

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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***Robert and Anne Thiessen visiting with
the Sin Fronteras Missionaries
while traveling through Mexico
(See story in this issue)***

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Seaton Christian Sisters Bake Sale Invitation

The Road to Bonhoeffer ... by Jim Pokorny

A Bad Haircut ... by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

In Christ's Love: Updates from the Thiessens

...AND MORE!!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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From the Office of President

Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Austin Brethren Church

All nature has a life cycle; human beings have a life cycle; and so do congregations. New Testament churches that were in Corinth, Galatia and Thessalonica no longer exist as they originally did. The same can be said of the seven churches in Revelation to which John writes.

The life cycle of the Austin Brethren Church has run its course and finished the race. Diminishing resources in terms of individuals attending, finances to maintain an operating budget (usual congregational expenses and pastoral leadership) as well as extensive need for building repairs (complete air conditioning system, roof, and parking lot) to conduct services hinder the continuation of congregation.

After much prayer and discussion, it is with sadness and sorrow on the one hand and a recognition of the Lord's ministry and mission being accomplished on the other, that the Executive Committee of the Unity of the Brethren has come to the conclusion that Austin Brethren Church is no longer in a position to hold services. The last service was held on Sunday, July 3, 2022.

Remaining assets including the building are under the care of the Unity and the oversight of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is presently contracting with I Found It Realty for the sale of the property.

Coming Up in the Fall ...

Fall Synodical Committee Meeting

October 29, 2022 • 9.00 a.m.

Hus Encampment

3635 County Road 225

Caldwell, TX 77836

Ministers' Gathering

November 8, 2022 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Hus Encampment

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The Road Back to Bonhoeffer

By Jim Pokorny

The month of June saw the return of Vacation Bible School. I was privileged enough to lead our class for adults once again and found this year's class to be personally rewarding. This year's program marked the first time since the onset of the pandemic in 2020 that the class was able to assemble in person once again. I was also enthusiastic about the subject I had chosen for the study – the life and faith of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

To be honest, I had already selected a video from my personal library for the 2020 class that did not take place. It was a 2003 documentary entitled *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Pacifist, Nazi Resister* by Martin Doblmeier. This powerful documentary examined the life of the German pastor and theo-

logian. It combined rare archival footage with interviews of family, friends, and theologians. It also explored Bonhoeffer's association with underground seminaries, his travels to America where he developed his opinions on social justice, his courageous personal stand in actively opposing Hitler and the Nazi regime, and his execution just prior to the end of the war.

During our Lenten services prior to VBS, Brother Jimmy cited Dietrich Bonhoeffer. One of the quotes was from Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship* (1935): "Whenever Christ calls us, his call leads us to death." So, with a few short weeks remaining until the start of VBS, I decided to expand on the class and incorporate a



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second video from my library – the 2000 movie Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace. This compelling biographical movie (starring Ulrich Tukur) provided a glimpse into the life of Bonhoeffer who chose to live out his faith while Hitler and the Nazi regime plunged the world into darkness and destruction. It depicted Bonhoeffer's examination of his personal responsibility in the face of oppression, his decision to leave the safety of America and return to Germany, his active participation in the resistance movement, his time in prison, and his deeply personal struggle to find answers to morally challenging circumstances.

Bonhoeffer penned his doctoral thesis, *Communio Sanctorum*, at the age of 21. His friend and mentor, Swiss theologian Karl Barth, referred to it as a Christian masterpiece. In his thesis, the young Bonhoeffer

addressed his concerns about the state of the church in Germany prior to the rise of Hitler – “Christ is really present only in the community. The church is the presence of Christ, just as Christ is the presence of God. But our church today is bourgeois. The best proof is that the poor working classes have been turned away from the church, and the bourgeois – the petty officials, the artisans, and the merchants – have remained. When the community is split, is Christ himself divided?”

