



# The Eagle September 2022



## St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool

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*May we continue to be used by  
God and share the Gospel with*



Dear St. John Family,

The fall season is shaping up to be a very exciting time for our congregation.

First of all, sometime in September, we hopefully will be hearing back from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Million Dollar Life Match Grant. We've applied for \$50,000 to match the \$50,000 we have in our own Endowment for Life. These funds will help us purchase a new ultra-sound machine for Care Net Pregnancy Center in Waco. On September 14, Care Net will be coming to Hamilton with their 40 ft RV and trailer, all loaded down with diapers, wipes, formula and so much more. St. John will be partnering with them to distribute these items to pregnant women and mothers with young children. We'll also have the opportunity to pray with all who come to receive these services. Between now and September 13, St. John is collecting diapers (sizes 3,4,5,6) and Similac Advanced or Similac Sensitive formula. (See page 10 for more details)

St. John Preschool is also another part of our congregation that has lots of exciting things happening this fall season. First of all, we've been blessed to hire on a new director and several new teachers and aids who have been busily preparing for school for several weeks, already. Preschool begins August 29. And to start of the new year with a bang, the preschool also has a brand new paint job, which looks amazing! Also, because of a \$225,000 grant, our school will be updating all of it's technology, enhancing the playground, helping pay for paving the parking lot, potentially adding a new covered drive by the preschool entrance, upgrading all the doorways for better security and safety, and a host of other projects. We've also been able to give away 3 full-tuition scholarships to 3 families who otherwise couldn't have afforded to send their child to a Christian Preschool. God has sure blessed our preschool ministry immensely and our enrollment is up 30% over last year.

Also, at the special voter's meeting on August 21, St. John voted to pursue calling an associate pastor from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. This process won't be complete until the end of April, when the seminary announces which congregations will be receiving a new pastor-graduate. God-willing we'll be blessed to receive a talented young pastor, who can work alongside me to serve our growing ministry in Hamilton, and especially work to further develop our children's and youth ministry and build relationships with the families who have children in our preschool. This is a big commitment on the part of St. John and I ask that you pray for this process often.

As always, there's lots of other good news that I could report... but hopefully you're seeing it in person anytime you're on the church campus and in worship. I thank God every day when I come to work because I get to be a part of all of it. I love serving Jesus and His church and all of you!

Joyfully,

Pastor Aaron Kalbas

# Preschool News

## *Meet the Teachers:*



The St. John Lutheran Church Preschool Board is excited to introduce our teachers for the new school year! Our Preschool Director is **Hailey Partin**. She earned her Bachelors degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Texas A&M University and is certified to teach Early Childhood through 8th grade. In 2016, Hailey moved to Hamilton with her husband, Bret, and helped start their insurance business, The Partin Agency. Shortly there after, they welcomed their beautiful daughter, Aubrey, and Hailey stayed home with her for a few years. Aubrey is now a student at St. John Lutheran Preschool and was the driving force that brought Hailey back to the classroom setting.

Hailey said, "I'm extremely excited to take on the Director role at St. John Lutheran Preschool and can't wait to serve the families of our community. The staff members at St. John are amazing to work with and I'm honored to be leading them this year"

We are very excited to share that **Amanda Belvin** will be returning to our preschool team again this year! She has accepted the position of Mighty Lion Teacher, as well as Assistant Director! Amanda and her husband, Ty, left East Texas in 2018 and settled on their family farm in Pirmela. The farm has been in the Belvin family for over 100 years and they love every aspect of country living with their family. They are the proud parents of four boys, Brayden, Camden, Tylan, and Ethan. In 2021, Amanda joined the St. John Lutheran Preschool team as a Teacher Aide. After a few short weeks, she took on the Teacher role for the Little Lambs' class and was quickly loved by all those in her classroom.

Amanda says, "I'm extremely excited to start my second year at St. John Lutheran Preschool. With God's guidance, I look forward to continuing this journey and working with your children, the families, and the community to do God's work."



