

# First Lutheran

relationships that transform

## February 2026 Newsletter



**FEBRUARY 18—March 25**

**The Wednesday schedule for Lent:**

- 12:00 pm** Worship
- 5:00—6:00 pm** Dinner
- 5:30 pm** Bell Choir
- 6:15 pm** Worship
- 7:00 pm** Youth Activity Hour
- 7:00 pm** Choir



**February 18, 2026**  
**Worship at**  
**12:00 pm & 6:15 pm**



5 Volunteers are needed each week to provide Wednesday Family Suppers during Lent

Meal begins at 5:00 pm  
Worship at 6:15 pm

Each volunteer should bring enough soup or sandwiches to feed 10 people. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

**Thank you!!**



Lent Book Study Class with Pastor Jeff

40-Day Journey with Martin Luther Devotional

9:30 am Sundays during Lent

Sign-up sheet in the narthex

Books \$15 each

Class begins February 22, 2026



# From the Mind of Pastor Jeff

*Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.*

(Hosea 14:1)

The season of Lent is upon us once again. Ash Wednesday begins the season on February 18. The season of Lent is 40 days long (excluding Sundays) and reminds us of the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13). Lent is also a time for us to reflect on our separation from God, to turn away from our negative actions, and be renewed in our relationship with God.



Lent is a time when Christians are invited to work on their spiritual practices, to connect, reconnect, or maintain their connection with God. That is why some people “give something up” for Lent. They give things up in order to focus not on their own wants or desires, but to make their focus on what God wants for them through a relationship with him. That is why we offer additional opportunities for devotion and study of God’s Word (sign up for your *40 Days with Luther* devotional book in the narthex. The discussion group begins February 22). That is why we offer additional worship opportunities mid-week during this season (Wednesdays, at 12:00 PM and 6:15 PM, February 18-March 25). I hope that you will take advantages of these opportunities to focus on your relationship with God during the season of Lent.

In addition to the beginning of Lent, February is also time for our congregational meeting to review our ministry during 2025. The report booklet will include financial reports for 2025 as well as written reports from various ministry areas and programs that we offer and agencies with which we partner. The report booklets will be available early in the month. I hope you will join us for the congregational meeting on February 22 at 9:30 AM.

As we share ministry together, may we reflect, repent, reconnect, and worship our God during this season of Lent.

In Christ,  
Pastor Jeff

Relationship with  
God

*Tuesday Morning Bible Study*

**FRIENDSHIP  
CIRCLE**

1st and 3rd Monday of each month.

**February 3 and  
February 17  
9:30 am**

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**SATURDAY  
MORNING  
BREAKFAST**

**February 14 @ 8:00 am  
FLC Fellowship Hall**



**Adult Classes offered on  
Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am**

**Introduction to Bible Study Methods**

Led by Vivian McElligott.

**Study of the book of Genesis**

Led by Kevin Bond

**40 Days with Martin Luther**

Through the season of Lent

(Beginning on February 22nd)

Led by Pastor Jeff



Bibles, Buddies & Beverages

Men's Fellowship

February 16th @ 6:00 pm

FLC Fellowship Hall

**DORCAS  
CIRCLE  
BIBLE STUDY**

**February 9th  
6:00 pm**

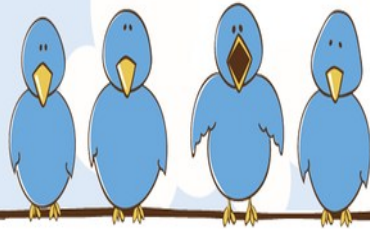
**SUNDAY NIGHT  
BIBLE STUDY**

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Taught by Dr. Martin Batts

## Relationship with One Another

**Meeting February 3 @ 1:00 pm**  
**at Ruby's**  
402 S. Hight St., Longview



*Birds of a Feather  
Flock Together*

Ladies Group

## BUNCO NIGHT



**Monday, February 16**  
**@ 6:00 pm**  
**Church Café**

Come and join the  
First Lutheran

## BOOK CLUB

- Meetings monthly on 3rd Tuesday in the Cafe' @ 6:00 pm
- Discover New books
- Make friends

**On February 17th**  
**discussing the book**  
**Bossypants by Tina Fey**



**COME JOIN THE FLC QUILTING GROUP!**

**WEDNESDAYS @ 10:00 AM**

**FELLOWSHIP HALL**

## EXERCISE CLASS



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



The Classic Quilters Group  
meets on Saturday, February  
14, 2026 in the activity room.  
See Susan Kay Smith for  
information.

## 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



## Relationship with Community



We are thrilled to announce that First Lutheran now has our very own YouTube channel! This exciting new venture will allow us to live broadcast our services and events, enhancing our connection with the community.

Beginning the month of February FLC worship will no longer be broadcast on Facebook. So, look us up on YouTube and subscribe to the channel. Just type "First Lutheran Longview Tx" in the search bar. Then click "subscribe"!