I was struck by similarities between Bonhoeffer's theology and that of the Ancient Unity of the Brethren especially where the Sermon on the Mount was concerned. In a letter to his father Karl in 1935, Bonhoeffer wrote: “I think I am right in saying that I would achieve true inner clarity and

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 Church at 10:30 a.m.
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 email: papasebek@gmx.com

honesty by really starting to take the Sermon on the Mount seriously. Here alone lies the force that can blow all this nonsense sky-high – like fireworks, leaving only a few burnt out shells behind. The restoration of the church must surely depend upon a new kind of monasticism, which has nothing in common with the old but a life of uncompromising discipleship, following Christ to the Sermon on the Mount. I believe the time has come to gather the people and do this.”

Regarding his opposition to Hitler, theologians and colleagues interviewed concluded that Bonhoeffer did not just question his personal re-

sponsibility as a moral being. He asked the right question: “What is God’s will for my life?” Bonhoeffer postulated in Ethics - “The will of God is not a system of rules established from the outset. It is something new and different in each situation in life. And for this reason, a man must forever re-examine what the will of God may be. The will of God may lie deeply concealed beneath a great number of possibilities.”

But, as bishop and theologian Desmond Tutu explained, there is no shaft of light from heaven that says you are right. “You have to hold on to it by the skin of your teeth and hope there is vindication on the other side.”

Bonhoeffer remains relevant. Conservatives appreciate his Bible based Christocentric teaching. Progressives, his commitment to social justice. His is a voice that unifies rather than divides.

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A Bad Haircut

By Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

I feel as if a pair of scissors came to life, chased me down, and attacked my hair this morning! The triple digit heat finally got to me. I went to get a haircut. My hair looks nice, but I miss the length and fullness of my healthy locks! You gals out there know exactly what I mean. The hairdresser cut too much. It's a common tale. *It feels like a "bad haircut" because it's not what I expected.* It's surprising how much a "bad haircut" can impact your thinking, your perception of self, and your mood. My husband enjoys teasing me saying, "You have hair?" He attests that hair does not matter to him, but as an ex-Marine, he gets a flat top faithfully ever 3 and a half weeks, always with the same barber. Of course, it doesn't help that my precious grandmother Gladys who went to be with the Lord Jesus years ago, would al-

ways tell me- in Spanish since I am of Hispanic heritage: "A woman's hair is what frames her." I know. I know. I feel the Holy Spirit tugging at me, reminding me that hair is nothing in God's grand scheme. Hair is not what defines me. The Lord Jesus Christ is the One who does! The Book of Acts in the Holy Bible, chapter 17, verse 28 spells it out: "For 'In (Jesus Christ) we live and move and have our being'..." ***Christ is the One who defines each one of us.*** He alone is the reason that we have breath, that we have the JOY and PEACE of the Holy Spirit, that we have the GUARANTEE of eternity in Heaven with Him, face-to-face! Jesus gives you purpose. Jesus IS your purpose!

While there are definitely some bad haircuts out there, more often than not, it is not



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the haircut that is “bad,” but rather our perspective that is “bad,” or out of holy alignment.

Consider God’s qualifications for us to have “holy alignment,” to be aligned to His perspective in all matters:

From the Book of Hebrews, chapter 12, verses 1 through 3, in the Holy Bible:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

(Hebrews 12:1-3)

What is your current struggle?

The truth is that whatever struggle you find yourself in, you are called to:

1) Be a part of God’s great cloud of witnesses that shares Jesus Christ’s love and truth each day by the way you think and act.

2) Throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles you.

3) Run with perseverance the race God has marked out for you, fixing your eyes on Jesus.

4) Consider Jesus who endured, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

As you persevere in your current struggle, try out this checklist to determine whether you are aligned to God’s perspective- the perspective that matters the most:

___ I view this circumstance with the mindset that above all, I am in this world to be a witness for Jesus Christ.

___ I take time daily to con-
→

To communicate with the HUS Encampment...

...regarding scheduling* of meetings or events there, contact:

Kent Laza

4913 F.M. 166

Caldwell, TX 77836

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**This must be done well in advance.*

fess my sins to the Lord Jesus and to ask Him to show me any sins that I am not aware of. I make sure that once I confess to Him, that I move on.

