



January 2026

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

**Pastor Glenn E. Fischer
Secretary: Lyla Mock
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**

forestoakslutheran@outlook.com

forestoakslutheran.com

Speech and Listening

January 2026

Zechariah 13:9 "...They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say "They are my people, 'and they will say, 'the Lord is our God.'"

Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with Thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

Isaiah 51:4 "Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations."

Praise, Blessings, Promises, Declarations, Warnings, Celebration, Instruction, and lessons are just some of the ways speech is used in the Bible. And that we should be open to hearing. Even the second commandment: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh the name in vain".

I was thinking about speech and listening recently after spending time with my mom. She will talk to anyone, talking is very important to her, even with her jumbled speech patterns due to a closed head injury about 12 years ago.

But her topics are not Biblical. She and my dad used to go to their church Sunday school, but I am not sure how much she knows about the Bible.

Hearing the word and lessons are one of the reasons I love Sundays. We all get to hear Pastor expand our knowledge and understanding of the Word of God; if we are listening with an open heart. At Sunday school everyone is encouraged to participate in the lessons. And during the Saturday Women's Bible study (10:00 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month) we have wonderful discussions about the book we are reading and the coinciding scriptures. My goal for 2026 is to read through the King James version of the Bible, I am currently completing my goal of reading the Message version using the Bible app on my ipad. It is a great app because I can see the words and listen to them in a daily plan.

Let's keep listening, talking with one another, and receiving.

Have a wonderful New Year in 2026. 1 Thessalonians 5:28 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

God Bless you all,

Jackie Bearden-FOLC Church Council President

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: a new church directory is underway! If you would like to add a fresh picture, please see Jackie Bearden or send a photo to folcproperties@outlook.com

LADIES GUILD



— December meeting covered several old and new topics. Thanks to everyone who showed up the hour early!!

— A New Generation — the group we sponsor with our baby bottle campaign — is seeing an increase in mothers and fathers attending their

parenting classes (which is good!). If you are interested in and/or looking for someone to help out this Holiday season they have suggested items like sippy cups, warm sleepers or outfits for boys and girls' sizes 6-24 months. We will try to have a box by the pantry table but if not there, just leave at the pantry table. They are most appreciative of any support.

Rummage sale will be Friday and Saturday February 6&7. A sign-up sheet for volunteer support will be out Sunday January 4. We need lots of help!! We are now collecting items for the sale but remind you that you must deliver your items to the Church and we request **NO large furniture or bedroom sets. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!**

Ladies, please remember that if you are a member of FOLC, you are a member of our Guild. We'd love for you to join our meetings, share in our fellowship and help spread our Christian love.

January will be our **No Bake Bake Sale fundraiser**. Starting January 4 there will be a box of envelopes by all the sign-up sheets labeled "No Bake Bake Sale". Put your donation in an envelope and put the envelope in the collection plate. Checks should be made out to FOLC Ladies Guild. We will run this fundraiser for the month of January. Thank you!

A bit of news we have today....
A "No Bake" Bake Sale is on the way
In these busy days, who wants to bake
A pie or cookies or even a cake,
You'd be surprised if you counted the cost Of ingredients, heat,
and the time you've lost, Baking for sales is extra work,
Yet nobody really wants to shirk,
So, we've thought of a plan that is really grand
And feel quite sure you'll understand. In an envelope,
please include the price of a pie, or cake, or anything nice
Without fuss or bother, you've done your part.
We hope you'll give with a willing heart
Wishing our Women's Guild success for our "No Bake Bake Sale"
This is the end of our little tale.

