

CALL TO WORSHIP

FEBRUARY, 2026

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH SONSHINE ARK PRESCHOOL & DAYCARE
WE ARE A D.O.J.O.Y. CONGREGATION
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES 8:00 & 10:30 AM, SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15

1406 Sixth Street,
Floresville, TX 78114

(830) 393-2747

Pastor John Conrad
E-mail: office@dojoy.org

More than Giving Something Up

“When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
so that your alms may be done in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” Matthew 6:3-4

The beginning of Lent is still a few weeks away. We have time to look ahead and plan. Many think in terms of what they might be giving up for Lent. But “giving up” is only a part of the picture.

In Matthew 6, Jesus names three Lenten disciplines: almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. These practices are part of the normal rhythm of Christian life. Still, the season of Lent, with its focus on repentance and renewal, invites us to give them special attention. Fasting is often understood as “giving something up.” (I explored that practice in a newsletter article a couple of years ago.) Prayer is prayer. In this article, however, I want to focus especially on almsgiving.

At its core, almsgiving is giving to those in need. Rooted in mercy and compassion, it includes financial gifts but is not limited to money. Acts of generosity, kindness, hospitality, and care for others are all forms of almsgiving. In Scripture, Jesus places almsgiving alongside prayer and fasting—not as a way to earn God’s favor, but as a faithful response to God’s grace. Almsgiving is not meant to draw attention to ourselves; it is a quiet expression of love for our neighbor.

Lent gives this practice special focus. As we fast or simplify our lives, we become more aware of both our dependence on God and the needs of others. What we give up is meant to open space for generosity, turning our hearts outward in love. For Christians, almsgiving flows from the gospel itself. God has given generously to us, most fully in Jesus Christ. Because we have received mercy, we are free to show mercy to others.

This Lent, consider how almsgiving might take shape in our lives—through financial support, time spent with someone in need, or acts of kindness and forgiveness. Almsgiving is a tangible way our faith takes form in love.

May this season draw us closer to Christ and teach us again the joy of generous hearts.

Pastor John



FLCW 2026 Officers

Loretta Carter- Secretary

Teresa Sisti- President

Susan Thompson- Vice President

Lisa Baumann- Treasurer



✠ LENTEN SCHEDULE ✠

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Noon & 7 PM—Worship with Imposition of Ashes

WEDNESDAYS OF LENT, FEB. 25 THROUGH MARCH 25

5:30-6:30 PM—Evening Meal

6 PM — Activities for Children & Youth

6:30 PM—Worship

Communion Instruction

Has your child yet to receive instruction in Holy Communion? Is your child in the 5th Grade this year? From 9:15–10:15 AM, throughout the Sunday mornings of Lent (February 22—March 22), Pastor John will be offering a class on Holy Communion. The class is for both the child and the child's parents. For those who have yet to receive communion for the first time, the class culminates with a celebration of First Communion on Palm Sunday, Sunday, March 29.

Contact the church office to register for the class.



Got eggs? We need your egg cartons!

If you have any...any size... we will take them!

Please bring them to church and leave them in the grocery shopping cart in the annex!

Thank you.

The Sonshine Ark Focus

Where did January go? Here we are, welcome to February at Sonshine Ark Preschool & Daycare! This month, our children will focus on love, kindness, friendship and helping others all while learning through fun and meaningful activities.

February 1- We will begin the month by celebrating Black History Month with educational and fun coloring pages highlighting notable historical figures and their achievements.

February 2- The children will learn about Groundhog Day through adorable Groundhog Day coloring pages and themed activities.

February 11- Make a Friend Day the children will participate in activities that encourage friendship, kindness, and teamwork, learning how to love others just as Jesus teaches us. We will be asking the children to draw a picture for a friend or a teacher.

February 14- Valentine's Day Celebration, we will celebrate Valentine's Day with a party where children will enjoy handing out valentines to their classmates and celebrating love and friendship.

As always, Sonshine Ark Preschool & Daycare would like to thank all the men of the church for their continued support and help at the daycare. We are truly blessed by our church family.

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."
Ephesians 4:32

We thank you for the prayers, Blessings, Melissa Recio

A Thank You Note from Leanne Marshall FISD

Dear First Lutheran Church (Floresville),

Thank you for your incredible generosity and continued support of our annual FISD Angel Tree Project!

Because of your kindness and gift donation, this year we were able to make the Christmas season a little brighter for **115 families**, with **more than 250 Floresville ISD students** receiving gifts. For many of our students, this program is the highlight of their holiday season and a reminder that their community truly cares.

Your donations, time, and compassion go far beyond wrapped packages — you are providing hope, comfort, and unforgettable memories to children and families who need it most.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and for helping make the Angel Tree Project such a meaningful tradition in our district. Thank you for opening your hearts and making a lasting difference in the lives of our students!