___ I set my mind each morning and throughout the day to persevere, asking Jesus to help me and believing that He will.

___ I read the Bible daily, studying God's attributes, so that I build my faith in Him instead of being tossed around by circumstances.

How did you do with the checklist?

Do you feel that you were sincere in your self-assessment?

Be kind to yourself.

God is compassionate with us. He views us in perfect love at every moment.

He is the One working in you for your good.

Funny. The "bad haircut" doesn't seem so bad anymore. The Book of Acts in the Holy Bible, chapter 21, records that the Apostle Paul shaves his head to demonstrate to the Jewish Christians that he was

completing the Nazirite vow practiced in Judaism while still being a follower of Jesus Christ. He complied with their ritual to not deter them from faith in Jesus as Savior, while also showing them that in Christ, there is freedom to practice faith differently as long as the truth of salvation in Christ by faith alone is upheld. It humbles me to consider how Paul was not filled with vanity in that he shaved his head readily to promote the message of salvation in Jesus. I'm not quite ready to shave my head; God might never call me to do that. Nevertheless, I am praying to focus less and less on appearance. **Jesus gently leads us to be transformed "from glory to glory," bit by bit, into His beautiful image.** After all, as Acts 17:28 says, "In (Jesus Christ) we live and move and have our being..." **Christ is the One who defines each one of us.** He alone is the reason that we have breath, that

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we have the JOY and PEACE of the Holy Spirit, that we have the GUARANTEE of eternity in Heaven with Him, face-to-face!

Whether you are joining me

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in getting past being silly over a haircut, or perhaps you are having a true struggle, let's "...throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus,..." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Run with me.

Your knees may protest.

Your breath might progress into gasps.

Yet we can run toward Jesus Christ with ALL our mind, ALL our heart, ALL our strength, and ALL our soul.

Run toward Him, the One and Only, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*In Jesus' Hands, With You,
Sister Vanessa Mitchell*



CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

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Seaton BC Christian Sisters Bake Sale

The Seaton Brethren Church Christian Sisters will host their annual bake sale/quilt show fundraiser on Saturday, November 5, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the church, 12561 State Highway 53, Temple (Seaton).

Kolaches, cakes, pies, cookies, jellies, pecans, home-made canned goods & chicken dressing will be available for sale.

Pre-orders for chicken dressing only are being taken up to October 15. Call (254) 718-5356 or (254) 913-6054 to pre-order. Dressing is to be picked up at the church the day of the fundraiser.

Sandwiches and home-made soup will be available for sale.

A Re-Sale shop of gently used items will be open.

A handmade quilt and gift cards from businesses will be given away for a love donation of \$1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.00.

Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit the many projects the Christian Sisters support.

The fundraiser is free and open to the public.

The Community Christian Church of Rosenberg

**5220 Reading Road,
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Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
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In Christ's Love...
from the Foreign Missions Fields
From the Thiessen's



JULY, 2022
Thirty Years is Done

Dear friends,

Well, the little red truck “could.” With some difficulties, but there’s no story if nothing happens, right?

We left Ontario on March 15th, and after five days and five thousand kilometers we made it to Tlaxiaco. We stopped about halfway down through Mexico to visit one of the Sin Fronteras missionaries in his hometown. Mariano lives way out in the desert in a small town that time forgot. Except for crime and drugs, that’s arrived. He is living out the Good News of Jesus’ redemption and drawing people into a growing church. He moved the meeting day to Saturday so that we could attend with them and asked if I would bring the

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In Christ's Love...

from the Foreign Missions Fields

From the Thiessen's

message. Doug and Sarai (other SF missionaries) drove two hours from the west to be there too.

Some new people had shown up, family of a man Mariano is discipling over the phone because he migrated to the USA. They arrived bearing gifts, for the chicken dinner we were going to have afterwards, and stated, "we have come to hear what you have to say about God."

So, we read the story of the prodigal son, and explored how the very good father heaped honor (runs out to meet him, kisses, sandals, ring, coat, the feast) onto the wayward son who even in his repentance and return home still didn't understand how good his father is. The matriarch of the new group reflected on how she needed to act more like the father towards those who had wronged her. It had never occurred to me to really delve into that whole part of this parable (we tend to concentrate on the two sons). Insight can come from the newest of listeners.

