

Bethlehem Lutheran Church • William Penn, Texas



Ghost Town Gazette

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
William Penn, Texas

Vol. 4, No. 5, May 2026

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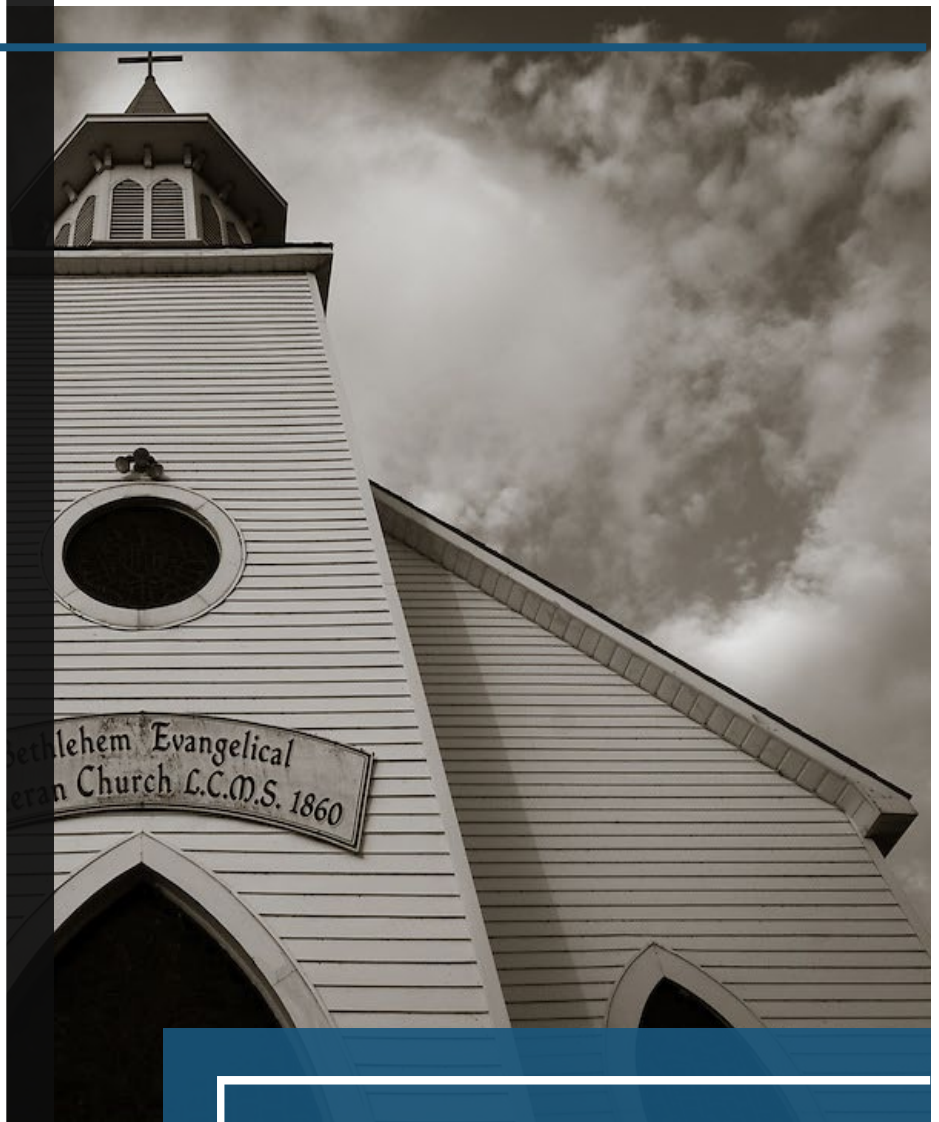
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**“We are saved by
faith alone, but the
faith that saves is
never alone.”**

- Martin Luther

COME, HOLY SPIRIT

COME, HOLY SPIRIT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the month of May unfolds across the fields and roads of William Penn, we find ourselves standing between the joy of Easter and the fire of Pentecost. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Yet the risen Lord does not leave His Church staring only backward at the empty tomb, He sends us forward in His promise.

