

First Lutheran

relationships that transform

September 2025 Newsletter



September 1st
Church office
closed



Pray for
students as they
return to school



Students Return
September 9th
3:30—5:30

From the Mind of Pastor Jeff

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also
(Matthew 6:21).*

Fall is in the air! Well, maybe it will be in a few more weeks. But, even so, it is September. And that means that fall is in full swing in our church and our community. In the church that means a return to Wednesday night programming for children, confirmation, and high school students. It means that any ministry that took a break for the summer is back in action. And it means that it is time to traditionally think about stewardship.



Stewardship, managing that which God has entrusted to us, is an important part of being a disciple of Jesus and a part of his church. Often in the church, stewardship is about a fund drive to try to meet the budget for the year. If that is how we think about it, we do ourselves (and God?) a disservice. Even as the finance committee begins to think about the 2026 budget, it is important to note that good stewardship is not the same as good fundraising.

Over the years, First Lutheran has demonstrated good stewardship in many aspects of our ministry. We have used our time, energy, efforts, and dollars to partner in ministry with local, national and international organizations to touch the lives of people with the love of Jesus. We have financially supported the work of this congregation in the most traditional ways of worship, learning, and service. We have also supported this congregational work with time and effort, as volunteers, so that people can experience the presence of God in their midst.

Recently, ways that this faithful stewardship has been demonstrated is through the completion of over 500 school kits for Lutheran World Relief, regularly providing food for the hungry, supporting about 2 dozen kids by sending them to camp this past summer, being available to tutor kids this school year through the ministry of The Success Center, and funding the soon to be completed playground project. This faithfulness demonstrates that our hearts that have been changed and transformed by the love of Jesus.

Stewardship is also about a legacy. As we have been faithful during our lives, it is important for us to also think about what legacy we leave for those who will come after us when we have gone to be with Jesus. Legacy giving is about more than simply an estate plan, but it is about how we can continue to be good stewards of the financial gifts that God had entrusted to us, for the work of ministry in this world.

Kirk Barrett from the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest will be with us on September 14, between services, at 9:30 AM, to provide information and give a short seminar on legacy giving. I encourage you to come and hear about this ministry of our church and how you may leave a legacy of faith through your financial gifts to ministries which are important to you.

Indeed, fall and thoughts of stewardship are in the air. May we be faithful in the way that we manage that which has been entrusted to us by God, so that we may leave a legacy of faith and faithfulness for those who come after us.

Blessings,
Pastor Jeff



Legacy giving for Family, Ministry Seminar to be presented Sunday, September 14th @ 9:30 am

Everything that we have is a gift that God places in our care during our lifetimes. We each have the privilege, responsibility, and joy of being a steward, of caring for loved ones, for God's creation, and creating gifts for Christian ministry.

As you plan your own legacy that will reflect your faith and values, the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest is here to assist you. We are here to help you care for your family and benefit Lutheran ministries, as well as your other favorite community and other non-profit organizations.

Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest provides comprehensive gift planning and management, personalized to your goals and your unique family and financial situation. The gifts the foundation receives, and stewards are on behalf of other ministries.

First Lutheran Church will host a Legacy Giving for Family and Ministry Seminar on **Sunday, September 14th at 9:30 am**. Kirk Barrett, our synod gift planner with the foundation, will be with us to talk about options and possibilities for the future for our congregation.

During the seminar, we'll discuss:

How to care for and provide for family and other loved ones and provide legacy gifts for ministry and other non-profit organizations.

Review options for legacy gift sharing that will bless future generations forever.

That the foundation's services to the members of our congregation are provided at no cost and no obligation.

