



# First Lutheran

relationships that transform

**May 2026 Newsletter**



**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:00 pm**  
**In the fellowship hall**

**Bring a Salad to share.**

**RSVP on the sign-up sheet**  
**in the narthex.**

**You may text or call Renea, also.**

**For more information contact**  
**Renea 903-215-0554**

**THE NATIONAL  
DAY OF PRAYER**

May 7, 2026

**12:00 pm**  
**Gregg County**  
**Courthouse Lawn**



## From the Mind of Pastor Jeff

*[The Church] is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the Holy Sacraments are administered according to the Gospel. (from The Augsburg Confession, Article 7)*

The Augsburg Confession is one of the primary confessional documents of the Lutheran Church. It was written in 1530 by one of Luther's colleagues named Philip Melancthon. The purpose was to clarify the position of the reformers against the established church in Rome.



The article referenced above is important for us because it gives the basic definition of what the church is. The church is an entity which is focused on the proclamation of God's Word and the celebration of the Sacraments. That's it! What about all of the other things that the church, or our congregation specifically, does?

Serving others in our community and around the world is an important part of our congregational identity. Whether it is collecting food, serving meals, tutoring children, sewing quilts, funding water wells, or any of the other things that we do as a congregation, it is part of who we are. However, according to our confessional documents, those things are not what define the church. It is Word and Sacrament which defines the church. What that means is that Word and Sacrament nurture us in our call to serve in the community, as an outreach as the church. It is our relationship with God that drives our work of service to one another and the community around us.

I have given this brief introduction to the Augsburg Confession (Article 7) because we have the opportunity to study the entirety of this confessional document beginning at the end of this month. Bill Anderson and I will be co-leading a Sunday morning class on the Augsburg Confession beginning at 9:30 on May 31 (ending in December...yes, it is a large document!). Please sign up on the sheet on the sign-up counter in the narthex, so that we will have enough books for everyone.

Be the church this month friends!

Pastor Jeff

Relationship with  
God

*Tuesday Morning Bible Study*

**FRIENDSHIP  
CIRCLE**

1st and 3rd Monday of each month.

**May 5th and May 19th  
9:30 am**

× × × × ATTENTION MEN! × × × ×

**SATURDAY  
MORNING  
BREAKFAST**

May 9th @ 8:00 am  
FLC Fellowship Hall



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



Bibles, Buddies & Beverages  
Men's Fellowship  
May 18th @ 6:00 pm  
FLC Fellowship Hall

**DORCAS  
CIRCLE  
BIBLE STUDY**

Monday Evening May 11th  
6:00 pm

**THANK YOU**  
*You rock!*

A big THANK YOU

To everyone who came to  
the Altar Guild workday to  
prep for Easter weekend!

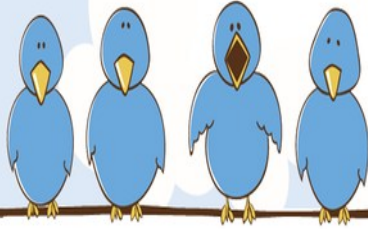
**SUNDAY NIGHT  
BIBLE STUDY**

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Taught by Dr. Martin Batts

## Relationship with One Another

Meeting May 5th @ 1:00 pm  
at Divine Catering  
1310 South Mobberly, Longview



Birds of a Feather  
Flock Together

Ladies Group

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 May 26th  
discussing the book  
The Women by Kristin Hannah

# BUNCO NIGHT

Monday, May 18  
@ 6:00 pm  
Church Café



COME JOIN THE FLC QUILTING GROUP!  
WEDNESDAYS @ 10:00 AM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

## EXERCISE CLASS



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



The Classic Quilters Group  
meets on Saturday, May 9th in  
the activity room. See Susan  
Kay Smith for  
information.

## A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Stepping into God's will and purpose for your life

**TUESDAYS**  
**6:30 PM**

Join us in taking steps that can help  
develop a healthy, peaceful, and  
harmonious relationship with God,  
with others, and with yourself.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can, & the wisdom to know that one is Me. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus Christ did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that Jesus will make all things right if I surrender to His will. So, that I may be reasonably happy in this life & supremely happy with Him forever & ever in the next! Amen!

SERENITY PRAYER

First Lutheran Church  
3901 Bill Owens Parkway  
Longview, Texas 75605  
(903) 295-7423

## Relationship with Community



The Success Center



# Family Improvement



**Food & Childcare Provided**

**Tuesdays**  
6:30 - 7:30pm



Brain Injury Support Group  
Of North East Texas



PILOT INTERNATIONAL

- Education
- Awareness
- Support
- Friendship

# TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY GROUP

Tuesday, May 12th  
6:00 pm

For more information contact  
Mary Stuart  
903-738-3613



### 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

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 11:00 am  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 10:00 am  
4<sup>th</sup> 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

# FINANCIAL REPORT



## Financial Report - March 2026

Operating Account - March 2026						
March Operating Account				Year to Date Operating Account		
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)	Year to Date	Budget	Over/(Under)
Contributions	\$ 58,377	\$ 51,108	\$ 7,269	\$ 178,222	\$ 153,324	\$ 24,898
Expenses	\$ 76,455	\$ 51,106	\$ 25,349	\$ 169,636	\$ 153,319	\$ 16,317
Difference	\$ (18,078)	**		\$ 8,586		

**Fear Not! We have been given a Spirit of Courage.**

The Holy Spirit that we received at baptism is the same Holy Spirit that filled the disciples at pentecost. Through this Holy Spirit we receive a never ending supply of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control so we may feed a world starving for all of these things.

\*\* Additional expense is for technology upgrade.

