



# Good News!

From the Welcome Place  
Welcome Lutheran Church  
Pastor John R. Sutton, Jr.

April 2024

Number 250

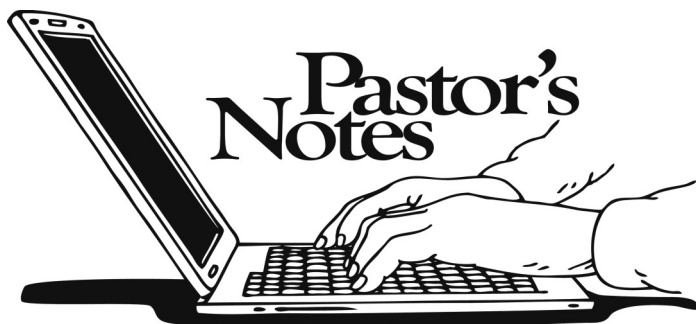
A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church

Office: 979-251-7576

[www.welcomelutheran.org](http://www.welcomelutheran.org)

[secretary@welcomelutheran.org](mailto:secretary@welcomelutheran.org)

[sutton\\_jrs@yahoo.com](mailto:sutton_jrs@yahoo.com)



The psalmist of old proclaims: "For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning." Psalm 30:5

Childhood for me was a time of climbing trees, swimming in the mill pond, scraped knees, struggling to make good grades, cutting down small trees in the woods and building a fort, working in the fields in the summer time, hunting deer in the winter time, and hearing mom say: "Be back home in time for dinner." I never thought about the utility bills, or the taxes, or how much blue jeans cost or how much food costs. Parents or grandparents, work hard to shield their children or grandchildren, from the real world until our children or grandchildren, are old enough to understand it. But eventually something happens. It might be a big disappointment that makes you feel like the real world comes crashing into the reality of our children or grandchildren's lives. It's all part of growing up, I suppose. I've never met a single person who has avoided this shift. The weight of growing up can be immense. Balancing life, relationships, work, a career, and the uncertainty of it all, can feel overwhelming. I've come to understand, though, that which brings tears to our eyes, will lead us to grace. God takes the weights of the pressures and the disappointments in our lives, and turns these things, into the very things, that anchor us in our faith. We saw this happen in the life of Jesus. He experienced the same sadness we feel, and He endured it, so we would know that God can and does sympathize with us in our sadness and in our

sorrows. Jesus doesn't judge us, or expect us to bounce back immediately from the hurts of life. He gets down into the muck and the mire with us. He knelt in a garden and cried as He prayed for the painful night to pass. Jesus didn't skip over it, or run from it, even though He could have. He knew, that grace was on the other side of His grief. When we can't see past our sorrows, we can trust that God is traveling with us, and His grace will never leave us, or abandoned us, as we journey through this life.

May your month of April be blessed.

*In His service, Pastor John.*



## First Communion Classes

First Communion Classes will be taught on Wednesday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, May

8th at 7:00 p.m. If you would like your child to attend please contact Pastor Sutton at 551-5876 or [sutton\\_jrs@yahoo.com](mailto:sutton_jrs@yahoo.com) Or the Church office 979-251-7576. [secretary@welcomelutheran.org](mailto:secretary@welcomelutheran.org) First Communion will be celebrated on Mother's Day May 12th.

## Ladies Convention

The NALC South Texas mission District Ladies gathering will be held on Saturday, April 20 at Our Savior Lutheran Chrch in Three Rivers, Texas.

We will be going down on Friday, April 19 and returning Saturday afternoon. The Convention should be over by 4:00 p.m.

If you are interested please contact Marian Balke at 979-249-6382 or Karen Grebe at 979-357-2732.

# Highlights of Church Council Meeting

Sunday, March 10, 2024

In attendance: Shirley Beum, Dwayne Schulz, Tracy Meier, Don Woltmann, Trent Dierking, Gary Shupak, Ada Eben and Pastor Sutton. Cynthia Kuehn and Glenn Miles were absent. Special Guest – Barry Bettis.

