

CALL TO WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER, 2025

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

1406 Sixth Street,
Floresville, TX 78114

(830) 393-2747

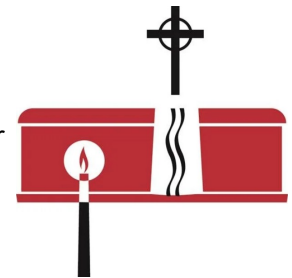
Pastor John Conrad
E-mail: office@dojoy.org

Faithful Farewells: A Christian Approach to Funerals

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Psalm 90:12

No one likes to think about the end of life, yet one of the most loving things we can do for our families is to prepare for it. Getting your affairs in order is not about fearing death—it’s about living wisely and faithfully in the time God gives us.

When important documents and wishes are left unclear, families can face stress, confusion, and even conflict at a time when they most need peace. By making thoughtful plans now—such as writing a will, choosing a healthcare proxy, outlining funeral or memorial wishes, and organizing important documents—you relieve your loved ones of difficult decisions later. Instead of scrambling to guess what you would want, they can focus on what matters most: honoring your life and leaning on God’s promises of eternal care.



Scripture reminds us, “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12). Planning ahead is one way of living that wisdom. It allows us to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us, to care for those we love, and to face the future with peace and confidence.

You’re welcome to join me in the worship space on **Sunday, September 7, from 9:30–10:15 AM for *Faithful Farewells: A Christian Approach to Funerals***. Learn how to plan a service that honors life, comforts the grieving, and proclaims the gospel. For believers, death is not the end—it is the doorway to eternal life.

If you haven’t yet made plans, consider taking the next step now. Talk with your family, write down your wishes, meet with trusted advisors, and pray for God’s guidance. Getting your affairs in order is not just a practical task—it is a gift of love, faith, and peace.

Pastor John



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

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Aug. 31 | “Do I have to choose between God and science?” |
| Sept. 7 | “How can Jesus be the only way to God?” |
| Sept. 21 | “Would a loving God allow people to go to hell?” |
| Sept. 28 | “Why are there so many hypocrites in the Church?” |
| Oct. 5 | “Why forgive?” |
| Oct. 12 | “What happens after I die?” |

UPDATE - 37th Sausage Dinner – Sept. 21st

Sausage Dinner time is here! All the preliminary work is being completed, and our success is up to each one of us. Our goal this year is to sell 1,100 eat-in, take-out, or drive-thru dinners, plus 50 DoJoy tickets which will be distributed by the Floresville Food Pantry this year. Tickets for the dinner and the prize drawing are available on Sunday mornings after services or at the church office during the week. Dinner and DoJoy tickets are \$14; Please pick up enough for you, your family, friends and neighbors. We ask that you or your church group please consider sponsoring some DoJoy tickets. Prize Drawing tickets are also available for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. This year's prizes are better than ever! The top prize is a \$1,000 Visa Gift Card, plus over 50 other great prizes are posted in the Annex. Offer tickets to your friends and neighbors. They don't need to be present to win. A big "thank you" to all who have donated prizes this year!

All proceeds come from the ticket sales. That is the bottom line! This year we are supporting the Youth Campers, our Missions Outreach, the newly established Endowment Fund, the Sonshine Ark Pre School and Day Care, and the Floresville Food Pantry.

Sign-up sheets are posted in the Annex. There are still some openings that need to be filled. Please check out all the opportunities to help and pick one or more that fits you. We need all of you; and there's something for nearly everyone to do!

The Country Store will be selling Baked Goods, Homemade Canned Goods, and Handcrafted items.

We're excited about making this one of the best Sausage Dinners ever! Thank you!

NALC Mission Convocation Pittsburgh Aug 6-8, 2025

FLC delegates were Pastor John Conrad, Ellen Conrad, Jon Sunday, and Anna Willis. This year celebrates 15 years of the North American Lutheran Church and 10 years of the North American Lutheran Seminary. Today there are over 540 congregations. There were 593 attendees from 15 countries, 255 pastors, 393 voters, and 21 Global Workers.



The Convocation opens with Holy Communion. We are to do whatever it takes, for as long as we have, with our eyes on Jesus. NALC Vision is a disciple-making church body. Each day addressed one of the following topics: Renewing Congregations, Equipping Disciples, and Transforming Communities.

NALC Mission is to live faithfully to The Great Commandment, Matt 22:36-40, and to respond to The Great Commission, Matt 28:18-20. Our 4 Core Values that guide all we do and believe are: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused.

