

# CALL TO WORSHIP

OCTOBER, 2025

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH SONSHINE ARK PRESCHOOL & DAY CARE  
WE ARE A D.O.J.O.Y. CONGREGATION

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## Yearning for Something Better

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.” 1 Timothy 2:1

A week or so ago, I was asked by someone, “Why did you not include Charlie Kirk in the Prayers of Intercession at worship?” That was a fair question.

As most of you know, I’m not one to quickly and publicly jump into political discourse—especially from the pulpit. As Christians, we have a duty to pray for our country and its leaders. We often do so in a general way within the prayers. Then comes the issue of what specific things do we remember in the prayers. We could look at each week’s news and pray for hours on end! It’s tough to make a call on what to include and what not to include—especially if you’d prefer to not come across as partisan.

The shooting of Charlie Kirk reminds us once again. We have seen way too much violence and too many shootings within our culture. Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Horman and her husband were killed in their home earlier this year. Donald Trump survived an assassination attempt in 2024. The husband of Nancy Pelosi was bludgeoned with a hammer in his home in 2022. Steve Scalise was shot during a practice session for a Congressional Baseball Game in 2017. Gabby Giffords was shot in the head in a supermarket parking lot in 2011. No doubt, I’m missing others. Mental illness, violence and hatred can cut across all political lines.

I have no easy answer other than “Jesus”. The way of Jesus is so contrary to what we see around us. He is our only hope. He is the light in our dark world. Love is always better than hatred. Peace is always better than violence. Kindness is always better than being mean. Don’t cave to societal pressure. Submit to Jesus.

Could we do a better job of remembering specific people in prayer? Probably. Having said that, you can be confident that I would miss things periodically and I’d be leaning on your grace. There’s also a time when specific prayers can be lifted up from the pews.



## Our “Tough Questions, Real Faith” Series Continues ...

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| Sept. 28 | “Why are there so many hypocrites in the Church?” |
| Oct. 5   | “Why forgive?”                                    |
| Oct. 12  | “What happens after I die?”                       |

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## Join Us for Staff Appreciation Sunday! Celebrate with Fellowship and Food – October 19

The Church Council is excited to invite everyone to take part in our upcoming Staff Appreciation Sunday, a special occasion dedicated to honoring the dedication and service of our church staff. To make this day even more memorable, we encourage all members to bring a favorite dish to share for our pot-luck breakfast to be held between services. Let's come together to express our heartfelt thanks and celebrate the wonderful individuals who support our church family—don't forget to bring your appetite!

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Come on Everyone.....Let's show our church staff how much we appreciate them!!! All you have to do is grab a notecard, write a nice message and pop it into their box. Let's make them feel special and appreciated for all they do for us and the church. Boxes and note cards will be placed in the annex for all to use. The staff will be given their boxes on Staff Appreciation Sunday!!!

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### Voting Item—October Congregational Meeting

At the 2025 Mission Convocation in Pittsburgh, delegates voted to approve three amendments to the NALC Constitution.



1. The movement of some language in the Constitution to Bylaws, clean up Scrivener's errors.
2. Addition of Article on the North American Lutheran Seminary
3. Addition to current Article 16 entitled, "Indemnification" to be renamed, "Legal and Financial Matters."

As required by the NALC's constitution, these changes need to be approved by 50% of the congregations in order to be ratified. At our October 12th congregational meeting, we will be voting on the proposed amendments. Members may contact the church office to see the full content of the changes.

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### Sausage Dinner 2025













Continued from page 4





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## The Sonshine Ark Focus

We have officially wrapped up September with a wonderful month of learning and celebrating, we started off with Labor Day. We also celebrated grandparents' day with cookies and punch. We were so happy with the great turn out it was such a special time together.

Now we're excited to welcome October with the cooler weather and lots of fun activities ahead. One of our favorite traditions is our walk to downtown to see the preparation for our annual Peanut Festival. October also brings a big change for our community as Floresville ISD moves to a four-day school week.

Our classes will focus on learning and respecting all the forest friends and the forest Ranger. The color will be orange the shape will be a triangle, the opposites are in and out and nursery rhyme will be 'Itsy-Bitsy Spider'. We look forward to our fall festival and the children will get to dress up in their costumes and walk downtown to receive goodies from our local businesses which is always a highlight of the season.

The month of October is also fire safety month and the children are excited to see the fire truck with our local firefighters.

Thank you as always for your continued support and prayers for Sonshine Ark, we are blessed to have such wonderful families.

Blessings,  
Melissa Recio, Director

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## 2026 Youth Summer Camp Informational Meeting October 26th

Calling all youth of First Lutheran Church!! Do you get bored during the summer? Do you wish you could run outside playing games and having fun with other kids your age? Do you dream of playing in the cool water of a river during the HOT summer days? If you are one of these kids that is eager to get out of the house during the summer and enjoys playing, exploring and forming friendships that last a lifetime...then you need to consider signing up for Summer Camp at Camp Chrysalis! FLC sent 25 kids to camp this past summer! This means 25 youth were able to grow in their faith and experience the fun and fellowship of other Christian kids from across Texas. FLC is already gearing up for 2026 and is reaching out to all families with kids in grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade that may be interested in attending camp next summer.



