

THE BRETHREN



JOURNAL



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Unity of the Brethren

Synodical Executive Officers 2023-2025

President - Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky; 1st VP - Rev. Joe Emerson;
2nd VP - Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill (absent); 3rd VP - Rev. Michael Groseclose;
Secretary - Loree Lewis; Treasurer - Lynette Shimek;
Financial Secretary - Kayla Marek

Merry Christmas!

IN THIS ISSUE...

Fall Synodical Committee Meeting Minutes
Wall Brethren Christian Sisters Birthday Celebration
The Emergence of Petr Chelcicky... by Jim Pokorny

...AND MORE!!

THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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ORGANIST NEEDED

New Tabor Brethren Church
is in search of an **ORGANIST**
for Sunday Morning Worship.
This is a paid position. Please
contact Cathy Homeyer at 979-
324-4561 for more information.

CHRISTIAN SISTERS' UNION 2022-2024 OFFICERS

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2515 Lazybrook Dr., Houston, TX 77008. (281)
546-7941; carolyn.beseda@att.net

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2070 Carter Lake Drive, College Station, TX 77845.
(979) 574-0268; lajoiededieu@protonmail.com



The Unity of the Brethren

*“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty;
and in all things, love.”*

Spring Synodical Committee Meeting

Saturday, September 30, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

Hus Encampment, Caldwell, TX

MINUTES

President Rev Larry Koslovsky called the meeting to order.

There were 40 in attendance (Roll Call Attachment A) as follows:

VOTING MEMBERS: 28

Pastors (10)

Lay members from 16 churches (18):

7 Churches not represented by lay members: Buckholts, Granger, Industry, Pasadena, Seaton, Wesley, Westheimer.

Non-Voting (12): and 8 guests.

Welcome and prayer given by Rev Larry Koslovsky.

Worship

Music led by Rev. Joe Emerson. Introduction of all Synodical Members. **Meditation** given by Pastor Tim Chaplin – Facing those “moment’s” that scare us. How do we move forward as a denomination? We are afraid of the bridge before us and it’s scary. God keeps calling us to the other side of the bridge, but we stop along the way because we are scared. We need to let God take the lead instead of trying to do it ourselves. All partook of Holy Communion.

Referendum Results (Attachment B)

All referendum items passed by the required majority. 4 congrega-

tions did not return so they were recorded as an automatic yes vote.

Motion by Rev. Mike Groseclose to accept the referendum results.

Second by Sharon Nelson. Motion passed.

Installation of Executive Officers

Rev. Jimmy Hejl installed the executive officers of the Unity of the Brethren as follows:

President - Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky

1st Vice-President - Rev. Joe Emerson

2nd Vice-President - Rev. Mike Groseclose

3rd Vice-President - Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

Secretary - Loree Lewis (Snook)

Financial Secretary - Kayla Marek (Taylor)

Treasurer - Lynette Shimek (Caldwell)

Ministerial Requests

Wall – Rev. Robbie Price – Wall has issued a call to Rev. Robbie Price of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and requests that the Unity review process begin. Wall used Vanderbloemen of Houston as a search service. Rev. Koslovsky informed that Rev. Mike Groseclose, Rev. Joe Emerson, Rev. Larry Ko-

→

slovsky and Rev. James Hejl would serve as the credentials and examining committee and Wall would be asked to give a congregational response.

Rev. Price introduced himself: He was born in Bryan, TX but grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He attended and was confirmed in the Methodist church. He went to TAMU but moved back to Albuquerque due to a family emergency. He completed his degree at the University of New Mexico and was accepted to Denver Seminary. He completed a master's degree in California from Talbot School of Theology. He served as a youth pastor in Albuquerque for about 4 years, then started a church in Albuquerque that grew to around 100. He completed a doctorate from Talbot School of Theology. His wife is teaching 4th grade in Wall, and they have 4 children. He was drawn to the Brethren Church motto as being unified in Jesus. He believes that infant Baptism lines up with scripture. He believes that the spirit calls and distributes gifts and does not distinguish between

men and women, so he is in agreement on ordination of women.

