



First Lutheran
relationships that transform



September 2021 Newsletter

From the Mind of Pastor Jeff

"Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:68-69)

Our congregation is defined by relationships. For several years, we have indicated that our lives are formed by Christ, to live in a relationship with God, one another, and the community. More recently, we have described these relationships as relationships that are transformative for us and those around us. So, these relationships are at the core of who we are as God's people.



In worship during the month of August, we focused on our relationship with God, as we studied John 6. In that chapter, Jesus describes who he is and how he is the source of life for all the world. Jesus is the connection to God, which brings the gifts of the kingdom of God to the earth. And that it is only through him that the world can receive this gift. That is the ultimate transformative relationship that we have as followers of Jesus. That is what is at the core of our congregational life together. Our relationship with God is foundational to who we are.

At the end of August, we concluded our summer with God's Work Our Hands weekend. This was an opportunity for us to live out our relationship with the community. We served others in a variety of ways, such as picking up litter, making cards, donating blood, or assembling school kits. These, along with the many other ways that our congregation serves the community on a regular basis, are ways that the transformation that we have received through a relationship with Jesus is transforming the city of Longview and beyond. Our relationship with the community is an essential part of who God calls us to be in the world.

As we move into the fall this year, I would like us to reflect on the other relationship that we are called to live as a congregation. That is, the relationship that we have with one another. How are you building relationships with others in our congregation?

Admittedly, this has been a challenge nearly the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, that reality is still among us. Yet, I believe that we still have opportunities to connect with one another and build relationships with Christian brothers and sisters. This is an essential part of who we are as the church, because of our relationship with God in Jesus Christ.

This fall, several of our usual activities in the community and in our congregation are planned to occur in a more "normal" fashion, compared to last year. I encourage your participation, not only to serve others or grow in your own faith, but in order to also connect with others. If you are not able to participate in person, know that many of our activities (particularly on Sunday morning) continue to have an on-line option. And I encourage you, if you are on-line, to engage in relationship building with others who are also on-line (i.e., share comments, greetings, etc. during worship).

Remember that in all that we do as God's people, it is relationships that define who we are. It starts with our relationship God, and flows into the relationship we have with one another and with our community. It is these relationships that transform our lives, and the lives of others around us, in Jesus' name.

May God bless you,

Pastor Jeff

WELCA Bible Studies

Dorcas Circle
Monday, Sept 13th
@ 7:00 pm
FLC Chapel

Friendship circle
Tuesdays, September 7th & 21st
9:00 am
FLC fellowship hall

Book Club Meets September 21 6:30 pm

For more information contact
Mary Stuart 903-738-3613



FLC MEN

3 B's for Men
Monday, Sept 20th 6:00 pm
FLC Fellowship Hall

Monthly Breakfast
Saturday, September 18th
8:00 am
FLC Fellowship Hall



BUNCO

SEPTEMBER 20 6:00 PM
AT FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH



The family of **Roger and Nancy Lineberry** invite everyone to a reception in their honor on Sunday, September 5th 9:30 am—10 :30 am in the narthex. They are celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary on August 30th, Nancy's birthday on September 11th and Roger's birthday on September 30th.



Friendship Culture

A community bible study for women.
A 12-week study beginning Thursday,
September 2nd 6:30 – 8:00 pm

At First Lutheran Church

Open to everyone.

For additional information contact
Cintia Listenbee (281)415-2784

July, 2021 Financial Report

2021 Operating Fund Contributions			2021 Operating Fund Contributions vs Expenses		
	July	YTD		July	YTD
Contributions	29,983	188,782	Contributions	29,983	188,782
Budget	30,853	215,971	Expenses	28,043	211,823
Over +/-Under -	(870)	(27,189)	Over +/-Under -	1,940	(23,041)
2021 Actual Operating Expenses vs Budget					
	July	YTD			
Expenses	28,043	211,823			
Budget	30,838	215,977			
Over +/-Under -	(2,795)	(4,154)			

2021 Building Fund			Building Loan Balance as of 07/31/21	
	July	YTD		
Contributions	9,532	72,249	\$ 651,811.00	
Budget	9,428	65,994		
Over +/-Under -	104	6,255		
			(Monthly payment is \$9,428.00)	

Other Notable Contributions Received in July:

School Kits - \$210.00
VBS/Day Camp - \$775 (Total VBS Received - \$1,675.00)

We thank each of you for your support of Christ's ministry through First Lutheran Church. With your stewardship of money, time, & talents, First Lutheran is the hands through which God continually works.

Teresa DeShazer,
Treasurer



My First Lutheran Family -

Thank you for the love and support you have given me all these many years. I joined First Lutheran when it was on Garfield street and have counted my blessings for it. Thanks for helping me share 95 years of living. May the Lord bless each of you !

Dee Stirling

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for First Lutheran's booth at Touch A Truck.



SEE & TOUCH...

Police Cars • Fire Trucks • Ambulances • 18 Wheelers
Monster Trucks • Earth Movers • School Buses
Helicopters • Military Vehicles • Motorcycles
and much more!

Saturday, October 2 • 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
at the Longview Mall

FREE ADMISSION | Donations of Peanut Butter
or Cash Gratefully Accepted

All Proceeds Benefitting Longview Community Ministries Service Center
www.LongviewCommunityMinistries.org

**LONGVIEW
Community Ministries**
Serving With Love

Mercy Manor

Cordially invites you to attend

Story of a Lifetime

Annual

Fundraising Banquet

Sunday

September 26th

Two Thousand Twenty-One

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Infinity Event Center

300 Tuttle Circle

Longview, TX 75605

RSVP Mandatory

By September 21st

TO YOUR TABLE HOST

OR CALL

903-932-9079

Save the Date

09/02: Friendship Culture Bible Study 6:30 pm
09/06: Church office closed in observance of Labor Day.
09/07: Friendship Circle 9:00 am
09/09: Friendship Culture Bible Study 6:30 pm
09/13: Dorcas Circle 6:00 pm @ FLC
09/16: Friendship Culture Bible Study 6:30 pm
09/18: Men's Breakfast 8:00 am
09/20: 3B's for Men 6:00 pm
09/20: Bunco 6:00 pm
09/21: Friendship Circle 9:00 am
09/21: Book Club
09/23: Friendship Culture Bible Study 6:30 pm
09/30: Friendship Culture Bible Study 6:30 pm

Church Staff

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

Like us on Social Media



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	Lector 8:15	Lector 10:45	Servers 8:15	Servers 10:45
05	Ed Bero	Susan Kay Smith	Communion servers each Sunday will be the assigned lector and another volunteer Thank you!	
12	Roger Lineberry	Vivian McElligott		
19	Rick Poland	Belinda Walenta		
26	Carolyn Ramirez	Kim Cook		
	Set up:		Altar Guild	Clean Up:
05	Carolyn Ramirez		Lucy Maxwell	
12	Betty & Virgil Brown		Teresa DeShazer	
19	Gloria & Robert Bero		Leslie Jenkins	
26	Doris & Ed Bero		Eva Touchstone	