After His resurrection, our Lord Jesus spent forty days appearing to His disciples, teaching them, and preparing them for His ascension. Before returning to the Father, He gave them this promise: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (Acts 1:8). They were not left alone. Neither are we.

Pentecost reminds us that the Church is not built by human strength, clever programs, or worldly success. The Church is created and sustained by the Holy Spirit through the Word of Christ. On that first Pentecost, the Spirit came with wind and fire, and Peter preached Christ crucified and risen for sinners. Three thousand were baptized that day. The miracle was not merely in the tongues of fire, but in hearts of stone being made alive by the Gospel.

That same miracle continues among us.

Every Sunday in our congregation, the Spirit is at work through preaching, Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. Christ still gives His gifts. Sins are still forgiven. Faith is still created and strengthened. Pentecost is not merely a past event to remember; it is the living reality of Christ continuing to serve His people through His Means of Grace.

In a world full of noise, fear, and uncertainty, Pentecost calls us back to confidence, not in ourselves, but in Christ. The Spirit does not point us inward to our feelings, but outward to Jesus: crucified for our sins, raised for our justification, reigning for our salvation.

As summer approaches and routines begin to shift, let us remain gathered around the Word and Sacraments. The same Lord who called the disciples, who sent His Spirit, and who built His Church in Jerusalem, is still at work here in William Penn, Texas.

Christ has not abandoned His people. He comes to us still.

In Christ's Service and Yours,
Pastor Krieg

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8



THROUGH THE LITURGY: PARAMENTS

What Is a Parament?

A parament is a colored cloth used to adorn the furnishings of the sanctuary, particularly those associated with the Divine Service and the Means of Grace. The word *parament* comes from a Latin term meaning “to adorn” or “to decorate,” reflecting both beauty and purpose in the worship life of the Church.

Paraments are commonly found on the altar, pulpit, lectern, and sometimes the baptismal font. The cloth that hangs on the front of the altar is often called the *frontal* or *superfrontal*. These furnishings are not ordinary pieces of furniture; they are set apart for holy use in the Lord’s House, where He comes to serve His people through His Word and Sacraments.

Why Do We Use Paraments?

Paraments serve both a practical and a theological purpose. They beautify the sanctuary and help mark the seasons of the Church Year, visually reinforcing the themes of the liturgical calendar. Their colors correspond to particular seasons and festivals:

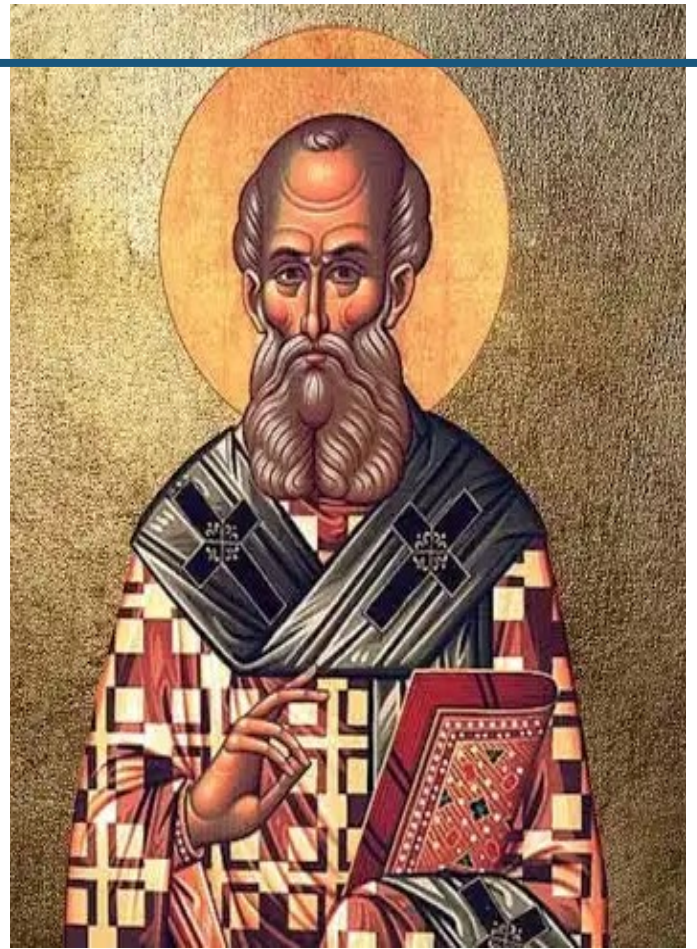
- **White** for Christ-centered festivals such as Christmas, Easter, and other feast days celebrating His glory and resurrection
- **Blue** for Advent, emphasizing hope, expectation, and the coming of Christ
- **Purple** for Lent, a season of repentance and preparation
- **Green** for the season of Pentecost and the long Trinity season, emphasizing growth in faith and the life of the Church
- **Red** for Pentecost, Reformation, and festivals of martyrs, symbolizing the Holy Spirit and the blood of witness
- **Black** for Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, emphasizing mourning and solemn reflection

