

FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

OUR
MISSION
STATEMENT

The mission of
FLC Texarkana
is to disciple
and equip the
faithful to care
for all and
reach the lost
within our com-
munities and
world with the
Gospel.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Prayers	2
Visitors	
Giving	
Milestones	3
People at Work	
Responses to Our Lord	
From Our Treasurer	4
Randy Sams	
Thank You	
Congratulations	



The Messenger

VOLUME 101, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2020

Are you ready...? Part 3

A couple of months ago I started a series of articles dealing with the question, “Are you ready?” Of course, the rest of the question is “Are you ready for the time when the Lord calls you home to heaven?” First, we reaffirmed the confidence we have in the resurrected Son of God who paid the price for sin and opened the gate of heaven for us. We can be assured of our salvation and know through the power of the gospel that whenever Jesus calls us home, we are truly ready. Second, we talked of the confidence we have in Jesus that we can trust Him to love and care for those we leave behind. This month I would like to encourage all to be aware of financial and medical issues that can be a challenge to your family.

I must begin with a large disclaimer in that I am not qualified to give any medical, legal or financial advice. All I can do is share advice based on being around a number of families as they walk through the legal and financial challenges following the death of a loved one. If you do not have a will you probably need to get one. Laws vary state by state, there also laws regarding the passing of guns from one family member to another now. Make sure your family knows what you have in the way of insurance policies and assets (and debt). A lot of insurance policies have beneficiaries listed; this usually can override a will. There is also a need to be aware of who and how end of life decisions will be made; this involves power of attorney, medical power of attorney, HIPPA forms (who can have your medical information). A number of these forms are available online, however, you have to be sure they cover the many legal parameters of your specific situation. Again, it may be costly, but it is best to seek legal advice in all these matters ahead of time.

There is also the matter of last directives

and living wills. There are specific legal forms for these things. It is good to provide your family with direction so they can make decisions based on your wishes if you are unable to make decisions regarding your health. As your shepherd, I will always do my best to support you and your family when it is time make some of these big and difficult decisions.

I would expect that a majority of our “older” members have taken care of most of these issues and do have a plan. In most cases it is the younger ones that have put these things off thinking “I’ll take care of that when I get older.” I would encourage you not to wait, even if you think you do not have anything to pass on beside debt. There is more to consider than you think, especially if you have minor children. If something happens to you what happens to them? Many people do not like to talk about these issues. Death and its reality can be scary. I do not bring this up to create fear or make anyone uncomfortable. I bring it up out of concern for your physical, financial, emotional and spiritual well-being. As God’s people we want to do our best to care for our families; this includes our end of life arrangements. Ultimately, no matter what we do God will take care of us and our families. We want to do our best to be a part of God’s love and care. As children of our Father in heaven our real inheritance is kept in heaven for us as 1 Peter reminds us, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Blessings,
Pastor

We pray for...

People with special needs: everyone effected by the corona virus, Micah Cromer, Ruby Coats, Sharon Harris, Theresa Griggs, David Endsley, Brenda Smith, Jack Parry, Sandra Drautz, Kevin Rougeau, Holland Sturgeon, Annie Fahrni, Iris Wood, Terry Dahلمان, Brad Plattner, Jean Lowe, Barbara Smith, Houey Clement, John Hayes, Mary Lou Thamert, Chuck Poindexter, Mandy Gorham, Herman Smith, Jerry Rehkopf Allen, Tiffani Poole, Renee Biles, Newt & Lydia Arnold, Carol Cooper, Bobbie Hodges, Austin Taylor, Sheila Hensley, Ralph Drautz, Ellen Grant, Randy Fowler, Rigo Cortes, Luke Thomas, Bill Ellis, Brycn Hallowell, John Crawford Family, Lyla Follmer, Amelia Thomas, Zachary Thomas

Our nation and those who govern us: U.S.

troops around the world would return home safely, terrorists do not attack again, World peace.