Ranette Carter  
Treasurer

# In Other News...



## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Leo & Melba Sparkman Memorial Scholarship In honor and memory of Leo and Melba Sparkman, an annual college scholarship has been established for members of First Lutheran Church who are high school students planning to attend college upon graduation.

Applications are available through the church office. These must be returned by **May 15** with a transcript, teacher recommendation, statement of needs and future aspirations.

## CAMPERSHIPS MAKING CAMP HAPPEN

Those who want to help with our Campership Fund for kids going to Camp Chrysalis please use the blue envelopes in the hymnal racks in each pew.



# And now a word from the Church Council...

## FLC Council Moments – NOT Minutes

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 –

**Do you know** that our average Sunday Worship attendance is 115 to 120 for both services? There are about 400 to 450 people who enter the doors of FLC each week to participate in worship and other activities at our Church:

FLC Book Club; Bunco; 3 B's; Boy Scouts; two weekday women's Bible studies; Family Improvement which includes a meal; The Spiritual Journey; Brain Injury Support, FLC Tutoring classes twice a week for about 50 children each Tuesday and Thursday; Wednesday evening dinner, Mentoring Plus, Confirmation and Youth Group classes to however many kids show up... it's hard to count how many sometimes.

**Do you know** that FLC sends out volunteers into the community every month? Taking Meals with Love to homebound individuals; providing two Bible classes at the House of Hope Women's Shelter; serving breakfast and lunch at Newgate Mission several times monthly and dinner at House of Hope at least once a month. A new ministry is reaching out to homebound members and visits to bring companionship to them.

Adults, children, members, and non-members worshiping and learning together. This is who we are in God – doing His Work, with our Hands. Our members are involved, but we always welcome more of you to join in.

Are you interested in helping give rides to individuals who need a ride to worship services? Please contact John Parsons and he'll help you out – we need you.

### Additional Council business:

FLC is in the process of hiring a new Bookkeeper. Karen Smith has submitted her resignation but will stay in the position until a new Bookkeeper is hired.

The Council approved the updating of computers for the Church. Many of the computers are outdated and not able to handle the technology we need. Older computers will be repositioned in the Church to meet current unmet needs.

Pastor and Staff will meet with Bishop Gronberg on May 4<sup>th</sup> to present to him FLC's Home Improvement program, suggesting that it may be a viable program for additional churches in the NT/NL Synod.

We continually discuss the needs of FLC members.

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
Karen Smith	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
5/3/2026	BEVERLY BELL	LESLIE JENKINS
5/10/2026	ED BERO	BILL ANDERSON
5/17/2026	CAROLYN RAMIREZ	JIM MEYER
5/24/2026	RICK POLAND	STACEY KEENER
5/31/2026	JOHN PARSONS	CATHLEEN POTICHKO

	SET UP:	ALTAR GUILD	CLEAN UP:
5/3/2026	CAROLYN RAMIREZ		LUCY MAXWELL
5/10/2026	CAROL & RAY BIRD		TERESA DESHAZER & RANDI MCRae
5/17/2026	GLORIA BERO		EVA TOUCHSTONE
5/24/2026	ED BERO		LESLIE JENKINS
5/31/2026	DONNA & JOE LOUVIER		LESLIE JENKINS

### OFFERING COUNTERS

5/3/2026	JENN BELCOURT	ARLENE HICKS
5/10/2026	DEB BUTTS	MARY STUART
5/17/2026	RACHEL GRUNDMANN	BILL ANDERSON
5/24/2026	RANDY CATHEY	JOHNNY DAVIS
5/31/2026	DIANN GREIFENKAMP	PERI TOPEL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>26</b>	1	2 1:00 pm WELCA Spring Tea in the Fellowship Hall
3 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church 6:00 pm Bible Study	4 FLC Office Closed Staff at Synod Office	5 9:30 am Friendship Circle 1:00 pm Birds of a Feather 3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 4:30 pm-5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Family Improvement 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey Scouts of America	6 10:00 am Quilters 5:00-6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Mentoring Plus & Youth group 7:00 pm Youth Activity Hour 7:00 pm Choir	7 12:00 pm National Day of Prayer @ Gregg County Courthouse lawn. 3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class	8	9 7:00 pm Serve Breakfast at Newgate Mission 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Classic Quilters
10 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church 6:00 pm Bible Study	11 9:30 am Staff Meeting 4:30 pm Serve Dinner at House of Hope 6:00 pm Dorcas Circle	12 11:15 am Serve lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot 4:30 pm-5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:00 pm Traumatic Brain Injury Group 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey 6:30 pm Family Improvement Scouts of America	13 10:00 am Quilters 5:00-6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Mentoring Plus & Youth group 7:00 pm Youth Activity Hour 7:00 pm Choir	14 3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class	15	16
17 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church 6:00 pm Bible Study	18 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3 B's for Men 6:00 pm Bunco	19 9:30 am Friendship Circle 11:15 am Serve Lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot 4:30 pm-5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey 6:30 pm Family Improvement Scouts of America	20 10:00 am Quilters 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	21 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Council Meeting	22	23 12:00 pm—4:00 pm Private Event in the Fellowship Hall
24 / 31 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church 6:00 pm Bible Study	25 Memorial Day Observed FLC Office Closed 10:00 am Meals with Love	26 11:00 am Meals with Love 11:15 am Serve Lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot 3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 4:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey 6:30 pm Family Improvement Scouts of America	27 10:00 am Quilters 5:00-6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Mentoring Plus & Youth group 7:00 pm Youth Activity Hour 7:00 pm Choir	28 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class	29	30