Examination by Credentials committee and Questioning by the Synodical Committee proceeded. This section was edited because of publication space constraints. For a detailed account of this examination, please contact Loree Lewis, Unity Synodical Executive Committee Secretary. Examination complete.

Bro. Larry clarified that the vote is to approve for six months of getting acquainted and then continue the process in six months.

Motion by Rev. Gerry Davis to approve the calling of Rev. Robbie Price to Wall and allow the six-month process to begin.

Second by Rev. Tim Chaplin. Motion passed. Noted that Brady is licensed to do communion.

West – Terry Crawford is retiring from education and wishes to be considered as a ministerial student. The West congregation is of full agreement for Terry to be received as a ministerial student. Terry will join the March Synodical meeting. →

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South
www.unityofbrethren.org



Rev. Mark Sebek

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 9283
College Station, TX 77842

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.
Church at 10:30 a.m.
Off. 979-693-3606
email: papasebek@gmx.com

Terry needs to apply to seminary and the Credentials committee needs to meet.

Congregational Needs Discussion:

The Unity has financial resources at this time to look at ways we can do to build up the body of Christ. It's not a one size fits all for all congregations for the needs to grow. Taylor and Crosby are prime for a new church plant as the areas are exploding in growth. Caldwell, Dimebox, Westheimer are all needing a pastor and leadership as immediate needs. Rev. Groseclose serves 4 congregations. We need to plan for succession and emergencies.

Rev. Koslovsky suggested we ask congregations to submit proposals for matching funds supporting endeavors for growth. Finances that we received from Austin should not be used for buildings but rather for building the church in growth and spirituality. We might consider bringing in a consultant or trainer for pastors or lay leaders.

Broke into small groups for 30 minutes to discuss what God is

calling our congregation to do. Noted that Unity membership is 1462 for the entire denomination.

Thoughts from small group:

Rev. Emerson: Churches that can't afford to pay a livable wage to a pastor due to dwindling congregation. If unity could help support a pastor for every church that wants a pastor, we should.

Alan Haisler: Use existing facilities for reboot. Church is rebuilt off young families. If you supplement a congregation that's dwindling, you are just extending the end. Use facilities to start a second congregation or service. Where does unity think we have the best chance of getting new congregations started in existing facilities?

Jeff Garbs: Church members get burned out trying to do it all. Growth is through young families.

Sanda Stepan: Does the name Brethren Church discourage attendance? Do we need more education on who we are?

Alice Kocurek – We need to pursue technology more. Afterschool



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Rita Tyson
Secretary

22015 Golden Cedar Dr.
Cypress, TX 77433
Cell: 713-899-8272

programs in the church. Consultant to review the strengths and weaknesses of each individual church.

Rev. Emerson – Has seen successful church plants in retirement communities which are growing areas.

Lynette Shimek – Focus on parents of young families, not just the kids – getting involved in community to bring people into the church.

Peggy Mensik – Use knowledge from Robby Price (Wall) who has experience in starting a new church. Think about ways to make church more kid friendly. Making connections with people outside of the church – church members serve as mentors for school activities.

Loree Lewis: Use the strength of our retirees to build programs that utilize both our elderly and facilities, authentically showing we care about the youth and families of our communities.

Sid Srensky: We call ourselves a Unity but we are not unified. Call on the unity to develop a way for congregations to communicate

among ourselves with ideas and needs. Signage is important. We must do a better job of communicating who we are.

Paul Beatty: Churches should be working together across denominational lines. Wall is successful in hosting activities with the Catholic church.

Lunch Break, Pastor Ben Kruse blessed the meal.

Appointment of Committee Members:

Committee member recommendations as attached. (Attachment C)

Rev. Emerson stated that Foreign and Home Missions would have two committee chairs with one committee serving both missions. There are several open seats that committee chairs are working to fill.

Motion by Rev. Mike Groseclose to accept the committee members as presented and discussed.

Second by Paul Beatty. Motion passed.