These colors are not merely decorative. They teach and confess the faith. Along with the symbols often embroidered on them, such as crosses, lambs, crowns, or Alpha and Omega, paraments help proclaim the saving work of Christ. They serve as visual reminders that the sanctuary is a sacred place where the crucified and risen Lord comes to forgive sins and strengthen faith through His appointed means.



“That we worship one
God in trinity and the
trinity in unity.”

Athanasian Creed



HEROES OF FAITH: ST. ATHANASIUS

Each month, we will highlight one of the many heroes of the Christian faith who have stood firm in the truth of Holy Scripture. We will look at the apostles who knew our Lord Jesus Christ personally, his friends who were witnesses to His miracles, the faithful ancestors of the Old Testament who patiently awaited His first Advent, as well as the many other Godly men and women who have been bold witnesses throughout the years, to the one true faith. We look to them not as people to be worshiped or prayed to but as ordinary sinners, like us, to whom the Holy Spirit gave faith to be extraordinary. They are holy because the blood of Christ forgave their sins. They are holy because the Holy Spirit gave them a living faith in which the love of Christ shone through.

On May 2nd, the Church remembers St. Athanasius of Alexandria, pastor and confessor.

Athanasius lived during the fourth century, when the Church faced one of its greatest doctrinal battles. A false teacher named Arius claimed that Jesus was not truly God, but only the highest of created beings. Against this dangerous error, Athanasius boldly defended the truth of Scripture: that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, begotten of the Father from eternity, and our only Savior. Though exiled multiple times for his confession, Athanasius refused to compromise. He stood firm because salvation itself was at stake. If Christ were not true God, He could not save us. But because the eternal Son took on our flesh, suffered, died, and rose again, we have forgiveness, life, and salvation. We remember Athanasius not simply for his courage, but for his faithfulness to Christ and His Word. His confession still strengthens the Church today, reminding us that the truth of Jesus is worth defending, for in Him alone is eternal life.

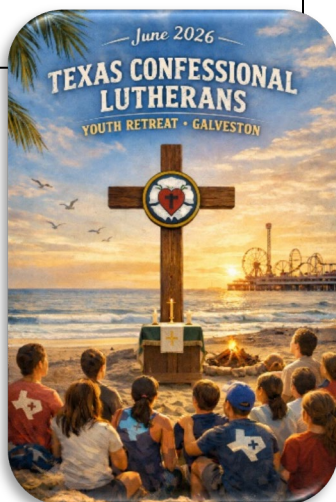


NEXT MEETING



On Sunday, May 3rd, the Youth League will meet during Sunday school. We will be discussing our summer trip, our next outing, and preparing for our next fundraiser.

If you are going to attend our **summer trip** to Galveston in June, you need to let Pastor Krieg know so we can get the accommodations lined up for everyone.



YOUTH LEAGUE UPDATE

Summer Trip - Galveston

Who: Any student who has graduated 8th grade through and including any student who has graduated 12th grade by the time of the trip.