Called to order by Shirley Beum at 11:20 a.m. Opening prayer given by Pastor John Sutton.

## Special Guest – Barry Bettis

Barry was at the meeting to discuss church security. The idea of forming a security committee will be discussed at the next congregational meeting.

## Approval of February 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Don moved and Trent seconded to approve the secretary's report; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Dwayne moved and Gary seconded to approve the treasurer's report; motion carried.

A motion was made by Dwayne and seconded by Trent to form a committee to assist the council treasurer with all financial accounts of the church; motion carried.

## Pastor's Report for February

~Attendance – early service – 201, late service – 202, Ash Wednesday – 116, Lenten – 172

~Pastoral Visits – hospital – 1, office – 3, home-bound – Industry (4), Brenham (4), Other (2), nursing home – Brenham (1), Other (1), home visits – 2, baptisms – 1

~Meetings – classes taught – 1

Ada moved and Tracy seconded to approve pastor's report; motion carried.

## Committee Reports

~Parish Education – no report

~Worship – no report

~Evangelism – ads have been placed in local newspapers for Easter services

~Stewardship – no report

~Memorial – no report

~Cemetery – down payment has been made on columbarium

~Building and Grounds – electrical line for sign has been completed; working on website for smoke detector and alarm system; culverts on hold until decision is made on parking lot; still working on quotes for parking lot repair to present to congregation and still researching changes/additions to security cameras.

~Sports Ministry – no report

## Unfinished Business

~Welcome 4-H will not be meeting in our fellowship hall until they get permission to move their meeting location.

~Church Insurance – application is being reviewed by several companies.

## New Business

~Collection from members for the Panhandle Fire will be counted and sent. A decision about a church donation will be determined at a later date.

~A motion was made by Dwayne and seconded by Gary to accept new member Marlene Weyer. She will be transferring from St. John's in Bellville.

~Council decided that complete minutes should be placed in the monthly newsletter.

~Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned (Dwayne moved, Trent seconded) at 1:10 p.m. and was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next council meeting – Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> after 10:00 a.m. service.**

~Semi-Annual~  
**Congregational Meeting  
 will be held on Sunday,  
 April 28, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**

## Finance Report As of February 29, 2024

### **Current Assets**

Bank Accounts	
Savings CD FB	\$103,437.64
Savings CD2 FB	\$103,437.64
Savings CD FNB	\$143,068.04
Building Fund FNB	\$100,906.62
Welcome Church	\$146,301.75
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$601,151.69</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$601,151.69</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$601,151.69</b>

## March Attendance

Date	7:45	10:00	Total
03	55	48	103
06		Lenten Service	74
10	37	65	102
13		Lenten Service	65
17	39	58	97
20		Lenten Service	60
24	67	52	119
28		Maundy Thursday	53
29		Good Friday	53
31	149	95	244
<b>Total</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>970</b>

## Honoring On May 12

Please join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall, on Sunday, May 12, as we honor Mothers, Graduates, New Members, First Communion Recipients, and the Scholarship recipients.

### *Congratulations To Our Youth*

Congratulations to all of our youth in 4-H and FFA who participated in the Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston Livestock Shows.

Congratulations to Jolee Meiers a member of the Austin County 4-H team that placed 2nd in District Competition and was the 4th individual.

### *Card of Thanks*

Thank you to all ladies who donated baked goods (pies, cookies, cakes, homemade bread) to the first WOW (Women of Welcome) bake sale on March 23. We were sold out by noon and amazed by the number of folks who stopped by and bought. Also thank you to the ladies who helped to set up and helped during the sale.

Again Thank You. Thank You Thank You.

### *Card of Thanks*

Dear Welcome Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the staff, the Board of Directors, and all the abused and neglected children our program serves, thank you for your generous donation to CASA for Kids of South Central Texas. The compassion you show for the children in our community is an inspiration to us all. Thank You for helping to make life a little easier for our "CASA Kids." Thank you for joining our fight to make sure they do not lose hope.

