



CALL TO WORSHIP

OCTOBER 2026

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SONSHINE ARK PRESCHOOL & DAYCARE

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

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What is Worship?

“The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.” John 4:23

Worship has taken many different forms throughout the history of God’s people. In fact, we can trace worship all the way back to the book of Genesis. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word most often translated as “worship” is *shachah*. It means “to bow down” or “to prostrate oneself in homage to God.” We see this kind of worship in the lives of Abraham, Moses and Aaron, Joshua, the Israelites, and Ezra.



What is interesting is that the earliest examples of worship do not look much like what we might think of as a worship service today. There was no elaborate order of service, no printed bulletin, and no particular style of music. At its heart, worship was about the posture and response of people who recognized that they were in the presence of God. Worship began with the heart - a response of reverence, humility, thanksgiving, and trust.

Over time, the people of God developed different ways of expressing that worship. Prayers and blessings were passed down orally and eventually written down. The Psalms became a collection of songs and prayers through which God’s people expressed their joy, sorrow, thanksgiving, repentance, and hope. By the time of Jesus, gathering together on the Sabbath had become an important part of Jewish life. People gathered in the synagogue to hear the Scriptures, listen as they were explained, pray together, sing praises, and receive blessings. We see Jesus participating in this pattern of worship when he reads from the Scriptures in the synagogue (Luke 4:21).

The earliest Christians continued many of these practices. They gathered together, often in homes, to hear the Scriptures, pray, sing, and encourage one another. The Eucharist became an important part of their gathering as they remembered and celebrated what Christ had done for them. As the Church grew, prayers that were once offered spontaneously were written down, and gradually different patterns and liturgies developed.

And those patterns did not develop in exactly the same way everywhere. The Christian churches of the East developed traditions such as the Divine Liturgies associated with St. Basil in the fourth century and St. John Chrysostom in the fifth century. The churches of Rome developed its own rite. Later, the Protestant Reformation brought even more variety to Christian worship.

Missionaries created indigenous forms of worship. Over the centuries, Christians have worshiped God in cathedrals and chapels, homes and fields, with choirs and organs, with simple songs and with elaborate liturgies.

That history reminds us of something important: **worship has never been static or unchanging.** Throughout the centuries, certain essential elements have remained—reading Scripture, prayer, singing, the eucharist, confession, and forgiveness. Yet the people of God have continually found new and different ways to gather and respond to what God has done for them. Worship has adapted to different times, cultures, languages, and circumstances while continuing to center on the same God we worship.

And perhaps that is important for us to remember today. We can sometimes become so attached to a particular form of worship that we begin to confuse the form with worship itself. We may prefer a particular kind of music, a particular order of service, a particular style of preaching, or a particular way of celebrating Holy Communion. Those things can be meaningful and valuable. But they are not, in themselves, what makes worship worship.

At its heart, worship is about God and our response to God. The forms may change. The music may change. The language may change. The way we gather may change. But the One whom we worship does not change.

Jesus reminds us that the Father is seeking those who will worship him “in spirit and truth” (John 4:23–24). That has been the calling of God’s people from Genesis until today: to bow before God in humility, to hear his Word, to encounter him through the sacraments, to receive his grace, to give him thanks and praise, and to go forth renewed in faith and love.

Pastor John

DAILY WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

If you have not signed up for the Daily Words of Encouragement, you may do so by letting the office know. These links via text are scheduled daily at either 6 am or 12 noon Mondays through Saturdays.



LAWN CREW SCHEDULE OCTOBER 2026



4	11	18	25
T-1 John Moring, Doug Bielefeld, Ray McHorse, Bill Stolle	T-2 Clay Archer, Charles Ogburn, Charles Koenig, Charlie Glowka	T-3 Danny Curtis, Frankie Dippel, Kari and Ryan Schroeder, Harold Heimer, Curtis Holcombe	T-4 Brad Pfeil, Leon Johnson, Justin Pfeil, Bodean Pfeil, Ben Munoz, Brian Trees, Roy and Luke Thayer

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE



The Instant Church Directory App is still available for us. 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.



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.

RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle Bible Study will meet on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at 1:00pm in the church annex. We will begin studying from a new book, **One for All**. The Study Leader, Melinda Cokely, will be starting with Session 1, "Come and See". Evelyn Frank is the Hostess. Everyone is invited to come and study with us. Contact Anna Willis (210-722-3410) for questions.



GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS!



Immanuel Lutheran Church in La Vernia is inviting us to join them in celebrating their 125th Anniversary celebration! **Sunday, October 25, 2026.** Divine Service at 4:00 pm, Anniversary Banquet begins at 5:30 pm. There will be Dinner, Drinks, and Music. RSVP: Text/Call 210-260-2969 or email immanuellavernia@gmail.com.

QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendar for the 3rd Quarter Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 11, at 9:30am. Hope to see you there!

QUARTERLY WOMEN'S MEETING

Mark your calendar for the 3rd Quarter Women's Meeting on Sunday, October 25, at 1:00pm in the Annex. Open to ALL women!