Once back to our home we began the process of packing up. That involved selling furniture and tools and machines, giving away a whole lot of



things, and selecting what should go up to Canada. How to pack up thirty years of accumulation? Anne had help from two friends that came down for different weeks who proved invaluable. At times the task looked impossible, but it all worked out, down to the wire.

In that time, we led a week-long class on church planting among indigenous groups, involving Raghib (SF missionary) again, so that he can teach this for future candidates. There were six additional participants, including Pablo, our friend from California that we've been helping train for ministry in Peru. He's originally from Oaxaca and was back visiting before leaving



In Christ's Love... from the Foreign Missions Fields

From the Thiessen's

for South America. He brought his mother and aunt, and they were a wonderful addition to the group.

I traveled twice to Guerrero to visit church leaders and friends over there. These were somewhat bittersweet, as I reflected on three decades of visiting, traveling, and discipling throughout this region. I will miss many aspects of this life, but my friends most of all.

Finally, everything else was done, and we could pack the truck. Half a dozen of my friends helped for two days as we fitted everything in just so, finishing late Saturday. I had estimated that I would have about 1,200lbs to pack, but after the last box went in, one of the guys said, "Robert, you've got to come see this." The springs were bent back as far as they could go, dangerously so. A couple of

the men raced around town till they found a mechanic who would work on the problem over Sunday so we could leave Monday.

We got two extra leafs added to each side and a couple other things done, but the truck was still too heavy. So, Monday we repacked, jettisoning items till it felt okay. Very early Tuesday we were off. The first two hours were slow, as the road of many speed-bumps and potholes led to the highway. From there it was smooth sailing.

Till around lunchtime. Just north of Mexico City the motor sputtered and then stalled, and lights came on all over the dash. I got over to the side and coasted for a while and eventually got it started again. Then at the end of the day, just as we were ready to get a hotel for the night, it stalled again. The gas station guys knew a mechanic who showed up half an hour later and diagnosed a fuel pump problem. It was now dusk, pretty much in the middle of nowhere. But he assured me he could fix it. So, I followed him (the truck had started again) twenty kilometers out into the desert to a tiny town. After several further adventures, including being charged way too much, the truck ran fine, and I returned to Anne asleep in the hotel after midnight.

The next day had only a couple



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE
*"Bear ye one another's burdens
And so fulfill the Law of
Christ."* (Gal. 6:2)

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In Christ's Love... from the Foreign Missions Fields

From the Thiessen's

minor mishaps, and we got to Anne's sister's place in Houston. We stayed two days getting some things done on the rear axle of the truck and left on Saturday. Well, just around lunch again, the front wheel bearing seized up. Out in the middle of nowhere again. There were a couple of farmers working in a nearby field, so I asked them what was around. They first thought that on a Saturday afternoon there wouldn't be any kind of services. But then they came over to see exactly what was wrong, and one thing led to the next and then they were jacking the truck up and disassembling the parts and sending me off with one of them to buy a new piece and putting it all back together. These two guys, father and son, were Mexicans who decades ago came to TX to make a life for themselves. They spent four hours of their busy life helping a stranger. Wouldn't take anything for their help. Not even to pay for the hour round-trip's gas.

From there everything was fine. No problems at the border crossing, even though we were bringing so much stuff back. I was able to weigh the truck before unloading it and then after, and it turns out I had three thou-

sand pounds on it. Now it sits up way too high.

This is already too long so I won't go into further detail. Even with all these problems I really like my little red truck.

Now we are consolidating plans for how best to next serve in God's Kingdom. I've been very involved in training of missionary candidates within our agency (Multiply) as well as envisioning some shifts within the ideology of how we train, both pre-field and in-field preparation. That may require extensive development and availability for mentoring, which is at the heart of this.