Relationship with
God

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

**FRIENDSHIP
CIRCLE**

**September 2nd
and
September 16th
9:30 am**

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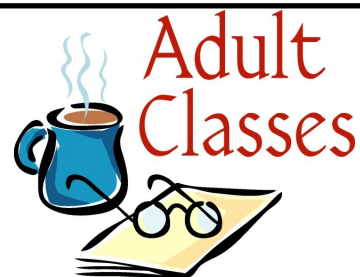
**SATURDAY
MORNING
BREAKFAST**

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

**DORCAS
CIRCLE
BIBLE STUDY**
**September 8th
6:00 pm**


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

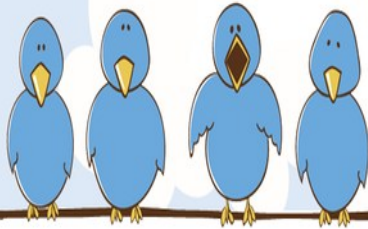
PRAYER
CHANGES
EVERYTHING
Don't be ANXIOUS,
Pray instead.
If God is for us, who
can be against us?
**HIS GRACE IS
SUFFICIENT.** -PHILIPPIANS



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

Relationship with One Another

Meeting September 2 @ 1:00 pm
at Jack Ryans
119 N Longview Street in Kilgore, Tx



*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
September 16**



BUNCO NIGHT



Monday, September 15
@ 6:00 pm
in the Café



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

EXERCISE CLASS



Tuesdays & Thursdays
4:30—5:30 pm
In the fellowship hall

Thank You

Wow! My heart is full. No, my heart is overflowing.
What a wonderful birthday surprise on Sunday! Thank
you so much to Sharon, Deb, Kathleen, and Renee for
planning such an amazing party. It was humbling, over-
whelming, and oh so much fun! Thank you to everyone
at First Lutheran for being there and celebrating with
me! 38 is by far one the best birthdays and it's because I
got to celebrate with people I love!

Much Thanks!

John Parsons

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

Brain Injury Support Group
Of North East Texas

PILOT INTERNATIONAL

- Education
- Awareness
- Support
- Friendship

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY GROUP

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

For more information contact
Mary Stuart
903-738-3613



The 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's is Saturday October 4 at Teague Park with registration starting at 8:30 AM. First Lutheran once again will have a team. New drugs to treat and eliminate plaques have been developed in the last year, giving the first real treatments so far. We do not yet have a cure but that goal is in sight! Now more than ever donations from the Walk to End Alzheimer's are needed to help 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 this disease 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. **Donations can be made** online at the First Lutheran Church team page (go to 2025 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 on line will receive a walk tee shirt in the mail. Last year our team ranked #6 in amount raised for the Longview walk; let's make the top 5 this year. Together we can beat this disease!



**Tutor & Staff
Development Day
September 4, 2025
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Let's get ready for a
great year!**

If you think you might be interested in helping with the Success Center, you are invited to this meeting. There are places to help other than teaching.

**Tutoring for Students begins
September 9th 3:30—5:30
To volunteer contact John Parsons
or the church office.**

NTNL SWO Convention



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



October 10-11 2025
Calvary Lutheran
Church
7620 Baker Blvd
Richland Hills, TX 76118

Join our keynote speaker,
Patti Reed, as she shares
about "Smart Conversations
Across Generations."

Friday
Registration 12:00
Business Meeting 1:00
Dinner 6:00
Worship 7:00
Entertainment 8:00