Those who are suffering from chronic illnesses: Tommy Brundrett, Sylvia Hendrix, Mike Fooks, Balbino Avila, Ralph Drautz, Shelia Oestmann, Georges Drautz, Sandra Drautz, Shirley Goll

People recovering from or preparing for surgery: Shelia Oestmann, Ron Jordan, Arland Tollefson, Rodney Sturgeon, Jennifer Holmes

In Military Service: Clara Vanhooose, Zack Coulburn, Dalton Vann, James Naron, Nole Coco Jr., Daniel Schwab, Chad Bowles, Barbara Rutter, Philip Davis, David Owens, Cpt. Tony Moritz, SMSgt Ben Carson

President
Mr. Dennis Huffman

Vice President
Mr. Shawn Parry

Financial Secretaries
Mr. John Lanier
Ms. Gerda Lavender

Secretary
Mrs. Gayla Fowler

Treasurer
Mr. Wayne Cranfill

Board of Elders
Mr. George Boger
270.227.8083
Mr. Dan Bradshaw
903.738.5565
Mr. Jimmy Curtis
903.244.2459
Mr. Dennis Huffman
903.314.1485
Mr. Jim Kunkel
903.277.3854
Mr. John Lanier
903.824.7076
Mr. Kevin McDonald
903.277.4067
Mr. Eddie Wood
903.293.2743

Board of Trustees
Mr. Bryan Cox
Mr. Jimmy Curtis
Mr. Ron Jordan
Mr. John Lanier
Mr. Larry Schmidt
Mr. Eddie Wood
Mrs. Pam Wood
Mr. Tommy Wright

Board of Education
Mr. Michael Baldwin
Mrs. Jamie Baldwin
Mr. Shawn Gardner
Mrs. Jennifer Hackworth
Mrs. Jennifer Holmes
Mr. Kyle Parry
Mrs. Shawna Parry

Custodial Services
Eddie & Pam Wood

Sunday Services
Education Hour
9:00 a.m.

Worship
10:00 a.m.

Giving offerings to my congregation in difficult times

For LCMS congregations to survive- and thrive-our worship offerings must continue as much as possible when the world is largely locked down and people are prohibited by law or, by a desire to keep pestilence from spreading, from attending church services.

Here are a few options to prayerfully consider:

- Mail your regular offering to the church office or drop it off at the church office or parsonage during the week.
- Your bank or credit union may offer “online bill payment” services as financial tools. While our gifts to God are not paying a “bill” (because Jesus already did that for us), such tools can electronically deliver your offering without your having to write a check or use cash. Set up your congregation as you would a utility company or doctor’s office. Some of these tools also allow you to create a recurring gift (payment) made automatically.

Do you know them?

If not be sure to say hello. The following friends were guests for our worship services. Our visiting friends are important to us and God. Please help make them feel welcome.

Sarah Vasquez	Aubree Greeson
John Delaney	Marc Ronan
Kelly Delaney	Tyler Ronan
Jordan Jones	Rhys Ronan
Ken Shuman Sr.	Yan Ronan
Ken Shuman Jr.	Eirianna Ronan
Deborah Shuman	Miller Wood
Payton Shuman	Denise Davis
Alana Greeson	Haley Hackworth
Hailie Hall	Cayton Sullivan
Brynlee Self	Kellie Fluegge
Kaylin Hall	

- If you are eligible, use the available IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution option and have your IRA trustee send a portion of your required minimum distribution (if not needed) to the church for you. If you have established a donor advised fund, continue to send or consider sending an advised grant to your congregation.

Taken from *The Reporter*, Mark Hofman, CFRE, MBA
Executive Director and Mission Advocate
LCMS Mission Advancement

April Milestones

Birthdays

- 3- Sky West
- 4- Roger Hildebrandt
- 5- Ava Bobo
- 13- Taran Endsley
- 16- Kynzie Baldwin
- 19- Macy Bobo
Judy Hegmann
Ann Long
- 23- David Camberen
- 30- August Endsley

Anniversaries

- 16- Tommy & Paula Wright (49th)
- 27- Jeff & Jill Mays (7th)

