

JANUARY 2023

LEAVES FROM THE FOREST

**Forest Oaks
Lutheran Church
8555 Forest Oaks
Blvd.
Spring Hill, FL
34606
352-683-9731
Pastor Glenn E.
Fischer**

*From Our Congregational
President, Jackie Bearden*

Jackie Bearden, President of Forest Oaks Lutheran Church council

Grace and Peace to you now and in the New Year. As I finish my reading through the Bible I am now flying through the New Testament and will complete the Bible on New Year's Eve. Reading Paul's letters to the churches as he guides them in their struggles with belief and confusion brought on by infiltration of unbelievers. I am so happy that Pastor is taking us slowly through these Books and bringing them alive. As a side note:

If you are not able to hear Pastor during the service or do not feel comfortable attending church service in person. Please reconsider attending if you are able, it is so important to worship; praise; and come together in God's House thanking God for His many gifts. And fellowshiping with one another. Then, in a couple of days after go to YouTube, www.forestoakslutheran.com, or Facebook to watch the sermon. I have testimony that you can clearly hear the service here.

Back to Paul, could any of us be so dedicated? I am so impressed with Paul's love, dedication, steadfastness for the message of Jesus through Paul's peril and persecution. What can we give for Jesus? Our time; skill; tithe; food for the food pantry. We used to write out our dedication to God and place it in a box to be returned to us in January to see how we followed through.

**Services
Sunday Worship
9:30 AM
Sunday School
10:45 AM
Pastor's Bible
Class, 11 AM
Fellowship hour
after morning
worship**

**Thursday Bible
Study
9 AM in the
Conference Room**

**Food Ministry
Tuesdays from
9AM- NOON**

Now it is to be hidden in your heart. For 2023 will you continue to give your gifts to the church, pray fervently for the church and for Forest Oaks Lutheran Church? Giving your tithes as Malachi 3:10 says “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, “says the Lord Almighty,” and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

In 2023 you can be assured that the Word will continue to be taught by Pastor Fischer,

Even as he celebrates his 20th Anniversary this month at Forest Oaks Lutheran Church!

Your attendance will also assure of your forgiveness of sins; we will praise God as we partake in the Liturgy of service; receive the sacraments; and you will be welcomed warmly with the love we have for one another.

When I prepare to write an article, I take notes as I think of topics that may be of interest and in my notes, I found this scripture from my reading: Titus 2:13-14

“While we wait for the blessed hope-the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”

Pretty good stuff, right? I am searching for a new Bible study for 2023 because I truly enjoy the quiet time in the morning studying God’s Word. I will probably read through the Bible every other year, so in 2024, many Blessings to you all.

Love in Christ,

Jackie Bearden

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Women's Guild Meeting January 4th,
10 AM. Celebrate the New Year with a catered lunch
after our business meeting to present our budget
and plan the Rummage Sale. A Bible study by
Pastor Fischer.

There is a signup sheet for all attending. We need to
a head count for the lunch. Sign up at the Members Center.

Friday February 3rd and Saturday February 4th is our annual Rummage
Sale. You can start bringing in your donations anytime. We put
donations in the fellowship hall, behind the screen

Our Christmas Carol Sing Along



January 29th: We Celebrate Pastor Fischer's 20th year here at FOLC.
Thank you Pastor, for all you do.

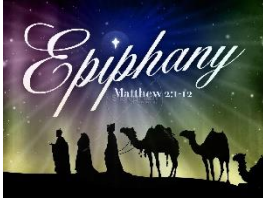
Lay Readers: Share God's Word: become a lay reader at our Sunday worship service and share the Old Testament and Epistle readings. Please sign up at the Information Center. When you sign up, you will be signing up for a particular Sunday. Once you claim that Sunday as yours, if you find that you will not be able to be at church on that day, it will be up to you to find a replacement and notify Lyla in the office of the change. Thank you for using your talent to the Glory of God and for your cooperation as we try this new method

Greeters and Ushers Ministry: This is an important function for our church as you welcome worshippers to the service and assist them during the service. Please prayerfully consider serving in this ministry and sign-up at the Information Center.

The Sunday School Christmas party



QUILTING FOR CHARITY



January 6th



January 8th

Today I am reflecting on the year just past. It held turmoil, storms, disease, death, disappointment and all kinds of trouble. Is that what you think of too? Let's do an attitude adjustment right now. Why are we focusing on the dark side of life? What are we forgetting? Could we have missed all the times that God walked through our lives? The blessings we received? Today, as you read this, try to pick just one time God showed his presence in your life. Was there a time when you nearly slipped and fell? Were you sick but now you have recovered? Did you nearly get hit by another car while driving? There must have been a time when you looked up and said, "Thank you, Jesus! Once you remember that one time, I will wager that more times will flood your memory and you will feel totally blessed, as do I.

Here is one of the blessings received in 2022:



Flo Glimpse was given the opportunity to participate in an Honor Flight to Washington DC due to her service to our country during the Korean War. Thank you all for your letters of friendship which she is shown opening. Her daughter Jody sent these photos and said Flo was blown away by the experience.

What were the quilters doing in December? I haven't a great number of photos to share but here is what I have:



BABY CAPS BY DANI GIFTS



COMPLETED QUEEN SIZE QUILT



ONE BOX OF MANY BOXES FILLED WITH

Thanks to Darlene, we were able to find out that Oak Hill Hospital was accepting baby caps for the newborn. Dani contributed her time and talent so we could offer them for this cause. Darlene also made a contact while working as a volunteer in the Gift Shop.

