



The Eagle August 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*



Read [Matthew 13:1-8](#).

A silly farmer broadcasts his seed. At least the farmer seems silly.

After all, who would treat seed this way?

I've talked with farmers about their seed—corn, cotton, wheat and soybeans. A bag of high-quality, roundup-ready Monsanto seed can run you hundreds of dollars. I've also seen how much farmers prepare the field for planting. There is nothing random about farming. It is a very meticulous process.

But this farmer just throws it out all over the place—on the gravel road, in the ditch, amongst the weeds, in soil, good and bad—he doesn't seem to care where it falls. He casts it everywhere and anywhere.

It's good seed, expensive seed that he tosses into the wind.

So, then, I wonder what Jesus is trying to teach?

Perhaps the seed is the Gospel and the farmer is God the Father. Now if this is true, then I think it's a parable that speaks volumes. If the seed is the merits of Jesus Christ, then the moral of the story is clear, because this is how God the Father looks upon the whole business of bringing salvation. He's a gracious, generous God "who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4). He doesn't care where the gospel goes. He won't hold back. He gets excited just thinking about the surprises of where and how the seed will take root and thrive—even in the most unlikely of places.

(Continued)



The Eagle August 2022

Notice that we get no mention of His preparation of the soil. Apparently He doesn't judge the soil ahead of time, whether it is worthy of His seed. He just throws it out regardless of appearances. He figures that the more He sows the more He'll reap. So He sows and sows and sows.

This reveals two things about us:

1. Though we are God's people, we are nothing special. Even though we are Christians, we aren't the good soil that we like to think we are. It's clearly not because we were so worthy and righteous in God's eyes that He would sow His seeds of faith in our hearts. There was no rich fertile ground in us. We are sinners. We are idolaters. We are selfish. We are hateful. But God has given us the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ, anyway. Like a farmer wasting seed by casting it across a gravelly road, God used the preciousness of Christ to turn our rocky hearts to Him in faith.

- Shouldn't we be then as liberal as God is in how we sow the Gospel in the world around us? Why is it that we sometimes hold back and think that a certain person is the type of person that won't want to hear the truth? Jesus says to us: SOW. SOW. SOW.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, how I praise You and thank You for Your Word, knowing that You watch over Your Word in all the ways it goes out into the world. It never returns to You void or empty but always accomplishes that for which You purpose it. Give me confidence in this, Lord, as I seek to be Your witness in the words that I speak and the conversations that I have with those who do not yet know You or to those who need encouragement in their faith.

Lord, watch over my church that the ministers of the Gospel there—pastor, teachers, elders and leaders—do not waver in their love for the ministry and care of the flock. Thank You for their service and help me to be humble toward their teaching and leading. Keep them steadfast, too, and upright in the way that they live and guard them from all temptations that might cause scandal. Help them be temperate and cooperative that the church might remain unified. In Jesus Name. Amen.

PASTOR AARON KALBAS



The Eagle August 2022

MinTools.com
Devote yourselves to
PRAYER
being watchful and thankful. Col. 4:2

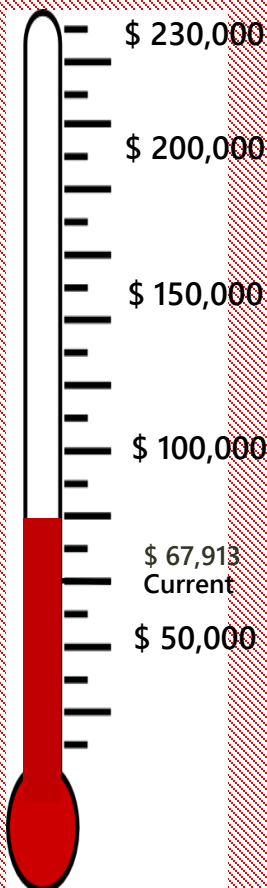
**Breakfast and
Sunday School
Sundays 9:00am**