We continue to explore how we fit into ministry among First Nations. This coming week we are heading north to meet some of the First Nation workers and build relationships. Training is also one of the biggest needs for emerging groups, but we must help them find avenues for that which reflect their culture and possibilities.

We again thank all of you for your support in many ways for us during this transition. Please pray with us about how best to develop partnership over the next decade as some of our network has needed to step away.

Blessings, Robert

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DO SOMETHING: WALK THE WALK

Youth Retreats for 2022-2023

Youth retreats are for any youth ages 12-21. (11-year-olds in 6th grade may also attend.) These retreats are held at the Hus Encampment. Come hang out and reconnect with camp friends through Bible lessons, games, music, and special activities.

YOUTH RETREAT DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
September 17-18, 2022	Aug. 28
November 5-6, 2022	Oct. 16
January 7-8, 2023	Dec. 11
March 25-26, 2023	March 5

Retreat Fee \$30 (Late fee \$10) • T-shirt \$15 (sizes: youth small-Adult 3X)

Late registrations are accepted with a late fee; however, t-shirts will not be able to be ordered.

Check in is from 8:30-9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Dismissal is at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. Please note that staff is aware that these retreats sometimes conflict with school activities. Youth are welcome to arrive late on the first day if needed.

Registration forms, retreat information, and what to bring are posted on the youth website: www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org. Bring a friend and come and join us for a weekend of fun!

State Youth Leadership Team 2022-2023:

State Youth Coordinator: Jennifer Chervenka 254-913-1244; jennchervenka@gmail.com

Adults: Kayla Marek 512-944-2619

Teresa Cocke 512-845-2542

Dillon Barbisch 832-377-9552

Jordan Barbisch 281-770-0463

Kaylynn Harkey 979-270-1356

Taylor Brinkley, RN 254-217-2661

Youth: Jacelyn Chervenka

Joanna Chervenka

Allyson Cocke

Riley Green

Trent Wuensche

Katie Zrubek

State Children's Rally

Ages 3-11

Saturday, March 4, 2023

Hus Encampment

Registration Deadline:

February 12

Bible lessons, games, music, crafts and more. Bring a friend!

Adult Volleyball Day

Saturday, April 1, 2023

Hus Encampment

This is a day of fellowship and volleyball for **ANYONE** over 21. More details soon!



Sunday School Helper

10	20	30	40	50	40	30	20	10
.....								
Ephesians 6:11								
Put on the full armor of God so								
that you can take your stand								
against the devil's schemes.								
.....								
10	20	30	40	50	40	30	20	10

Football uniforms have many pieces to protect the player, just like the armor of God! A football team also has many players: eleven offensive players, eleven defensive players, and special teams' players. Each does their job to help the team succeed. Paul said that we are the body of Christ, and like a football team, we all have a role God wants us to fill.

This month we will use football to illustrate how we each have an important role and must all work together in our churches, Sunday Schools, and even in the Unity of the Brethren.

Jesus Team!

LESSON: The Armor of God

ITEMS NEEDED: football uniform, including pads, helmet, etc.

In the "game of life", we have God's armor available to help protect us. Read: *Ephesians 6:11-13* "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

***Belt of Truth** Point to the football belt. Just like the football belt holds the pants up and gives security, so does this piece of the armor. *Eph. 6:14* *Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,*" Truth brings assurance into our lives thereby also bringing security in who we belong to

***Breastplate of Righteousness** Point to the shoulder pads which also cover the chest. *Ephesians 6:14* *"with the breastplate of righteousness in place,"* This piece of God's armor protects our heart from being led astray.

***Shoes of Peace** Point to the football cleats. *Eph. 6:15* *"and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."* Football cleats dig into the ground and give you traction - help you stand in position. The gospel of peace - a peace with God, keeps us grounded. This peace keeps us calm and standing strong when storms come into our life.

***Shield of Faith** Hold up your arm with arm pads. *Eph. 6:16* *"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."*

This piece of the armor goes out before - in front. It is the first point of contact with the opposing force. Faith is the first step in standing strong for God.

