



First Lutheran

relationships that transform

August 2026 Newsletter

Day Camp 2026 was a blast!

*A great big thank you to all of our faithful
(and very tired) volunteers & staff!*

We learned Bible stories about WATER

God created water!

Noah and his big boat!

Jonah and the big fish!

Jesus walking on the water!

God parted the Red Sea for Moses!



Singing songs!



Bible Stories!



Petting Zoo!



Sno-cones!



Crafts!



Good Food!



Granny Pants Game!



Water day!

From the Mind of Pastor Jeff

Let anyone with ears, listen!... The Kingdom of Heaven is like... (Matthew 13:9, 44)

We read from Matthew 13 as a part of the assigned lectionary texts for several weeks in the month of July. In this chapter, Jesus is teaching the crowds by telling stories (parables) which demonstrate how God works in the world. Then, separately, Jesus teaches his disciples what the symbolism in the stories means, so that they can apply the meaning to their lives and their ministry among the people.



As we move into the month of August, we look forward to resuming ministries which have been on hiatus for the summer, like tutoring and mid-week youth programming. August is also the time when we are collecting items for school kits for Lutheran World Relief (kits will be packed on August 23). Finally, we find ways to support parents, kids, and school employees as the school year begins once again.

This month, as we experience these activities, we take what we have learned from Jesus in Matthew 13 and put it into action. As we interact with kids and their families, or as we purchase school supplies for people we will never meet, we are bringing the reality of the kingdom of heaven into the present moment. God's love is being shared through the common everyday work that we do.

Also, we are reminded of the call that Jesus gives to us, not only to serve our neighbors through our projects and relationships, but to listen to his teaching. His teaching comes to us through scripture reading, prayer, Bible study classes, and worship. His teaching gives purpose to our projects and our relationships in the community. As a result of our listening, Jesus' teaching transforms us, our lives, and our serving, so that God's love is shared in all that we do.

This month, let us continue to listen to Jesus' teaching and apply its meaning to our lives and to our ministry activities, as God's love is shared among us.

In Christ,
Pastor Jeff

Relationship with God



**Adult Classes offered on
Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am**

- ♦ **Reflective Bible Study**
Led by Vivian McElligott.
- ♦ **Study of the book of Genesis**
Led by Kevin Bond
- ♦ **The Augsburg Confession**
Led by Pastor Jeff &
Bill Anderson

× × × × ATTENTION MEN! × × × ×
**SATURDAY
MORNING
BREAKFAST**

**August 8 @ 8:00 am
FLC Fellowship Hall**



Bibles, Buddies & Beverages
Men's Fellowship
August 17th 6:00 pm
in the fellowship hall

MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

HOUSE OF HOPE

Make and serve supper to
approx. 35 people on the
second Monday of every
month. (4:30 pm-5:45 pm)
Contact Rick or Gayle Poland
(903)576-2563

MEALS WITH LOVE DELIVERY

3rd Wednesday at 11:00 am

4th Monday at 10:00 am

4th Tuesday at 11:00 am

Contact Bill or Renee Slegeir
(903)736-8546

WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE.

*Jesus came to serve, not to be
served. We learn to serve well by
following His example.*

"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to
serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:27

NEWGATE

Make and serve breakfast on
the second Saturday of most
months (7:00 am-9:00 am)

NEWGATE

Serve lunch on the second
and fourth Tuesdays of every
month (11:15 am-12:30 pm)

Contact Rick or Gayle Poland
(903)576-2563

Relationship with One Another

Meeting August 4 @ 1:00 pm
at Posado's Restaurant
110 Triple Creek, Longview



Come and join the
First Lutheran

BOOK CLUB

- Meetings monthly on 3rd Tuesday in the Cafe' @ 6:00 pm
- Discover New books
- Make friends

On August 18th @ 6:00 pm
discussing the book
All the Glimmering Stars (2024)
By Mark Sullivan

EXERCISE CLASS



**Tuesdays &
Thursdays**
4:30—5:30 pm
**Fellowship
Hall**

BUNCO NIGHT



COME JOIN THE FLC QUILTING GROUP!

WEDNESDAYS @ 10:00 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL



The Classic Quilters Group
meets on Saturday, August 8th
at 10:00 am in the
activity room.
See Susan Kay Smith for
information.

Relationship with Community

The Success Center

Family Improvement

Food & Childcare Provided

Tuesdays
6:30 - 7:30pm

Brain Injury Support Of North East Texas Group

- Education
- Awareness
- Support
- Friendship

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY GROUP

Tuesday, August 11th
6:00 pm

For more information contact
Mary Stuart
903-738-3613

The annual collection of school supplies ends August 23rd.