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

**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, Frances Schrank, Nell Helmcamp, Barbara Jahns, Irene Zaruba,

T Our Members:

Bonnie Williams - undergoing cancer treatments

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

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

Gene DeLoach - cancer treatments continue, declining

Joyce Ganong - (Kayla Edwards mother) recovering from a stroke

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

T Praise and Thanks -

T For those who Grieve - The families of Mae Pietzsch and Betty Hardin

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

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



The Eagle August 2022

Anniversaries

1st	Darman & Jane Wagner	63 Yrs.
6th	Derrel & Lois Hungerford	46 Yrs.
	Ryan & Misti Polster	28 Yrs.
	Stanley & Delores Stanford	41 Yrs.
7th	LeeRoy & Karen Tyson	46 Yrs.
8th	Sandy & Roseanne Hall	41 Yrs.
16th	Jimmie & Nancy Horton	36 Yrs.
	Billy & Sharolyn Lawson	47 Yrs.
18th	Doyle & Barbara Cook	66 Yrs.
19th	Raymond & Patsy Krueger	33 Yrs.
23rd	Tom & Connie White	48 Yrs.
25th	Jerry & Kay Zschiesche	49 Yrs.
26th	Neil & Lynn Muxworthy	44 Yrs.
27th	Grant & Kim Ward	17 Yrs.
30th	August & Wilma Gaydos	53 Yrs.
31st	John & Irene Zaruba	65 Yrs.

Birthdays

1st	Colt Weiser
4th	Barbara Jahns
5th	Allen Dodson
10th	Shirley Meissner
12th	Darman Wagner
15th	Sawyer Hanson, Trint Jeschke, Aaron Kalbas, Patsy Krueger, Cynthia McElroy
16th	Nancy Horton
18th	Money Montgomery
20th	Anna Gaydos
22nd	Will Beber
23rd	Sarah Bauman, Buckie Pate
25th	Sam Hall
28th	Pam Kalbas
31st	Lydia Robinson, Casey Yates

Baptisms

7th	Emma Cantara, Sarah Zschiesche
9th	Kathy Kensing
12th	Barbara Jahns
14th	Kay Zschiesche
16th	Piper Hanson
20th	Kain Kunkel
26th	James Tischler
27th	Shirley Gerald



Upcoming August Events

7th -	MITE BOX SUNDAY
	11:15am Bd of Elders
	1:30pm Nursing Home Devotions
9th -	1:00pm Glory Gamesters
	5:30pm Bd. Of Finance
14th	11:15am Bd. Of Trustees
	11:15am Bd. Of Outreach
21st	11:15am Preschool Bd.



The Eagle August 2022

Rock of Ages 1776

While many of our favorite hymns can boast of being written in moments of great inspiration or in times of life-changing crises, very few can trace their origins to an angry theological battle. "Rock of Ages," by Augustus Toplady, however, was the product of just such a rancorous debate.

In the early 1770's, great theological arguments raged in England between the followers of John and Charles Wesley and those of John Calvin. Early in his pastoral career, Augustus Montague Toplady, an ordained minister in the Anglican church, was attracted to the teachings of the Wesley brothers. As time went on, however, Toplady found himself at philosophical odds over the Wesleyan doctrine of sanctification. This doctrine stated, in part, that it was possible for a truly devout believer to attain a state of heavenly perfection here on earth and thus live without consciously sinning. On the contrary, Toplady believed, along with the followers of John Calvin, that only through the grace of God, and on no amount of human effort or good intentions, could one ever become justified in God.

In public debates, religious pamphlets, sermons, and angry letters, Wesley and Toplady did theological battle. As a final salvo in his attack on Wesley, in an essay published in 1776 in *The Gospel Magazine*, Toplady published the hymn text we know today as "Rock of Ages." It is interesting to note that the poem included lines in

direct contradiction of Wesley's theology: "Could my tears forever flow, could my zeal no languor know, these for sin could not atone—Thou must save, and Thou alone."