Date: Monday, June 29, 2026, through Thursday, July 2, 2026

Lodging: Beach Houses on Galveston Island

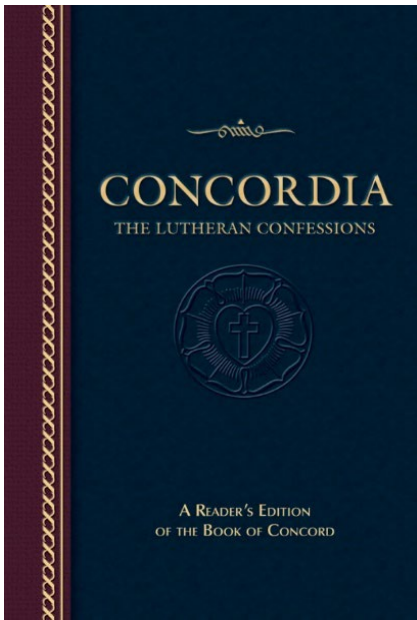
Where: Worship, Plenary Bible Study, and Break-Out Sessions at St. John's Lutheran Church, Galveston, TX

Activities: Schlitterbahn Waterpark, walking the Strand, and plenty of beach fun!

Cost: Registration is covered through our Youth League fundraising efforts.

This four-day youth retreat contains worship and fun without blending the two. Confessional, liturgical worship will happen daily, as will sound teaching flowing from Scripture and our Confessions. Fun fellowship with other Lutheran young people is a given. Currently, four great congregations are involved in this: Memorial-Houston, Our Savior-Houston, Bethlehem-William Penn, and Grace-Brenham.

If you have any questions about the trip, please reach out to Pastor Krieg.



THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS: ARTICLE XXII CONCERNING BOTH KINDS OF THE SACRAMENT

When the Romans replied to the Lutheran teaching concerning the bodily presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper (Article X) they stated: "The tenth article gives no offense in its words, because they confess that in the Eucharist, after the consecration lawfully made, the Body and Blood of Christ are substantially and truly present, if only they believe that the entire Christ is present under each form, so that the Blood of Christ is no less present under the form of bread by concomitance than it is under the form of the wine, and the reverse."

While the Romans stated their agreement with the Lutheran's teaching on the presence of Christ in the Sacrament, they clarified their agreement: "the tenth article gives no offense... if only they believe that the entire Christ is present under each form, so that the Blood of Christ is no less present under the form of bread by concomitance than it is under the form of the wine, and the reverse."

Note that the word concomitance means "an existence together or in connection with one another". In this context, concomitance refers to the Roman Catholic teaching that, in the Lord's Supper, both the body and the blood of Christ are present in each consecrated element of bread and wine.

The doctrine of concomitance was developed over a long period of time in connection with the doctrine of transubstantiation. It gave rise to the custom of "communion under one kind," which spread widely during the 12th century.

Already in the seventh century, the practice of intinction (dipping the consecrated wafer into the consecrated wine) began to grow popular. This began because some laypeople were reluctant to receive Christ's blood for fear of spilling it. It is interesting that this practice was motivated by lay people rather than the church. In fact, the church had previously forbidden the practice of intinction in 675AD. It regained popularity in the eleventh century, only to be forbidden by the church as an "incomplete communion" practice. But the practice continued to spread until the Council of Constance (1415) decreed that Holy Communion under the form of bread alone would be distributed to the people. This was reaffirmed by the Council of Trent in 1545. So, because of "practical" reasons and out of fear of spillage, the Church began the custom of offering communion under one kind only.

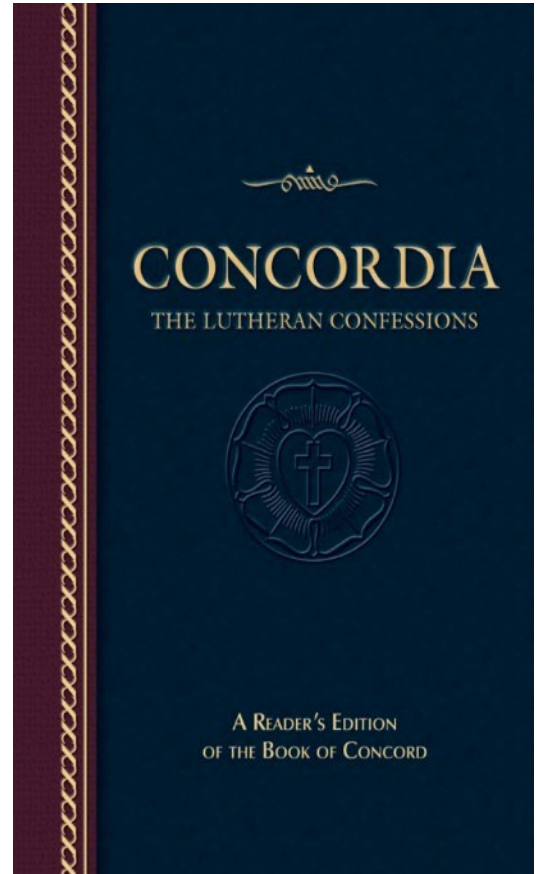
THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS: ARTICLE XXII – CONCERNING BOTH KINDS OF THE SACRAMENT

