



First Lutheran  
relationships that transform  
July 2026 Newsletter



First Lutheran Church's  
**CELEBRATION**  
*of*  
**FREEDOM**

SUNDAY, JULY 5TH

4:00—6:00 PM



FOOD, GAMES, MUSIC, PIE IN THE FACE,  
FOOD DECORATING CONTEST AND  
MUCH MORE!

HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS &  
ALL THE FIXIN'S WILL BE PROVIDED.  
PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE!



# From the Mind of Pastor Jeff

*This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)*

It's July! We have a lot of special opportunities this month to be built up in faith, fellowship, and service. I hope you are able to take advantage of many of them.



- ◆ Come to the Celebration of Freedom, July 5 from 4:00-6:00 PM
- ◆ Send your kids to Day Camp, and/or volunteer to help, July 13—17 from 9:00-3:30 each day
- ◆ Bring school supplies for LWR school kits, starting July 20
- ◆ Women, plan to attend and invite your friends to the annual women's retreat, July 25 from 10:00-4:00

In all things friends, be faithful to the One who has called you and gifted you to live as his people.

In Christ,  
Pastor Jeff

*Pastor Jeff's  
favorite project!*

The annual collection of school supplies will begin on July 20th through August 23rd.

School Supply Packing  
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:



## 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

July 11 @ 8:00 am  
FLC Fellowship Hall



Bibles, Buddies & Beverages  
Men's Fellowship  
July 20th 6:00 pm  
in the fellowship hall



## I AM WORTHY



### 16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LADIES RETREAT

Join us for a joyful women's gathering filled with fellowship, food, learning, and fun. Come connect, grow in faith, and enjoy time together!

Sign-up sheet is in the narthex

25 JULY  
FROM 10:00 TO 4:00

3901 BILL OWENS PKWY  
LONGVIEW TX 75605



PASTOR VERONIKA CZUTOR  
GUEST SPEAKER

## Relationship with One Another

Meeting July 7 @ 1:00 pm  
at Fisherman's Market  
116 Johnston St, Ste. F



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 July 21 at 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**

The Classic Quilters Group  
meets on Saturday, July 11 at  
10:00 am in the activity room.  
See Susan Kay Smith for  
information.



# FINANCIAL REPORT



## Financial Report - July 2026

Operating Account - May 2026						
	May Operating Account			Year to Date Operating Account		
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)	Year to Date	Budget	Over/(Under)
Contributions	\$ 59,484	\$ 51,108	\$ 8,376	\$ 267,302	\$ 255,540	\$ 11,762
Expenses	\$ 48,916	\$ 51,106	\$ (2,190)	\$ 267,340	\$ 255,540	\$ 11,800
Difference	\$ 10,568			\$ (38)	***	

### The kids are coming . . . The kids are coming - DAY CAMP

Thank you for all for sending our children to Camp Chrysalis in June. All returned safely, happy and healthy. Grateful for the new memories that will last a lifetime. Now we are on to what happens next. DAY CAMP! We are looking forward to a week of singing, playing, investigating and learning about how God cares for all of us.

\*\*\* Technology upgrade impact on year to date

Ranette Carter  
Treasurer

*June 9, 2026*

#### *To My Church Family:*

*I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for all the prayers, cards, phone calls/texts, visits, & gifts given during my surgery & recovery. Each act of service was beneficial in helping to keep me lifted up & know that I am cared for, thought of, & loved.*

*I also want to special mention to those who went above & beyond: **Beverly Bell, Larry & Carol Craddock, Bill Anderson, & Tina Sewell.** These individuals helped with prescriptions, getting me to my appointments & church, changing my dressings, converting my shower head, & cleaning my home.*

*To God be all the Glory for every act of service.*

*From Lakeita be thankfulness to you all Peace be with you!*

# FLC Council Moments – NOT Minutes

Friday, June 12, 2026

Greetings!

I am writing to update you on important action taken by your Church Council at a special Council meeting on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

The Church Council was presented with a proposal for a position, Children and Youth Ministry Assistant, which would provide support for FLC children and youth. The part-time position is comprised of duties that include program development, coordination and supervision for Sunday and Wednesday events/activities, and additional duties related to programs that are currently part of our FLC ministries.

The Council seriously considered, prayed, and asked hard questions about the request. We discussed our growth over the last year and the needs of the ministries. It became evident that this position is critical for the success of our programs that touch the lives of children and youth in the congregation and the community. This position is not about new programs but supporting those we currently have to ensure we maintain the quality and integrity of the faith building programs we offer. As such, the Council approved the request for this part-time position.

