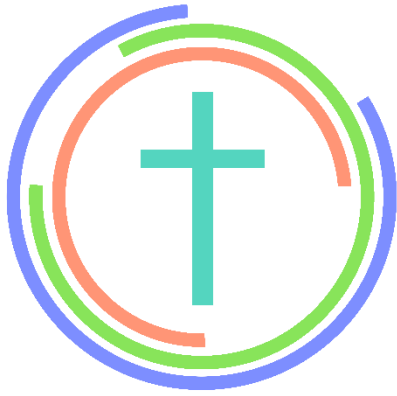




First Lutheran
relationships that transform

Something to Think About...

Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.
(1Timothy 4:7b-8)

The beginning of a new school year gives us the opportunity to think about Christian education both in the past and in the present.

When I was growing up, the education program (Sunday School) really was not all that different from school that I attended during the week. We were separated by age/grade in the “education wing” of the building. We followed a defined curriculum and have papers to take home with us to theoretically study later (which really never happened). I believe that most congregations followed this model at that time.

In that congregation, while the kids attended their classes, the adults would gather for coffee and conversation in the fellowship hall. There was a small group of adults who gathered for a Bible class, but the emphasis is on small. Studying the Bible in a structured way was not part of the adult culture in that

congregation at that time. I also believe that this was true in a number of congregations at that time.

So, what does this mean for First Lutheran Church in 2026?

Our Sunday School program for kids was replaced by Children’s Church several years ago and is currently supplemented by the Wednesday Mentoring+ program. However, we also have an opportunity before us at the present time to restart Sunday morning education for children. It will not look like it did in the past, as the needs of kids have changed, but sharing the good news of God’s love is still at the core.

Our Sunday educational offerings for adults have grown over the last year (about 30% of our average worship attendance is attending Sunday classes). We currently offer three classes for adults loosely organized around Bible, theology, and spiritual formation. It is important to study the Word of God and apply it to our lives through these classes.

As we begin an academic year, I would like to pose a couple of questions related to Christian education. How will you participate this year? Perhaps you will open yourself to leading a group of kids on Sunday morning? On the other hand, perhaps you will commit yourself to attend an adult class? In either case, you will be making a commitment to grow in a relationship with Jesus, so that your life and the lives of other will be transformed in his name.

May God bless us and strengthen us by the Word through Christian education.

Pastor Jeff



in Relationship with God

WEDNESDAYS ARE BLASTING OFF SEPTEMBER 9TH

Things for kids & teens...

*5:00 – 6:00 PM Dinner is served
for everyone.*

*5:45 pm Mentoring Plus
(Grade K–6)*

*6:00 pm Confirmation Class with PJ.
(Grade 7–8)*

*6:00 pm High School Group
(Grades 9–12)*

7:00 pm Activity hour for all ages!

Things for adults...

*5:00 – 6:00 PM Dinner
is served for everyone!*

5:45 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir



in Relationship with God

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

DORCAS CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

.....
September 14th
6:00 pm

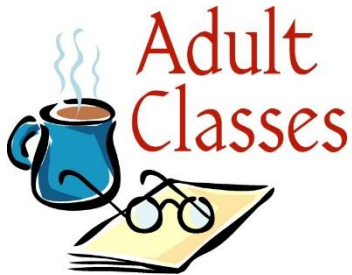
Tuesday Morning Bible Study

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

September 1st
and
September 15th
9:30 am



in Relationship with God



Adult Classes

**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



**Bibles, Buddies & Beverages
Men's Fellowship**

September 21 @ 6:00 pm

FLC Fellowship Hall



We would like to thank everyone who came out to celebrate our soon-expected twin boys! Thank you for every gift and every expression of love you have shown our family! First

Lutheran is truly a one-of-a-kind congregation
and we love you all !

Durwin & Tina Sewell

Andrew & Abigail Topp, and Uncle Austin Sewell

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

September 12 @ 8:00 am

FLC Fellowship Hall



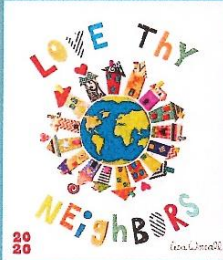
From Pastor Sonia Cancel:

All that can heal and help is prayer. Your thoughtfulness & kindness are above. I appreciate you! Blessings.

(Pastor Sonia was on our prayer list when she broke her arm.)



NTNL SWO Retreat



October 23-24 2026
St. Matthew Lutheran
Church
800 N. New Road
Waco, TX 76710

**Early Bird
Registration—\$35
Registration—\$40
One Day—\$30**



Join our keynote speaker,
Pastor Irma Banales, as
she shares about Loving
Thy Neighbor.