STAFF APPRECIATION AND PASTOR APPRECIATION

At First Lutheran Church, we are designating the month of October as Staff Appreciation Month. Different ministries of our church will honor and celebrate our staff each week. Our staff includes Dan Martick, Becky Vinyard, Brenda Hubert, Manahara Virasinha, Cindy Duppsstadt and Pastor John Conrad. The schedule is as follows:

October 5-8: FLC Men in Mission
October 12-15: Sonshine Ark & Council
October 19-22: FLC Women
October 26-29: FLC Sunday School

On October 18, we will have a Pastor Appreciation Reception between the services. Our Mutual Ministry Team is in the planning stages of this event. Detailed information will be announced soon.



LET'S GO NUTS!



One of the biggest events in Floresville, our annual Floresville Peanut Festival, is quickly approaching. We, at FLC, are privileged to have Peanut Festival royalty. Our very own, **Nicole Pfeil**, is Queen Tuneap Elect LXXXII (82nd). She will be crowned Queen of the Court of Confectionary Creations at the coronation on Thursday night by the past queen, **Kambri Angle**. **Brylee Krause** will be honored as Nicole's special guest. They will all be riding in the parade on

Saturday, October 10. In addition, there will be numerous FLC youth in the parade as representatives of the band, cheerleaders, volleyball, dance teams, football, FFA, etc....

We are blessed with several opportunities to give back and bless our community during the parade:

1. **Hospitality Center:** First Lutheran Church will be hosting the hospitality center on Saturday, October 10. We are seeking a team of 3-4 people to help. We open the annex and welcome visitors to use our restrooms and provide coffee, water and light refreshments. Sign-up sheets for donations of refreshments, toilet paper, napkins, etc.... will be posted. Contact Laurie Curtis if you are interested in helping or have questions.
2. **Water Handout:** At the end of the parade route, our youth and congregation members will be handing out 1,200 bottles of cold water that includes a scripture to parade participants and spectators. They will be located at the Methodist Church on 4th Street from 8:30-9:00am for set-up with the parade starting at 10am. Monetary donations for the purchase of water and labels are greatly appreciated, simply **designated to PF water**. Contact Charles Ogburn or Danny Curtis with any questions.



Mark your calendars and join us in one of these opportunities to serve, either helping out at the hospitality center or parade water handout.

NEW ACOLYTES REPORTING FOR DUTY!

Acolytes Are Awesome! Two acolyte training sessions were held in September, and both were hugely successful! Many thanks to all the youth, two moms, and one Altar Guild member who trained to be our newest acolytes. Please welcome, support, and congratulate Samantha, Ethan, Beckett, Hatti, Aaron, Allison, Ali, Kari, and Luke!



We can't wait to see you robed up and lighting the candles. Special thanks to experienced acolytes, Bodean and Paisley Pfeil, who volunteered to assist with the training sessions. Your insights were outstanding and greatly appreciated!



OUR MONTHLY YOUTH GATHERING (MYG) RESUMES

MYG is open to all youth in grades 6–12 and is a relaxed evening of fellowship, food, and faith. Youth can hang out, play games, visit with friends, and enjoy time together. Each monthly gathering also includes a short devotional or Scripture reading and prayer. Dinner is provided, and friends are always welcome! We'd love to have your youth join us! For questions or more information, contact Brittani at 210-861-5373 or Jaxson at 830-391-4586.



ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP AND TIME/TALENT DRIVE

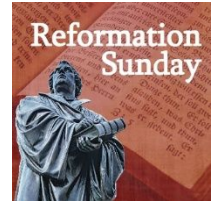


It's that time of year for renewing and updating our lists of talented people. Everyone has special talents. Please consider how you may add your talents to our congregational whole! Training is provided as needed.



REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Red is often understood as a color for martyrs of the Church. Sunday, October 25, is Reformation Sunday, the day we remember with gratitude the contribution of the reformers of the Church. Many died in the faith. Thus, in observance of Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25, congregational members are welcome to wear **red**!



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR MEMBERS AND REGULAR WORSHIPERS

Marcia Drane- Prayers for comfort and Peace.
Olivia Macek and Family- Prayers for complete healing and wholeness.
Charles Koenig- Prayers for comfort and healing after minor surgery.
Sherry Lerich- Prayers for healing after fall and surgery.
Sandra Jandt- Prayers for comfort and healing, cancer treatment.
Susan Thompson- Cancer treatment, Prayers for comfort and healing.
Bonnie Caisse- Prayers for comfort and complete healing from surgery.
Vernon Blocker- Prayers for comfort and complete healing.
Natalie Adams- Prayers for continued healing and wholeness.



PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NURSING HOMES OR LIVING ALONE

Florence Baumann
Marcella Hartmann

Sherry Lerich

SAUSAGE DINNER PRIZE DRAWING

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes, purchased tickets and sold tickets for our prize drawing. Several of our congregation members won prizes and one was blessed with winning numerous prizes. See the prize sheet posted on the bulletin board with winner's



names. Congratulations to our winners and those who sold the winning tickets.

We sold \$15,425 worth of tickets. Praise God for a successful prize drawing!

Sausage Dinner Prize Drawing Team

Laurie, Teresa, Laveda, Lisa, Kim, Loretta and Laura



COUNTRY STORE SALES

The Country Store reported a sales total of \$1,085! Thank you to everyone for your support.



SAUSAGE MEAL TICKETS SALES

We served around 800 sausage plates this year. Many thanks go out to all the people who stepped up to prep, cook, assemble, wrap, and deliver all those plates!!

