

First Lutheran
relationships that transform



May 2021 Newsletter

From the Mind of Pastor Jeff

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. (Jeremiah 29:7)

In April, the church council and the church staff each spent some time reflecting on a few verses from Jeremiah 29. The verse highlighted above, and a few just before it, discuss the response that God's people were to have to living in exile.

The word on the street for God's people was that this time of exile was going to be short and things would soon be "back to normal." However, the prophet had another word for the people. He reminded the people that the time in exile was not going to be short. In fact, they needed to settle into life in this new place. He says that they should build houses and have families, and pray for the people with whom they are living. In other words, the people of God were being told to live their lives, even in the midst of being in this place where they were in exile.



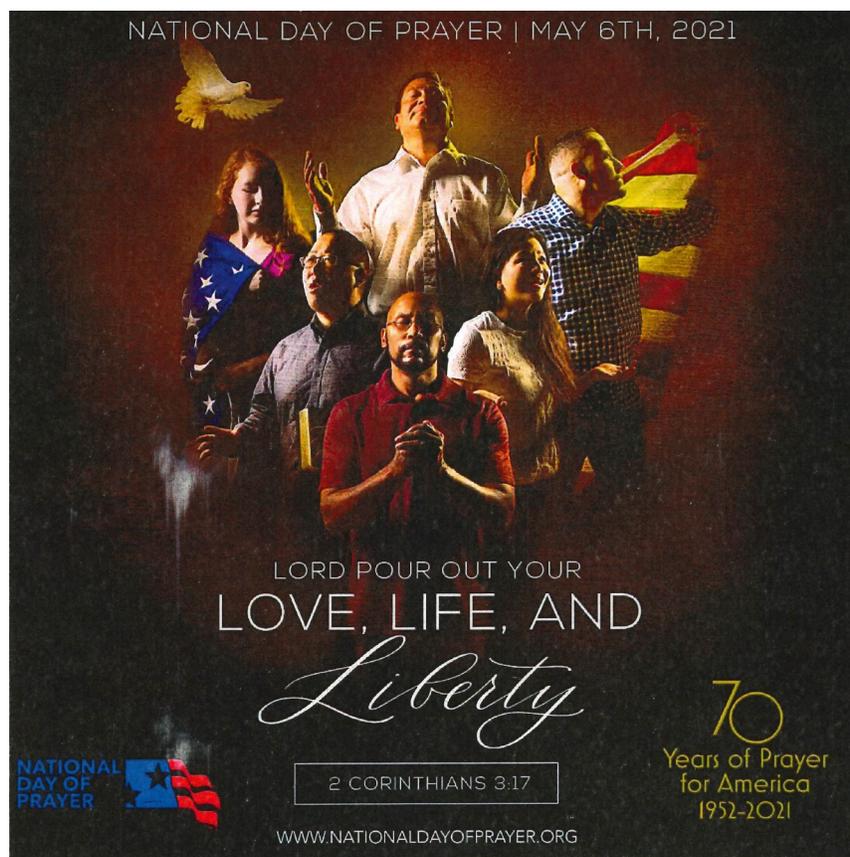
What does this message mean for us in the time in which we are presently living? Many conversations these days are about returning to "normal" in this pandemic time. But it seems to me that "normal" is more about adapting to the environment in which we are living at the present time. Perhaps the message to us is not unlike the message from the prophet Jeremiah to those in exile. We need to live our lives in the present as the people that God has called us to be.

As people of God, we are called to live, love, and serve in Jesus' name. We are called to worship, study, and extend care to one another. We are called to parent children, visit the sick, and live the life that God has placed before us. The pandemic has not changed our call, even if it changed the way that we carry out that call. As a result, we have adapted our ministry and lives over the past year to continue to do the things that God has called us and gifted us to do.

What does this message mean for you? How are you living the life that God has given you? How have you adapted to the life that we now live in this pandemic time? What does "normal" mean to you in these days?

I want to encourage you to reflect on these questions. Likewise, I want to encourage you to live your life, as well as pray for our congregation, our community, and for each other. Seek the Lord and his guidance in all that you do. And always remember that God has called you and gifted you for your work, in Jesus' name.

In Christ,
Pastor Jeff



Mobberly Baptist Church – 625 E. Loop 281, Longview

The event begins at 12 noon in the parking lot of the “Elevation” building. Chairs will be placed for social distancing.

Those who wish to remain in their car can listen on a FM radio station.

The event will be livestreamed to Facebook & YouTube.

Sponsored by the
Longview Area Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
and the Longview Clergy Coalition

Save the Date

May 3: Begin Day Camp registration

May 3: Friendship Circle 9 am @ FLC

May 6: National Day of Prayer

May 10: Dorcas Circle 7 pm @ FLC

May 15: Men’s Breakfast

May 16: Dorinda Bodenheimer Harper
Memorial Service

May 17: 3 B’s for Men 6 pm @ FLC

May 17: Bunco 6:30 pm @ FLC

May 18: Friendship Circle 9 am @ FLC

May 18: Book Club 6:30 pm @ Books & Barrels

May 19: End of School year party 6 pm @ FLC

May 20: Last day of Success Center spring tutoring

Coming Soon!