*Mandy Wright, Executive Director*

*Meals on Wheels H.O.A. of Austin County...  
Helping One Another, Inc. (HOA) is a non-profit organization committed to supporting our senior neighbors by providing programs that enhance independent living. The Meals on Wheels program provides hot meals five days a week to over 100 clients throughout Austin County.*

### **Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers are needed to deliver Meals on Wheels in the West End of Austin County. Contact Sandra Merz at 832-928-4139 to learn more.

## *Memorials*

### Building Fund

In memory of Garth (Gary) Vierus

By: Darlene Konieczny

In memory of Clint Ganze

By: Delores Kuehn and Family

In memory of Mark Hundermer

By: Joey and Lori Krchnak



Our March noisy collection totaled at \$81.89, and that money went to the Blessing Box of Bellville for Cancer Patient Care. Thank you to everyone who donated! The April 28th noisy collection will take place at the 10:00 a.m. service, the kids will sing, and those proceeds will be going to the panhandle relief.

Vacation Bible School will be taking place June 17 -20, 5:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. at Industry Methodist Church. There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers at the back of the sanctuary.

We will announce a volunteer meeting date soon.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter Egg hunt.

### *It's Time To Fill the Warehouse*

The Rosenberg Warehouse has space to fill!

We are in need of:

Quilts and baby blankets

Flood Buckets filled or the supplies that go in them

Tools (such as shovels, brooms, mops, rakes)

Bibles—Spanish and kids (also bible stories)

Note cards with words of encouragement written on them—we insert these into the Bibles!

*God Bless You*

*Michael and Pat Dittrich*

*Serve each other through love—Galatians 5:13*

**There will be baskets at the back of the church in April and May for items.**

## *God Bless Your Service April*

### Flowers

07—Gina Miles  
14—Karen Grebe  
21—Michelle Huebner  
28—Lynn “Red” Spiecer and Dorothy Beard

### Altar Guild

07—Doris Glenewinkel and Melissa Hegemeyer  
14—Cynthia Kuehn  
21—Heather Rinn  
28—Judy Schulz and Caroline Schulz

### Acolytes

<b>7:45</b>	<b>10:00</b>
07—Konnor Klump	Madelyn Poncik
14—Korbin Kolajajak	Kade Jacobs
21—Leann Brending	Jake Righetti
28—Cooper Janosky	Michael Hegemeyer

### Communion Assistants

<b>7:45</b>	<b>10:00</b>
07—Denise Brending	Shirley Beum
21—Dwayne Schulz	Melissa Glenewinkel

### Financial Committee

07—Kevin and Wendy Klump  
14—Kenneth and Juli Kaase  
21—Don and Kerri Woltmann  
28—Alan Kuehn and Cynthia Kuehn

### Readers

<b>7:45</b>	<b>10:00</b>
07—Sandra Dunn	Garrett Poncik
14—Delta Kolajajak	Brian Schumann
21—Marian Balke	Ruth Poncik
28—Mary Holtkamp	Angela Sutton

### 7:45 Ushers

07—Ada Eben and Vernell Eben  
14—Delta, Kayree, and Korbin Kolajajak  
21—Ken and Tracy Meier  
28—Don and Kerri Woltmann

### 10:00 Ushers

07—Garrett and April Poncik  
14—Shirley Beum and Judy Schulz  
21—John Rinn and Heather Rinn  
28—Diana Lampe and Gina Miles

### Change Outside Sign

Sandra Dunn

## *God Bless Your Service May*

### Flowers

05—Juli Kaase  
12—Lois Schubert Mother's Day  
19—Confirmation Parents Pentecost Sunday  
26—May Dell Spiess and Vicki Spiess  
In memory of Benjamin Spiess and Glenn Spiess  
Honoring Memorial Day Monday May 27

### Altar Guild

05—Shirley Beum and Riley Hanley  
12—Lois Schubert and Diana Lampe  
19—Gina Miles and Kerry Schulz Pentecost  
26—Sandy Dunn Holy Trinity Sunday