If you have any questions, please talk to Eric Chandler. He can usually be found in the sound booth, or call the church office.

**TRAUMATIC  
BRAIN  
INJURY  
GROUP**

- Education
- Awareness
- Support
- Friendship

**Tuesday, January 13  
6:00 pm**

For more information contact  
Mary Stuart  
903-738-3613

### 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

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 11:00 am

4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 10:00 am

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 11:00 am

Contact Bill or Renee Slegeir  
(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



## A Thank You Note:

Dear Renee, John, Tina, and the First Lutheran Church Family,

On behalf of all of us at DFPS, I want to extend our deepest gratitude to you and the amazing donors from the First Lutheran Church Family for your unwavering support of the children and families we serve. We deeply appreciate your commitment and partnership with DFPS, especially your generosity in hosting the annual Angel Tree. Your financial contributions and the countless hours spent shopping for gifts—both online and in-store—do not go unnoticed.

Thanks to your dedicated efforts, 15 children received presents this Christmas that many families would not have been able to provide due to financial hardships. You brought holiday joy and hope to families who may have struggled to purchase gifts for their children. Your kindness has made a profound impact during this special time of year. We are especially grateful for the gift cards you provided for the children to give to their caregivers; this was truly a blessing for the families.

Your generosity serves as a beautiful testament to the positive impact you are making in our community. Thank you once again for helping to bring smiles, hope, and celebration to those who needed it most.

With sincere appreciation,

**Tonya Fuller**

*Faith Based and Community Engagement Specialist*

*Faith-Based and Community Engagement*



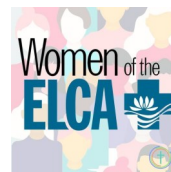
**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

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Safe children and adults.  
Strong families and communities.  
Stronger Texas.



**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**9:30 am**  
**In the sanctuary**  
**All members are encouraged**  
**to attend this brief meeting.**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup> following the 2<sup>nd</sup> service there will be a business meeting and luncheon for the ladies of WELCA. All ladies are invited to attend. Please RSVP on the sheet in the narthex.



### **FAMILY IMPROVEMENT MEAL**

One of the things that makes the Family Improvement class work so well for families is that we serve them a meal (cooking is not required). We need volunteers to help provide a meal. 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](mailto:donnalouvier@gmail.com)



**Scouting America**

**Sunday February 8th is Scout Sunday**  
**9:30 am Pancake Breakfast will be served by the scouts. Donations will be accepted.**

# FINANCIAL REPORT



## Financial Report - December 2025

2025 Operating Account - Year End						
December Operating Account				Year to Date Operating Account		
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)	Year to Date	Budget	Over/(Under)
Contributions	\$ 109,418	\$ 37,396	\$ 72,022	\$ 652,125	\$ 448,751	\$ 203,374
Expenses	\$ 41,476	\$ 37,396	\$ 4,080	\$ 512,406	\$ 448,750	\$ 63,656
Difference	\$ 67,942			\$ 139,719		

It is February 2026. A month in which we celebrate Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. On the surface putting the two together seems counterintuitive. That is until we reflect on how much Love God lavishes on us. This February let us continue to ponder the marvelous, extravagant, abundant love of God.

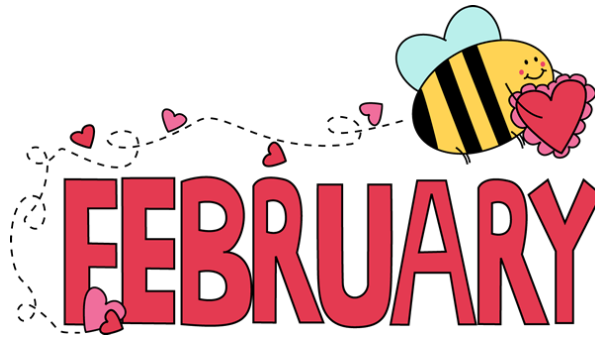
Ranette Carter  
Treasurer





Church Staff		2026 Church Council	
Jeffrey Borgwardt	Pastor	Beverly Bell	President
Donna Ashby	Dir. Of Music	Randy Cathey	Vice Pres
John Parsons	Family & Outreach	Arlene Hicks	Secretary
Tina Sewell	Office Administrator	Ranette Carter	Treasurer
Karen Smith	Bookkeeper	Jenn Belcourt	Relationship/God
Alex Enich	Maintenance	Johnny Davis	Relationship/Community
		Mary Stuart	Relationship/One Another

SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE		
	LECTOR 8:15	LECTOR 10:45
02/01/2026	JOHN PARSONS	DONNA ASHBY
02/08/2026	RICK POLAND	MIKE GENTSCH
02/15/2026	DANNY CHANDLER	ROGER LINEBERRY
02/22/2026	RANETTE CARTER	BILL ANDERSON
	SET UP:	ALTAR GUILD      CLEAN UP:
02/01/2026	CAROLYN RAMIREZ	LUCY MAXWELL
02/08/2026	CAROL & RAY BIRD	TERESA DESHAZER & RANDI MCRAE
02/15/2026	GLORIA BERO	EVA TOUCHSTONE
02/22/2026	ED BERO	LESLIE JENKINS
	OFFERING COUNTERS	
02/01/2026	RACHEL GRUNDMANN	RANDY CATHEY
02/08/2026	RANETTE CARTER	ARLENE HICKS
02/15/2026	MARY STUART	DEB BUTTS
02/22/2026	JENN BELCOURT	DEB PASCHAL



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>8:15 am</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>9:30 am</b> Adult Education <b>10:30 am</b> Choir Warm-up <b>10:45 am</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>6:00 pm</b> Bible Study	<b>2</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>3</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Friendship Circle <b>1:00 pm</b> Birds of a Feather <b>3:30-5:30 pm</b> Success Center <b>4:30 pm-5:30 pm</b> Fitness Class <b>6:30 pm</b> Family Improvement <b>6:30 pm</b> Spiritual Journey	<b>4</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Quilters <b>5:00-6:00 pm</b> Dinner <b>5:45 pm</b> Bell Choir <b>6:00 pm</b> Youth Class Hour <b>7:00 pm</b> Youth Activity Hour <b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>5</b> <b>3:30-5:30 pm</b> Success Center <b>4:30-5:30 pm</b> Fitness Class	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Scout Sunday</b> <b>8:15 am</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>9:30 am</b> Scout Pancake Breakfast <b>9:30 am</b> Adult Education <b>10:30 am</b> Choir Warm-up <b>10:45 am</b> Worship & Children's Church	<b>9</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Staff Meeting <b>4:30 pm</b> Serve Dinner at House of Hope <b>6:00 pm</b> Dorcas Circle	<b>10</b> <b>11:15 am</b> Serve lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot <b>3:30-5:30 pm</b> Success Center <b>4:30 pm-5:30 pm</b> Fitness Class <b>6:00 pm</b> Traumatic Brain Injury Group <b>6:30 pm</b> Spiritual Journey <b>6:30 pm</b> Family Improvement	<b>11</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Quilters <b>5:00-6:00 pm</b> Dinner <b>5:45 pm</b> Bell Choir <b>6:00 pm</b> Youth Class Hour <b>7:00 pm</b> Youth Activity Hour <b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>12</b> <b>3:30-5:30 pm</b> Success Center <b>4:30-5:30 pm</b> Fitness Class	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Serve Breakfast at Newgate Mission <b>8:00 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>10:00 am</b> Classic Quilters
<b>15</b> <b>8:15 am</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>9:30 am</b> Adult Education <b>10:30 am</b> Choir Warm-up <b>10:45 am</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>6:00 pm</b> Bible Study	<b>16</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:00 pm</b> 3 B's for Men <b>6:00 pm</b> Bunco	<b>17</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Friendship Circle <b>11:15 am</b> Serve Lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot <b>3:30-5:30 pm</b> Success Center <b>4:30 pm-5:30 pm</b> Fitness Class <b>6:00 pm</b> Book Club <b>6:30 pm</b> Spiritual Journey <b>6:30 pm</b> Family Improvement	<b>18 ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Quilters <b>12:00 pm</b> Worship <b>5:00-6:00 pm</b> Dinner <b>5:45 pm</b> Bell Choir <b>6:15 pm</b> Worship <b>7:00 pm</b> Youth Activity Hour <b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>19</b> <b>3:30-5:30 pm</b> Success Center <b>4:30-5:30 pm</b> Fitness Class <b>6:30 pm</b> Council Meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>8:15 am</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>9:30 am</b> Congregational meeting followed by Adult Education <b>10:30 am</b> Choir Warm-up <b>10:45 am</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>12:00 pm</b> WELCA Meeting & Lunch <b>6:00 pm</b> Bible Study	<b>23</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Staff Meeting <b>10:00 am</b> Meals with Love <b>5:00 pm</b> Private Event	<b>24</b> <b>11:00 am</b> Meals with Love <b>11:15 am</b> Serve Lunch at Newgate Mission Stew Pot <b>4:30 pm</b> Fitness Class <b>6:30 pm</b> Spiritual Journey <b>6:30 pm</b> Family Improvement	<b>25</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Quilters <b>12:00 pm</b> Worship <b>5:00-6:00 pm</b> Dinner <b>5:45 pm</b> Bell Choir <b>6:15 pm</b> Worship <b>7:00 pm</b> Youth Activity Hour <b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>26</b> <b>3:30-5:30 pm</b> Success Center <b>4:30-5:30 pm</b> Fitness Class	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>