***Helmet of Salvation** Point to the football helmet. *Eph. 6:17* *"Take the helmet of salvation"* A very important piece of



the armor of God, the helmet of salvation protects our mind. The helmet helps to guard our minds; it is His saving grace that purifies our thoughts.

***Sword of the Spirit** Hold up a football playbook. Eph. 6:17 *"and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."* All other pieces of the armor of God are defensive. The sword of the Spirit or Word of God is offensive. Just like a football playbook, it gives us direction. It gives us instruction about how to play this game of life so that we can win!

***Prayer** Pull on a football jersey. Eph. 6:18 *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."*

Just like the football jersey covers the football pads so that they will function properly, prayer covers all the other armor and brings them together as one unit that functions together.

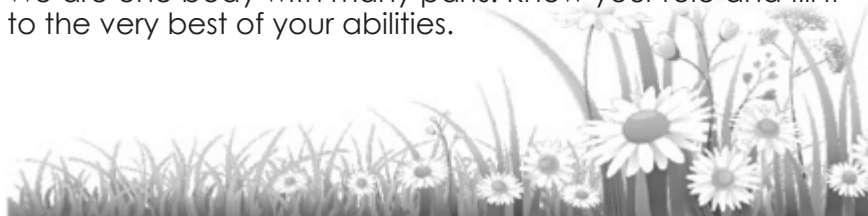
***Hold up a football.** Just like a football is to be thrown or carried down the field, so we are to carry the Gospel to share with others!

OBJECT LESSON: One Team, Many Players

ITEMS NEEDED: Football

Choose one kid. Bring them up in front of the group. Tell them to make a forward pass. When they ask to whom, ask them why they need someone else to catch the pass.

You can't make a forward pass without a receiver. You can't run any play in football without the other players. You need blockers, running backs, tight ends, and receivers on offense and linemen, cornerbacks, safeties, and linebackers on defense. And then there's the punter, the place kicker, the long snapper, and the kick holder. Each player must do their part. The church is like a football team. God has given us all special talents. As you grow older, God will show you the gifts he's given you and show you how to use those gifts. When he does, listen. Obey. Follow his direction. We are one team. We are one body with many parts. Know your role and fill it to the very best of your abilities.



Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

September 17-18, 2022 – Youth Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Check in on Saturday morning at 8:30-9:00 a.m. Dismissal at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. Registration forms, retreat information, and what to bring are posted on the youth website: www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org.

October 29, 2022 – Fall Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment. Meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Save the Dates ...

November 5, 2022 - The Seaton Brethren Church Christian Sisters Annual Bake Sale & Quilt Show at the church, 12561 State Highway 53, Temple (Seaton) from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For additional information, see the article in this issue or contact (254) 913-6054.

November 5-6, 2022 – Youth Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Deadline to register is October 16. Registration forms, retreat information, and what to bring are posted on the youth website: www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org.

November 8, 2022 - Minister's Gathering at the Hus Encampment. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

January 7-8, 2023 – Youth Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Deadline to register is December 11.

March 25-26, 2023 – Youth Retreat at the Hus Encampment. Deadline to register is March 5.

March 4, 2023 – State Children's Rally at the Hus Encampment. Registration Deadline is February 12.

April 1, 2023 – Adult Volleyball Day at the Hus Encampment. A day of fellowship and volleyball for ANYONE over 21. More details soon!

**For more information ...
about the Hus School Encampment go to
www.huscamp.org**

Does your church/organization have an activity that you would like to include in this listing? Please send activity information including a contact name, phone number and/or email address to the Brethren Journal Editor at: editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com. Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.

Daily Morsels for September 2022

by Mari-Anne K. Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version

1. O LORD, you have searched me and known me. Ps. 139:1
2. You know when I sit down and when I rise up. Ps. 139:2a
3. You discern my thoughts from far away. Ps. 139:2b
4. **You are acquainted with all my ways. Ps. 139:3b**
5. O sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things. Ps. 98:1
6. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, You know it completely. Ps. 139:4
7. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay Your hand upon me. Ps. 139:5
8. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Ps. 139:6
9. You formed my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb. Ps. 139:13
10. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; that I know very well. Ps. 139:14
11. **My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Ps. 139:15**
12. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In Your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. Ps. 139:16
13. How weighty to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Ps. 139:17

WALL BRETHREN CHURCH

12 miles east of San Angelo, Loop 570, Wall, Texas

P.O. Box 195, Wall, Texas 76957

Phone: 325-651-4444 ~ Fax: 325-651-5100

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Tallas (Retired)

Cell: 325-656-8558

Home: rev.tjt@gmail.com

Church: wallbrethren@gmail.com

www.WallBrethrenChurch.net

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Worship: 10:45 a.m.