### Acolytes

<b>7:45</b>	<b>10:00</b>
05—Konnor Klump	Jolee Meiers
12—Korbin Kolajajak	Kaleb Jacobs
19—Heath Turner	Kade Jacobs
26—Leann Brending	Madelyn Poncik

### Communion Assistants

<b>7:45</b>	<b>10:00</b>
05—Linsey Angus	Heather Rinn
19—Bleiberville Fish Fry (no Service)	Sharon Meiers
26—Lori Krchnak	Ruth Poncik

### Financial Committee

05—Kenneth and Juli Kaase  
12—Ada Eben and Sandra Dunn  
19—Wayne and Shirley Beum  
26—Diana Lampe and Lois Schubert

### Readers

<b>7:45</b>
05—Wendy Klump
12—Kenneth Kaase
19—Bleiberville Fish Fry No Service
26—Dwayne Schulz

### 10:00

05—Emily Rankin  
12—Kristie Schumann  
19—Sharon Meiers  
26—Gina Miles

### Ushers 7:45

05—Gary Shupak and Gregg Schubert  
12—Alan Kuehn and Dwayne Schulz  
19—Bleiberville Fish Fry No service  
26—Charles and Mary Holtkamp

### Ushers 10:00

05—Ruth Poncik and Emily Rankin  
12—Lois Schubert and Glenn Milws  
19—Darrell Kolwes and Mark Hegemeyer  
26—Garrett and April Poncik

### Change Outside Sign

Cynthia Kuehn



## Those Celebrating



01—Britani Schulz  
 02—Rachel Schubert  
 04—Wayne Beum  
 08—Bailey Blezinger  
 09—Garrett Poncik  
 12—Scott Blezinger

12—Melissa Hegemeyer  
 14—Wyatt Blezinger  
 15—Lee Miles  
 16—Lela Kohring  
 20—Kadynce Poncik  
 27—James Moriarty

01—David Moriarty  
 01—James Moriarty  
 01—Gayle Steele  
 01—Tyler Bond  
 02—Tom Bourbon  
 02—Rachel Hurtig  
 03—Reece H. Mahlmann  
 04—Scott Blezinger  
 04—Michael Garcia  
 05—Delphine Merkel  
 05—Katie Schumann  
 06—Christopher Strack  
 08—Briggs Schubert  
 08—Brian Wittneben  
 09—Marilyn Kay Marx  
 09—Ross Blezinger  
 09—Mike Schobel  
 10—Kinch Schubert  
 11—Gary Shupak  
 12—Kenneth Kaase  
 13—Charlotte Glaeser

14—Robin Rokohl  
 14—Timothy Klaus  
 15—Chad Schovajsa  
 16—Cory Schovajsa  
 17—Kerri Schovajsa  
 17—Hayden Strack  
 18—Janae Wittner  
 20—Kayree Kolajajak  
 22—John Craig Jr.  
 22—Riley Hanley  
 22—Connor Hanley  
 22—John Eben  
 22—Eleanor Margist  
 23—Carrie Arning  
 25—Addyson Poncik  
 26—Linsey Meier  
 28—Amberly Bean  
 28—Marshall Kohring  
 29—Korbin Kolajajak  
 29—Joe Meier  
 30—Verlin Warmke

## Happy Anniversary

*April 2, 2005—Rachael & Jeffory Goeke*  
*April 6, 1996—Jo Anna & Dale Rinn*  
*April 16, 1977—Alice & Timothy Klaus*  
*April 23, 2016—Erin & Trent Dierking*  
*April 25, 2009—Rachel & Reese Hurtig*  
*April 27, 2013—Lillian & Darrel Schulz*  
*April 28, 2012—Jamie & Brady Schubert*  
*April 29, 1961—Idell Jean & Daniel Mertz*  
*April 30, 1977—Hertha & Charles Mikeska*