Friday
Registration 3:30
Activities 4:30
Dinner 5:30
Worship 6:45

Saturday
Registration 8:30
Speakers and workshops 9:00- 3:00
Speaker: Pastor Irma Banales



Quilt Raffle to benefit Lutheran World Relief. Tickets \$1 or 6 for \$5

Register for the retreat at:
<https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/11349211>

Join us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/#!/NorthCentralConferenceOfTheNorthMissionAreaWelca

in Relationship with God

Greetings bold women of faith! You're invited to learn more about "Love Your Neighbor" at our NT-NL SWO Fall Retreat featuring our Rev. Irma Banales and Rev. Austin Nickel. Details below:

Date/time: Fri., Oct. 23 from 3:30-8:15pm
Sat., Oct. 24 from 8:30am-3:00pm
Place: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 800 N New Rd., Waco TX 76710
Cost: **\$35 early bird by October 2nd**, \$40 by October 16th, \$45 at the door, \$30 Saturday only
Hotel: \$109/room reserved by Sept. 23 at Tru by Hilton Waco S, 2408 Marketplace Drive, Waco, TX 76711 Available Rooms - Tru by Hilton Waco South
RSVP: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/11349211> include NT-NL SWO, name & email or email pgrosze@tx.rr.com and mail a check to made out to NT-NL SWO, c/o Pam Grosze, 2600 Ash Drive, St. Paul, TX 75098
Scholarship: Email roxanne.knausss@gmail.com to request \$75 scholarship if needed by Sept 15

Bring:

1. Each church donate a basket or wine (\$30-\$50) for silent auction
2. New Clothing and shoes (infants to teens, tags still on) for donation to Isaiah 1:17 House
3. Cash/checks for freewill offering and charity booths
4. Cash/checks/credit card for Fair Trade items.
5. Quilt raffle \$1 each or 6 for \$5 to benefit Lutheran World Relief
6. SWO T-Shirts will be available for sale \$20

Peace,
Jane Winge
NT-NL SWO President
972-658-4387



Do you know a family that is struggling with managing all that life brings? Invite them to join our Family Improvement class where practical teaching helps parents and families build better lives! Contact John Parsons for more information 903-295-7423.

FAMILY IMPROVEMENT MEAL

One of the things that makes the Family Improvement class work so well for families is that we serve them a meal (cooking is not required). We need volunteers to help provide a meal. Donna Louvier is the meal coordinator 903-399-8553. Those who are willing to help in this way may sign up for a Tuesday night on the sheet in the narthex.

in Relationship with the Community



HOUSE OF HOPE

House of Hope Meal Ministry

We are looking for volunteers (men, women, or couples) to help provide a meal and serve the ladies of House of Hope on the first Monday of each month. Our teams consist of three volunteers, and with four teams participating, each team serves only once every four months. This is a wonderful opportunity to share God's love through hospitality and fellowship.

If you are interested in serving, please contact:

- Sharon Leikam: 785-623-1162
- Rick & Gayle Poland: 903-576-2563

Thank you for prayerfully considering this ministry!



in Relationship with the Community



Walk to End Alzheimer's

It is September, summer vacations are memories, school is in session, it's getting cooler and the 2026 Walk to End Alzheimer's is coming up! It will be held at **Teague Park on October 10**, and First Lutheran once again will have a team.

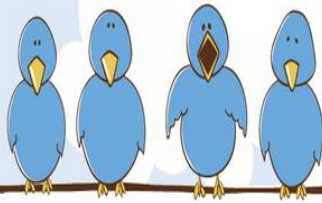
New drugs to treat and eliminate plaques have been developed recently, giving the first real treatments so far. We do not yet have a cure, but that goal is in sight! Donations from the Walk to End Alzheimer's are helping to fund this research and provide support and resources to patients and families dealing with this disease. Members of our Church family have been affected by Alzheimer's and a way to honor them is to continue to work to find a cure and support for those suffering from this and their caregivers.

To register to walk and/or donate for our First Lutheran Church team you need to go to our team page (go to 2026 Walk to End Alzheimer's-Longview, click on find a team, type in First Lutheran, click on team and it will bring you to our team page) or by check; **Renee Slegeir** can accept these. Everyone who donates \$100.00 either by check or online will receive a walk tee shirt in the mail, to ensure it will be received in time for the walk donation should be made at least 4 weeks prior. Last year our team was one of the top teams in Longview, so we have a record to uphold! Together we can beat this disease!



in Relationship with one another

Meeting September 1 @ 1:00 pm
at Jack's Natural Foods
3110 Nealy Way, Longview



*Birds of a Feather
Flock Together*
Ladies Group

**EXERCISE
CLASS**



Tuesdays & Thursdays

4:30—5:30 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

**BUNCO
NIGHT**



Monday, September 21
@ 6:00 pm
in the Café



There is some interest in forming a “chair exercise” group.

If you are interested in a group like that or would even be willing to lead the exercises, please talk to Charlotte Cherry 903-445-9988.