**Maureen Bakenhus** is the new Kinder/Bridge Teacher!

Maureen is newer to our community and we could not be more thrilled to have her join the St. John Preschool team. You may recognize her from the Hamilton Public Library, where she volunteered for the past year and led story time for the kids of our community. Maureen is a retired public school teacher with her certifications in Elementary, Math, and ESL PreK - 8th. Additionally, she has a degree in Music.

Maureen says, "I am so excited to be teaching the Kinder/Bridge class this year. My classroom will be a joyful place for children to learn and grow academically, socially, and emotionally through age appropriate Christ-centered activities."

We are very excited to share that **Morgan Eilers** is returning to St. John Preschool and will be joining our team as the new Little Lamb teacher!

Morgan, her husband Greg, and their two sons Nolen (4) and Ace (1.5) have been a part of the Hamilton community for many years. They currently reside in Pottsville on the Eilers' family ranch, but definitely consider Hamilton to be home. Morgan graduated high school in 2010 and moved to California to nanny for her aunt's four children. She moved back to Texas in 2012 and started working at St. John Lutheran Preschool for two years before leaving to become a paraprofessional at Ann Whitney Elementary. She left Ann Whitney to rejoin the St. John Preschool team and stayed until she became mom to Nolen in 2018. Morgan has enjoyed her time as a stay at home mom, but is looking forward to teaching the Little Lambs and growing in The Word with them.







We are excited to share that **Paige Hess** will be returning to our team this year as our Morning Teacher Aide and will be assisting with both the Little Lamb and Kinder/Bridge classes!

Paige has been married to her husband, John, for 8 years. They have two fun, loving, and rambunctious boys, one who attends St. John Lutheran Preschool. She was raised in Hamilton and graduated from Hamilton High School. In 2016, Paige and her husband moved back to Hamilton after her husband transitioned out of the military and have been here since.

Paige says, "I am very excited to be back at the Preschool again this year as your child's morning aide."

Our morning assistant in the Mighty Lions class will be **Carolyn Melde**. Carolyn attended Oklahoma State University in 1960-65 Where she majored in Plant Ecology and also acquired her teaching certificate. She moved to Hamilton in 2015.

Carolyn says, "I am grateful for the opportunity to work with children in the teaching field again because education is of particular importance for our youth, especially with the demands in today's world."



We are pleased to share that **Darbie Meleton** will be returning to our preschool team as our Afternoon Teacher Aide!

Darbie has been happily married to her husband, Frank, for twenty-nine years and they have one son named Ben. She and Frank currently live in Jonesboro and Ben is a graduate student at Texas A&M, earning his PhD in the field of physics. Darbie has been in the educational field for thirty-five years serving in different areas such as an educational aide, special educational aide, volunteer at Hamilton ISD, and a substitute teacher. In 2015, God gave their family an amazing opportunity to live and work in South Korea. For five years, she was employed as a special educational aide with Osan Middle High School at Osan Air Base. While teaching at Osan MHS, she earned her associate degree in Medical Coding and Billing from Central Texas College. After returning from Korea in February 2020, Frank and Darbie settled down in Jonesboro. In her free time, she loves to cook, travel, and spend time with her family in Louisiana.

We could not be more thrilled to share that **Jennifer Kidd** is returning to the preschool team this year and has accepted our newest position, Afternoon Teacher! With Jennifer's knowledge and experience our afternoon program will offer more structure, Bible study time, academics, and hands-on activities for our students this year!

Jennifer is the parent of four adult children. She lives in Hamilton and enjoys the country feel of the surroundings. She loves working with children, and the elderly. Jennifer has worked with both and enjoys the time spent with each. In her spare time, Jennifer keeps the nursery at St. John Lutheran Church. She is looking forward to working with the children, parents, and co-workers of St. John Lutheran Preschool!





# The Eagle September 2022

## *Anniversaries*

1st	Roger & Neet Bushee	60 Yrs.
2nd	Johann & Kym Jeschke	22 Yrs.
15th	Jason & Erica Bussey	21 Yrs.
18th	Mike & Billie Looney	57 Yrs.