There will be an informational meeting between services on Sunday, October 26th at 9:30 in the Annex, for any families that are interested in attending Camp Chrysalis. Feel free to come, ask questions and learn about what your kids will experience at church camp. Also, visit <https://crosstrails.org> for more information on Cross Trails Ministry's summer camps.

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## HALLOWEEN BAKE SALE - OCTOBER 26

FLC youth will be hosting a Halloween Bake Sale on Sunday, October 26th between services. Proceeds from free-will offerings will be used to support our youth attending summer church camp.



All youth planning to attend Camp Chrysalis in the summer of 2026 are asked to bring their homemade baked goods. Spooky treats are encouraged!!

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## Sabbatical Proposal

The Council at its September meeting approved bringing the matter of a sabbatical leave for Pastor John before the congregation at its October 12 meeting.

### Context

In 2022, the congregation approved submitting a grant for a sabbatical in 2023 with the understanding that if we got the grant, Pastor John would take a sabbatical. We did not receive the grant. Grant applications were resubmitted with the Council approval in 2023, 2024 and 2025 as well. Grant funds were not approved. This time, Pastor John is pursuing taking a sabbatical and funding it himself.

### Content

The proposed sabbatical would be a time of rest, renewal, and prayer. It would last as long as three months in 2026. The time would mostly include travel and time with family.

### Covering Pastoral Duties

Pastoral leadership on Sunday mornings would be covered by pastors as well as a few special Sundays such as a Women's Ministry Sunday, Men's Ministry Sunday, and a Youth Sunday. In case of pastoral emergencies, more than one pastor would be available on call.

### Finances

Pastor John would cover all expenses, including the expenses of pastoral coverage and duties. The congregation would continue Pastor John's normal compensation, including pension contributions and benefits, throughout the sabbatical. The following is the anticipated budget:

Sabbatical Expenses	\$25,550
Pastoral coverage and duties	<u>8,500</u>
Total	\$34,050

Members of the congregation who wish to support the sabbatical would be able to do so through the end of 2026 by contributing to a dedicated fund managed by the church. Pastor John would submit properly documented expenses, not to exceed the available balance of the fund.

The congregation would record all contributions and regularly update church leadership on the fund's status. If contributions exceeded the actual expenses, any remaining balance would remain in the designated sabbatical fund for future use.

As is customary, a pastor is expected to remain with the congregation for at least one year following a sabbatical. If Pastor John were to depart within that year, he would reimburse the congregation for the full amount of funds received for the sabbatical, which would then be returned to the designated sabbatical fund for future use.

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## Paul Austin To Share Sun., Oct. 5

**Paul Austin will be present to give an update on behalf of the Capital Campaign and possibilities for the future, 9:30-10:15 AM, Sun., Oct. 5.**

## Prayer requests for our Members

**Bonnie Caisse-** Prayers for comfort & healing after back surgery.

**Vernon Blocker-** Prayers for comfort & complete healing.

**John Pantuso Jr.-** Prayers for comfort & complete healing from a fall, hurt his left shoulder,

**Dorothy Rauch-** Prayers for comfort & peace.

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

**Olivia Macek-** Prayers for comfort & complete healing.

**Susan Thompson-** Prayers for comfort & healing.

## FLC Lawn Crew for October 2025

**October 4 (T-1)** John Moring, Doug Bielefeld, Pat Caisse, Ray McHorse, Bill Stolle

**October 11 (T-2)** Charles Ogburn, Charles Koenig, Charlie Glowka, Clay Archer

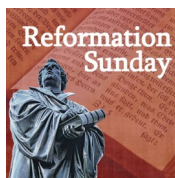
**October 18 (T-3)** Danny Curtis, Gunnar Berg, Frankie Dippel, Ryan Schroeder, Kari Schroeder, Harold Heimer

**October 25 (T-4)** Curtis Holcombe, Leon Johnson, Brad Pfeil, David Pfeil, Justin Pfeil, Bodean Pfeil, Ben Munoz

## First Lutheran Church Women's quarterly meeting on Sunday, October 26 at 1:00

All women of the church are invited to attend the First Lutheran Church Women's quarterly meeting on Sunday, October 26 at 1:00. Location to be determined. It's more than just a meeting. We visit, we laugh, we eat, we plan the fun events and we discuss how our group can serve the congregation of the church. Please consider joining us and be a part of this rewarding ministry.

## Reformation Sunday, October 26



Red is often understood as a color for martyrs of the Church. Sunday, October 26, 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, congregational members are welcome to wear red!

## Quarterly Congregational Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Will be held Sunday, October 12th, 9:15am, between the worship services in the Sanctuary  
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## Reminder

If you have current or recent editions of Christ in Our Home or Portals of Prayer, we can use them. There is a box under the table by the office. These are recycled to the nursing homes for their residents to use.



Thank you! *Laveda Thompson*

## Ruth Circle Bible Study

The Ruth Circle Bible Study will meet on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 1:00pm in the church annex. We are studying from the book "Portraits of Jesus," Session 2, "I am the Bread of Life." Study Leader is Melinda Cokely and Hostess is Evelyn Frank.

Everyone is invited to come and study with us. Contact Anna Willis (210-722-3410) for questions.