Saturday
Registration 7:30
8:30-4:00
Keynote Speaker—Patti Reed

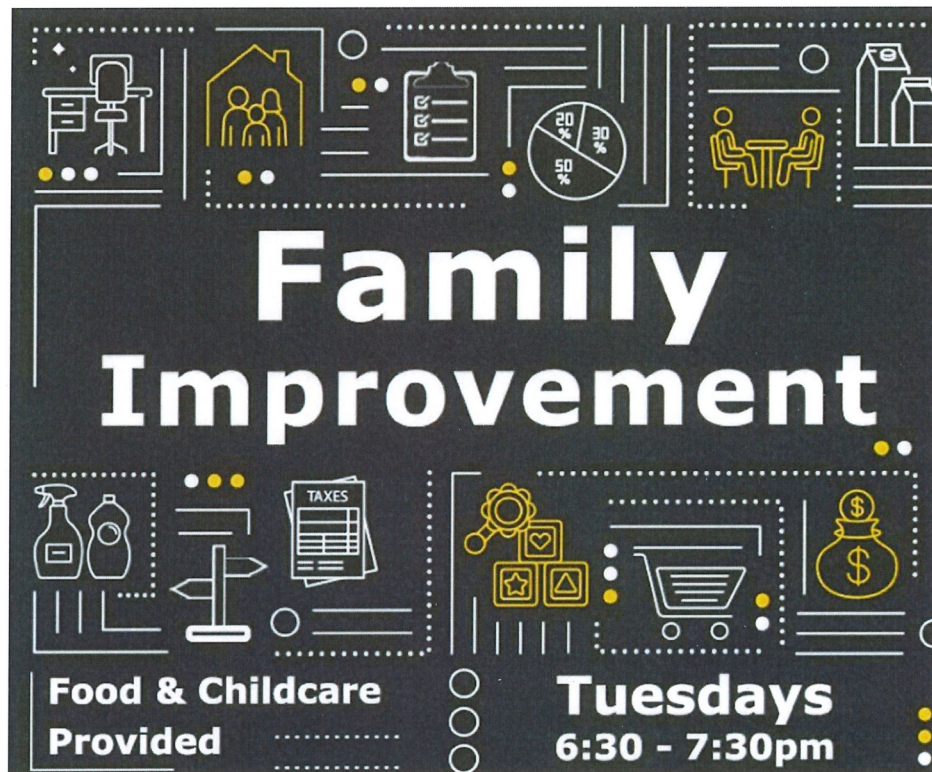
Scholarships are available. Registrations forms and Scholarship forms are on the table in the narthex.

Vivian McElligott and Renee Slegeir can answer any questions.

GOD IS STILL WRITING
YOUR STORY. QUIT TRYING
TO STEAL THE PEN.

toBYNAC #SPEAKLIFE





WHAT IS THIS “FAMILY IMPROVEMENT CLASS” ANYWAY??

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services came by the office one day asking for churches to help in providing education opportunities for families. And we said “YES”. Now we are having classes to help families be more successful. For example, a couple of weeks ago Family Budgets were the topic of the class. There was a great response that evening. There are more families registering every week. There are positive changes happening and we are so excited that God has called **us** to help families in this way! Classes are on Tuesdays 6:30 pm—7:30 pm.

One of the things that makes the Family Improvement class work so well for families is that we serve them dinner and we provide childcare during class. We have a couple of opportunities for those who would like to help:

1. Would you be willing to help in the kitchen?

We are currently serving supper to 13 adults and 8 children. (These numbers change as registrations come in.) We are in need of volunteers to provide. 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 [bloodhoundlovers@aol.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!



Rays of Sunshine! By Karen Berry

We're grateful to Layne Miller a.k.a Hambone for sharing his story. Inspired by his older brother Dylan, he's developed a deep love for football and recently earned the "JUICE" award at White Oaks camp, recognizing his energy and leadership. Layne keeps pushing through challenges like training in the summer heat with determination and faith. He values team chemistry, looks up to Ray Lewis for his toughness and leadership, and is especially thankful for his biggest supporter, his mom. Through every win and loss, Layne's strong faith remains his foundation. We look forward to supporting him in his first year of middle school football.

Layne Miller—White Oak Roughnecks—7th grade football team

1. Who got you interested in football.

My brother Dylan. I grew up watching him play and fell in love with the sport.

2. To date what is your greatest achievement memory.

Getting the "JUICE" award at White Oaks football camp this summer. It stands for "If you're juicy, you're useful. My attitude and effort will infect those around me".

3. What college team do you follow. Why?

The Texas Longhorns because I'm from Texas and they joined the SEC last year. In my opinion they are a really great team.

4. Most difficult part of your commitment to training for summer camps.

Staying active in the heat. Most camps I attended were outside in the hottest part of the day, but I made sure to stay hydrated.

