



CALL TO WORSHIP

JULY 2026

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SONSHINE ARK PRESCHOOL & DAYCARE

WE ARE A D.O.J.O.Y. CONGREGATION

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Prayer: The Work That Matters Most

“Now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray.” Luke 5:15-16

When people asked what I planned to do on sabbatical, I’d sometimes give a quick—probably too flippant—answer: “as little as possible.” But in truth, the heart of this time is prayer. Ellen and I have done a bit of traveling, and now we’re settling into a quiet place in Colorado, away from the usual pace of life, to rest and pray.



To someone who doesn’t believe, prayer might look like an unproductive use of time. But for a believer, it is essential. Its results aren’t always immediate or visible, yet over time it bears real fruit. Like anyone else, pastors can get caught up in the busyness of life and neglect intentional time with God. That’s what makes a season like this so sacred—a chance to step away and refocus.

Scripture shows us this pattern again and again. Moses withdrew to meet with God on mountains and in the tabernacle, especially in pivotal and difficult moments. Elijah retreated to the wilderness, where he encountered God not in dramatic displays, but in a gentle whisper. David, while fleeing from Saul, often found refuge in caves, pouring out his heart in prayer and shaping many of the psalms in those lonely places. Even Jonah, in the depths of isolation, cried out to God from within the fish.

Jesus himself modeled this rhythm. Before beginning his public ministry, he spent forty days in prayer in the wilderness. After teaching and healing crowds, he would slip away to quiet places to pray—sometimes rising early, sometimes praying through the night. He sought the Father before choosing the twelve disciples, after hearing of John the Baptist’s death, and even on the mountain at the transfiguration.

Without prayer, our lives can become little more than activity and ambition. Our thoughts and decisions risk drifting away from God’s will. But with prayer, life is grounded and made holy. We open ourselves to God’s presence and purposes, becoming participants in what he is doing in the world.

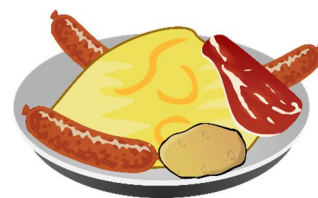
So I’m deeply grateful for this sacred time. May God use it fully to his glory!

Pastor John



SAUSAGE DINNER PRIZE DRAWING

Praise the Lord! Thanks be to God!!! We are extremely excited about our 38th annual Sausage Dinner Prize Drawing! The outpouring of generous donations received from both our congregation and community has been tremendous. God's blessings to all of our donors!



It is not too late! If you would like to donate or you know a business who would like to donate a prize, let one of our team members know. We ask you to let us know by June 30 in order for the prize/donor to be printed on the ticket.



Tickets will be available **for sale on July 19** at which time the prizes will be revealed. That is two months prior to sausage dinner on September 20.

Our team of Teresa Sisti, LaVeda Thompson, Lisa Baumann, Laura Lange, Kim Pruski, Loretta Carter & Laurie Curtis thank you again for your support! God bless you all!

FLOWERS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

There are still slots available to provide flowers for Sunday services in July and August. Be sure to sign up to remember/honor someone special. The sign-up list is just beside the office door.

LAWN CREW SCHEDULE JULY 2026

JULY	5	12	19	26
Lawn Crew	T-4 Brad Pfeil, Leon Johnson, Justin Pfeil, Bodean Pfeil, Ben Munoz, Brian Trees, Roy Thayer	T-1 John Moring, Doug Bielefeld, Ray McHorse, Bill Stolle	T-2 Charles Ogburn, Clay Archer, Charles Koenig, Charlie Glowka	T-3 Danny Curtis, Frankie Dippel, Kari & Ryan Schroeder, Harold Heimer, Curtis Holcombe



FLCW QUARTERLY MEETING

All women of First Lutheran Church are invited to attend the FLCW quarterly meeting on **Sunday, July 26**. It will be held at 1:00 pm in the annex. Hope to see you there!



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Our next congregational meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, July 12** at 9:30am. Come and be a part!



NALC DISASTER RESPONSE COLLECTION



Thanks be to God and blessings be on our congregation for the collections so far. We have 6 buckets with lids and most of the items to fill them. Remember that we are collecting buckets and items to fill the buckets through July so please don't stop donating yet.

These supplies include: 1 jug bleach (1/2 gal. or equivalent) or 1 tube of bleach tablets, 2 large trash bags (Contractor 3 mil), 1 roll paper towels, 2 rags, Comet or scouring cleanser, PineSol or liquid cleaner, handheld Scrub brush, gloves (1 pair each) of size L or XL preferred [rubber (reuseable, i.e. Playtex, dishwashing type), leather, and cotton.] Once those are filled, we will be asking for more buckets with lids and more supplies to fill those buckets. **We are also still collecting Bibles, Bible stories, Bible Studies, etc.** Thank you for your support.