*Please put your donation in an envelope marked
"No Bake Bake Sale" and Put in the donation plate. if you are writing a
check, please make it out to FOLC Women's Guild with a note in the memo
saying **No Bake Bakesale**. Thank you so much Cathy Walter*

MEMORIALS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEMORIAL/HONOR OF</u>	<u>FUND NAME</u>	<u>GIVER OF GIFT</u>
5/15/2022 (M)	Pastor and Jan Lehr	Unspecified	Mrs. Anita Mutschler
5/15/2022 (M)	Pastor and Jan Lehr	Debt Reduction	Mrs. Mary Arndt
5/15/2022 (M)	Pastor and Jan Lehr	Debt Reduction	Mrs. Gloria Carrow
5/15/2022 (M)	Derald Kading	Debt Reduction	Mrs. Mary Lou Kading
5/15/2022 (M)	Vivian Schmitz	Debt Reduction	Mr. Ted Ryder
5/15/2022 (M)	Pastor and Jan Lehr	Debt Reduction	Mrs. Margo Hoyt
5/23/2022 (M)	Umberto Allevi	Food Pantry	Mrs. Pat Allevi
5/23/2022 (M)	Pastor and Jan Lehr	Food Pantry	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hoskins
5/23/2022 (M)	Vivian Schmitz	Food Pantry	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hoskins
5/23/2022 (M)	Pastor and Jan Lehr	General Fund	Ms. Nancy Stentz
5/23/2022 (M)	Gussie & Gene Garbinski	Food Pantry	Ms. Nancy Stentz
5/23/2022 (M)	Gussie & Gene Garbinski	Quilters	Ms. Nancy Stentz
5/23/2022 (M)	Ron Stamer	Future Maintenance	Mrs. Barb Stamer
5/23/2022 (M)	Vivian Schmitz	Unspecified	Mrs. Christine Hensen
5/23/2022 (M)	Ryan Shirk, Grandson of Emke's	Unspecified	Gary & Ellouise Emke
5/23/2022 (M)	Pastor and Jan Lehr	Unspecified	Unknown
5/23/2022 (M)	Pastor and Jan Lehr	General Fund	Mr & Mrs. Gerry Stead
5/23/2022 (M)	Larry Miller	Debt Reduction	Lynn & Karen Postel
5/23/2022 (M)	Pastor and Jan Lehr	Debt Reduction	Roy & Alma Martin
5/30/2022 (M)	Larry Miller	Future Maintenance	Mrs. Mary Arndt
5/30/2022 (M)	Pastor and Jan Lehr	General Fund	Unknown
6/5/2022 (M)	Vivian Schmitz	Food Pantry	Audrey & Ernest Stead
6/5/2022 (M)	Larry Miller	Unspecified	Mrs. Norma Miller
6/5/2022 (M)	Larry Miller	Debt Reduction	Mrs. Gloria Carrow
6/5/2022 (M)	Derald Kading	Food Pantry	Mrs. Sheri Farra
6/5/2022 (M)	Mr. Gilchrist	Food Pantry	Loretta Gilchrist
6/12/2022 (M)	Ryan Shirk, Grandson of Emke's	General Fund	Nina Shirk



CHOIR NEWS

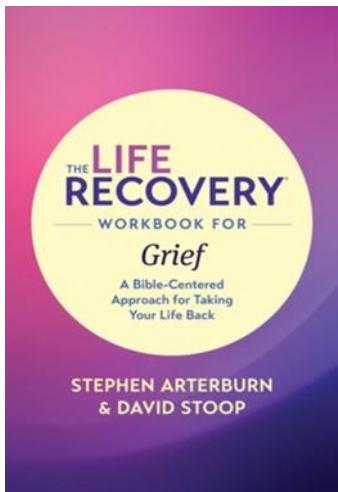
Come one, come all and make a joyful noise to the Lord! Come on in and join us! I am sure you will know the hymns.

There is no good or bad it is all about our love for God.

We meet Sundays after services, at 12:30 PM.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY AND CAROL SING





GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:

NEW TIME! NEW MEETING PLACE! Now meeting twice, a month. The 2nd Friday of each month at 6 PM at Marcia Pridgen's home. And the 4th Saturday of the month at 11:30 AM at the church. We will be starting a 12 step study book called "The Life Recovery Workbook for Grief". A bible center approach for taking back your life. Authors, Stephen Arterburn and David Stoop. The book can be purchased at Amazon for \$9.99.