## *Birthdays*

3rd	Ryder, Zschiesche
6th	Neil Muxworthy
9th	Lois Hungerford, Robert Reich
10th	Dixie Gromatzky, Eli Kalbas
12th	Kyle Zschiesche
13th	Mischelle Bottlinger, Joshua Cantara, John Robinson
14th	Charles Johnson
15th	Dane Batla, Susie Odom
17th	Haley Hopper
19th	Owen Tyson, Kaitlyn Walton
20th	Wilma Gaydos
22nd	Hannah Ward
23rd	Carolina DeLaGarza
24th	Khloe Wenzel
25th	Kathy Christensen
27th	Brittanie Clevenger, Melanie Housden
30th	Marliessa Clark

## *Baptisms*

2nd	Trint Jeschke
3rd	August Gaydos
6th	Aaron Kalbas
8th	Roseanne Hall
9th	Kase Kunkel, Misti Polster
11th	Neil Muxworthy
15th	Shirley Meissner
17th	Pam Kalbas
19th	Darman Wagner
25th	Eli Kalbas
27th	Evie Batla
28th	Kayla Edwards, Cynthia McElroy
30th	Sawyer Hanson



## **Upcoming September Events**

4th -	MITE BOX SUNDAY 11:15am Bd of Elders 1:30pm Nursing Home Devotions
11th	11:15am Bd. Of Trustees 11:15am Bd. Of Outreach
13th -	1:00pm Glory Gamesters 5:30pm Bd. Of Finance
18th	11:15am Preschool Bd.





# The Eagle September 2022

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

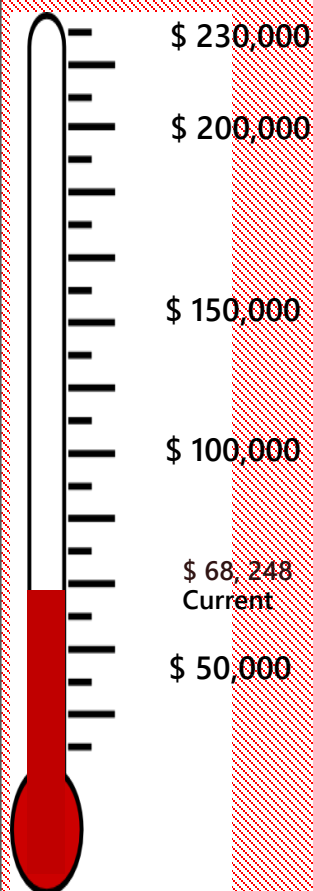
**Breakfast and  
Sunday School  
Sundays 9:00am**

**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, Garrett White.

### **T Our Homebound & Nursing Facility Residents**

**Focused Care:** Kendra Code, Frances Donahoo, Lillye Sanders, Jewell Zimmerman, Geraldine Kautzsch **Hamilton Health Care:** Corene Streger, Katherine Hopper **Belton:** Maxine Wenzel **Home bound:** Ricky Brown, Artie Peters, Frances Schrank, Nell Helm camp, Barbara Jahns, Irene Zaruba,

### **T Our Members:**

**Eugene Jeschke** - hospitalized with leg wounds

**Justin Melde**—declining

**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

**Katy Bills**—(Mary Jeffers daughter) recovering from major circulatory and kidney surgery, dealing with pneumonia

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

**Gene DeLoach** - declining

**Justin Monk** - cancer has returned

**Kellie Revelos** - (Andy Ivey's sister) cancer has returned, pursuing treatment

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

### **T Praise and Thanks** - Joyce Ganong

### **T For those who Grieve** - The family of John Schoedel

**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 September 2022

## Finance Update

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

	Current Month		Year-to-date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>Income</b>				
00-Group 00	38,811.00	34,043.30	287,138.00	327,857.10
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>38,811.00</b>	<b>34,043.30</b>	<b>287,138.00</b>	<b>327,857.10</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
04-Board of Outreach	623.00	1,089.73	6,111.00	3,755.26
10-Board of Elders	13,744.33	13,533.43	108,277.31	110,637.12
12-Board of Education	2,203.00	2,017.40	13,416.00	11,401.42
13-Board of Trustees	8,763.00	10,631.42	62,131.00	65,988.39
14-Board of Finance	4,020.00	693.88	29,135.00	23,786.10
16-Preschool Board	5,075.67	6,404.28	60,151.69	69,142.28
20-Memorial Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21-Non-Budget Expense	0.00	3,654.00	0.00	8,075.25
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>34,429.00</b>	<b>38,024.14</b>	<b>279,222.00</b>	<b>292,785.82</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>\$4,382.00</b>	<b>-\$3,980.84</b>	<b>\$7,916.00</b>	<b>\$35,071.28</b>