The lady she met is working with Foster Care through the Public Defender's Office. Toys and other items are needed by the Foster Children. We were pleased to provide a few boxes of these items. There were tears of gratitude and God's love was definitely in the room when the gifts were picked up.

Though you only see a small number of gifts in the above photo, many more were delivered this past month. The photographer was busy so she didn't take time to get a picture of everything. Instead, I offer this list the charities who benefitted from our efforts in December: Holy Ground (homeless shelter), Redeeming Life Ministry (Lutheran Home for Unwed Mothers), Life Center of Hernando County (Home for unwed mothers), Underprivileged children at Deltona Elementary, Hernando County Sheriff's Department, FOLC Body and Soul Food Pantry, DCEF 5th District (Foster Children), and babies of Oak Hill Hospital. We thank you for all your support and a Thrivent Action Team for making all this possible. Most of all, we thank God for His love and the opportunity to serve others in His name.

I would like to take this occasion to welcome Ilona to our group. She came Monday and we put her to work immediately on the sewing machine. It is a joy when we can share our fellowship with new members! You are welcome to join in if you have the interest. We find something for anyone to do even if you can't sew. Stop by any Monday between 1:00 and 4:00 in the church Fellowship Hall. ***BUT, we will NOT be there on December 26th (day off for Xmas leftovers). Also, on January 16th, we are meeting at noon to carpool to Olive Garden for our annual post-holiday party.***

We are looking forward to the New Year and the ways God will reveal His love and presence to us. I conclude with following prayer:



Karen

Birthdays

01/03	Burt Onder
01/04	Susan Mutschler
01/05	Marcy Stortzum
01/06	Bobbi Mattia
01/07	Terri Arndt
01/08	Delilah Blackburn
01/11	Danelia Villarrubia
01/12	Judy Almstedt
01/15	Angela Kenny
01/17	Jesse Ward
01/20	Ed Wright
01/22	Debbi Holbrook
01/27	Caroline Hilpertshauser
01/29	Alma Martin
01/30	Sharon McKenna

Anniversaries

01/29	Bob and Fran Schuliet
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DATE	IN MEMORY OF:	FUND OR FOR BENEFIT OF:
Sunday, November 27, 2022	Graham Kading (2 week old died on Thanksgiving	Sunday School
Sunday, December 5, 2022	Dianna Pittman	Debt Reduction
Sunday, December 11, 2022	Gussie & Gene Garbinski	Sunday School (they loved the programs)
Sunday, December 11, 2022	Dianna Pittman	Debt Reduction
Sunday, December 18, 2022	Dianna Pittman	Missions
Sunday, December 18, 2022	Dianna Pittman	Missions
Sunday, December 18, 2022	Honor of the Quilters at FOLC	Fellowship Fund
Sunday, December 18, 2022	Derald Bowen & Graham Kading	Future Maintenance

Do you have a heart for missions? And do you know there is a Missouri Synod Mission organization?

It is Mission of Christ Network

FOLC is creating an account for donations, please write "Missions" or "Mission of Christ Network" on a donation envelope.

The **February newsletter** will have more information from Mission of Christ Network



Picture Directory: We are creating a new Church Directory without using an outside company. In order to accomplish this task, we are asking that you forward a current, close-up “head shot” photo Of yourself to folc25news@outlook.com

along with your name, address, phone number and email address.

If you are a couple, **please forward a picture of you as a couple and each of you individually**, as we are trying to work out the format. Please have someone take the photograph rather than doing a “selfie”. If you do not have a computer, you make provide the actual photo. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Bearden, Lyla at the Church office, Keith Higgins or Judy Ward. We can take your picture at the church if you call and let us know when you can come in. You can also email yours, or bring it in to the church. Thank you for your cooperation in this endeavor. We only have about 25 pictures so far.

January 2023

Happy
New Year

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship Hour Sunday School 10:45 AM Bible Class 11 AM *Communion	2 Office Closed Quilters 1 PM	3 Food Pantry 9AM TOPS 9 AM	4 Women's Guild Mtg & lunch 10 AM	5 Bible Study 9 AM Handbells, 5:30 PM WISE Women's AA 6:30 PM	6 H.C.I.G 6:30 PM	7 Take Down Christmas decorations
8 Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship Hour Sunday School 10:45 AM Bible Class 11 AM Church Council *Communion	9 Office Closed Quilters 1 PM	10 Food Pantry 9AM TOPS 9 AM AARP 1-3 PM	11	12 Bible Study 9 AM AARP 1-3 PM Handbells, 5:30 PM WISE Women's AA	13	14
15 Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship Hour Sunday School 10:45 AM Bible Class 11 AM	16 Office Closed Quilters at Olive Garden	17 Food Pantry 9AM TOPS 9 AM	18	19 Bible Study 9 AM Handbells, 5:30 PM WISE Women's AA 6:30 PM	20	21
22 Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship Hour Sunday School 10:45 AM Bible Class 11 AM *Communion	23 Office Closed Quilters 1 PM	24 Food Pantry 9AM TOPS 9 AM	25	26 Bible Study 9 AM Handbells, 5:30 PM WISE Women's AA 6:30 PM	27	28
29 Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship Hour Sunday School 10:45 AM Bible Class 11 AM Pastor Fischer's 20th anniversary at FOLC	30 Office Closed Quilters 1 PM	31 Food Pantry 9AM TOPS 9 AM	Feb 1 Women's guild Mtg 9 AM	Feb. 2 WISE Women's AA 6:30 PM	Feb 3 Rummage Sale	Feb 4 Rummage Sale

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New Year
2023

