

First Lutheran
relationships that transform



April 2024

From the Mind of Pastor Jeff

Peter began to speak to the people: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. (Acts 10:34-35)

These verses are the beginning Peter's mission of bringing the Good News to Gentiles. Earlier in chapter 10, it says that Peter is at the house of Cornelius, a centurion and Gentile, after both men had received visions from the Lord. Cornelius had been told go send for Peter to come to his house. Peter had been shown that what God has made clean, Peter should not profane (Jewish food laws did not apply).



So, at this point in the story, Peter makes a proclamation that God shows no partiality (which was a given in society at the time). Yet Peter takes it further. He goes on to say that all are acceptable to God. In every nation those who fear God and do what it right are acceptable. That even includes the Gentiles, which is outside of the norm at the time. So, there are no boundaries between Jews and Gentiles, related to food, worship, or behavior. There are no longer boundaries based on social and societal norms.

And Peter went on to preach the truth of the scripture and the reality of Jesus raised from the dead. And the Holy Spirit fell on those who heard, and they (Gentiles!) were baptized in the name of Jesus.

The message of Easter changes everything. This is the message that we are called to receive and to share in our lives as Christian people. First, God shows no partiality, and all are acceptable to him. That includes you and me, and those we often wish to exclude. Through the cross and resurrections, sinners are forgiven and set free. And, second, we are set free to share this message with those around us, in what is an ever increasing unchurched and divided world. The resurrection message in Christ is that this gift is for all people. Social and societal boundaries are crossed, and removed, by the love, grace and forgiveness of God in Jesus Christ.

As we move through the season of Easter this year, may we be reminded of what happened to Peter and Cornelius. May we be brought to a fuller understanding and experience of God's love, grace, and forgiveness for all people. May we be transformed to see that God shows no partiality, and through the death and resurrection of Christ, together, we are all made acceptable to him.

In Christ,
Pastor Jeff

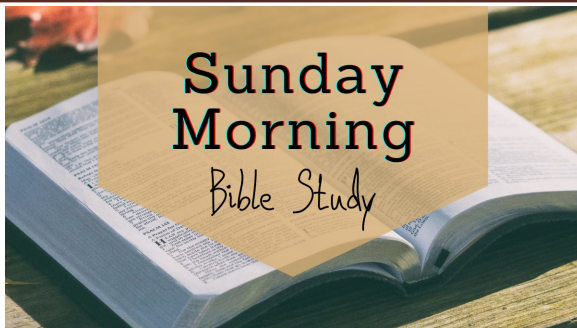
Relationship with God



Gregg County Courthouse Lawn
12:00 pm May 2nd



Prayer Group
Meets Sunday Mornings
9:30 am in the
Confirmation room



Sunday Morning Bible Study
9:30 am in the conference room.



Men's Breakfast

April 13 @ 8:00 am

FLC Fellowship hall



Men's Fellowship

April 15 @ 6:00 pm

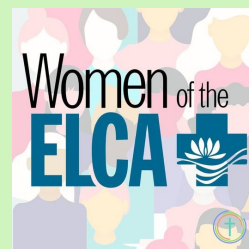
FLC Fellowship Hall

Women's Bible Studies

Friendship Circle

Tuesdays, April 2nd & 16th
At 9:30 am in the conference room

Dorcas Circle Monday, April 8th
@ 6:00 pm in the conference room



Relationship with One Another



**The FLC Book Club
will meet**

April 16th 6:00 pm
in the FLC Café

**Call Mary Stuart for any questions
(903) 738-3613**

April book is
Remarkably Bright Creatures
by Shelby Van Pelt



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.

Melba loved to encourage young people to pursue further education after high school, so her memory will be honored in this scholarship through the generosity of friends and family who contributed to the memorial fund. Applications are available through the church office. These must be returned by May 12 with a transcript, teacher recommendation, statement of needs and future aspirations.



CAMPERSHIPS MAKING CAMP HAPPEN

CAMP COST UPDATE

We are excited that we have a total of **21** going to camp! This includes campers and adults. The cost for camp and transportation is about \$1,000 per person (Yes, that is a lot more than when I went to camp too!)

We are wanting to let everyone know that the need for camperships is great. We are grateful for a church family who gives so generously. Those who want to help, please use the blue envelopes in the hymnal racks in each pew.



Single Ladies Luncheon

**April 2 @
1:00 pm**

**Meeting at
Cheddar's
3074 North Eastman Road**

Relationship with Community

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



Tutoring and Mentoring

**Change a Life
Volunteer at
The Success Center**



Tuesdays and Thursdays
3:30 pm — 5:30 pm
Adult Tutors & Volunteers are needed!
There are students on the waiting list.



