

Merry Christmas

First Lutheran

relationships that transform

December 2025 Newsletter

Christmas *Carol Sing & Meal*

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with our enchanting Carol Sing and Meal.

Menu:

Soups, Sandwiches and Desserts



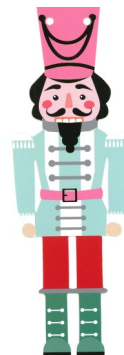
Sunday, December 14th
4:00 – 6:00 pm



First Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
3901 Bill Owens Pkwy
Longview, Texas

Please Join Us!

RSVP and Sign-Up to
bring food in the narthex



**The Annual Secret Prayer Partner
brunch**

is Saturday, December 6, 2025

9:45 am – 11:30 am

in the Church Fellowship Hall

What to bring:

A Christmas gift for your 2025 Prayer Partner.

A 2026 information sheet.

A dish to share.

See the stand in the narthex to RSVP and to
sign-up to bring food.

**Christmas Eve Worship with
Holy Communion and Candlelight
December 24th at 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm**

Sunday, December 28th there will be worship at 9:30 am only.

From the Mind of Pastor Jeff

...I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people. (Luke 2:10b)

We have reached the final month of the year, when it seems that the focus of everyone and everything is on Christmas. Homes, stores, and streets are decorated for the festive season. There are light shows in the community, along with parades and carol singing. It is a time of joy.



It is also important for us to remember the great joy that comes with the time of Christmas in our lives. In the Bible, the great joy came not from lights, carols, or a parade. The great joy comes from the announcement of the angels to the shepherds that a Saviour was born in Bethlehem. The great joy comes from the sight of this child and the fulfillment of a promise of salvation that God had made to his people long ago.

This great joy continues to be made known in our lives today. The joy of the presence of Jesus allows us to continue through the difficult times of life, when perhaps the things that are happening to us are not all that joyful. Yet the message that came to the shepherds and comes to us through our relationship with God in Jesus Christ is one of joy. Through that message we have hope and peace in our lives.

As we move through December, I encourage you to experience the great joy as you participate in the various additional activities that occur on the calendar, like the WELCA brunch on Dec. 6, the Christmas Carol Sing on Dec. 14, or of course, Christmas Eve Candlelight worship on Dec. 24 at 4:00 and 6:00 PM. As we gather together in this month, the great joy of Jesus will fill us and transform us to live as his people.

May God bless you in this time!

Pastor Jeff

P.S. Remember that there is only one service on Dec. 28, at 9:30 AM.

Relationship with God

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

**December 2
and
December 16
9:30 am**

× × × × ATTENTION MEN × × × ×

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

**December 13 @ 8:00 am
FLC Fellowship Hall**



**Adult Education on
Sunday Mornings at 9:30**

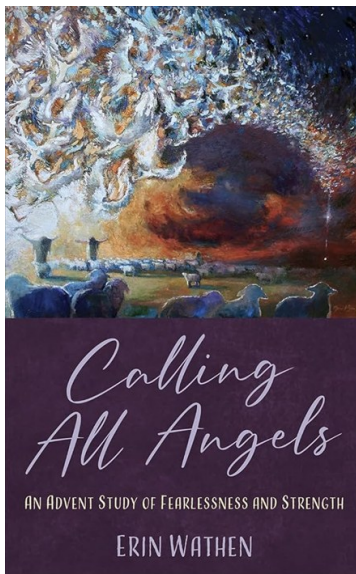


**Bibles, Buddies & Beverages
Men's Fellowship
December 15 @ 6:00 pm
FLC Fellowship Hall**

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Taught by Dr. Martin Batts
Studying the book of Revelation



ADVENT BOOK STUDY

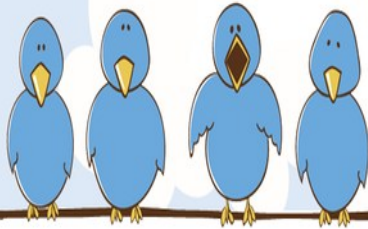
Led by Pastor Jeff Borgwardt
9:30 am Sunday Mornings
November 30th – December 21st

DORCAS CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

**December 8
6:00 pm**

Relationship with One Another

Meeting December 2 @ 1:00 pm
at Café Barron's
405 W. Loop 281, 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

**The next meeting is
Christmas Dinner together contact
Mary Stuart for more information.**



EXERCISE CLASS



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

BUNCO NIGHT



Monday, December 15
@ 6:00 pm
Church Café



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

The FLC Quilters need bed sheets they use to make the backs of the quilts. If you or anyone you know has, clean, not stained, full size or bigger sheets to donate please bring them to the church. Thanks!

Relationship with Community



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

On November 8th Pastor Jeff and Bill Anderson traveled to Messiah Lutheran Church in Plano, Texas, to deliver our quilts and school supplies kits—items that will soon find their way into the hands of individuals and families in need across the globe.