2024 Mission Budgets

Foreign Missions

Phil & Eunice Raiford – Southern Mexico - \$15,000

Pavel & Stania Kozak – Czech Republic - \$15,000

Joel & Teresa Jelski - Israel –\$8,000

Prosthetic Promises – Zambia, Africa – \$4000

Total Budget \$42,000

Home Missions

Cade Lake funding recommendation based 9/30/2023 information available is \$52,900.



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Jordan Barbisch (2019)
(Ocker-elected Chair in 2023),
jordanbarbisch@gmail.com

Tiffany Hargraves – (2023) (Snook)

Anna Wotipka – (2023) (Caldwell)

Jonna See – (2023) (Snook)

Open Seat

Open Seat

Jennifer Chervenka – Youth
Coordinator (Ocker)

2024 total budget for both Foreign and Home is \$94,900. The Mission Committee will review funding viability and sustainability. Will also look at other funds available in the fund balance. Request approval of this working budget until March 2024 Synodical meeting. The full Mission Committees will meet and request adjustments in March if needed.

Motion by Jim Hiles to approve recommended mission budgets.

Second by Alice Kocurek. Motion passed.

**Synodical Committee
Minister Alternate 2024:**

Venessa was elected as Ministerial Alternate but has since resigned. Tim Chaplin volunteered to serve.

Motion by Rev. Groseclose to accept.

Second by Sid Srensky. Motion approved. This person would take a pastor spot on executive committee if a vacancy.

Officer Reports:

No written reports: President – Rev. Larry Koslovsky; 1st VP - Rev. Joe Emerson; 2nd VP –Rev. Mike Groseclose; 3rd VP – Rev. Jerry Terrill (absent); Secretary – Loree Lewis.

Financial Secretary – Kayla Marek (Attachment D); Treasurer – Lynette Shimek (Attachment E);

Unity Youth Coordinator – Jennifer Chervenka (Attachment F)

Lynette noted an error on financial statement (corrected statement was emailed and is attached). Rev. Koslovsky reminded all churches to submit their financial contributions and reports in a timely manner.

Other Business:

Use of CDs for future projects was addressed. The need for a master plan for future development of the new Hus Encampment property would. Alan Haisler suggested a tour of the new property if anyone wanted to see.

Convention report - \$29,000 total expenses, income of approximately \$23,500, about \$5,000 short. This was due to fewer people staying the night than planned for. Next convention will have an earlier deadline for overnight accommodations. Also, some churches did not send delegates. The Synodical Representative and the congregation delegates should be attending the convention.

Future Meeting Dates:

March 2, 2024 – location to be determined but it will not be at Hus Encampment as it's also the youth retreat and State Children's Rally.

MOTION by Sid Srensky to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND by Taylor Brinkley. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m. The closing prayer was given by Rev Larry Koslovsky.

*Respectfully submitted,
Loree Lewis, Secretary*

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The Emergence of Petr Chelcicky

By Jim Pokorny

Unable to come to terms with Rome or unite the Utraquist Church with the Greek, Rokycana directed his sermons against Rome and its corruption and vices. Disregarding the Compacta, Pope Nicholas V sent Nicholas of Causa and John Capistran to bring Bohemia and Moravia back to the fold. Pope Nicholas V refused to sanction the Compacta and viewed it as a byproduct of a Council in schism. At this, Rokycana's sermons grew even more fiery.

But Rome was not Rokycana's only concern. In his eyes, sin flourished in Bohemia and Moravia. This, he concluded, was an unintended consequence of the Hussite wars. He concluded that these lands had lost the morality of Jan Zizka and the early Tabornites. True, thoughts and discussions concerning scripture, the Papacy, the Church, the Lord's Supper, and the Cup remained

prevalent. But at the same time, sins and vices were on the rise and not all were performed in secret.

In Rokycana's view, the Hussite wars had not elevated the peasantry. Instead, they bound them to a heavier burden. Oppression of the poor, violence and theft grew more commonplace. Rokycana was critical of the upper classes, calling out their greed, pride, and vanity. Rokycana called out the clergy whose morals had degenerated and whose responsibilities became mired in confusion. The Utraquist Church existed, but it was not thriving. Disharmony existed. There were conflicting opinions regarding doctrine. Factions arose with each one claiming its views were correct.

