th	Scott Walters
14th	Caleb Wagner
17th	Pierce Parks
19th	Nic Bottlinger
20th	Chris Niemann, Luther Smith
21st	Lucas Robinson
24th	Marvin Witte
25th	Kain Kunkel
26th	Sherri Tomlinson
28th	Clayton DeLaGarza
29th	Mattie Ondrusek
30th	Dennis Schoen

Upcoming

May

Events

2nd -	MITE BOX SUNDAY
	11:15am Preschool Board
	1:30pm Nursing Home Devotions
9th -	11:15am Bd of Trustees
	1:00pm Bd of Elders
11th -	1:00pm Glory Gamesters
	5:30pm Bd of Finance
16st -	11:15am Bd. Of Outreach
23rd -	11:15am Ruth Guild

Baptisms

6th	Rita Oldham
8th	Forrest Jenson
12th	Gary Schoen
13th	Frances Schrank, Gayla Squyres, Bonnie Williams
22nd	Dixie Gromatzky, Sabrina Sellers
24th	Sandy Hall
25th	John Zaruba
26th	Clayton Tyson
29th	LaVerne Brown
31st	Katherine Renken



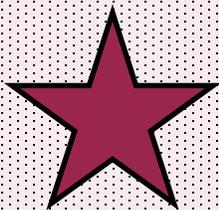
The Eagle May 2021



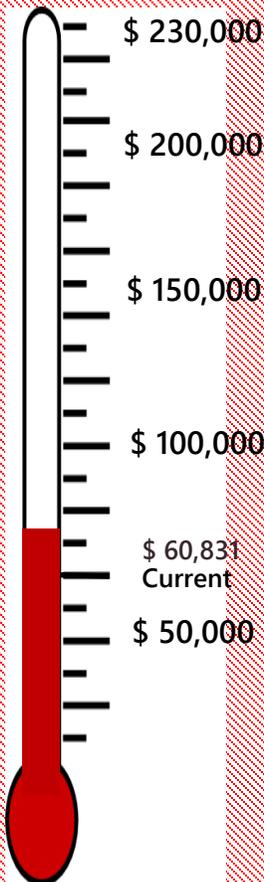
**Sunday School
Sundays 9:00am**

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

**Quilting
Tuesday 9:00am**



BUILDING FUND



✘ Our Military & Families:

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

✘ Our Homebound & Nursing Facilities:

Focused Care: Kendra Code, Jean Ranney, Lillye Sanders, Jewell Zimmerman, John Schoedel, Ted Jahns **Hamilton Health Care:** Corene Streger **Belton:** Maxine Wenzel **Homebound:** Frances Donahoo, Ricky Brown, Artie Peters, Mae Pietzsch, Frances Schrank, LaVerne Bubert

✘ **Sharron Krueger** - diagnosed with bone cancer

✘ **Geraldine Kautzsch** - recovering from hip surgery

✘ **Rick Payne** - undergoing cancer treatments again

✘ **Steve Young** - recovering from surgery

✘ **Oralia Alverado** - (Angie Tawater's mother)—Various health issues

✘ **Noland Arbaugh** - family friend of Darryl & Mischelle 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) cancer treatments

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

✘ **Gene DeLoach** - To begin cancer treatments

✘ **Melvin Eilers Jr** - rehab at home

✘ **Fred Gromatzky** - cancer treatments

✘ **Charles Krempin** - bed ridden

✘ **Lonnie Kalbas** - (Son of Pastor Aaron Kalbas) Awaiting second opinion in Houston

✘ **Henrietta Medina** - awaiting a liver transplant

✘ **Kai Monroe** - (Friend of the Yates) determining next steps for kidney issue

✘ **Cliff Partin** - at home, improving

✘ **Steve Savoy** - (Friend of Pastor Hennings) fighting cancer

✘ **Ossie Scott** - (Doyle Robert's sister) much improved

✘ **Pam Wolff** - (Elisha Squyres' mother) complications with MS, declining

✘ Praise and Thanksgiving:

✘ For those who grieve:

✘ **Special Prayers:** Covid-19; Rain; Teachers & Students; President & Government Officials (local, state & federal) Medical Professionals; First Responders & Rescue Crews; Fires & Firefighters; Our congregation as we go through this time of transition.

Please contact the church office with updates on prayer requests for friends and loved ones.