Thanks to the dedication, compassion, and countless hours of work from our volunteers, we were able to deliver:

- **80 beautifully crafted quilts**, each stitched with care and intended to bring comfort, warmth, and dignity to someone facing hardship.
- **512 school kits**, filled with notebooks, pencils, crayons, and other educational essentials—tools that open doors for children eager to learn, grow, and build brighter futures.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this possible—those who sewed quilts, packed school kits, donated supplies, or offered encouragement along the way. Your efforts reflect the very best of who we are.

Angel Tree Gift Giving – Bless a Family This Christmas!

The Christmas season is a time to share God's love, and once again we are excited to sponsor our **Annual Angel Tree Gift Giving**. Beginning November 30th the Angel Tree will be displayed in the church narthex with tags representing local children and families who could use a little extra joy this season.

We invite you to take a tag, purchase the requested gift, and return it wrapped with the tag from the tree attached by December 14th. Our team will ensure the gifts are delivered to the families in time for Christmas.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact **Renee Siegeir 903-736-8546**.

Brain Injury Support Group
of North East Texas

PILOT INTERNATIONAL

• Education
• Awareness
• Support
• Friendship

**TRAUMATIC
BRAIN
INJURY
GROUP**

Tuesday, December 9
6:00 pm in
the Activity room

For more information contact
Mary Stuart
903-738-3613

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



Stepping into God's will and purpose for your life

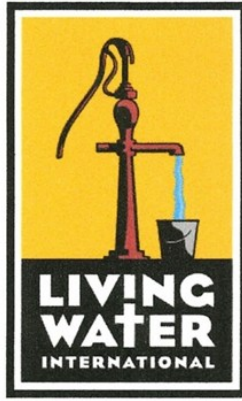
TUESDAYS
6:30 PM

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



Water Well Update 2025

It has been a while since I've done an update on the Living Water International Water Well Project, and we have a number of new people who may not be aware of First Lutheran's commitment to bringing clean and safe drinking water to the people in Sierra Leone in West Africa. This is not a random choice. Our Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod has been paired with Sierra Leone for many years, and First Lutheran has connections with people there.

We started building water wells in 2015. From then until 2023, we had built six. Water well projects cost \$5000. Then in 2024, the Holy Spirit moved people to contribute four more well projects, making a total of 10. So – 4 wells in 2024. **“4 in ‘24”** has a nice ring to it. We have already completed two well projects this year. Imagine my surprise when I learned that \$8,562 had been sent to Living Water International recently. That will build Well #13 and more than half of Well #14. Over last weekend we received another \$5,250. So that completes Well #14. Now there is a mere \$1,188 more to complete #15. We are well on our way to our **“5 Wells in 2025”**! This is astounding!

As I ponder our church's 90th birthday this month and think about the people long ago who stepped out in faith to form First Lutheran Church, I can only imagine that they would be very proud of the generosity of our people who are determined to feed those who are hungry, to bring clean water to those who have only filthy water, to warm those who need quilts, to provide tutoring for children who can use a little help, to show care and support for parents who are looking for a new way to lead their families, and to send all of our kids to camp every summer because it matters. And these are only a few of First Lutheran's gifts. There is a place for everyone to serve. I love this church family!

If you have any questions about the Water Well Project, visit the table in the narthex or talk to me. WARNING: I will talk your ears off about anything concerning this project!

Belinda Walenta



The Success Center: Family Improvement is a parenting course, meeting each week, **Tuesdays from 6:30 – 7:30pm** (dinner and childcare provided). This is not just your average parenting course. This is about parent first, kids second. While participating in Family Improvement, parents are challenged and equipped to thrive in their role as a parent. Each week, parents learn to care for themselves, while also learning real world skills to help with daily parenting duties. The goal is to bring about positive transformation in the entire family.

There are a couple of opportunities for those who would like to help:

1. Would you be willing to help with dinner?

There is a need of volunteers to provide a meal (no cooking required!) Maybe once or on a regular schedule. Those who are willing to help in this way, please contact the church office or Donna Louvier who is coordinating the meals (903-399-8553) or Donnalouvier@gmail.com.

2. Would you be willing to pray for the families we are serving?

We believe prayer changes things! Would you commit to praying for the Family Improvement participants, as well as our volunteer leaders? It is only through God's direction that we can successfully help change the trajectory of the lives of these families. We really appreciate it!

3. Volunteer to come to the class to support those who are attending.

Are you a good listener? Do you have life experience where you have learned some valuable lessons? YOU are just the kind of people who volunteer for support & discussion in classes.

The Success Center: Tutoring and Mentoring is for all K-5th grade students and meets **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 - 5:30pm**. The program provides no-cost, one-on-one tutoring and mentoring. During each session, students rotate between meeting one-on-one with their tutor and engaging with their peers in a large group S.T.E.A.M. activity.

