

CALL TO WORSHIP

January 2026

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CARE

SONSHINE ARK PRESCHOOL & DAY

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

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"We the believers of First Lutheran Church, with the help of the Holy Spirit, will love, serve, and grow in our personal relationships with Jesus Christ as we joyfully invite and welcome all to worship and become disciples of the Lord."

A Star, a School, and a Shared Mission

"A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2:32

The Christmas story reaches its fulfillment in the account of the three *wise men*, or *Magi*. With their arrival, the Church enters the season of Epiphany, beginning on January 6. The Magi were not Jewish, and their visit marks the first time the Christ child was revealed to those outside the Jewish faith. Epiphany continues through Ash Wednesday, ushering us into the season of Lent.

Because the Magi came from beyond Israel, Epiphany has long been a season in which the Church reflects on God's mission—making Christ known to the nations. For more than ten years, First Lutheran has lived out this calling by "adopting" a group of Christians in Kararo, Ethiopia. There, about one hundred believers serve as a bright witness in a community where most do not yet know Jesus Christ. Over the years, we have partnered with them in meaningful ways, including the construction of a water well and a house of worship.



A few years ago, our Missions Team was presented with an opportunity to expand their school by adding classrooms. The cost exceeded \$20,000, and no funds were available at the outset. Even so, the team

stepped forward in faith, trusting God to provide. Through partnerships with

Pastor John



Children at the Kararo school

other churches, more than \$24,000 was raised—almost exactly what was needed to complete the project. Pastor John was able to visit the new classrooms last February, and the school has since doubled in size.

Our goal has never been to support this community indefinitely, but to walk alongside them until they are fully self-sustaining and bearing fruit in Christ's kingdom. At this point, only one major project remains: the construction of adequate restrooms for the school, along with several additional capital improvements. The estimated cost is approximately \$17,300. As before, the funds are not yet in hand, but our Missions Team is moving forward in faith. Once this project is complete, we anticipate being able to direct our focus toward another significant outreach.

Please join us in praying that Christ may continue to be made known—just as He was revealed to the Magi so many years ago—and that God would bless this ministry and those it serves.

Sun., Jan. 11 — Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

The first Sunday after the Epiphany, January 11, is “Baptism of Our Lord Sunday”. Jesus becomes known as “my Son, the beloved” in his baptism. Throughout the whole season of Epiphany, we remember the importance of making Christ known.

This year’s Baptism of Our Lord Sunday will be special. First, as Jesus chose to be identified with us in baptism, all the worshipers will have an opportunity to publicly say “Yes!” to their baptism in Christ Jesus. There is nothing more important you will ever say than “Yes!” to Jesus.

Sundays, Jan. 18 through March 22 — “Genuine Christianity”

What does real Christianity look like when beliefs are challenged, love grows cold, and truth is blurred? The letters of **1, 2, and 3 John** were written to communities facing many of the same pressures we face today—confusion about Jesus, competing loyalties, false teachers, and strained relationships within the church. John writes not to offer abstract theology, but to call God’s people back to what is real, faithful, and life-giving.

From Jan. 18 through March 22, we will have a preaching series called “Genuine Christianity”. We will explore a faith rooted in the truth about Jesus, lived out by walking in the light, expressed through love, and guarded against deception. These letters press us to ask honest questions: *Do we believe the truth? Are we living it? Are we loving as God loves?* Week by week, John gives us clear tests of authentic faith and a compelling picture of the kind of church that is worth writing about.

Come and bring a friend!

Sun., Jan. 25, 9:30 AM — Annual Congregational Meeting



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2026

9:15 am

Between the two worship services.

Sunshine Ark Focus

Well, what a wonderful and busy year it has been here at Sunshine Ark! Here's a look back at all the amazing things our children experienced and learned. **January – Flying to the Moon.** We kicked off the year by flying to the moon! The children enjoyed learning about space, the space shuttle, and astronauts while also experiencing the chilly winter weather.

February – Rodeo & Love Month. February took us to the rodeo! The children learned about cowboys, cowgirls, rodeo animals, and their responsibilities. It was also a month filled with love: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." – John 3:16. The children enjoyed Valentine parties, exchanging cards and goodies. We also spent time learning about Black History Month, Presidents' Day, and Dental Health. A very exciting and meaningful month!