False teachers emerged. Among these were the Nikolaites who claimed to have received direct revelations from God. There

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SNOOK BRETHERN CHURCH

9882 F.M. 2155/ P.O. Box 247, Snook, TX 77878

Church Phone -- (979) 272-3303

COME WORSHIP WITH US

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

Bible Study - Each Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.

Men's Bible Study - Each Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Pastor

Rev. Joseph Polasek
P.O. Box 54
Snook, TX 77878
(979) 272-1624

Board of Elders President

Justin Lewis
P.O. Box 222
Snook, TX 77878
(979) 220-4732

Youth Directors

Randall & Jonna See
P.O. Box 345
Snook, TX 77878
(979) 272-8179

were also some remnants of the Adamites who appeared. Several secret societies also sprang up and organized in places like Wilemow, Diwisow, Saaz, Kolin, Konnigratz, Leitomysl and Reichenau to name but a few.

It must be stated that these unintended consequences came about because of the Hussite movement, conflict, and aftermath. They were not a result of the bold witness of Jan Hus. The Utraquist Church is but a chapter in the story. Those who were moved by Hus would find a new voice. This voice belonged to Petr Chelcicky and was to be found primarily on the written page.

Petr Chelcicky ranks among the most prominent of the Bohemian authors of the fifteenth century. Here was a man who possessed neither theological nor classical education. He was a layman from Chelcic who owned a bit of property. As events unfolded around him, Chelcicky observed them closely. Acknowledging scripture as the authority, he pondered current events with an inquisi-

tive mind and remarkable criticism. Here was an independent thinker with a talent for the written word. His skills were envied by the educated and sought out by those without higher education. His date of birth remains unknown, but scholars believe it to be around 1390. His personal history, by and large, is equally unknown.

Perhaps the earliest known fact about Chelcicky, places him at Bethlehem Chapel in Prague in 1420. There, he debated with Jacobellus of Mies on the inappropriateness of religion to appeal to arms. His writing career is believed to have begun between 1433 and 1443 through the encouragement of friends. Once upon this road, he never turned back. Among his greatest works were *The Net of Faith*, *Postil* (expositions on Gospel lessons), and *The Picture of the Antichrist*.

According to J. E. Hutton, Chelcicky explained the title of *The Net of Faith* himself. "Through His disciples," said Petr, "Christ

→

NEW TABOR BRETHREN CHURCH

2439 County Road 225, Caldwell, TX 77836
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 262, Caldwell, TX 77836
(979) 272-3008

Website: newtaborchurch.com Facebook: New Tabor Church
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship: 10 a.m.

New Tabor Brethren is here for you. We're not only a church. We're a fellowship of believers coming together to declare the glory of the Lord.

Reverend David Johnson (979) 220-3822
pastorjdbama@gmail.com

caught the world in the net of His faith, but the bigger fishes, breaking the net, escaped. Then others followed through these same holes made by the big fishes, and the net was left almost empty.” His meaning was clear to all. The net was the true Church of Christ; the two whales who broke it were the Emperor and the Pope; the big fishes were the mighty “learned

persons, heretics and offenders”; and the little fishes were the true followers of Christ.

His words leave no doubt that Chelcicky was a pacifist. “What is war?” he asked. “It is a breach of the laws of God! All soldiers are violent men, murderers, a godless mob!” he regarded the Hussite Wars as a disgrace to both sides. “Where,” he asked, in his Reply to Rokycana, “has God recalled His commands, ‘Thou shalt not kill,’ ‘Thou shalt not steal,’ ‘Thou shalt not take thy neighbor’s goods’?”

In time, Chelcicky would have a profound impact on the eventual founder of the Brethren.

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To communicate with the HUS Encampment...