## Church Council Meeting

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH AT  
6:00PM**

**THE CHURCH COUNCIL WILL BE MEETING TO APPROVE BOARD BUDGETS, AND NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS. PLEASE HAVE YOUR BUDGETS IN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH AND NOMINATIONS IN-TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND.**





# The Eagle September 2022

*In loving memory of*

## *Betty Hardin*

St. John General Fund      Robert Dellaughter, Janice Grider & Doug Skolaut,  
Sharon Warlick, Bill & Ann Gilliland, Roberta & Jimmie James,  
Don & Debbie Rudolph, Jerry & Pat Windham, Dudley Kelm

St. John Building Fund      Nell Helmcamp, Kay & Jerry Zschiesche,  
Paul & Susie Odom

## *Lela Mae Pietzsch*

St. John General Fund      Darman & Jane Wagner, Carolyn Marwitz, Mark & Cindi  
Conklin, Scott, Christin, & Emmalyn, Tom Pietzsch  
Bereavement Fund      Pietzsch Family, Tom Pietzsch, Ron & Sharon Hultquist

St. John Preschool      Nell Helmcamp

St. John Ruth Guild      Alice & Jerome Pietzsch

## *John Schoedel*

St. John General Fund      Lee & Lisa Durant  
Bereavement Fund      Paul and Susie Odom

St. John Building Fund      Mike & Billie Looney, Paul & Kathy Christensen

St. John Men's Club      Lloyd & Janice Melde, Darrell, Deanna, Dylan & Dawson  
Melde, Darman & Jane Wagner, Jerome & Alice Pietzsch, Jeffery Anthony,  
Bubba & Shirley Gerald, Darrell & Kristi Wagner, Glynn & Karen Krueger,  
Johnnye Gautier, Jerry & Jean Bloodworth, Forrest & Cecelia Jenson  
Luther & Mona Smith



# The Eagle September 2022

*Music Notes*  
*By Gary Gromatzky*

## Because He Lives

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;

He came to love, heal and forgive.

He lived and died, to buy my pardon,

An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.

Because He lives, all fear is gone,  
Because I know he holds the future.

And life is worth the living,

Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride, and joy he gives,  
But greater still the calm assurance,

This child can face uncertain days

Because He lives.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.

Because He lives, all fear is gone,  
Because I know he holds the future.

And life is worth the living,

Just because He lives!

And then one day I'll cross that river.

I'll fight life's final war with pain.

And then as death gives way to victory,

I'll see the lights of glory

And I'll know He reigns.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.

Because He lives, all fear is gone,  
Because I know he holds the future.

And life is worth the living,

Just because He lives!

## Because He Lives

1971

Gloria and Bill Gaither

*There is hope in your future, says the Lord, Jeremiah 31:17*

(As told by Gloria and Bill Gaither)

When Bill and I started our family in the sixties, racial tensions were tearing the country apart. Civil rights activists had suffered and some had been killed. The Vietnam conflict was claiming thousands of lives, and tensions boiled over on university campuses. Many young people were growing disillusioned and "dropping out."

In this climate, Bill and I sought to write songs with lasting answers to the turmoil of the human spirit. But in the fall of 1969, several things happened to test the reality of our own convictions. We realized we were expecting another baby. Though we had always intended to have another child, we weren't planning on a baby so soon. My body hadn't quite recovered from the last pregnancy. Making matters worse, Bill contracted mononucleosis, which left him exhausted and depressed.

This combination of national turmoil and personal trouble discouraged us, and we occasionally asked each other, "If the world is like this now, what will it be in fifteen or sixteen years for our baby? What will this child face?"