Come and join the
First Lutheran

**BOOK
CLUB**

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



The next meeting is September 15
at 6:00 pm in the Café.
Discussing the book *Project Hail Mary*,
By Andy Weir



Looking for anyone interested in joining the sanctuary flower team to help on occasion. No experience required. If you enjoy working with flowers or would like to learn, contact Patti Meyer at 713-818-0020



in Relationship with one another

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 –

- At each Church Council meeting we begin with a Bible study. At our August 20th meeting we discussed what Congregational growth means for us and how we are to plan for growth, so that when it is here, we are prepared. Here are some of the ideas shared:
 - Being prepared for:
 - Practical, daily life ministry to function effectively and efficiently
 - Spiritual ministry functions need to be done with a heart to serving God
 - No one can do all/both effectively; growth has changed the way the church approaches ministry.

We discussed the expectations placed upon staff, volunteers and the congregation to create and maintain our relational ministry and how to be ahead of growth.

We applied these discussion topics to the larger conversation of setting goals for the 2027 year.

THE COMMON DENOMINATION IS PEOPLE.

Additional Council business:

Audit Report – Roger Lineberry completed the Annual Audit. There was only one finding and has been resolved.

Council approved a bid for repairs to be made to the EIFS exterior surface on the walkway to the Office and other places of deterioration.

Randy Cathey is Chair of the 2027 Budget Committee. The Committee is meeting weekly and is reviewing the current budget and addressing needs for the upcoming year.

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



Financial Report - September 2026

Operating Account - July 2026						
July Operating Account				Year to Date Operating Account		
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)	Year to Date	Budget	Over/(Under)
Contributions	\$ 43,328	\$ 51,108	\$ (7,780)	\$ 341,172	\$ 357,744	\$ (16,572)
Expenses	\$ 47,922	\$ 51,106	\$ (3,184)	\$ 371,686	\$ 357,744	\$ 13,942
Difference	\$ (4,594)			\$ (30,514)	***	

I am with you always . . .

Labor Day is at the end of this first week in September. We remember our Summer vacations, family time spent with kids and grandkids and those special moments with friends but we also look forward to 'what God has in store for us next'. We step out in faith, trusting that our Lord and Savior will be with us as we continue to follow where He has equipped us to go.

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

Ranette Carter
Treasurer

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:00 am Friendship Circle 1:00 pm Birds of a Feather 3:30 pm Tutor Training 4:30 -5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Family Improvement 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	2 10:00 am Quilters 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	3 3:30 pm Tutor Training 4:30 -5:30 pm Fitness Class	4	5
6 7:30 am Breakfast 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church	7 Church office closed for Labor Day Holiday	8 11:15 am Stew Pot 3:30-5:30 pm The Success Center 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:00 pm Brian Injury Group 6:30 pm Family Improvement 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	9 10:00 am Quilters 5:00-6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Mentoring plus & Bell Choir 6:00 pm Confirmation & High School Group 7:00 pm Activity Hour & Choir	10 3:30-5:30 pm The Success Center 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class	11	12 7:00 am Newgate Breakfast 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Classic Quilters
13 7:30 am Breakfast 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church	14 9:30 am Staff Meeting 4:30 pm House of Hope 6:00 pm Dorcas Circle	15 9:30 am Friendship Circle 11:15 am Stew Pot 3:30-5:30 pm The Success Center 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Family Improvement 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	16 10:00 am Quilters 5:00-6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Mentoring plus & Bell Choir 6:00 pm Confirmation & High School Group 7:00 pm Activity Hour & Choir	17 3:30-5:30 pm The Success Center 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Council Meeting	18	19
20 Begin candy collection for Trunk or Treat 7:30 am Breakfast 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church	21 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3B's for Men 6:00 pm Bunco	22 11:00 am Meals with Love 11:15 am Stew Pot 3:30-5:30 pm The Success Center 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Family Improvement 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	23 10:00 am Quilters 5:00-6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Mentoring plus & Bell Choir 6:00 pm Confirmation & High School Group 7:00 pm Activity Hour & Choir	24 3:30-5:30 pm The Success Center 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class	25	26
27 7:30 am Breakfast 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church	28 Rachel Keiser, Bookkeeper's Birthday 9:30 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Meals with Love 5:00 pm ADK Private Event	29 3:30-5:30 pm The Success Center 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Family Improvement 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	30 10:00 am Quilters 5:00-6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Mentoring plus & Bell Choir 6:00 pm Confirmation & High School Group 7:00 pm Activity Hour & Choir			

Sunday Morning Volunteer Schedule		
	Lector 8:15 am	Lector 10:45 am
09/06/2026	Ranette Carter	Vivian McElligott
09/13/2026	Donna Ashby	Teresa DeShazer
09/20/2026	Beverly Bell	Rachel Grundmann
09/27/2026	Ed Bero	Jim Meyer
Set Up: Altar Guild Clean Up:		
09/06/2026	Carolyn Ramirez	Lucy Maxwell
09/13/2026	Joe & Donna Louvier	Teresa DeShazer & Randi McRae
09/20/2026	Gloria Bero	Eva Touchstone
09/27/2026	Ed Bero	Leslie Jenkins
Offering Counters		
09/06/2026	Johnny Davis	Bill Anderson
09/13/2026	Arlene Hicks	Deb Butts
09/20/2026	Jenn Belcourt	Deb Paschall
09/27/2026	Mary Stuart	Randy Cathey

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