March – Dr. Seuss & St. Patrick's Day. March was full of fun! We celebrated Dr. Seuss with weekly activities, dressing up in Seuss outfits, wearing hats, and even making cupcakes. We shared green eggs and ham—some loved it, and others... not so much! The Curious Cubs put on an adorable parade. We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day with green drinks, green cookies, and green Jell-O. April brought many activities. Caterpillar 1, Caterpillar 2, and Butterfly classes enjoyed our annual zoo trip. We also took a special extra field trip to Morgan's Wonderland for our graduating children. A big thank-you to the wonderful grandparents whose generosity made this possible!

June – TRS Success & Circus Fun June was a proud month! After our TRS evaluation, we are excited to announce that we earned a TRS Three-Star Rating! We also had movie days, water days, and special outings for the Cheetah class this month. Our June theme was circus, and the children had a blast with moon bounces, cotton candy, face painting, and games. We also held Vacation Bible School, which the children absolutely loved. In July, we dove "under the sea" and learned about lifeguards, water safety, and respect for water. We enjoyed our Fourth of July holiday with family time, and we continued summer fun with water games and field trips.

August – Back to School August arrived, and we prepared for a great new school year. What a year it has been so far! We also had a meet and greet with teachers, parents and children. **October** was full of excitement! We enjoyed our annual Floresville Peanut Festival, a visit from the fire truck, and celebrated Columbus Day. We carved pumpkins, dressed up, had pajama day, movie day, and wore pink for Cancer Awareness. It was definitely a busy and joyful month! November we enjoyed our annual Thanksgiving Breakfast, which was a huge success. Parents and grandparents enjoyed delicious food and special time with their children.

December – Christmas Blessings. December was packed with Christmas cheer!

We held our Parent Appreciation Christmas Breakfast, enjoyed pajama day, celebrated the Polar Express, and had a fun-filled Grinch Day. We were also blessed with an additional three days off to enjoy Christmas with our families. Thank you to all the parents, volunteers, and families who make Sunshine Ark such a special place. We pray this new year brings blessings, joy, and happiness. Blessings, Melissa Recio





Sabbatical Update

Plans for the sabbatical are moving forward. The projected dates are May 19 through

August 18, with the possibility of a few additional vacation days afterward. Pastor John and Ellen expect to travel for a few weeks at the beginning, followed by two full months in the Rockies (Longmont, Colorado). At this point, everything appears to be well within budget. Pulpit supply has already been arranged for 12 of the 13 Sundays, and tentative plans are in place for pastoral care coverage.

Lent 2026

We received the results of the survey conducted in November, and they indicate that offering a midweek Lenten experience at multiple locations would be difficult to implement. In response, we have formed a team to explore creative and engaging options. The focus will likely be on the passion narrative from the Gospel of Matthew, with plans to include family-friendly activities and opportunities for a variety of people to share during worship. More details will be coming soon.

Childrens Christmas Program





First Lutheran Church Women

FLCW QUARTLEY MEETING

All women of the church are invited to attend the first FLCW quarterly meeting of the year on Sunday, January 25th. We will meet at 1:00 in the annex. Hope to see you there.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them"
Matthew 18:20

Ruth Circle Bible Study

Thursday, February 8th
1:00 pm

We are studying from the book "Portraits of Jesus," Session , "I am the Gate for the Sheep." Study Leader is LoReese King and Carolyn Orth is the Hostess. Everyone is invited to come and study with us. Contact Anna Willis (210-722-3410) for questions.

Join us in the annex.

Our **Souper Bowl of Caring** kicked off on January 4th and will go through February 8th, 2026. Join in the friendly competition between the **Angels (A-L)** and the **Saints (M-Z)** for who can collect the most non-perishable food items.

Tubs will be placed in the church annex and the Sonshine Ark. The winner will be the Floresville Food Pantry.