It is a challenge to add a staff position during the budget year. After reviewing the 2025 budget, the Council decided to reallocate the budget line for the Success Center Curriculum Director to support the Children and Youth Assistant position. The Children and Youth Assistant will be paid from this budget line for the remainder of the 2025 budget year. There will be no increase to this year's budget.

The Council anticipates your questions and comments, and we welcome them. Please reach out to your Council members as you wish. They are:

Beverly Bell, President  
Randy Cathey, Vice President  
Arlene Hicks, Secretary  
Ranette Carter, Treasurer  
Jen Belcourt, Relationship with God  
Mary Stuart, Relationship with One another  
Johnny Davis, Relationship with the community

Thank you for taking the time to read this. We look forward to answering your questions.

Sincerely,  
Beverly Bell, Council President  
First Lutheran Church



The Northern Texas/Northern Louisiana (NT-NL) Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) Newsletter

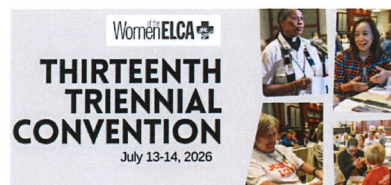
June 25, 2026

### Churchwide News:

**WELCA Triennial Convention** will be held online from July 13-14, 2026 with NT-NL SWO voting delegates:

- Lupita Escamilla, PLM
- Cate Berridge
- Jane Winge

Renea Tucker is our alternate voting delegate.



**WELCA Triennial Gathering.** So far we have 11 people registered from NT-NL to join 900 people traveling to Des Moines, Iowa from July 16-19, 2026 to enjoy worship, workshops and service projects. Although registration is closed, stay tuned to FaceBook updates at:

- Join our FaceBook NT-NL SWO Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/748717508538531> where this page features local events within our NT-NL Synodical Women's Organization.
- Join our FaceBook NT-NL SWO Page at <https://www.facebook.com/ntnlsw> where this page features Synodical Women's Groups from around the ELCA

**Silent Auction Request** for SWO's, Conferences, Clusters, Units, Circles, and individuals to consider donating items for our Triennial Gathering silent auction. Proceeds from the silent auction will make it possible to keep the cost of the Gathering more affordable for all. Suggestions:

- Jewelry
- Antiques
- Vacation package
- Season tickets
- Themed basket, i.e. gardening, baking, coffee, kitchen
- Gift cards



Complete the form at <https://bit.ly/44pQywu> and mail item to registration desk by noon on July 16th or let me know if you want me to deliver it.



**Run, Walk & Roll** is a fundraiser to support the work of Women of the ELCA health initiative Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls. Money raised supports programs that offer education, health care and advocacy to help women and girls live healthier lives. So far, I've raised \$50 towards my \$200 goal for my July 18th walk in Des Moines. Please prayerfully consider contributing by:

- Venmo @jane-winge
- Zelle Jane Winge at 972-658-4387
- Checks payable to Women ELCA & mail to Jane Winge, 8701 Preston Wood Dr., McKinney TX 75072

## Synodical News



### Seeking a NT-NL SWO Webmaster

If you're interested and have experience with WordPress, please let me know at 972-658-4387 to help us update our website at <https://ntnlutheranwomen.com/>. Minimal updates needed monthly.

### First Lutheran Ladies Summer Retreat in Longview on July 25

A Ladies Summer Retreat will be held with Rev. Veronika Czutor as our keynote speaker.

**Date:** Saturday, July 25

**Time:** 10:00am-4:00pm

**Place:** First Lutheran Church  
3901 Bill Owens Parkway, Longview TX 75605

**Cost:** Free with lunch and door prizes

**Registration:** Belinda Walenta at [belindawal@aol.com](mailto:belindawal@aol.com) or 903-918-1314



Rev. Veronika Czutor

### NT-NL SWO Fall Retreat in Waco on October 23-24



Rev. Irma Banales,  
DEM

An initial planning meeting was held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Waco on May 16th. Save the date for our NT-NL Fall Retreat!