Discouraged and disheartened, they looked for signs of hope. One day in the spring, Bill walked out of his office to inspect a newly paved parking area. Construction workers had covered it with several coats of asphalt. Bill was satisfied with the job that was done, but as he turned, he noticed a tiny blade of grass poking through the layers of rock and tar to reach into the sunlight. Remembering the blade of grass that prospered and while pondering and praying about these things, we came to realize anew that our courage doesn't come from a stable world, for the world has never been stable. Jesus Himself was born in the cruellest of times. No, we have babies, raise families, and risk living because the Resurrection is true!

Our baby arrived safe and sound, and we named him Benjamin, which means "most beloved son." A few weeks later "*Because He Lives*" was born in our hearts and poured from our souls.

Over the years this song has reassured us that our Lord's Resurrection is the central truth of life. Because He lives, we can face tomorrow. Many times since, as our children grew, our business-life changed, our fortunes shifted, or our direction clouded, our family has found assurance in this very personal song.

It's "our song," but we're grateful others have loved it, too.





## 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](http://rlom.org).

**Our Ruth Guild ladies would like to give a big THANK YOU to all who donated Health Kit items and School Kit items. Also a big THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the Bereavement fund for funeral meals.**

Learn more about this mission grant at [lwml.org/mission-grants](http://lwml.org/mission-grants)

MITE BOX SUNDAY  
September 4th



RUTH GUILD  
MEETS September 25th



# The Eagle September 2022

September 14



CARE  NET  
Pregnancy Center of Central Texas

+  
 St. John  
Lutheran Church

||



**Help St. John help Care Net help women care for their babies** by participating in Care Net's Community Outreach in Hamilton on September 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Care Net will be bringing "Big Bertha" a 40-foot RV with trailer, full of diapers, wipes, formula and much more. Care Net personnel will be available to give counsel and medical referrals to expectant mothers... but they also need us...

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. On Sept. 14 be a volunteer on-hand to pray with mothers who show up to receive help. This is most important and a great way to show how much we care. Let Pastor Aaron know if you are interested or have questions.
2. On the week of the 14<sup>th</sup>, we need you to promote this outreach via your Facebook page and other social media. (More details coming about how to do this).
3. St. John would like to bless Care Net by donating diapers, wipes and formula. You can purchase and drop them off in the pack-n-play in the narthex by the 13<sup>th</sup>. (Diapers size 4, 5, 6 or any size pullups and Similac Advanced or Similac Sensitive formula are the biggest needs right now.)
4. If you know of any women or families who might need help, invite them.





# The Eagle September 2022

## St. John Youth Activities

### Junior Youth

*Volunteer Opportunity at the Dove Festival. Talk to Reagan Reich*

Sept. 9 School Homecoming

Sept. 11 Confirmation Parent Meeting and first lesson

Sept. 18 Confirmation

Sept. 18 LCMS Youth Sunday

Sept. 18 Begin Pizza Fundraiser

Sept. 23-25 Confirmation Retreat

### Senior Youth

*Volunteer Opportunity at the Dove Festival. Talk to Reagan Reich*

Sept. 7 Bible Study & Meal 6:00

Sept. 9 School Homecoming

Sept. 14 Bible Study & Meal 6:00

Sept. 17 Concordia Austin Trip with Putters and Gutters in Marble Falls

Sept. 18 LCMS Youth Sunday

Sept. 18 Begin Pizza Fundraiser

Sept. 21 Bible Study & Meal 6:00

Sept. 24 Live, Learn, Love Outdoors at Game Warden Facility age 13-18 must sign up:

Ask Jack, Joe or Caden

Sept. 28 Bible Study & Meal 6:00

### Thank You To Our Volunteers!

The Jr. High Back to School Dance was a great success because of the excellent volunteers that worked that night. We appreciate the parents, high school youth and the jr. youth who helped with chaperoning, leading dance and games and cleaning up when it was finished. THANKS!

<sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.





# The Eagle September 2022

**Six days you shall labor and do  
all your work, but the seventh  
day is a sabbath to the Lord your  
God. On it you shall not do any  
work... Exodus 9-10**



St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool

122 Cheyenne Mesa

Hamilton, Texas 76531

«First Names» «Last Names»

«Address»

«City, State Zip (5-digit)»