In 1963, the Second Vatican Council urged the Roman Catholic Church to restore the celebration of Holy Communion under both kinds, which has now become the norm in the Church once again.

This was the situation at the time of Martin Luther and the Diet of Augsburg. So, here in Article XXII is presented the right practice of giving the Lord's Supper and offers support for this practice: "The laity are given both kinds in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper because this practice has the Lord's command, 'Drink of it, all of you' (Matthew 26:27). Christ has clearly commanded that all should drink from the cup. And lest anyone misleadingly say that this refers only to priests, Paul cites an example in 1 Corinthians 11:27. From this, it appears that the whole congregation used both kinds."

In addition to the words of Scripture, they demonstrate that this was also the practice throughout the early centuries of the church and that the practice of distributing only the bread was only a recent invention.

The issue discussed in this article was the practice of giving only the bread of the Lord's Supper to the laity. Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper and distributed both the bread and the wine to His disciples. The apostle Paul directed the believers in Corinth to do the same. This sacrament was instituted to comfort and strengthen those who believe that here Christ gives His body and blood, with bread and wine, for the forgiveness of their sins. For this reason the true Church has always distributed both the body and the blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine.





CONGRATULATIONS, 2026 GRADUATES!

High School:

Michael Kettler..... Brenham High School
Attending TSTC in the fall.

Haleigh Seifert Navasota High School
Attending Lone Star Junior College in the fall.

Colin Schomburg Brenham High School
Attending TSTC in the fall.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

As of the last regularly scheduled voters meeting on April 22nd.

Transfers In

Justin, Rylee, and Jaxon Elliott transfer from Grace Lutheran, Brenham

Transfers Out

Michael and Susan Dieterich to Trinity Lutheran, Riesel, TX

Naomi Brocksmith and Castiel Marshall to Holy Cross Lutheran,
College Station, TX

Profession of Faith/Adult Confirmation

Kerry Krivdo
Tracey O'Neil



67th
ANNUAL

KARTOFFEL PFANNENKUCHEN ABENDESSEN

(Potato Pancake Supper)

*Good Food.
Good Fellowship.
Rooted in Faith.*



KARTOFFEL PFANNENKUCHEN ABENDESSEN

The Potato Pancake Supper is Back Again!

After a great success last year, the annual Potato Pancake Supper will continue on Friday, June 5, from 5 to 7 pm.

Tickets will be available starting Sunday, May 3, or RSVP at the QR code below.

Enjoy an all-you-can-eat meal featuring our famous homemade potato pancakes!

Bring the whole family for an evening of great food and fun, with traditional German music and a water slide bounce house for the kids, we look forward to seeing you there!

If you are willing to sell tickets, please contact Charles Meyer.

67th Annual

Potato Pancake Dinner

June 5, 2026

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

All you can eat!!!

Adult tickets are \$15, children ages 6-12 are \$10, and children under 6 eat free. All children's tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, please contact Charles Meyer at 832-527-0172.



“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Proverbs 1:7

LUTHERAN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP NOW OPEN

Bethlehem's Lutheran Education Scholarship is now officially open for applications! The Board of Missions is excited to support our members pursuing Christ-centered education at our Lutheran schools, universities, and seminaries. This scholarship is available to any Bethlehem member attending an LCMS parochial school, university, or seminary. Our desire is to encourage and strengthen Lutheran education by helping families and students receive faithful instruction grounded in God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions.