With sincere appreciation,

Leanne K. Marshall, M.Ed. FISD Family & Community Specialist

THE SEASON OF LENT

The word “lent” comes from an Anglo-Saxon word for spring. In Church usage it refers to the period of preparation for Easter. Notice that the emphasis is upon Easter, the climax of all celebrations within the Christian Church. Easter is so central to the life of the Church that all Sundays within the Church year are “little Easters”. Sunday is the Sabbath to Christians because Christ rose to new life on the first day of the week. Consequently, the Sundays that occur during the Easter cycle are called “Sundays in Lent” not “Sundays of Lent”. Lent takes place Monday through Saturday – not on Sunday.

The most formative years for the (Lenten) Easter cycle came in the period of time prior to the legalization of Christianity under Constantine (A.D. 312). During this time the Church was outlawed. In order to protect itself and guarantee doctrinal purity, the early Church devised an extensive, rigorous period of initiation for converts leading up to the Baptism on Easter. This period, usually three years in length, consisted of enrollment, catechism, exorcism, mentoring under a sponsor, and reflection.

Each of the weeks during Lent was reserved for imparting some new dimension of Christian content and style to the life of the convert, called the “catechumenate,” through preaching and teaching. For the already baptized, Lent was a time of review and reflection upon their own Baptism. In either case, Lent was a time for Baptism.

With the legalization of Christianity under Emperor Constantine, most citizens were baptized at birth, creating a “state church.” No longer did the Church need to protect itself nor did it have any use for an initiatory period. Thus, Lent lost its historical practicality and became a time in search for new meaning.

Throughout the Middle Ages, the Reformation, and continuing into the modern Church, Lent has suffered a variety of uses. Pietists seized Lent as a time for rigorous soul searching; Rationalists used Lent for intense catechizing; and some Modernists grasp Lent as an occasion for everything from dieting and Christian aerobics to social action.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. The texts for the day serve as a sobering reminder of our human condition. Worshipers receive instructions concerning how they might consider their sinful condition and exercise the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and acts of charity.

Just as Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness wrestling with what God was calling Him to do with his life, so too do Christians spend 40 days of Lent wrestling with what God is calling us to do with our lives. For that time, Christians submit themselves to a voluntary walk in the wilderness. During this walk, Church members assist each other to focus on themes of discipleship, the cross, baptism, and repentance. It is a season for review, reflection, rebirth, and renewal.

Prayer Requests for our Members

Susan Thompson- Test on cancer

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

Bonnie Caisse- Prayers for comfort & complete healing.

Vernon Blocker- Prayers for comfort & complete healing.

Natalie Adams- Prayers for continued healing and wholeness.

FLC Lawn Crew for February

February 7 (T-3) Danny Curtis, Frankie Dippel, Harold Heimer, Jr., Curtis Holcombe, Kari Schroeder, Ryan Schroeder

February 14 (T-4) Brad Pfeil, Leon Johnson, Ben Munoz, Bodean Pfeil, Justin, Pfeil, Roy Thayer, Brian Trees

February 21 (T-1) John Moring, Doug Bielefeld, Ray McHorse, Bill Stolle

February 28 (T-2) Charles Ogburn, Clay Archer, Charlie Glowka, Charles Koenig

Vacation Bible School “Rainforest Falls, Exploring the Nature of God

Plans for a 3-day Vacation Bible School are underway. VBS will be held Monday June 29 through Wednesday July 1, 2026. The theme for this year is “Rainforest Falls, Exploring the Nature of God”

Dates and upcoming things to be aware of about VBS:

If you plan to volunteer with this year’s VBS, or any other activity at First Lutheran Church involving children, **AND YOU HAVEN’T** taken part in the video training titled “Sexual Abuse and Awareness Training” and taken a short test afterwards, please contact Nina Koenig at 361.816.6721 to get signed up to go through this process. The month of February will be utilized in getting any new volunteers trained, so please contact Nina as soon as possible.

March 3 @ 6:30 in the annex at church there will be a meeting of VBS volunteers.

We will look at this year’s theme as well as asking people to volunteer in different capacities.

We look forward to having another wonderful adventure this year for our kids. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nina Koenig, Teresa Sisti, or Carol Rutledge.

Reminder

If you have current or past editions of *Christ in Our Home* or *Portals of Prayer*, we can use them. These are shared with the nursing homes for their residents to use. Please place them in the box under the table by the office.

Thank you! *Laveda Thompson*



Ruth Circle Bible Study

The Ruth Circle Bible Study will meet on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 1:00pm in the church annex. We are studying from the book “Portraits of Jesus,” Session 5, “I am the Good Shepherd.” Study Leader is Liz Scheitle and Anna Willis is the Hostess. Everyone is invited to come and study with us. Contact Anna Willis (210-722-3410) for questions.