Geraldine Kautzsch is recuperating at St. Catherine's Center in Waco. She is able to have visitors and get mail. Her address is:

300 W. Highway 6

Waco, TX 76712

Attention Geraldine Kautzsch. #3137



The Eagle May 2021

Finance Update

St. John Lutheran
Statement of Income and Expense by Major Group
 March of Fiscal Year 2021
 Responsibility: All
 Fund: 01 - General

	Current Month		Year-to-date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income				
00-Group 00	47,855.00	37,807.75	120,925.00	113,052.04
Total Income	47,855.00	37,807.75	120,925.00	113,052.04
Expense				
04-Board of Outreach	1,456.00	120.00	2,618.00	468.00
10-Board of Elders	14,836.00	7,156.90	40,672.00	16,791.33
12-Board of Education	516.00	555.72	2,288.00	1,393.18
13-Board of Trustees	8,490.00	3,805.38	24,720.00	15,863.91
14-Board of Finance	4,019.00	2,496.49	11,557.00	6,928.34
16-Preschool Board	12,101.67	5,857.59	31,797.01	17,745.23
20-Memorial Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21-Non-Budget Expense	0.00	33.00	0.00	4,338.00
Total Expense	41,418.67	20,025.08	113,652.01	63,527.99
Income Less Expense	\$6,436.33	\$17,782.67	\$7,272.99	\$49,524.05

The Lord loves a cheerful giver 2 Corinthians 9:7b

Huland Stephens

St. John Building Fund: Mary Jeffers
St. John Preschool Fund: Paul & Kathy Christensen

Patricia Bottlinger

St. John Building Fund: Tom & Connie White

Bert Schrank

St. John Building Fund: Tom & Connie White

In loving memory of

Are you interested in giving online to St John? Just go to our web site www.stjohnhamilton.org and click on the little heart on the top, or the big heart at the bottom. Then just follow the prompts. You can also text an amount to 833-706-7586. There is a fee attached to all credit card offerings which you may want to consider when giving. No fee is applied if funds are drafted from your bank account.



The Eagle May 2021

If your child or youth are interested in **CHURCH CAMP** this JULY please contact Chrissy Hopper or Landry Yates to discuss the dates and options.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the TexasRamps Project to build Annie DeLeon a ramp. We thank you for your service and for Thrivent sponsoring this event. #LiveGenerously.

Thank you to everyone who purchased plants and pizza for our National Youth Gathering Fundraisers. We are currently selling raffle tickets for a special edition gun. We thank you all for supporting the youth so they can spend a week learning about God, creating fun memories with their friends from St. John and fellowshiping with youth from all over the world.

TREASURED VBS is coming up June 22,23,24. It will be an evening program from 5-7:30pm. A meal will be provided from 5-5:30 prior to activities beginning. If you would like to help with planning or be a leader, talk to Chrissy Hopper or Landry Yates.

The Board of Education would like to recognize all St. John Seniors, both college and High School on May 23. Please let the Church Office know if your graduate can attend.

PROMOTION SUNDAY will be June 6th this year. This way youth can participate and bond with their new groups during summer activities. Kids will also decorate doors for VBS during Sunday School this day.

June is Going to be a Busy Month for St. John! Watch your W.R.A.P. for more details!

MAY 23 IS PENTECOST. WEAR RED TO CELEBRATE!

Preschool promotion will be Friday, May 21st. Watch the W.R.A.P. for more details.

A Big Thank You to Landry and Lennox Yates and Derrel Hungerford for working so diligently in the flower beds around the church. Anyone with free time on your hands is more than welcome to come pull a few weeds!

Mission Grant Story • April 2021

LCMS DEACONESS MINISTRY LCMS Office of International Mission — \$39,523

LCMS deaconesses are women who are full-time professional church workers trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a ministry of works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith. The LCMS Deaconess Ministry program provides LCMS students the opportunity to become church professionals, learning about diaconal leadership, and the work of deaconesses as it applies to body and soul ministry.

Christ's love for the whole person remains the supreme example for Christians, caring for the needy in body and soul. He said,

*For I was hungry and
you gave me food,
I was thirsty and
you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and
you welcomed me,
I was naked and
you clothed me,*

*I was sick and
you visited me,
I was in prison and
you came to me
(Matthew 25:35–36).*

LCMS Deaconess Ministry works both domestically and internationally. These women serve in congregations alongside the office of pastor or in institutions where, like the women of old, they may serve as institutional chaplains.

This grant will provide educational and financial support to the deaconess programs in our international partner churches in the Philippines, Latvia, Liberia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India. Their theological training encompasses two years of studies and one year of internship. The grant helps fund theological education, text books, resources, transportation, student aid, and tuition support to the underprivileged women who have a passion to learn confessional theological studies in order to serve the church.

MITE BOX SUNDAY
May 2

www.lwml.org/mission-grants



RUTH GUILD MEETING
Sunday, May 23



The Eagle May 2021

Music Notes

By Gary Gromatzky

Glorious things of Thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

See the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal Love.
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the Giver,
Never fails from age to age!

Round each habitation hovering,
See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering,
Showing that the Lord is near!
Thus deriving from our banner
Light by night and shade by day;
Safe they feed upon the manna
Which He gives them when they pray.