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

Kent Laza

4913 F.M. 166

Caldwell, TX 77836

(979) 220-1957

Kent.laza@verizon.net

**This must be done well in advance.*

CROSS CHURCH ON BIRDCREEK

2202 Birdcreek Drive

Temple, Texas 76502

email: ccb@crosschurchonbirdcreek.org

<https://www.crosschurchonbirdcreek.org>

[youtube.com/channel/UCVsyYokWvdtloeQi9151rCA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVsyYokWvdtloeQi9151rCA)

(254) 778-8759

Rev. Tim Chaplin

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

(254) 718-6094

Worship: 10:45 a.m.

tpch4359@gmail.com

Happy Birthday, Wall Christian Sisters!



After the dedication of the first Brethren Church in Wall in 1937, the late Rev. Joseph Hegar called a meeting of all the ladies of the church asking them to organize a local Christian Sisters' Group. The Wall Christian Sisters officially organized November 8, 1939, with 25 charter members. This year the organization celebrates 84 years in ministry.

The group's most recent outreach project was providing the essentials needed to set up independent living to the girls who have aged out of the Concho Valley Home for Girls located in San Angelo. The baskets filled with linens, kitchenware, and cleaning supplies were delivered by Sharon Hohmann and Charlene Dusek, pictured left to right, and were received by a member of the agency's staff.

Seaton Brethren Church Annual Sausage Supper Invitation

The Seaton Brethren Church annual sausage supper fundraiser will be held Saturday, February 17, 2024, beginning at 3:00 p.m. until the sausage is gone. The menu consists of homemade pork sausage, sauerkraut, new potatoes, seasoned green beans, bread, homemade desserts and tea or coffee. Dine-in or drive-thru plates will be available.

The location of the supper is at **Seaton Star Hall**, 10842 State Hwy 53, Temple (Seaton). There will be a bake sale consisting of kolaches, pies, cakes, strudels, other baked goods & jellies, a silent auction and a basket raffle. Proceeds benefit the ministry of the church, community, repairs on the sanctuary and other projects. The public is invited.

2024 Camp Dates!

Encounter: June 9-12

Discovery: June 16-21

Pioneer: June 23-28

Hus School: July 7-19

Alpha: July 21-25



SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPER



**You are the
light of the world.
A town built on a
hill cannot be hidden
Matthew 5:14**



We are called to be a light in a dark world. This month's activities focus on LIGHT. Whether we are talking Christmas lights, fireworks on New Year's or a candle when the lights go out, light is a wonderful analogy for Christians.

Are you a candle or a sparkler?

Scripture: Matthew 5:14

NOTE: This activity is best done outside at night!

Light the candle. Ask children if they can see the light. Talk about how Jesus said that we are the light of the world. Discuss what that means. As the candle burns, mention how it steady it shines and how it lights up the surrounding area.

Now light the sparkler. Talk about how pretty the light from the sparkler is. Play with it (draw shapes, etc.) When it burns out, ask what do we do now? Try to light it again. Explain why it won't work (we have burned up all the fuel). Point out that the candle is still burning.

Jesus wants us to be like the candle, a steady light for those around us.

Missing a Light

Scripture: Matthew 5:15

Preparation: You will need a strand of Christmas lights with 1 bulb removed. It needs to be a strand that stops working when a bulb is missing.)

Show the strand of lights to the group. Ask what you have? Talk about what Christmas lights look like. What do we do with them? Where can we see Christmas lights? Who likes to look at them?



Plug in the strand of lights. Discuss how the lights are not working. Point out the one missing bulb.

Read Matthew 5:15. Explain that this verse tells us that when Jesus lives in our heart, we have a light inside. We have to let this Jesus-light shine, not be hidden. Explain that when we hide our light, we break the chain, just like this string of Christmas lights. Ask what is brighter, one light or an entire strand?

Plug in the missing light. When we allow Jesus to shine through us, we make the world a brighter place! Have children list ways they can “shine”.

GLOW

Scripture: John 8:12

Materials: Glow stick necklace, glass of tonic water covered with a towel

Show children your glowstick necklace. Read John 8:12. Tell children that no matter how dark it is, Jesus’ light glows, even if you can’t see it! As believers, we also have this Jesus-light. Turn off the lights. Tell students that you couldn’t really see the necklace glowing with the lights on, but now it is much brighter. Uncover the tonic water. Show that it is glowing too! Ask what would happen if I drank the water? Say: now God’s light is inside me. Not really. You don’t have to drink God’s light! Jesus promised that his followers would be light in a dark world. When God looks at you, do you glow? Give each child a glow stick necklace.