School Supply Packing (and Snow Cone day)

August 23rd at 9:30 am

Please only purchase the specific items on the list. It is important that the kits be done to the specifications of Lutheran World Relief.

SCHOOL KIT

Shopping List

The following items are needed in each School Kit:



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

FINANCIAL REPORT



Financial Report - August 2026

Operating Account - June 2026						
June Operating Account				Year to Date Operating Account		
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)	Year to Date	Budget	Over/(Under)
Contributions	\$ 30,479	\$ 51,108	\$ (20,629)	\$ 297,036	\$ 306,648	\$ (9,612)
Expenses	\$ 54,164	\$ 51,106	\$ 3,058	\$ 321,505	\$ 306,648	\$ 14,857
Difference	\$ (23,685)			\$ (24,469)	***	

God Keeps His Promises and What He Says Happens

In DayCamp, our kids spent the middle week of July learning about the power of God's word. Looking forward and planning for the increased activity autumn brings, we remember Jesus' promise to be with us and trust that we are loved. We share the never-ending supply of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control that is made available through the Holy Spirit, with a world starving for these things because He told us to GO

*** Contributions were lower than expected and the cost of the technology upgrade.

Ranette Carter
Treasurer

Sunday August 23rd 9:30 am Snow Cones & Backpacks



Enjoy a snow cone in the
narthex



Help pack school
back packs upstairs

*In loving memory of Donna O'Sullivan's
birthday August 14th.*



Thank you!

We had a great time during our 16th Annual Ladies Day Retreat! We had first time attendees, attendees that have “almost perfect attendance,” and some who come when they can. But one thing is for sure. We had a good time!

Pastor Veronika Czutor, from Emmanuel Lutheran in Dallas, was such a wonderful presenter! We had 4 pastors with us that day. Pastor Jeff Borgwardt, Pastor Veronika Czutor, Pastor Connie Ortega from Arlington and Pastor Sonja Cancel from 1st United Methodist in Longview. That is a new record for us!

Our representative from Living Water International, Christy Riffe, was also in attendance. She is both a special guest as well as family! It is so nice to have a personal connection with Living Water International!

We had 3 teaching sessions pertaining to the theme *“I am worthy”*; 1. *I am created in God's image*, 2. *I am more than one thing*, and 3. *I am because you are*. Pastor Veronika's teaching and insights were enlightening!

We closed out the day with Holy Communion, as we always do. All-in-all it was a great day to be together, deepen our faith and laugh a little!

We are so appreciative to Belinda Walenta and Ann Hanley for being the “brains” behind it all and to the FLC staff who served and decorated.

FLC Council Moments – NOT Minutes

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One of this year's goals for the FLC Council is to **"Improve member involvement."** To that end, the Council feels it is important to communicate to all of you what we are discussing at our monthly meetings and how we are moving forward. What follows is general information about what we are discussing, planning and doing –

At each Church Council meeting we begin with a Bible study. At our July 16th meeting we discussed what it means and how our Church can "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, ...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 18-20). Here are some of the ideas shared:

- Sharing of God and what he has done

- Create relationships with those who visit and others in the Church

 - Initiate conversation, study, work together

- Share faith with anyone we meet – faith as part of a normal conversations

- Address needs present in the community

 - i.e. feed the hungry – Newgate, House of Hope, etc.

- Listen as people share life story – and believe the story they tell

- Tutoring, nurturing kids

- Set examples for others by our actions – words = actions

- Where we show up (in community) not how we show up (as guests or important)

THE COMMON DENOMINATION IS PEOPLE.

Additional Council business:

A FLC certificate of deposit renews on July 21, 2026. Ranette Carter, Treasurer, and Arlene Hicks, Secretary, have been tasked with determining an appropriate renewal period to obtain the best interest rate for the Church.

The Council approved a bid for gutter installation on the breezeway between the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary to alleviate a water problem that may cause individuals to slip and fall.

The search for the "Children and Youth Assistant" continues .

The Council discussed the creation of a Post-High School/Young Adult program. WE CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR A LEADER. If you are interested in working with this group, ages 18 to 24/25/26, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR JEFF OR JOHN PARSONS. This is an opportunity to reach out and help young adults manage life and grown in their faith.

We continually discuss the needs of FLC members.

Please reach out to one of your Council members if you have questions, concerns or suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Bell, President

First Lutheran Church Council



Introducing... Diane Covert, CFRE

SENIOR DONOR ADVISOR

Diane Covert brings more than 20 years of fundraising experience to her role as a Donor Advisor at **Lutheran World Relief**, where she has served since 2024.

She is passionate about LWR's holistic approach to livelihoods, empowering communities with the skills and resources needed for lasting change. Diane values building meaningful partnerships with supporters, helping them see the real and enduring impact of their generosity. She lives in Houston, Texas, with her husband and their cat, Salem, and enjoys gardening, scuba diving, and group Bible study.