So intent was Toplady upon making the poem as personal an attack on Charles Wesley as possible that he used many of Wesley's own figures of speech in writing "Rock of Ages." In a hymn of his own, Wesley had described Jesus Christ as a "Rock struck for me" and had continued, "let those two streams of Blood and Water which once gushed out of Thy side bring down Pardon and Holiness into my soul."

Although the first two verses seem a well-aimed rebuttal at Wesleyan theology, the third can be seen to be a very personal affirmation of Toplady's faith. Having lived most of his life in poor health, he was, at the time of the hymn's composition, suffering from tuberculosis. Within two years, in 1778, he died, at the age of thirty-eight. It is ironic that a hymn born out of such dissension and controversy would have brought such peace and hope to Christians over the past two centuries.

Yes, Augustus Toplady died at age thirty-eight, but his poem outlived him and has been called "the best known, best loved, and most widely useful" hymn in the English language.

Ref: Hymns of Faith and Inspiration by Ideals Publication Inc., Nashville, Tennessee

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.
Let the water and the blood. From Thy wounded side which flowed.
Be of sin the double cure. Save from wrath and make me pure

Could my tears forever flow? Could my zeal no languor know?
These for sin could not atone; Thou must save and Thou alone
In my land no price I bring; Simply to thy cross I cling.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When my eyes shall close in death.
When I rise to worlds unknown, And behold Thee on Thy throne.
Rock of Ages cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.



The Eagle August 2022

Finance Update

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

	Current Month		Year-to-date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income				
00-Group 00	31,431.00	47,754.13	248,327.00	293,813.80
Total Income	31,431.00	47,754.13	248,327.00	293,813.80
Expense				
04-Board of Outreach	1,498.00	1,146.41	5,488.00	2,665.53
10-Board of Elders	20,529.33	19,024.58	94,532.98	97,103.69
12-Board of Education	3,683.00	5,794.16	11,213.00	9,384.02
13-Board of Trustees	9,176.00	7,875.27	53,368.00	55,356.97
14-Board of Finance	4,269.00	7,845.10	25,115.00	23,092.22
16-Preschool Board	5,075.67	5,122.60	55,076.02	62,738.00
20-Memorial Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21-Non-Budget Expense	0.00	663.75	0.00	4,421.25
Total Expense	44,231.00	47,471.87	244,793.00	254,761.68
Income Less Expense	-\$12,800.00	\$282.26	\$3,534.00	\$39,052.12

In loving memory of

Ethan Chorenziak

St. John General Fund: George & Kay Luker, Doug & Tammy Wagner,
Lynn & Neil Muxworthy

St. John Building Fund Mischelle & Charlie Bottlinger

St. John Preschool Kara Chorenziak & Family

St John Youth Kara Chorenziak & Family

Betty Hardin

St. John Preschool Paul & Kathy Christensen

St. John Building Fund Milton Bottlinger & Family, Mike & Billie Looney,
Charlie & Mischelle Bottlinger

St. John General Fund Glynn & Karen Krueger, Kevin & Cindy Mikwelk,
Darman & Jane Wagner, Delphine Morrison, Jocelyn Craft

VBS HELPERS RETREAT



Ruth Guild News

Often, when disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion. Lutheran World Relief Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst of situations.

During the months of July and August, the Ruth Guild will be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. Over 174,000 School Kits were distributed in 23 countries in 2021.



Include the following items in each School Kit:

- ☐ Four 70-80 sheet notebooks (280-300 sheets total) of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- ☐ One 30-centimeter ruler, or a 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 a rubber band
- ☐ Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ☐ One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ☐ One 2½" eraser
- ☐ One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks); recommended fabrics include sturdy cotton, canvas, denim, and twill

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children — and in some cases, adults — continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.