**Date:** Friday, Oct. 23rd, from 3:30-8:15pm

Saturday, Oct. 24th from 8:30am-3:00pm

**Place:** St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 800 N. New Road, Waco, TX

**Theme:** Love your neighbor as yourself. Mark 12:31

**Keynote:** Rev. Irma Banales, Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM)

**Cost:** \$35/early bird registration

**Bring:** Silent auction item to raise money for our scholarship fund

**Optional sightseeing (on your own):**

- Silobration from Oct. 22-25 at [magnolia.com](http://magnolia.com)
- Waco Mammoth National Monument at <https://www.nps.gov/waco>
- Dr. Pepper Museum at <https://drpeppermuseum.com/>
- Baylor Museum at <https://mayborn.web.baylor.edu/>
- Waco Trolley Bus at <https://www.thewacotrolley.com/>

### Continuing Education Scholarship Application Due November 15

Our Synodical Women's Organization will be offering **\$500** scholarships to women in our organization who want to further their education and need some financial assistance. Applicant must be a participant in a WELCA unit and a voting member of the ELCA. Course of study may have a ministry job component, or it may be for continuing education in job training or updating vocational training. Deadlines for application are **November 15 and May 15**. To apply, click on <https://ntnlutheranwomen.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Application.pdf> and mail to our new Treasurer, RoxAnne Knauss, 1095 Edith Cir., Richardson TX 75080



### Goal #1 is to improve communication with several methods:



- Join our FaceBook NT-NL SWO Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/748717508538531> where this page features local events within our NT-NL Synodical Women's Organization.
- Join our FaceBook NT-NL SWO Page at <https://www.facebook.com/ntnlsw> where this page features Synodical Women's Groups from around the ELCA
- Check out our website at <https://ntnlutheranwomen.com/>

Peace,  
Jane Winge, NT-NL SWO President

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
7/5/2026	RANETTE CARTER	MIKE GETNSCH
7/12/2026	BEVERLY BELL	DIANE HONEY
7/19/2026	ED BERO	LESLIE JENKINS
7/26/2026	RANDY CATHEY	STACEY KEENER
	SET UP:	CLEAN UP:
7/5/2026	CAROLYN RAMIREZ	LUCY MAXWELL
7/12/2026	CAROL & RAY BIRD	TERESA DESHAZER & RANDI MCRAE
7/19/2026	GLORIA BERO	EVA TOUCHSTONE
7/26/2026	ED BERO	LESLIE JENKINS
OFFERING COUNTERS		
7/5/2026	JENN BELCOURT	RACHEL GRUNDMANN
7/12/2026	ARLENE HICKS	DEB PASCHALL
7/19/2026	MARY STUART	DEB BUTTS
7/26/2026	RANDY CATHEY	JOHNNY DAVIS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Quilters <b>5:45 pm</b> Bell Choir <b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>2</b> <b>4:30 -5:30 pm</b> Fitness Class	<b>3</b> <b>Church office closed for July 4th holiday.</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>8:15 am</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>9:30 am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 am</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>10:45 am</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>4:00 pm</b> Celebration of Freedom	<b>6</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Staff Meeting <b>4:30 pm</b> Serve Dinner at House of Hope	<b>7</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Birds of a Feather <b>4:30 -5:30 pm</b> Fitness Class <b>6:30 pm</b> Family Improvement <b>6:30 pm</b> Spiritual Journey	<b>8</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Quilters <b>5:45 pm</b> Bell Choir <b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>9</b> <b>4:30-5:30 pm</b> Fitness Class	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Serve Breakfast at Newgate Mission <b>8:00 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>10:00 am</b> Classic Quilters
<b>12</b> <b>8:15 am</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>9:30 am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 am</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>10:45 am</b> Worship & Children's Church	<b>13</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:00 pm</b> Bunco	<b>14</b> <b>11:15 am</b> Serve lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot Fitness Class Break <b>6:00 pm</b> Traumatic Brain Injury Group <b>6:30 pm</b> Family Improvement <b>6:30 pm</b> Spiritual Journey	<b>15</b> Quilters break <b>5:45 pm</b> Bell Choir <b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>16</b> Fitness Class Break <b>6:30 pm</b> Council Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>DAY CAMP WEEK 9:00 AM—3:00 PM</b>						
<b>19</b> <b>8:15 am</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>9:30 am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 am</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>10:45 am</b> Worship & Children's Church	<b>20</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Staff Meeting <b>10:00 am</b> Meals with Love	<b>21</b> <b>11:15 am</b> Serve Lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot Fitness Class Break <b>6:00 pm</b> Book Club <b>6:30 pm</b> Family Improvement <b>6:30 pm</b> Spiritual Journey	<b>22</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Quilters <b>5:45 pm</b> Bell Choir <b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>23</b> Fitness Class Break	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>10:00 am—4:00 pm</i> <b>16th Annual</b> <i>Ladies</i> <i>Retreat</i>
<b>26</b> <b>8:15 am</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>9:30 am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 am</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>10:45 am</b> Worship & Children's Church	<b>27</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>28</b> <b>11:00 am</b> Meals with Love <b>11:15 am</b> Serve Lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot <b>4:30 -5:30 pm</b> Fitness Class <b>6:30 pm</b> Family Improvement <b>6:30 pm</b> Spiritual Journey	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	