There will be a special event on Wednesday, August 12th.

10:00 am Quilting in the fellowship hall

12:00 pm Lunch and presentation by Diane Covert

Everyone is welcome! Whether you've tied one quilt or simply want to learn more about this ministry, we invite you to join us for this inspiring presentation and discover how simple acts of love are changing lives around the world.

Please RSVP in the narthex for lunch.

A Celebration of Compassion: How Your Quilts Bring Hope Around the World

Join us for a special presentation by **Diane Covert, CFRE**, Donor Advisor with Lutheran World Relief. Have you ever wondered where the quilts you lovingly create end up? Come hear inspiring stories of how these handmade gifts of comfort are reaching families in times of disaster, conflict, and hardship throughout the United States and around the world. More than a warm blanket, each quilt is a tangible expression of God's love, offering hope, dignity, and comfort to people during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

This presentation is our opportunity to **thank the dedicated women who faithfully create these quilts** and to celebrate the incredible impact of their ministry. Diane will share stories from the field, highlight the countries and communities where quilts have been distributed, and explain how Lutheran World Relief partners with local communities to bring hope and lasting change.

As some of you know my daughter and son-in-law, Abigail & Andrew Topp are expecting the arrival of identical twin boys the first part of November! We could not be more excited!

We want to extend an invitation to our First Lutheran church family to join us for a baby shower to be given by the friends and family of Abigail & Andrew. See below for details.

Sincerely,

Tina Sewell (AKA Grand T)

Link to the registry:

<https://my.babylist.com/abigail-topp>

Or use the QR code



Church Staff		2026 Church Council	
Jeffrey Borgwardt	Pastor	Beverly Bell	President
Donna Ashby	Dir. Of Music	Randy Cathey	Vice Pres
John Parsons	Family & Outreach	Arlene Hicks	Secretary
Tina Sewell	Office Administrator	Ranette Carter	Treasurer
Rachel Keiser	Bookkeeper	Jenn Belcourt	Relationship/God
Steve Howie	Facilities Coordinator	Johnny Davis	Relationship/Community
		Mary Stuart	Relationship/One Another

SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE		
	LECTOR 8:15	LECTOR 10:45
08/02/2026	CAROLYN RAMIREZ	NANCY LINEBERRY
08/09/2026	BEVERLY BELL	CATHLEEN POTICHKO
08/16/2026	JOHN PARSONS	RENEE SLEGEIR
08/23/2026	DANNY CHANDLER	RENEE TUCKER
08/30/2026	RANDY CATHEY	LAKEITA WALKER
	SET UP:	ALTAR GUILD CLEAN UP:
08/02/2026	CAROLYN RAMIREZ	LUCY MAXWELL
08/09/2026	DONNA & JOE LOUVIER	TERESA DESHAZER & RANDI MCRAE
08/16/2026	GLORIA BERO	EVA TOUCHSTONE
08/23/2026	ED BERO	LESLIE JENKINS
08/30/2026	GLORIA BERO	LESLIE JENKINS
	OFFERING COUNTERS	
08/02/2026	DIANN GREIFENKAMP	PERI TOPEL
08/09/2026	ARLENE HICKS	RACHEL GRUNDMANN
08/16/2026	DEB BUTTS	MARY STUART
08/23/2026	JOHNNY DAVIS	TIM OWENS
08/30/2026	RANDY CATHEY	KYLE LYBARGER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church	3 9:30 am Staff Meeting	4 1:00 pm Birds of a Feather 4:30 -5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Family Improvement 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	5 10:00 am Quilters 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	6 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class	7	8 7:00 pm Serve Breakfast at Newgate Mission 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Classic Quilters
9 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church	10 9:30 am Staff Meeting 4:30 pm Serve Dinner at House of Hope	11 11:15 am Serve lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot 4:30 -5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:00 pm Traumatic Brain Injury Group 6:30 pm Family Improvement 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	12 10:00 am Quilters 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	13 4:30 -5:30 pm Fitness Class	14	15 10:00 am Topp Twins Baby Shower (see pg 10)
16 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church	17 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3 B's for Men 6:00 pm Bunco	18 11:15 am Serve Lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot 4:30 -5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Family Improvement 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	19 10:00 am Quilters 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	20 4:30 -5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Council Meeting	21 John Parson's birthday	22 11:00 am—4:00pm Private Event in Fellowship Hall
23 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Sunday School & Pack School Kits 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church	24 9:30 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Meals with Love 5:00 pm ADK Teachers	25 11:00 am Meals with Love 11:15 am Serve Lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot 4:30 -5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Family Improvement 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	26 10:00 am Quilters 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	27	28	29
30 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church	31 9:30 am Staff Meeting					