### We remember in our prayers:

Ora Nell Mahlmann	Idell Mertz	Janae Wittner
Eddie Marx	Ronnie Hurtig	Lana Meier
Francis Merkel	Melissa Hegemeyer	
Kerri and Michael Schovajsa	Charles Mahlmann	
Verlin Ashorn	Carol Schroeder	

### Prayers for Friends of the Congregation

Paul Sorensen	Verna Coufal	Sandi Mertz
Jason Wehring	Joe Chovanec	Joyce Krause
Robert Simonds	Dillion Schuette	Jacob Kristen
Elizabeth Davis	Dorothy Poncik	Ron Wright
John Lange	Bobby Schubert	
Latrell Jankowisk		

**May 19, 2024**  
**Bleiberville Volunteer**  
**Fire Department's Annual Fish Fry**  
**Serving begins at 11:00 a.m.**  
**There will be one service only**  
**May 19**  
**At 10:00 a.m.**

**Join the Women of IMC For Fellowship**  
**Fibers and more**  
**All women are Welcome**  
**Industry Methodist Church Fellowship Hall**  
**1st and 3rd Thursday of each Month**  
**Doors will be open 10:00 to 3:00**  
 Bring your friends and any art/craft you are working on or interested in. Share your interest and knowledge with the group and we'll learn from each other and enjoy the fellowship of women!  
**Suggestions**  
 Rug Hooking, Felting, Needle Punch, Crochet, Knitting, Embroidery, Cross Stitch, Quilting, Applique, Rug Punch, Tin Punch, Locker Hooking, Painting, Stained Glass, etc.  
 For More Information call:  
 Linda Yearwood (979)732-7496  
 Sharon Spiess (979) 732-0531



Story Time at the Community Easter Egg Hunt  
Saturday, March 30

Photo courtesy of The New Ulm Enterprise



Craft time at the Community Easter Egg Hunt

(Photo courtesy of The New Ulm Enterprise)



The Children are ready for the Welcome Lutheran Church Easter Egg Hunt.

# *Easter Egg Hunt at Welcome Sunday, March 31*



Easter Egg Hunt at Welcome Lutheran  
Easter Sunday, March 31



**Game Day**  
**Wednesday, April 10**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**In the Fellowship Hall**  
**Come join friends**  
**for fun and fellowship**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Karate 6:30—8:00	<b>2</b> Karate 6:30—8:00	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Karate 6:30—8:00	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Tai Chi 11:00 a.m. Advance Karate 12:30— 3:00 p.m.
<b>7 Second Sunday of Easter</b> Worship Service with Holy Communion, 7:45 & 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, 9:00 Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Flowers: Gina Miles	<b>8</b> Karate 6:30—8:00	<b>9</b> Karate 6:30—8:00	<b>10</b> Game Day 2:00 p.m. In the Fellowship Hall	<b>11</b> Karate 6:30—8:00	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Third Sunday of Easter</b> Worship Service 7:45 & 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, 9:00 Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting after 10:00 service Flowers: Karen Grebe	<b>15</b> Karate 6:30—8:00	<b>16</b> Karate 6:30—8:00	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Women of the NALC Bible Study at Abiding Word Lutheran Church Brenham, 1:30 p.m., Karate 6:30—8:00	<b>19</b> WECCO Distribution 9:00 a.m. IMC Fellowship Hall	<b>20</b> Tai Chi 11:00 a.m. Advance Karate 12:30— 3:00 p.m.
<b>21 Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> Worship Service with Holy Communion, 7:45 & 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, 9:00 Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Flowers: Michelle Huebner	<b>22</b> Karate 6:30—8:00	<b>23</b> Karate 6:30—8:00	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Karate 6:30—8:00	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> Worship Service 7:45 & 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, 9:00 Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Semi-Congregational meeting, 9:00 a.m. Flowers: Lynn "Red" Spiecer and Dorothy Beard	<b>29</b> Karate 6:30—8:00	<b>30</b> Karate 6:30—8:00				



Welcome Lutheran  
Church  
13636 FM 109  
Brenham, Texas 77833

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