Brethren Youth Leadership Team 2023-24

Congratulations to those who will be serving on the leadership team. This group is responsible for helping to plan retreats and service projects for the BYF. The first meeting was on Sunday, August 13 at Wall Brethren Church.

Youth Members:

Joanna Chervenka (Ocker)	Ryan Dusek (Wall)
Jacelyn Chervenka (Ocker)	Katelyn Zrubek (Taylor)
Riley Green (Snook)	Anabelle Denise (Ocker)
Harper Houser (Wall)	Alyson Cocke (Taylor)

Adult Members:

Dillon Barbisch (Ocker)	Jordan Barbisch (Ocker)
Teresa Cocke (Taylor)	Kayla Marek (Taylor)
Brady Collard (Wall)	Jennifer Chervenka (Youth Coordinator)

BYF Retreat Dates for 2023-2024

The retreats will be held at the Hus Encampment. Please visit the youth website for more information about each retreat and for registration information. Retreat fee is \$30. Registration deadlines in ().

T-shirts are available for an additional charge. Retreats are for any youth ages 12-21. Youth do need to be a member of a local BYF to attend.

Jan. 6-7 (Dec. 17)

March 1-3 (Feb. 11)

The **State Children's Rally** for ages 3-11 will be **Saturday, March 2**, at the camp.

Visit www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org for more information and to see photos of past activities or contact Jennifer Chervenka, state youth coordinator 254-913-1244; jennchervenka@gmail.com.

Fayetteville Brethren Church

Worship on the
2nd, 3rd, and 4th
Saturdays

10:00 a.m.

Rev. Mike Groseclose

FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

*"Site of the First Czech
Protestant Preaching
in Texas - 1855"*



1022 Kramr Rd at Ross Prairie Church Road
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Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

December 25, 2023 – Rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior of the World, Jesus Christ! Merry Christmas!

January 1, 2024 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 6-7, 2024 – BYF Youth Retreat at the Hus Encampment.

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.

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

Daily Morsels for Dec. 2023

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

From the Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version, slightly modified

1. Yet, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand. Isa. 64:8

2. Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved. Ps. 80:7

3. A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” Isa. 40:3

4. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Isa. 40:4

5. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Isa. 40:5

6. A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. Isa. 40:6

7. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Isa. 40:8

8. See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him. Isa. 40:10

9. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. Isa. 40:11

10. Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His

→

WALL BRETHERN 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: Robbie Price

Email: rev.robbyprice@gmail.com

Cell: 505-715-2003

Church: wallbrethren@gmail.com

www.WallBrethrenChurch.net

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

President
Board of Elders
Rick Weise
325-656-2620

Youth & Discipleship
Pastor
Brady Collard
254-229-5217

Church Office
Secretary
Roxie Holik
M-Th-7:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

faithful, to those who turn to Him in their hearts. Ps. 85:8

11. Surely His salvation is at hand for those who fear Him, that His glory may dwell in our land. Ps. 85:9

12. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet. Ps. 85:10a

13. The LORD will give what is good. Ps. 85:12a

14. Righteousness will go before Him and will make a path for His steps. Ps. 85:13

15. But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. 2 Pet. 3:8

16. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. 2 Pet. 3:9

17. The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent

me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. Isa. 61:1

18. To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn. Isa. 61:2

19. To provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display His glory. Isa. 61:3

20. My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Lk. 1:46-47

21. He has looked with favor on the lowliness of His servant. Surely, from now on all generations will

→

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

call me blessed for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. Lk. 1:48-49

22. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Lk. 2:8

23. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. Lk. 2:9

24. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.” Lk. 2:10

25. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is the Messiah, the Lord. Lk. 2:11

26. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying... Lk. 2:13

27. “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors!” Lk. 2:14

28. When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” Lk. 2:15

29. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. Isa. 9:2

30. For a Child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa. 9:6

31. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thess. 5:23

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VITAL STATISTICS

BAPTISMS

GING, HOLLY NOELLE, the daughter of Sierra (Smith) and James Bradley Ging, was consecrated to the Lord in the sacrament of baptism on Sunday, August 27, 2023 at the Taylor Brethren Church. Holly has an older sister, Hadley, and her baptismal sponsors are Kelsie Srnensky and Brandon Peschke.