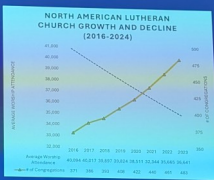
There are many women Pastors and more people are becoming Ordained Pastors as a second career however, a great concern is the shortage of clergy. Many retired Pastors are filling in Pastoral Vacancies as needed. Church Planting was also discussed. The NALC is developing several online training courses including Confirmation.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

The Paradox

- Growth in number ≠ Growth in mission.
- 112 received congregations since 2016
- Average worship attendance dropped from 40,094 to 36,641
- Only 9 frontiers plants launched since 2010.



There was a Mission District meeting for Texas. Texas has had such an increase in the number of congregations that on Jan 1, 2026, we will increase from 2 Mission Regions to 4 Mission Regions!

Ethiopia Mission Trip

The global body of Christ and spiritual richness under persecution.



FLC will be in the Southwest Texas Mission District.



Participating in the Convocation enriched my life. I met so many people. I would recommend that people go! A new NALC Bishop will be elected in 2027.



LUTHERAN WEEK 2025 PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

*Celebrating 10 Years of the North American Lutheran Seminary
and 15 Years of the North American Lutheran Church*



FLC Birthday Group

FLC Birthday Group ladies had their Birthday Lunch at Maverick Grill and Saloon on August 22. We had 16 ladies enjoying dining together.

Thank you Mary Tieken for arranging the lunch and calling people.

Next Birthday Lunch will be Friday Oct 24, location TBD.





Confirmation for Grades 7-8

Confirmation Classes with 7-8th grade youth have resumed. They meet 9:15-10:15am Sundays and 6-7pm Wednesdays (with exceptions on occasion).

Confirmation for Adults

Adult Confirmation Classes are meeting Thursday evenings, 6:15-7:30 PM, now through mid-October. It's not too late to be a part of the class. All are welcome.



Monthly Youth Gathering

On Wednesday, August 20th, our church hosted the Monthly Youth Gathering, and what a wonderful evening it was! We were blessed to welcome around 30 young people from several different schools and churches, all coming together for fellowship and fun.



The highlight of the night was Slip 'n Slide Kickball—lots of laughter, teamwork, and some pretty impressive slides! Beyond the games, it was encouraging to see our youth building friendships and growing in community with one another.

A special thank you goes out to the Pfeil family for generously opening their home and property to host this month's gathering. Your hospitality helped make the evening such a success.

Save the Date!

Our next Monthly Youth Gathering will be held on Wednesday, **September 17th at the Carter Home**. More details to come—mark your calendars and plan to join us for another great evening of fellowship and fun!

Continued on page 5

Monthly Youth Gathering



Women of the North American Lutheran Church Annual Gathering in Pittsburgh, PA held August 5, 2025

We were greeted by Amy Werner, WNALC Chair 2024-2025. She called for council nominations, announcing that 2 council positions were up for reelection and there were 4 open positions. She discussed Mission Bank Partners. Mary Bates provided an update on disaster response. She and her husband are still driving trucks to deliver items to victims. She said some locations were using the 5 gal buckets as toilets. Mary said they were using pool noodles to cushion the rim. Some people fitted toilet seats to be used with the buckets. People have requested Bibles. They need Cleaning Buckets, Health Kits, quilts, and gift cards.

Rev. Patti Morlock, Chair for NALC Ordination Under Special Circumstances Team and serving as Associate Pastor St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grove City, OH provided the message. We are to run with perseverance the race marked out before us. God sets the course. We study the course while keeping our eyes on Jesus. Bishop Dan Selbo installed the new council. The council is requesting 2 contacts to receive information from the WNALC. They also provided opportunities for WNALC Sisters in Christ to volunteer for a WNALC team: Budget, Fellowship & Community, Spiritual Growth or Mission District Representative. There were several Global Workers present.

I met Serafina Panzo. She wore a beautiful dress and hair scarf which displayed the Lutheran Rose with Romans 1:16-17, which is: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." I also met her husband Didi Panzo. Didi and Serafina serve in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This was a very interesting meeting.



Cynthia Lopez from
Immanuel Lutheran LaVernia
& Anna



Bishop Dan Selbo installs the new Council



Our table for the Women's Gathering,
August 5th.