5. Importance of team building during summer camps and preparing with school team.

Team building is important because you play better. My teammates will be energized and hyped up for next practice or game.

6. Overcoming challenges.

Just remember that I love the game and bite the bullet to overcome whatever is hard.

7. Favorite player.

Ray Lewis- considered the hardest hitting linebacker, and led his team the Baltimore Ravens to a championship.

8. Best supporter.

My mom- because she takes me to all the camps and practices and loves watching me play.

9. How God impacts your life.

He gives me encouragement that anything is possible and by winning or losing God will always be by your side.

Note from Karen: Hope you have a great season Layne! Kyle and I plan to be at a game!

Grandparents, please let me know of kids deserving of shout outs for their accomplishments and I will be glad to follow up so I can include them in my newsletter article. There are so many deserving young people out there!

Remember, you can email me at raysofsunshine3901@gmail.com or call my cell 318-974-0881. I would love to hear from you!

Karen Berry

(Edited for space and content)

FINANCIAL REPORT



Financial Report - July 2025

2025 Operating Account						
July Operating Account				Year to Date Operating Account		
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)	Year to Date	Budget	Over/(Under)
Contributions	\$ 27,242	\$ 37,396	\$ (10,154)	\$ 262,531	\$ 261,772	\$ 759
Expenses	\$ 38,358	\$ 37,400	\$ 958	\$ 264,533	\$ 261,770	\$ 2,763
Difference	\$ (11,116)			\$ (2,002)		

We are looking forward to all the activity autumn brings. Wednesday night suppers & Mentoring Plus, tutoring, Trunk-or-Treat to name a few. Thank you to all who support the ministry First Lutheran provides to our community.

Blessed are you Lord God, Giver of all good things!

Ranette Carter
Treasurer



GET YOUR TRUNK IDEAS NOW!

TRUNK OR TREAT IS COMING

OCTOBER 25th

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
09/07/2025	BEV BELL	Ranette Carter
09/14/2025	DONNA ASHBY	RACHEL GRUNDMANN
09/21/2025	DANNY CHANDLER	PAT COWAN
09/28/2025	ED BERO	DIANN GREIFENKAMP
	SET UP: ALTAR GUILD	CLEAN UP:
09/07/2025	CAROLYN RAMIREZ	LUCY MAXWELL
09/14/2025	CAROL & RAY BIRD	TERESA DESHAZER & RANDI MCRAE
09/21/2025	GLORIA BERO	EVA TOUCHSTONE
09/28/2025	ED BERO	LESLIE JENKINS
	OFFERING COUNTERS	
09/07/2025	Ranette Carter	ARLENE HICKS
09/14/2025	PERI TOPEL	RACHEL GRUNDMANN
09/21/2025	BILL ANDERSON	KYLE LYBARGER
09/28/2025	PERI TOPEL	DIANN GREIFENKAMP

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day Holiday Church office closed	2 9:30 am Friendship Circle 1:00 pm Birds of a Feather Luncheon @ Jack Ryans 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 5:00-7:00 pm Private Event in Fellowship hall
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	8 9:30 am Staff Meeting 4:30 pm Serve dinner @ House of Hope 5:00-7:00 pm Private Event in Fellowship hall 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 10:00 am Classic Quilters
14 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Legacy giving presentation w/ Kirk Barrett 10:30 am Choir Warm-up 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church	15 9:30 am Staff Meeting 4:30 pm Serve Dinner at House of Hope 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 6:30 pm Council Meeting	19 9:00 am—3:00 pm Set up for Private Event	20 8:00 am—5:00 pm Private Event
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 5:00 pm ADK Retired Teachers	23 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	24 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	25 Newsletter deadline 3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 4:30-5:30 pm Fitness Class	26 	27
28 8:15 am Worship & Children's Church 9:30 am Adult Education 10:30 am Choir Warm-up 10:45 am Worship & Children's Church	29 9:30 am Staff Meeting	30 3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 4:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey 6:30 pm Family Improvement	<div>september</div>			