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

John Newton 1779

Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God! Psalm 87:3

If you visit England in the future, plan to stop in quaint little Olney, home of John Newton and William Cowper. An excellent museum is dedicated to them, housed in Orchard Side, Cowper's home on Olney's triangular marketplace. Cowper had moved to Olney to be under the ministry of John Newton who preached in the village church. The two became friends and would often meet in the garden between their houses for long talks. Out of their friendship came one of history's most famous books — the *Olney Hymns*, first published in 1779.

Prior to his conversion, Newton had been a slave trader on the high seas, and a very wicked man. After his conversion, he became a powerful preacher, a leader in the fight against slavery, and a renowned hymnist. His most famous hymn, "Amazing Grace," is an expression of his testimony.

This song, "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken," Number 60 in the Olney hymnal, is a powerful hymn about the church, which is metaphorically described here as "Zion." It originally had five verses, built around seven biblical passages, which Newton footnoted in the original hymnal.

If you hear this hymn being played in Germany, you'd better stand to your feet for you'll be hearing the German national anthem. Franz Joseph Haydn's majestic composition, AUSTRIA, was played for the first time on February 12, 1797, to honor the Austrian Emperor Franz Josef on his birthday. It was an immediate hit, and was almost instantly adopted as the Austrian national anthem. Thus it remained until Adolf Hitler rose to power. In 1938 when Austria was annexed into the German Third Reich during the Anschluss, Hitler not only seized Austria, but he seized AUSTRIA, adapting Haydn's musical score as the Nazi national anthem.

After the War, the Austrian people, feeling they could no longer use Haydn's tune as their national song because of its association with the Nazis, chose another melody. The Germans, however, kept Haydn's tune, AUSTRIA, as their own anthem.

As far back as 1802, however, Christians in America and Britain were using Haydn's AUSTRIA as a hymn accompaniment, and this majestic composition is best known today as the melody for John Newton's famous hymn about the church of Jesus Christ, "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken."



The Eagle May 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My family and I are eagerly counting down the days...

We are so excited to begin our new journey in Hamilton and join you in accomplishing our Lord's work through St. John Lutheran Church. Each day, as always, I work hard to remind myself that amidst all the busyness of closing out ministry in Thorndale, getting a house sold and a new home purchased, packing boxes and closing out accounts, it can be easy to lose focus on whom I serve and who truly serves me.

Every day, our Lord calls me—calls us all-- to be his child and he serves us his love and forgiveness and protection and grace. Abundantly!

But many times this can be hard for us to see. We get so distracted by living. In this crazy, busy world finding the comfort of knowing Jesus is sometimes like that embarrassing moment when you are in the grocery store looking desperately for an item on the shelf, but you can't seem to find it, no matter how long or how hard you look. And so you just keep looking—in vain—down one aisle and up the other. You see several store clerks but you aren't about to ask anyone for help. No way! You think to yourself, *"I can do this on my own, thank you very much."* And so you keep looking, wasting precious time, until it finally becomes noticeable to others. One of those workers approaches and asks if they can help you. At that point, I usually swallow my pride enough to admit that I can't find what I'm looking for. Sheepishly, I explain that I've searched the whole store. But then it gets even more embarrassing... because often, even before I finish telling them what I'm looking for, the worker points to the place on the shelf right in front of me, and there it is! RIGHT. IN. FRONT. OF. MY. FACE.

In many ways the world is like those aisles at the grocery store. There are a thousand products vying for our attention. But all we need is just one thing. Only one thing is truly needful. But my cart always ends up with all kinds of other stuff that I didn't come for and I don't need. Yet, the word of our Lord and the grace of the Sacrament is always there, right in front of our noses. Our bibles are just a bookshelf away. Holy Communion is just a week away. But we get so worked up worrying about all kinds of other things. We search for comfort and peace and stability, wanting to find it on our own terms.

That's life for sinners like us. But not for God! He never loses track. He never forgets. He never has trouble finding. He has you and me right where we need to be, no matter our circumstances. In all the transitions of life, we can turn to the one who is sure and steady and build our life upon the rock.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Matthew 7:24-27

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Joyfully,

Pastor Kalbas and the whole Kalbas krew.

Praise and Thanks



March 28th, Palm Sunday, we were honored to witness the Confirmation of these eight young men and women.

**Back row: Kase Kunkel, Kyler Kensing, Jaxon Edwards, Pastor Hennings.
Front row: Owen Tyson, Kade McKandless, Allison Bussey, Mason Bussey
and from St. Paul's Lutheran Church Aleman, Justin Melde.**



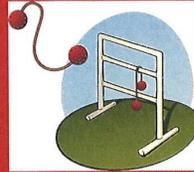
April 1st, Maundy Thursday we were also honored to witness the First Communion of these six young men and women.