TACKLE

HUNGER

2026 Altar Guild Schedule

CHAIRPERSON
Virginia Glowka

Team 4– January 2026

Judy Rhew, Margie Boening, Glenda Taylor, Brenda Yosko, Linda Jauer

Eucharistic Ministers:
Davis & Annette Pfeil

NOTE: We have five Altar Guild teams. The calendar months rotate so that teams will have different months each year.

New members are always welcome. We'll train you.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR OUR MEMBERS AND REGULAR WORSHIPERS

Robyn Sanders- Prayers for comfort and complete healing from cancer..

Voncille Bielefeld- Prayers for comfort & complete healing from shoulder replacement surgery.

Linda Ogburn- Prayers for comfort & complete healing with some health issues.

Jeanette Blackburn- Prayers for comfort & complete healing after surgery on a fractured hip.

Bonnie Caisse- Prayers for comfort & complete healing.

Vernon Blocker- Prayers for comfort & complete healing.

John Pantuso Jr.- Prayers for comfort & complete healing from shoulder surgery.

Sandra Jandt- Prayers for comfort & healing, cancer treatments.

Natalie Adams- Prayers for continued healing and wholeness.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS & VISITORS Prayers for Rain.... Cooler Weather and Joy. **Melvin Moczygemba-** Prayers for comfort & healing from bypass surgery (Neighbor of the Klepac's & Bielefeld's). **Gene, brother of Sylvia Hermesen-** Prayers for comfort & healing (Friend of Mata Orth). **Michael Prater-** Prayers for comfort & healing from a concussion. **Jacob Waclawczyk-** Prayers for comfort while trying to get his body straight with his diabetes (Grandson of Ruby Kolenda). **The Smock Family-** Prayers for comfort & healing. **Kaye Lake-** Prayers for comfort & complete healing after surgery (Sister of Laveda Thompson). **Wayne Hartman-** Prayers for peace and hope that there is an alternative treatment for his colon cancer, chemo no longer working (Brother of Linda Jauer). **Carolyn Heil-** Prayers for comfort & healing, in the hospital since Tuesday. **Diane Moy-** Prayers for comfort & healing, cancer treatments. **Kris Jenschke-** Prayers for comfort & healing. **Jack & Betty House-** Prayers for comfort & healing. **Carl Ortmann-** Prayers for comfort & healing. **Bill Mueth-** Prayers for comfort & healing. **Cheryl Brownlow-** Prayers for comfort & healing. **Dorothy Wenzel-** Prayers for comfort & healing from a broken wrist (Aunt of Keith Klepac). **Christina Pantuso-Speranza-** Prayers for comfort & complete healing from cervical cancer (Niece of Pantuso's). **David Nelson –** Prayers for comfort & healing, prayers his cancer does not return (brother-in-law of Andy Gadd). **Brandy Hassmann-** Prayers for healing & comfort as she goes through intense treatments for 3 weeks for Lyme Disease (Daughter-in-law of the Glowka's). **Steve Plata-** Prayers for complete healing from cancer (Co-worker of Keith Klepac). **Keli Oliveira-** Prayers for complete healing from cancer (Friend of the Klepac's). **Jennings Johnson-** Prayers for comfort & complete healing (Friend of Denise Klepac). **Cindy Pilgrim-Banhart-** Prayers for complete healing from cancer (Friend of Denise Klepac). **Karen Lucherker-** Prayers for comfort & healing. **Courtney Ortiz-** Prayers for comfort & healing, needing lots of prayers. **Jenny Klepac-** Prayers for comfort & healing (Aunt of Keith Klepac). **Mary Calvillo-** Cancer (friend of Mata Orth)

PRAYERS FOR THOSE LIVING IN NURSING HOMES OR LIVING ALONE

Florence Baumann

Sylvia Gadd

Evie Schmidtberger

Thank You Note from Bonnie Caisse

Thank You to my First Lutheran family for the cards I received with messages of prayer and support. You've been a true blessing and comfort as I recover.

God Bless you! Yours in Christ,

Bonnie

To the members of First Lutheran,

Thank you to Pastor John for visiting me while I was in rehab. Also, thank you so much for the Cheer Bag! It lifted my spirits.

Feeling very blessed,

Jeanette Blackburn