MITE BOX SUNDAY
August 7th

RUTH GUILD
MEETS August 28th

**A special THANK YOU
to Shirley Meissner and
Bernadene Krueger for
making ALL the school
bags for us.**



Helping Single, At-Risk Moms Choose Life Through the Love of Jesus.

Redeeming Life Maternity Home, Illinois Expansion Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries Grant Entity — \$100,000

2021–2023 Biennium
Mission Goal:
\$2,150,000
Mission Grant #11
\$100,000

*For you formed my
inward parts;
you knitted me
together in my
mother's womb.
I praise you, for
I am fearfully and
wonderfully made
(Psalm 139:13–14a).*

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries operates maternity and transitional homes for single, at-risk mothers in Florida. The opportunity has arisen to use their successful model to expand into the northern Illinois area. Illinois has some of the most liberal abortion laws in the country. In 2018, 42,441 babies were killed by abortion in this state, an increase of seven percent from the previous year (Illinois Department of Health).

Expanding Redeeming Life's reach to the Chicago area will save women and babies by offering single, pregnant women in crisis an option to choose life for their unborn children.

The success of Redeeming Life maternity homes is dependent on the nurture, mentorship, and life skills learning offered to the residents by a caring deaconess, devoted to their spiritual care. Residents learn to cook, parent, run a household, create and live within a budget, finish their education, and find a way to become self-sufficient. Most importantly, residents are shown the unconditional love of our Heavenly Father with ample opportunities to grow in love, security, and faith in Jesus, many for the first time.

Essential to the success of the women is the nurturing and mentoring by a professional church worker who guides the residents on a daily basis. While teaching life skills and supporting residents in furthering their education and/or job skills is a vital part of what Redeeming Life does, the heart of the ministry is Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. As an organization with RSO status in The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, Redeeming Life may call rostered workers.

This mission grant will help Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries support a called deaconess to serve in the Chicago area. With the loving ministry of a deaconess, the needs of the residents, especially in the area of critical spiritual care, will be met. In addition to providing funding for diaconal service, the grant will help offset costs during the first two years, offering a safe and stable home (rent, utilities, food) and will provide program services for the women living there.

To learn more about this ministry go to rlom.org.

Learn more about this mission grant at lwml.org/mission-grants





The Eagle August 2022



St. John sent 17 Kids to Camp Lone Star last month! What a great showing as to the growth of our congregation!

National Youth Gathering had 16 kids attend! What a great opportunity for spiritual growth for all our youth!



St. John Youth Activities



Join us for Sunday School each week at 9:00.

JUNIOR YOUTH

AUGUST 14

BACKPACK BLESSING

BRING YOUR BACKPACK TO CHURCH

AUGUST 19

BACK TO SCHOOL DANCE

**THIS IS A FUNDRAISER AND WE WILL
NEED YOUR PARENTS TO HELP DEC-
ORATE OR CHAPERONE PLEASE**

SEPTEMBER 11

CONFIRMATION MEETING

**PARENT AND YOUTH ORIENTATION
5:00-7:30**

THANK YOU

We thank you for supporting
our High School youth to the
National Youth Gathering and
JH to Camp Lone Star

National Youth Gathering Report

Over 1200 congregations and over 19,000 people worshiped together at Minute Maid Stadium for five events. We attended between 6-7 hours of daily Bible Study, ate at Food Trucks, played and made friends with people all over America, exchanged snapchats with many of these, learned about relationships, families, stress, missions and more. We sewed diapers for the Orphan Grain Train and saw friends of our church in multiple places. Hamilton had 17 youth and 6 adults attend.

SENIOR YOUTH

August 10

Senior Youth 6:00-7:30 at FLC

August 14

Backpack Blessing

(Bring your backpack to church)

August 24

Senior Youth 6:00-7:30 at FLC

August 31

Senior Youth 6:00-7:30 at FLC



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St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool

122 Cheyenne Mesa

Hamilton, Texas 76531

«First Names» «Last Names»

«Address»

«City, State Zip (5-digit)»