Baptisms

- 1- Nancy Barth
- 3- Jamie Baldwin
- 6- Jimmy Curtis
- 8- Ken Nielsen
- 10- Betty Hughes
- 12- Randi Hudecz
Shannon Oestmann
Karri Sims
- 13- Sunni West
- 16- Bernie Zimmer
- 21- Jill Mays
- 23- Jean Clement
- 25- Kelsi Ayres



God's People at Work in April

Acolytes

5th Marshall Hackworth

Altar Flowers

M/M Roger Hildebrandt

Readers

Matt Smith

Children's Church

Lisa & Dane Sundbye, Ruth Lowe
Karson McDonald

12th Nicole Plattner

Gayla Fowler

Tommy & Paula Wright, Kae Lever

19th Kiki Cox

M/M Jimmy Curtis

Justin Bower

Dan & Karen Bradshaw

26th Eliana Martinez

Jimmy Curtis

Justin & Courtney Bower,
Mallory Hackworth

Elders: George Boger & Dennis Huffman

Altar Guild: Debbie Leonard & Sue Richter

* If and when we begin worship services

Responses to Our Lord



<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Service</u>	<u>Holy Communion</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Bible Class</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
3/1	88	70	12	19	\$ 3,797.00
3/4 (12/6pm)	30				\$ 544.00
3/8	72		9	17	\$ 2,369.00
3/11 (12/6pm)	27				\$ 200.00
3/15	63	47	13	21	\$ 3,505.00
3/18 (12/6pm)	18				\$ 350.00



First Lutheran Church

4600 Texas Blvd
Texarkana, TX 75503
Phone: 903.792.5253
Fax: 903.794.0999

Staff

Rev. Scott Sundbye, Pastor
scottsundbye@gmail.com

Mrs. Gwen Huffman, Director of Music
glhuffman@windstream.net

Mrs. Vickie Smith, Administrative Assistant
lutherlady@cableone.net

Congratulations to...



... **Matt Smith**, who took 1st Place in the chili cook-off.
... **Patty McDonald**, who took 2nd Place in the chili cook-off.
... **Jason Christian**, who took 3rd Place in the chili cook-off.

L-R: Jason Christian, JJ Christian, Matt Smith & Patty McDonald



Looking through the tunnel at FLC

In February we had \$1,608.19 more in expenses than we received in tithes and offerings. During February we paid an "annual" property insurance bill which in the past we paid monthly, so this payment brought us to the negative for the month.

I want to bring up what we are doing during the "stay at home" recommendation. As I hope you know by now, Pastor Sundbye is holding Lenten services on Wednesdays and Sundays through Facebook videos. (Thank Matt Smith for getting Pastor on the internet.)

AS TREASURER HERE IS MY CONCERN: Although we are working on a method to receive a digital offering to keep the doors open and pay our staff and vendor bills we don't currently have a method. Until we set up a digital method **please take your offering to the church office or mail it to the church at 4600 Texas Blvd, Texarkana, TX 75503.**

Wayne Cranfill, Treasurer

Thank you to...

... **Nancy & John Lanier** for helping in the office and changing the sign each week.
... those who brought in bulletins from their travels: **Dan & Karen Bradshaw**, Calvary Lutheran, Dallas, TX

A change at Randy Sams

In March we received a phone call from the Randy Sams Shelter that we would not be allowed to serve the meal we were to prepare for **Tuesday, March 17**. This was due to the fact that they were closing the shelter to everyone except for the residents and staff because of the regular flu and to the possibility of COVID 19. They told us they would understand if we wanted to cancel providing food until they opened the shelter to outsiders, or we could prepare the meal and deliver it to the shelter and they would serve the meal.

We opted to prepare so we delivered a meal of pork sausage and vegetable soup, cornbread, salad, and homemade cakes and sugar-free chocolate pudding. Nancy and John Lanier helped cook the soup and cornbread. Betty Hughes and Carlotta Endsley baked homemade cakes and Mark and Shelia Oestmann prepared the pudding.

After preparing the meal we delivered it to Randy Sams for the staff and residents to serve. We will continue to prepare meals each month and to pray for the residents of the mission.

God Bless,
Wayne Cranfill