Anna & Serafina Panzo



Margaret Obaga,
Global Worker in Kenya



Serafina Panzo dress.
Global Worker in
Democratic Republic of
Congo



Serafina, Anna & Didi Panzo



Margaret, Anna & Serafina

The Sonshine Ark Focus

We are excited to share that we have started our new classrooms, and the children are already settling in wonderfully! September will be a month full of discovery as our theme is All About Me. We will explore who we are, our families, and the important people in our community. Our community helper of the month is the Teacher. Children will learn about the important role teachers play in helping us learn and grow. Our Learning Focus this month will be red. We will learn the number 0 and the letters A & B. The shape will be a circle, and the opposites are up and down. The Nursery Rhyme for September is Johnny Appleseed.

Special Days to Remember:

- Labor Day – September 1 (Center closed).
- Grandparents Day – September 8th.
- Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15 to October 15, and the 1st Day of Autumn is September 22.

In addition to our academic activities, we will focus on making friends, learning and following school rules, and practicing daily routines to help our classrooms run smoothly. Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a loving, fun, and safe environment for our children. We look forward to a wonderful month of learning and celebration! Blessings, Melissa Recio

Sonshine Ark Preschool and Daycare

IS HIRING!

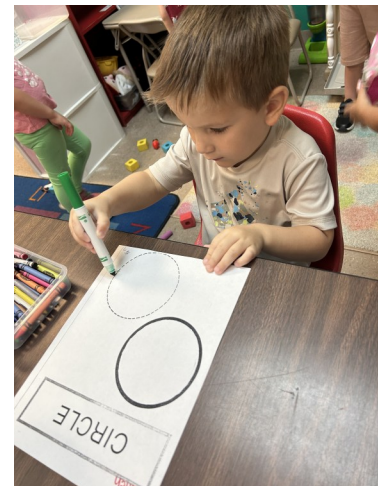
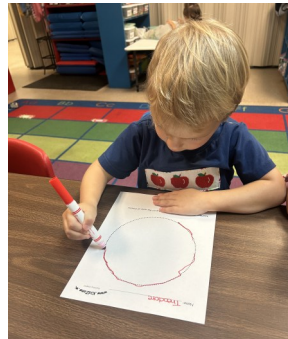
1406 6th Street,
Floresville



If you are 18 years old or older, have a high school diploma or a GED, can pass a background check, fingerprints and drug test and love to work with infants and toddlers come by SSA and pick up an application.

HIRING ASAP

WITH APPLICATIONS, BACKGROUND AND FINGERPRINTS, DRUG TEST COMPLETED



Prayer requests for our Members

Brenda Hubert- Prayers for comfort & complete healing from a broken arm.

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, being tested for throat cancer.

Natalie Adams- Prayers for Doctors hands, healing and wholeness.

Olivia Macek- Prayers for comfort & complete healing.

Bonnie Caisse- Prayers for comfort & healing.

Susan Thompson- Prayers for comfort & healing.

FLC Lawn Crew for September

September 6 (T-1) John Moring, Bill Stolle, Doug Bielefeld, Pat Caisse, Ray McHorse

September 13 (T-2) Charles Ogburn, Charles Koenig, Charlie Glowka, Clay Archer

September 20 (T-3) Danny Curtis, Gunnar Berg, Frankie Dippel, Ryan Schroeder, Kari Schroeder, Harold Heimer

September 27 (T-4) Curtis Holcombe, Leon Johnson, Brad Pfeil, David Pfeil, Justin Pfeil, Bodean Pfeil, Ben Munoz



Tuesday Do-Joy Bible Study



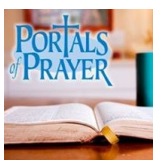
This small group meets every Tuesday from 10 to 11am in the Do-Joy House. We are a Liturgical Bible Study. Each week we explore the Lectionary First Reading and Gospel Reading for the coming Sunday.

We love exploring biblical history and geography, also seeking biblical facts and truths for today's world. If this excites you, please join us. We're open to all: men and women, your friends and neighbors. There are no materials you need to buy. Come learn with us!

If you have questions, please **text** Liz Scheitle (830) 534-0293.

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, September 4, 2025 at 1:00pm in the church annex. We will be starting a new study from the book "Portraits of Jesus" which will discuss nine specific occasions where Jesus uses the phrase "I am." Session 1 is "I am the Root and Descendant of David." Study Leader is Liz Scheitle and our Hostess is Carolyn Orth. Everyone is invited to come and study with us. Contact Anna Willis (210-722-3410) for questions.