**DAYCAMP IS COMING AND
WE ARE DANCING FOR JOY!**

July 12—16, 2021

Registration begins May 3rd at
www.firstlutheran.us

Students having completed
K—5th grade are welcome!



Why is Pastor Jeff wearing an apron??

Because Men's Breakfast is back!

(and I couldn't find a picture of Wayne!)

Join with the men of FLC on Saturday May 15th at 8:00 am for breakfast, conversation and bible study! If you have never attended Men's breakfast NOW is a good time to start!



School Year End Party

May 19th 6:00 pm

FLC Fellowship hall

Like us on Social Media



**WELCOME NEW
MEMBER
HILDA VALE!**

To become a member
of First Lutheran
Church, talk to
Pastor Jeff!

**HOW DO PEOPLE
START ATTENDING
CHURCH?**

A Friend Invited Me - 86%

Organized Visitation - 6%

Invited by the Pastor - 6%

Advertising - 2%

churchgrowth.org

Church Staff

Jeffrey Borgwardt	Pastor	Karen Smith	Bookkeeper
Lou Bass	Director of Music	Gayle Poland	Success Center Coord
John Parsons	Dir. Youth & Family	Mary Stuart	Success Center Coord
Tina Sewell	Secretary	Taylor Jirik	Success Center

March , 2021 Financial Report Summary

2021 Operating Fund Contributions			2021 Operating Fund Contributions vs Expenses		
	March	YTD		March	YTD
Contributions	30,346	69,907	Contributions	30,346	69,907
Budget	30,860	92,602	Expenses	29,262	87,291
Over +/-Under -	(514)	(22,695)	Over +/-Under -	1,084	(17,384)

Even though we are still behind in revenue vs expenses for the year (-\$17.4k), donations have increased monthly, especially for March.

2021 Actual Operating Expenses vs Budget		
	March	YTD
Expenses	29,262	87,291
Budget	30,853	92,602
Over +/-Under -	(1,591)	(5,311)

Operating expenses were under budget by \$5.3k as of 3/31/21. However, several quarterly benevolence payments have not yet been paid.

2021 Building Fund		
	March	YTD
Contributions	9,177	21,566
Budget	9,428	28,283
Over +/-Under -	(251)	(6,717)

Building Loan Balance as of 03/31/21

\$ 682,809.39

(Monthly payment is \$9,428.00)

Int. Rate: 3.875%

Contributions increased in March for the Building Fund, also; we were only short our monthly payment by \$251.

Other Contributions Received in March:

Lent/Easter \$ 930 Memorials \$1950. Flowers (Easter Lillies) \$587
 Youth MEF Grant \$9,600

Did You Know?

A number of years ago, FLC signed up with Vanco Services to be able to make regular contributions available through automatic bank drafts. The advantages of using Vanco bank drafts are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) Tithing is automatic - always timely | 2) No checks to write or online credit card entry |
| 3) Can designate how to apply donation | 4) Can designate date(s) of withdrawals |
| 5) Easy to start/change/stop (just call the church office) | |
| 6) Vanco is a trusted service for churches. | |

If you would like more information, please contact Teresa at 903/736-0807.

We thank each of you for your support of Christ's ministry through First Lutheran Church. We are all each an integral part of this church family, serving God and community through our time, talents, & blessings.

Teresa DeShazer,
 Treasurer

Volunteer Schedule

MAY 2021

	Lector 8:15	Lector 10:45	Servers 8:15	Servers 10:45
02	Carolyn Ramirez	Belinda Walenta	Carolyn Ramirez & Jeanette Nolen	Belinda Walenta & Leslie Jenkins
09	Dee Stirling	Teresa DeShazer	Dee Stirling & Mary Stuart	Teresa DeShazer & Deb Butts
16	Ed Bero	Diane Honey	Ed Bero & Robert Bero	Diane Honey & Terry McElligott
23	Rick Poland	Bill Anderson	Rick Poland & Volunteer	Bill Anderson & Mike Gentsch
30	Virgil Brown	Renee Slegeir	Virgil Brown & Betty Brown	Renee Slegeir & Gary Nelson, Sr.
Altar Guild				
02	Set Up: Carolyn Ramirez		Clean Up: Lucy Maxwell	
09	Set Up: Virgil & Betty Brown		Clean Up: Teresa DeShazer	
16	Set Up: Gloria & Robert Bero		Clean Up: Leslie Jenkins	
23	Set Up: Ed & Doris Bero		Clean Up: Eva Touchstone	
30	Set Up: Robert & Gloria Bero		Clean Up: Leslie Jenkins	

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