Applications are now being accepted, and our goal is to distribute scholarship funds at the beginning of the academic year in August. If you or your family are eligible, we encourage you to apply by speaking to Pastor Krieg and take advantage of this opportunity.

At the same time, we are asking the congregation to prayerfully consider supporting this scholarship financially. This ministry depends on the generosity of God's people. Gifts of any size will help invest in the future of the Church by supporting students preparing for lives of faithful Christian service and vocation. This scholarship is more than financial assistance; it is an investment in the faith formation of the next generation.

Please keep this effort in your prayers, and if you would like to contribute to the Lutheran Education Scholarship Fund, please leave your designated gift in the offering plate. Together, we can help ensure that Lutheran education remains strong for present and future generations.



TOPICAL TREK VBS, 2026 – JUNE 16TH – 19TH



This summer, we are going on an epic Tropical Trek! Where the kids will explore God's Word (the Bible) and discover how God finds and helps us in every situation we encounter in life. Our world is filled with exciting things to explore and enjoy. But there are also challenges and hardships we face along the way. Our loving and powerful God desires to help us. He seeks us out and leads us to faith. We can trust in Him! At Tropical Trek, kids will learn how Jesus seeks them and all people. He is the Son of Man, who came to seek and to save the lost!

Each night will last from 5:00-7:30 pm, with dinner from 5 -6 pm.

Pastor Krieg will offer a Bible class for adults during kids' activities, so there will be something for everyone.

We need adult volunteers to help lead music, crafts, games, and the kitchen. If you are interested, please contact the Board of Ed or sign up in the parish hall. Also, if you are interested in your child or grandchild participating in VBS this summer, please sign them up in the parish hall.

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:30 – 8:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast, Bible Study, & Meeting
3 Greg Gaskamp, Don Koester 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:00 – 10:00 AM Youth League Mtg 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship w/ Communion	4 Emersyn Schroeder	5 Sharon Schwartz 7:00 – 7:30 PM LWML Social 7:30 – 8:30 PM LWML Meeting	6 Matthew Kettler	7 Kristen Berglund, Caleb Klussmann 6:00 – 7:00 PM Elders' Meeting 6:30 – 8:00 PM Ladies Bible Study	8 Paul Molitor	9
10 Hoyt Boggan 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Shekel Store	11 Tanner Haferkamp	12 Raellen Carroll, Rebecca Wellmann	13 8:30 – 9:30 AM Sonshine	14 6:30 – 8:00 PM Ladies Bible Study	15	16
17 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship w/ Communion	18 Lester Hinze	19 Diane Kettler, Becky Lueckemeyer	20	21 Connie Foster 6:30 – 8:00 PM Ladies Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00 PM Men's Club Meeting	22	23 8:30 – 9:30 AM Sisters in Christ
24 Diana Kohring, Cheryl Schroeder 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship	25 Ethan Boggan	26	27 Tyler Gandy	28 6:30 – 8:00 PM Ladies Bible Study	29	30
31 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship w/ Communion						