**Back Row: Jonathan Hurst, Nathan Hall and Haley Hopper
Front Row: Eli Marlar, Addley Yates and Hannah Ward**

St. John Youth Activities



Backyard Games



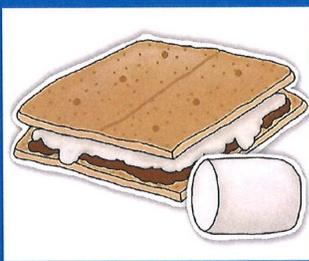
Sr. Youth Lunch Cookout Sunday, May 2

Newly Confirmed 8th Graders through 12th Grade
Hang out at the Polsters for lunch and yard games

Jr. High Dance

Friday, May 14 7:00-9:00

Mask required



Jr. Youth

April 28

Dinner,
Devo &

S'mores 6:00-8:00 at Bauman's
Grades 5th-8th

Sr. Youth Wednesday Nights 6:00-7:30

at Alex and Reagan Reich's house.

Book Study "How to Stay Christian in High School" All May

8th-12th Grades

Parents at Polsters studying "Praying the Scriptures for your Teens"



Wednesday, May 26 for 5th-8th Grades

End of School Swim Party 5:30-7:30

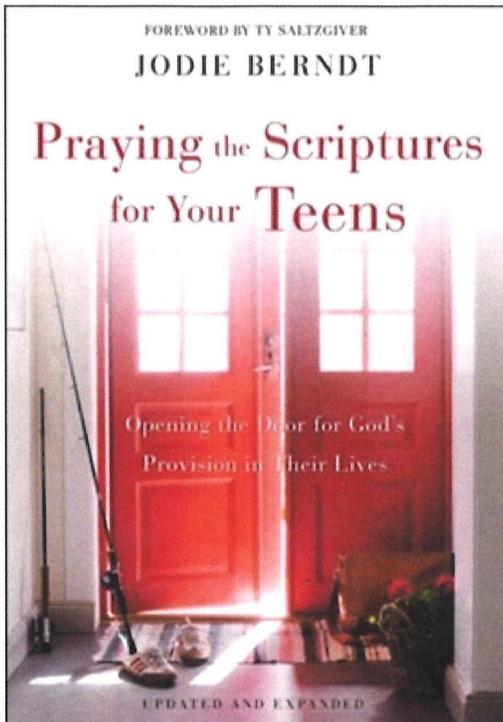
May 30 Mission of the Month: Making Tray Cards for our Nursing Home Residents

St. John Lutheran Church Youth Fundraiser
HENRY GOLDEN BOY .22 S/L/LR
GOD BLESS AMERICA EDITION
Receiver Engraving with 24K Gold Plating
Valued at \$1,350.00
Drawing to be held at St. John Lutheran Church
122 Cheyenne Mesa, Hamilton, TX on October 31, 2021
Notice: Must be 18 years of age to win prize. Need not be present to win.
\$10 each 0431

National Youth Gathering Fundraiser Top Salesman gets \$50

Gun Raffle to be drawn during church Fall Festival

Jr. and Sr. Youth are selling tickets to help fund our trip to Houston next summer. Get tickets from Josh or Lois.



Prayer can be your greatest asset and source of wisdom in raising teenagers in today's world. Now expanded, this book features updated content on issues like pornography, addiction, self-harm, anxiety, rebellion, technology use, dealing with disappointment, and more.

It's never been tougher to be a teen--or the parent of one. Thankfully, from your teen's first date to the next time they borrow the car keys, you can take your concerns to God through prayer.

Drawing on the power of God's Word, this updated and expanded edition of *Praying the Scriptures for Your Teens* equips you to pray about the difficult issues your teen may face:

- Relationship challenges
- Doubts about their faith
- Depression
- Rejection
- Sexual purity
- Substance abuse
- Eating disorders
- . . . and much more

This book also guides you in praying about everything from your teen's character and safety to the purposes and plans that God has for his or her future.

Filled with engaging illustrations, biblical insights, and compelling prayer principles, *Praying the Scriptures for Your Teens* shows how to make the Bible your source for prayers that can powerfully influence your teen's life. With a grace-filled approach and a warm, personal style, author Jodie Berndt encourages you that there is not a need your teen will face that God has not already thought of, and provided for, in his Word--and that, no matter how far away our kids may be, they are never out of his reach.

Each Wednesday in May
6:00-7:15 at the Polsters

Parents Book Study

Bring your lawn chair for a
Front Yard Book Study Praying
the Scriptures for your Teens.

High School Youth will be meeting at Alex and Reagan Reich's House studying "How to Stay Christian in High School"

God's
Blessings
to our
2021
Graduates

Brad
Ethan
Jessica
Maddie





The Eagle May 2021



St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool

122 Cheyenne Mesa

Hamilton, Texas 76531

«First Names» «Last Names»

«Address»

«City, State Zip (5-digit)»