Traumatic Brain Injury Group
March 12th @ 6:00 pm
In the Activity room
For more information call
Mary Stuart 903-738-3613



Concert Saturday April 6th
2:00 pm
FLC Sanctuary

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 Slegier (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

February 2024 Financial Report

2024 Operating Account							
	For Month of February Operating Acct)				For Year to Date (Operating Acct)		
	February	Budget	Over/Under		Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under
Contributions	28,261	36,000	(7,739)		62,207	72,000	(9,793)
Expenses	39,707	36,000	3,707		68,613	72,000	(3,387)
Difference	(11,445)				(6,406)		

February 2024 Building Fund (Major Maint)		
	February	Year to Date
Contributions	5,420	15,121
Expenses	15,600	15,600
Difference	(10,179.70)	(478.51)

(French drain for parking lot area)

Contributions for the Operating Account are currently under budget, but so are expenses for Year to Date.

Building Fund: Monies received are now going into the Savings - Major Maintenance account.
As of February, there is \$76,288 in the account to be used for needed maintenance.

Regions Building Account, MIF, & Eastman Credit Union are now officially closed.
distributed.

Other notable Benevolence contributions for February are:

Lent	\$	1,000.10
Campership	\$	560.00

Our Lent offerings will be used for this year's camperships. We have a number of children going this summer who financially might not get to go without your help. A week at camp gives our kids memories they will have forever. Memories to nurture belief & knowledge of Christ among other Christian youth while having a great time.

Sincerely,

Teresa DeShazer, Bookkeeper

Church Staff	
Jeffrey Borgwardt	Pastor
Donna Ashby	Dir. Of Music
John Parsons	Dir. Of Youth & Family
Tina Sewell	Secretary
Teresa DeShazer	Bookkeeper

2024 Church Council	
Mike Gentsch	President
Kyle Lybarger	Vice Pres
Rachel Grundmann	Secretary
Ranette Carter	Treasurer
Lakeita Walker	Relationship/God
Gayle Poland	Relationship/Community
Peri Topel	Relationship/One Another

Sunday Morning Volunteer Schedule		
	Lector 8:15	Lector 10:45
04/07/24	Bill Anderson	Jim Meyer
04/14/24	Hilda Vale	Teresa DeShazer
04/21/24	Ed Bero	Pat Cowan
04/28/24	Rick Poland	Diane Honey

	Set up:	Altar Guild	Clean Up:
04/07/24	Gloria Bero		Lucy Maxwell
04/14/24	Carol & Ray Bird		Teresa DeShazer & Randi Rae
04/21/24	Carolyn Ramirez		Eva Touchstone
04/28/24	Ed Bero		Leslie Jenkins

	Offering Counters	
04/07/24	Lakeita Walker	Gayle Poland
04/14/24	Teresa DeShazer	Peri Topel
04/21/24	Mike Gentsch	Kyle Lybarger
04/28/24	Ranette Carter	Teresa DeShazer

Like us on Social Media



903-295-7423 | info@firstlutheran.us | www.firstlutheran.us
 3901 Bill Owens Pkwy, Longview, TX 75605

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:30 am Staff Meeting	2 9:30 am Friendship Circle 1:00 pm Single Ladies Luncheon 3:30 pm—5:30 pm Success Center 5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	3 10:00 am Quilters 5:00 pm—6:00 PM Dinner 5:45 pm Bell Choir 5:45 pm Mentoring Plus 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	4 3:30 pm—5:30 pm Success Center 5:30 pm Fitness Class	5	6 11:00—12:30 pm Blue & Gold Banquet 2:00 pm Men's Chorus Concert
7 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer group 10:00 am Choir 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church 6:00 pm Bible Study	8 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Dorcas Circle	9 11:15 am Stew Pot 3:30 pm—5:30 pm Success Center 5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey 6:00 pm Traumatic Brain Injury group	10 10:00 am Quilters 5:00 pm—6:00 PM Dinner 5:45 pm Bell Choir 5:45 pm Mentoring Plus 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	11 3:30 pm—5:30 pm Success Center 5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Council Meeting	12	13 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Classic Quilters
14 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer group 10:00 am Choir 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church 6:00 pm Bible Study	15 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3 B's for Men 6:00 pm Bunco	16 9:30 am Friendship Circle 3:30 pm—5:30 pm Success Center 5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	17 10:00 am Quilters 5:00 pm—6:00 PM Dinner 5:45 pm Bell Choir 5:45 pm Mentoring Plus 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	18 3:30 pm—5:30 pm Success Center 5:30 pm Fitness Class	19	20
					SYNOD ASSEMBLY	
21 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer group 10:00 am Choir 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church 6:00 pm Bible Study	22 9:30 am Staff Meeting 10:15 am Meals With Love	23 11:00 am Meals with Love 11:15 am Stew Pot 3:30 pm—5:30 pm Success Center 5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	24 10:00 am Quilters 5:00 pm—6:00 PM Dinner 5:45 pm Bell Choir 5:45 pm Mentoring Plus 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	25 3:30 pm—5:30 pm Success Center 5:30 pm Fitness Class	26	27
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