May 2026

Birthdays

1 Deloris Griffin
Kathleen Siemsglusz

4 Dillon Nowicki

7 Laramie Kettler
Samantha Medve

8 Paul Richter

10 Michael Hinze
Taylor Hinze

11 Jo Ann Schwartz

14 Moriah Foster

18 Ray Andrejczak
Madison Fridye

19 Amara Torrez

20 Taylor Nowicki

22 Caleb Klussmann

23 Maddison Molitor

26 Wyatt Schramme

27 Marilyn Klussmann

30 Charlie Boggan

31 Donald Koester

Baptismal Birthdays

3 Greg Gaskamp
Donald Koester

4 Emersyn Schroeder

5 Sharon Schwartz

6 Matthew Kettler

7 Kristen Berglund
Caleb Klussmann

8 Paul Molitor

10 Hoyt Boggan

11 Tanner Haferkamp

12 Raellen Carroll
Rebecca Wellmann

18 Lester Hinze

19 Diane Kettler
Becky Luetkemeyer

22 Connie Foster

24 Diana Kohring
Cheryl Schroeder

25 Ethan Boggan

27 Tyler Gandy

Wedding Anniversaries

Delwin & Doris Gaskamp
May 3, 1969

Chris & Ann Smitherman
May 25, 1985

Kevin & Kellie Goessler
May 19, 1990

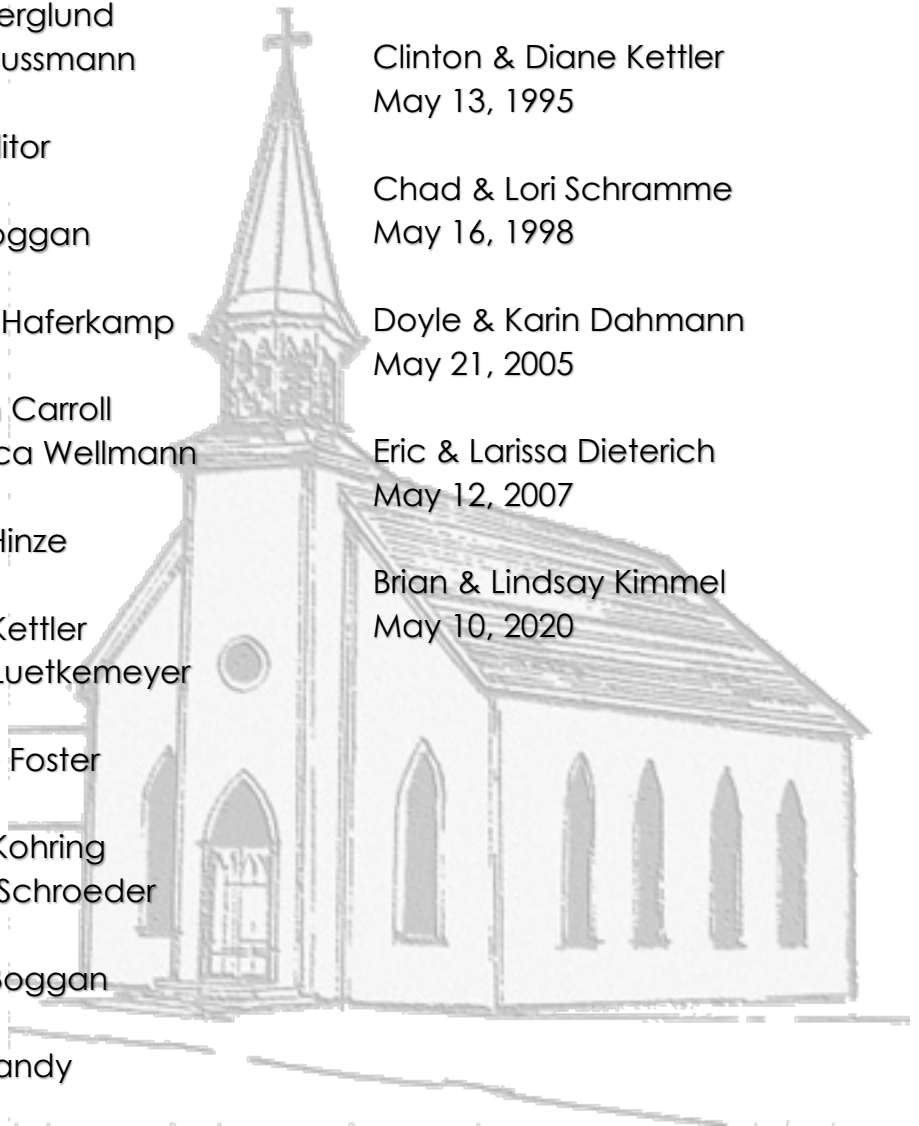
Clinton & Diane Kettler
May 13, 1995

Chad & Lori Schramme
May 16, 1998

Doyle & Karin Dahmann
May 21, 2005

Eric & Larissa Dieterich
May 12, 2007

Brian & Lindsay Kimmel
May 10, 2020



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH-
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PASTORKRIEG@BETHLEHEMWMPENN.ORG

OFFICE HOURS: M-TH; 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Bethlehem Lutheran Church .
William Penn, Texas