NEW MEMBERS

STEVENS, JARED, joined the membership of Taylor Brethren Church on Sunday, November 5, 2023. Jared joined through the reaffirmation of his faith.

GUESNER, ROBIN, joined the membership of the Nelsonville Brethren Church on Sunday, September 10 by a reaffirmation of faith.

BUCK, SHANNON, joined the membership of the Nelsonville Brethren Church on Sunday, September 17 by a reaffirmation of faith.

BIRTHS

STEVENSON, BAYLOR SHANE, was born on August 30, 2023, to parents Haily and Clayton Stevenson of the Nelsonville Brethren Church. She was welcomed home by Mom & Dad, Grandparents Shane & Marsha Siptak and Great Grandparents Buddy & Geraldine Siptak.

COTTON, BRILES TAYTUM, was born on October 15, 2023, to parents Ashton and Briley Cotton of the Nelsonville Brethren Church.

JANISH, KYLER LYNN, was born on October 19, 2023, to parents Ross and Kelsey Janish of the Nelsonville Brethren Church.

VITAL STATISTICS

DEATHS

SCHOVAJSA JR., WILLIE D. "BILLIE", 78, of Bleiblerville, Texas, passed away Wednesday, August 30, 2023. Billie was a member of the Nelsonville Brethren Church and a volunteer with the Bleiblerville Volunteer Fire Department. He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years: Danita Schovajsa; daughters: Candy Janish and her husband, Tim, Tara Wise and her husband, Tommy, and Ginny Ward and her significant other, Walker Leopold; precious grandchildren: Ross Janish and his wife, Kelsye, Piper Leopold, Hudson Leopold, Dustin Janish and his wife, Karina, Brandon Janish and his wife, Laura, Jacob Janish, Jack Wise, and Jake Wise; great grandchildren: Urijah Janish, and soon to be: Kyler "Ky" Janish; sister-in-law: Serena Krueger and her husband, Fuzzy; nephews: Chase Krueger and his significant other, Madison, and Colby Krueger and his wife, Carlye; caregiver: Diana Zapata; and numerous other family, and dear friends. Billie was preceded in death by his parents:

Willie, Sr. and Annie Schovajsa; and in-laws: William and Virginia Stark. Funeral services were held at the church on September 5, 2023 followed by his burial at the National Cemetery.

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**5220 Reading Road,
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(832) 449-3358**

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Eve 5:30 p.m.
Prayer Service and Bible Study

VITAL STATISTICS


DEATHS

MIKESKA, LAWRENCE, 66, member of the Nelsonville Brethren Church, passed away on August 25, 2023. He was born February 5th, 1957, to Nelson and Ethel (Sebesta) Mikeska in Houston, Texas. Lawrence was preceded in death by his parents Nelson and Ethel (Sebesta) Mikeska and is survived by his brother and spouse Nelson (Jr) and Mary Mikeska, along with nephews and spouses, Neil and Dianne Mikeska and their daughter Vivian, and Dr. Andrew and Rebecca Mikeska and their daughter Brooklyn. He leaves behind many cousins from both sides of his family along with their children and extended families. His funeral service was held at the church on September 6, 2023, followed by burial at the National Cemetery.

**MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD
(2021-2023)**

Rev. Whitney Amos
(Pastor to the Pastors)
Rev. Charles Amos
(Pastor to the Pastors)
Rev. Tim Chaplin
Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

+ CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

 401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

caldwellbrethrenchurch@gmail.com

Sunday School
9:30 AM

Children's Choir
Practice, Sundays
10:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

caldwellbrethrenchurch@gmail.com

Wednesday Family Night Gathering:
1st & 3rd Wednesdays each month

www.lifecatbc.org *Come as you are . . .* *Friend us on Facebook!*

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Missionaries invited to join the board
but not as voting members

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Jerry Dove – (2019) (Fayetteville)

Rev. Gerry Davis – (2019) (West)

Jon Farrow – (2019) (CCB - Temple)

Connie Janac –(2023) (Snook)

Open Seat

Synodical Committee Liason (1st VP):

Rev. Joe Emerson

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Please send ALL HUS SCHOOL DONATIONS TO: Susan Marek, Treasurer – see below for address

Chairman: Kent Laza (kent.laza@verizon.net), 4913 FM 166, Caldwell, TX 77836; (979) 220-1957 (2017 – BCS)

Treasurer: Susan Marek (Marek1304@hotmail.com), 1304 T H Johnson Dr., Taylor, TX 76574; (512) 352-6165 (2021 – Taylor)

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Member: Angie Labaj Dolan (2019 – Temple)

Members: Ben Wilde (2021 – Ocker)
Jennifer Chervenka (2017 – Ocker)
Dillon Barbisch – 2023 (Ocker)

Member: Natalie See Kovar – 2023 (Snook)

The Encampment is governed by a Board of Trustees of 8 members. Chairperson is elected by the Convention. Terms: 2 years, may be re-elected/re-appointed for a maximum of 4 terms or 8 years. (Unity of the Brethren By-Laws, Article XIV, Sec C.)

Non-Voting Appointments

Programming Director: Jordan Barbisch
jordanbarbisch@gmail.com

Facilities Manager: Alan Haisler
haislera@ymail.com

Caretakers: OPEN Position

Synodical Committee Oversight:
Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill, Synodical 3rd VP

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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2nd Vice-President

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Rev. James D. Hejl, Chair

Liz Ripple, Executive Sec./Treas.

Members: Rev. Mike Groseclose,

Rev. Tim Chaplin, & Rev. Joe Emerson

Synodical Liason - Lance LaBedelle
(2nd VP)

Ex-officio: Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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! caldwellbrethrenchurch@gmail.com

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.

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.

– Supply Pastors

DIRECTORY OF MISSIONARIES

Pastor Pavel and Stanya Kozak
Norska 42
77900 Olomouc
Czech Republic
e-mail: Pavel.Ko@volny.cz

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Joel & Teresa Jelski
Mazkeret Moshe
19
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jfarrow@hotmail.com

Dan Merz (2021), Nelsonville
James Marek: (512) 844-8520;
james.Marek@cnbt.bank

Anna Wotipka: (979) 218-9043

Advisors: Rev. Whitney Amos &
Rev. Charles Amos

Synodical Committee Liaison:
Dr. Larry Koslovsky

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Jerry Dove – (2019) (Fayetteville)
Rev. Gerry Davis – (2019) (West)
Jon Farrow – (2019) (CCB - Temple)
Connie Janac – (2023) (Snook)
Open Seat

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kmarek2012@gmail.com

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State Hwy. 71, Fayetteville, TX 78940;
(979) 378-2239, lizripple@hotmail.com

Ministerial Alternate: VACANT

Pastor to Pastors: Rev. Whitney Amos and
Rev. Charles Amos

Non-Voting Lay Alternate: Taylor Brinkley,
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Lay Members:

BCS: Alan Haisler, haislera@gmail.com

Buckholts: Charlene Vogelsang,
cakv@hotmail.com

Caldwell: Lynette Urbanovsky Shimek (Treasurer);
Martha Huffman, marthahuffman@gmail.com

Crosby: Debbie Clark, foxfire890@aol.com

Dime Box: No Representative

Fayetteville: Sandra Stepan,
sandrinaustin@yahoo.com

Good Shepherd: Lorenzo Wilson

Granger: No Representative

Houston: J.T. Verwold, dmverwold@yahoo.com

Industry: Harvey Treybig, harvey.treybig@gmail.com

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(512) 992-5824; zabcikville@ymail.com

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