Note: They no longer accept store gift cards directly. They do accept online donations at: <https://thenalc.org/en-us/our-work/equipping-disciples/disaster-response/>.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE



It's been a while since we began using the Instant Church Directory online/phone app. Our families have undergone a lot of changes. Let's get it updated so we all can have a current directory (with photos).



Using the Church Communication Card, please provide any updates (cell phone numbers, email addresses, mailing/physical address) if anything has changed. An updated photo can also be taken (don't be shy!) between the services, or one can be emailed to office@dojoy.org at your convenience. Please see Dan for any assistance with the phone app or online access.

FLORESVILLE FOOD PANTRY



Help us feed Wilson County! The Floresville Food Pantry is currently in need of canned tomato sauce, canned meat, peanut butter, canned vegetables, pork and beans or canned beans. Donations can be placed in the shopping cart in the Annex or dropped off at the Floresville Food Pantry on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8-10 AM at 1201 A Street (behind the old gym).

Every can, every jar, and every donation helps put food on the table for someone in our community. Thank you for your generosity! Please contact

Vickey Zeithammel at 830-391-0750 if you have questions or need additional information.

Website: www.floresvillefoodpantry.org

RUTH CIRCLE UPDATE

The Ruth Circle Bible Study had their Outing on Thursday, June 4, 2026. Evelyn Frank, Liz Scheitle, Ginny Glowka, Janis Schroeder, Anna Willis, Carolyn Orth, Awilda Borchers, Mary Ticken, and Ann Martick gathered to enjoy a new lunch spot. Wildflour Pantry is located at 313 S. Storts St (aka Hwy 181) in Poth. It is a bright yellow building. We opted to eat inside at one of two dining rooms. Additionally, the restaurant has outdoor seating.



The menu consists of a variety of “build your own” sandwiches with different bread options. She also made a family recipe for chicken salad which was quite good. Carolyn treated



everyone to their choice of dessert. The hardest part was picking a “made from scratch” freshly baked item. The owner bakes daily. On our visit, there were cookies, cupcakes, and coffee cake. Everyone enjoyed their choice and said that they would come again. The Ruth Circle will not meet in July or August.

DOJOY WEBSITE

Our website, www.dojoy.org, has been updated with corrected links to the latest monthly newsletter, FLC Weekly, Calendar, and Worship Leader Schedule. The Sermons page has been updated to direct you to the YouTube channel with the condensed version of the services. They include the Prayer of the Day, the scripture readings, the Children’s Message, the Gospel reading, and the Message.

FLCW QUILT RAFFLE FUNDRAISER – MAY 17 - JUNE 21

Congratulations to the 3 Winners: Michelle D. Kraus, Brandie Pantuso, and Jan Schellhase!



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR MEMBERS AND REGULAR WORSHIPERS

Pastor John and Ellen Conrad- Safe travels, peace, and restoration.
Ginny Glowka- Prayers for healing and recovery from a medical procedure.
Sherry Lerich- Prayers for healing after fall & surgery. Broken hip.
Sandra Jandt- Prayers for comfort and healing, cancer treatment.
Susan Thompson- Cancer treatment, comfort & healing, good test results.
Bonnie Caisse- Prayers for comfort & complete healing.
Vernon Blocker- Prayers for comfort & complete healing.
Natalie Adams- Prayers for continued healing and wholeness.
Voncille Bielefeld- Prayers for comfort & complete healing.



PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NURSING HOMES OR LIVING ALONE

Florence Baumann
Sylvia Gadd

Marcella Hartmann
Sherry Lerich

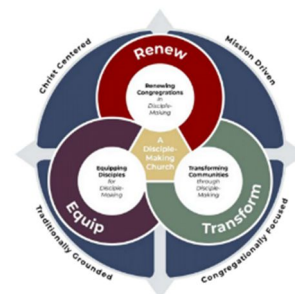
2026 NALC TX-OK FAMILY REUNION

The "early bird" registration period for the 2026 "Family Reunion" of the NALC Texas-Oklahoma Mission Region has passed, but registration continues! Registration is still available at a low price -- only \$45 -- which includes dinner on Friday, July 31, and lunch on Saturday, August 1. The regular registration period closes on June 30, so please register within this window to take advantage of the best available rate.





The Rev. Dr. Amy Little, General Secretary of the NALC, will speak to us about the NALC's Renew-Equip-Transform initiative and give us some tools to take back to our congregations. Additionally, the Rev. Carol Fryer, the NALC's Director of Mission, will lead a discussion with representatives from the three mission sending agencies of the four Global Workers recommended to our Region by the NALC. They are:



- Spiritual Orphans Network (SON) -- Denis & Ela Shallari (Albania)
- Awakening Lives to World Mission (ALWM) -- Rev. Dr. Thomas Thorstad (Laos & Thailand), Dr. Hang (Vietnam)
- World Mission Prayer League (WMPL) -- Jon & Vee Gowin (Gambia)

The "Family Reunion" will take place from 3PM on Friday, July 31, through 2PM on Saturday, August 1, at Welcome Lutheran Church in Brenham. **Please see the church office for the registration form.**