President
Board of Elders
Lance LaBedelle
325-227-9900

Director of Youth
and Young Family Ministries
Position Vacant

Church Office
Secretary
Libby Lane
Tu-F: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

14. I try to count Your thoughts -- they are more than the sand; I come to the end -- I am still with You. Ps. 139:18

15. I (the LORD) have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live. Deut. 30:19b

16. Love the LORD your God, obeying Him, and holding fast to Him; for that means life to you. Deut. 30:20a

17. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Phlm.1:3

18. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God. Phlm. 1:4

19. I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. Phlm. 1:5

20. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. Phlm. 1:6

21. I hereby command you, "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Josh. 1:9

22. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. Jn.

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 806, Rogers, TX 76569

Web Address: www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org

Church Email: ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com

Phone: (254) 985-2240

Preaching the Word, Loving the People

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

Pastor

Dr. Brad Herridge

(254) 716-2578

brad.herridge@gmail.com

Youth Director

Jennifer Chervenka

(254) 913-1244

jennchervenka@gmail.com

Cemetery

Sharon Marek

(254) 482-0498

3:14-15

23. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. Jn. 3:16

24. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Jn. 3:17

25. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple. Lk.14:27

26. The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Cor. 1:18

27. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." 1 Cor. 1:19

28. Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

1 Cor. 1:20

29. For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 1 Cor. 1:21-30. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 1 Cor. 1:22-24

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TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas – 512-352-6423

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574

Church email: taylorbrethren@sbcglobal.net

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship: 10:15 a.m.

Pastor
James D. Hejl
512-365-6890

Board President
Daniel Knippa
512-844-0208

Secretary
Mary Kokes
M-Th 8 a.m.-noon

VITAL STATISTICS

RECENT DEATHS

FILLA, DANIEL DARWIN, age 83, of Taylor, died Friday, June 17, 2022. He was a long-time member of the Granger Brethren Church. He was born February 24, 1939, in Granger, and on March 19, 1960, he married the love of his life, Helen Skrahak Filla. He was preceded in death by his parents, Leo and Vlasta Filla; his wife, Helen; two sons, Daniel Jr. and Robert Filla; and sister, Helen Raesz. He is survived by sons, Albert, Danny (Jan)

and Edward (Adria) Filla; as well as daughter-in-law, Lisa Filla; sister, Irene Pavel; and two brothers, Leroy and Milton (Debbie) Filla. There are also eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild; along with numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held on June 23, 2022, at Providence Funeral Home in Taylor with burial in the Taylor City Cemetery. Minister: Larry Zabcik.



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Austin – Bible Study at 10 AM
Worship at 11 AM.
– Rev. Joe Emerson
“the last service was held on Sunday, July 3, 2022”

Bryan-College Station – Sunday School at 9:15 AM and Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Mark Sebek

Buckholts – Worship at 9 AM every Sunday except the 5th Sunday.
Holy Communion on 1st Sunday.
Guest speaker on 4th Sunday.
– Rev. John Kueker

Caldwell – Come as you are! **Sundays** – explore the Bible @ 9:30 AM (all ages); KIDS CHOIR practices @ 10:15 AM; & worship @ 10:30 AM! **Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday**, join the fun @ Family Game Night, 6-7:30 PM! Check out lifeatcbc.org for spiritual resources, events, videos, & more! Friend us on Facebook!
– Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Crosby – 9 AM: Worship
10 AM: Faith Adventure
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Dime Box – Worship at 9 AM every Sunday.
– Supply Pastors