The Success Center: Mentoring + is for all K-6th grade students and meets **Wednesdays from 5:30 – 6:45pm** (Dinner provided). While participating in Mentoring +, students will be challenged, built up and equipped to be the best version of themselves. Each week, students will learn real world skills to help them in their daily lives. The goal is to bring about positive transformation in students and prepare them to achieve long-term success in school and life.

FINANCIAL REPORT



Financial Report - October 2025

2025 Operating Account						
October Operating Account				Year to Date Operating Account		
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)	Year to Date	Budget	Over/(Under)
Contributions	\$ 74,267	\$ 37,396	\$ 36,871	\$ 439,246	\$ 373,960	\$ 65,286
Expenses	\$ 45,415	\$ 37,396	\$ 8,019	\$ 425,735	\$ 373,960	\$ 51,775
Difference	\$ 28,852			\$ 13,511		

Because He first loved us, we are transformed. Because He searched for us, we follow Him to find the lame and the lost. Because He has given us everything, we give.

Come all ye faithful! Celebrate the birth of the King of kings.

Ranette Carter
Treasurer

Church Staff		2025 Church Council	
Jeffrey Borgwardt	Pastor	Kyle Lybarger	President
Donna Ashby	Dir. Of Music	Beverly Bell	Vice Pres
John Parsons	Dir. Of Youth & Family	Rachel Grundmann	Secretary
Tina Sewell	Administrative Asst.	Ranette Carter	Treasurer
Karen Smith	Bookkeeper	Jenn Belcourt	Relationship/God
Alex Enich	Maintenance	Johnny Davis	Relationship/Community
		Peri Topel	Relationship/One Another

SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE		
	LECTOR 8:15	LECTOR 10:45
12/7/2025	BEV BELL	DONNA ASHBY
12/14/2025	RANETTE CARTER	BILL ANDERSON
12/21/2025	DANNY CHANDLER	VIVIAN MCELLIGOTT
12/24/2025	4:00 PM-JOHN PARSONS	6:00 PM-DIANE BORGWARDT
12/28/2025	9:30 AM SERVICE ONLY	RACHEL GRUNDMANN
	SET UP:	ALTAR GUILD CLEAN UP:
12/7/2025	CAROLYN RAMIREZ	LUCY MAXWELL
12/14/2025	CAROL & RAY BIRD	TERESA DESHAZER & RANDI MCRAE
12/21/2025	GLORIA BERO	EVA TOUCHSTONE
12/24/2025	GLORIA BERO	LESLIE JENKINS
12/28/2025	GLORIA BERO	LESLIE JENKINS
	OFFERING COUNTERS	
12/7/2025	PERI TOPEL	DIANN GREIFENKAMP
12/14/2025	BILL ANDERSON	JOHNNY DAVIS
12/21/2025	DEB BUTTS	MARY STUART
12/24/2025	4:00 PM-	6:00 PM-
12/28/2025	RACHEL GRUNDMANN	TERESA DESHAZER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:30 am Staff Meeting	2 9:30 am Friendship Circle 1:00 pm Birds of a Feather Luncheon @ Café Barron's 3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 4:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey 6:30 pm Family Improvement	3 10:00 am Quilters 5:00-6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Mentoring Plus 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	4 3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class	5	6 9:45—11:30 am Secret Prayer Partner Brunch 10:00 am Classic Quilters Christmas Party
7 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Choir Warm-up 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church 6:00 pm Community Bible Study	8 9:30 am Staff Meeting 4:30 pm Serve Dinner at House of Hope 6:00 pm Dorcas Circle	9 11:15 am Serve lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot 3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 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	10 10:00 am Quilters 5:00-6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Mentoring Plus 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	11 3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class	12	13 7:00 pm Serve Breakfast at Newgate Mission 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
14 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Choir Warm-up 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church 4:00—6:00 pm Christmas Carol Sing & Meal 6:00 pm Community Bible	15 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3 B's for Men 6:00 pm Bunco	16 9:30 am Friendship Circle 11:15 am Serve Lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot 3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 4:30 pm-5:30 pm Fitness Class 6:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey 6:30 pm Family Improvement	17 10:00 am Quilters 5:00-6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Mentoring Plus 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	18 3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class	19	20 6:00—9:00 pm Staff & Council Christmas Party
21 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Choir Warm-up 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church	22 9:30 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Meals with Love	23 11:00 am Meals with Love 11:15 am Serve Lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot 4:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey 6:30 pm Family Improvement	24  4:00 pm & 6:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion and Candlelight	25 	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship	29 9:30 am Staff Meeting	30 4:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey 6:30 pm Family Improvement	31 			

Sunday, December 28th there will be worship at 9:30 am only.