Fayetteville – Worship at 10:00 AM. on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays.
– Rev. Mike Groseclose

Good Shepherd Moravian – Worship at 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM every Sunday.
– Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez

Granger – Worship service Sundays, 10 AM.
Bible Study Wednesdays, 5:30 PM.
– Judy Gotcher - Pulpit Supply

Houston – Sunday School at 9:15 AM;
Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

Industry – Worship at 5:00 PM on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays.
– Rev. Mike Groseclose

Nelsonville – Sunday School at 9 AM
Worship at 10:15 AM
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

New Beginnings (1103 Harrisonburg Ln., College Station, TX 77845) – A Home Mission Project since 10/22/11 – Sunday School at 10:30 AM; Worship at 11:45 AM; Lunch after the service.
– Rev. Kay Polasek

New Tabor – Sunday School at 9 AM & Worship at 10 AM every Sunday, “Tune Up” on Wednesdays, 7:30 PM.
– Rev. David Johnson

Ocker – Worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
Sunday School at 9 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge

Pasadena – Sunday School at 9:30 AM and worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Community Christian Church of Rosenberg – Sunday: Adult Bible Study and Sunday School for children at 9 AM; worship at 10:30 AM. Wednesday: 5:30 PM Dinner; 6:30 PM Bible Study.
– Pastor Ben Kruse

Seaton – Sunday, 9:15 AM – Prayer Gathering; 9:30 AM – Sunday School, All Ages; 10:30 AM – Worship Celebration Service. Wednesday, 6:30 PM – Kids’ and Adult Bible Study.
– Rev. Denise Mikeska

Snook – Sunday School – 9:00 AM;
Worship – 10:15 AM.
– Rev. Joseph Polasek

Taylor – Worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
Sunday School 9 AM every Sunday with free breakfast every 5th Sunday at 8:30 AM.; Friends Fellowship (seniors) 4th Tuesday (except Nov. & Dec.) at 2 PM.
– Rev. James Hejl

Temple – Cross Church on Birdcreek – Sunday School at 9:30 AM.; Worship at 10:45 AM.
– Rev. Tim Chaplin

Vsetin – A non-official member congregation of the Unity of the Brethren – Worship at 10 AM every Sunday.
– Dr. Mark Labaj
5th Sunday – Visiting Ministers

Wall – Sunday School (all ages) at 9:30 AM; worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
Wednesday – Children’s Awanas, 5:30 PM.
– Rev. Thomas Tallas

Wesley – Worship at 9 AM every Sunday.
Sunday School follows.
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

West – Sunday School at 9 AM and worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Gerald Davis

Westheimer Community – Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Pastor Lisa Johnson

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Advisors: Rev. Whitney Amos &
Rev. Charles Amos

Synodical Committee Liaison:
Dr. Larry Koslovsky

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Beth Dusek (2017), Wesley
Tillman Clark (2017), Crosby
Rev. Larry Zabcik (2018)
Jerry Dove (2019), Fayetteville
Rev. Gerry Davis (2019)
Jon Farrow (2019), Temple
Liaison: Rev. Joe Emerson
(Synodical 1st VP)

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Rev. Charles Amos

Non-Voting Lay Alternate: Taylor Brinkley,
Ocker

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Bishop Place, Cedar Park, TX
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zabcikville@ymail.com

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Waco, TX 76712. (254) 715-0477

Rev. Lawrence Juneke, 3316 Lyle,
Waco, TX 76708. (254) 722-4194

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— from the editor

The Brethren Journal has been publishing life and activities of the Unity of the Brethren in Texas for over 100 years. All of these include records of weddings, baptisms, deaths, etc., of the ministers... when they were submitted. These records are invaluable for families who wish to research their family history or activities that have taken place in our congregations and the denomination. It would be fitting, in the eyes of the Brethren Journal Business Committee, to ask for financial support for the continuation of this publication.

If you wish to become a special FRIEND OF THE BRETHREN JOURNAL, please send your donation to the Business Manager (address inside front cover). These donations are tax deductible.

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