NOTES OF THANKS

Judy and Ted would like to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, cards and love shown to them when Ted was in the hospital and now recovering in Rehab. Ted is doing well and is hoping to be back home soon!

Blessings, Ted and Judy Ryder

Keith wants to thank everyone for their outpouring of love with prayers, calls, cards and visits when he was in the hospital. He is recovering well and will be better than ever in a few weeks! Have a blessed New Year!

Keith Higgins

Fran and Bob want to thank everyone for your prayers. Pastor is a gem and visited twice while bob was in the hospital. He is home now and doing well with new medication. We are so grateful for all of you.

Fran and Bob Schuliet

Please convey my heartfelt "Thank You" to the Ladies from the Women's Guild that sent me Christmas Cards. They are very heartwarming & appreciated. To all of FOLC: "Have a Blessed CHRISTmas"!!

From Laura Plona

LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Women's Bible study in January we will begin to study the Liz Curtis Higgs book "Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible" The 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.



LUNCH BUNCH: lunch bunch for January resumes on **January 21 at Noon**. We will meet at Timber Pines Clubhouse, you must sign up for this one. There will be a signup sheet at the members center. When you come to the gate, please say I am here to meet Jackie Bearden for lunch at the club.



QUilters Group

Our Quilters Group wishes to thank everyone who participated in our recent raffle and craft sale. Our beautiful quilt made by Kathy was won by Debbie Hennessy, a member of our congregation. We invite anyone interested in joining us to stop by. We meet Monday at 1-4 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

GAME DAYS: We will resume Gameday on Wednesday, January 7th at 1 PM. Everyone is invited to come! You can bring a friend if you would like too. Games are an awesome way to meet or get to know other members of our family here at FOLC. We have many kinds of games and we are always willing to learn new ones. Please come laughter is required and if you are down that day the fellowship will bring you joy, and God's blessings. Game day is the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month. Drema Gottsman



FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry is collecting cereal in January
Example: Boxed cereals, oatmeal and any other breakfast cereals. Please leave donations on the table in the narthex.

We are open on Tuesday from 9 AM- Noon. We also have a monthly food drop on the third Thursday of the month.

Anniversaries

01/02	Eddie & Drema Gottsman
01/23	Paul & Dorothy Ann Ell
01/29	Bob & Fran Schuleit

Birthdays

01/05	Marcy Stortzum
01/06	Bobbi Mattia
01/06	Casey Shingle
01/07	Teri Arndt
01/08	Delilah Blackburn
01/11	Danelia Villarrubia
01/15	Angela Kenny
01/17	Jesse Ward
01/20	Edward Wright
01/30	Sharon Mckenna

If your name is not listed on the birthdays or anniversaries, please call Lyla at the church office and give her the information.

352-683-9731

The second Sunday of each month is Mites Sunday

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national **mission grants** and implement the LWML program.



Mite Boxes, are distributed to every woman in a society, and to each member of the congregation. Local groups submit Mite Box offerings to the appointed district officer.

The Widow's Mite

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.

But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on" (Mark 12:41–43).

2025-2027 MISSION GRANT NO. 6

CHRIST-CENTERED HOPE FOR CANCER PATIENTS

PHIL'S FRIENDS | \$100,000



Visiting Cancer Patients with the Compassion of Jesus

Phil's Friends touches or "visits" cancer patients and their families in profound ways. In the past 18 years, nearly 60,000 care packages and more than one million Cards of Hope were sent across the United States and even to Liberia. Each cancer patient can't be seen in person, but they can be "visited" with the mercy, love, and compassion of Jesus Christ through free care packages and monthly Cards of Hope. It is during difficult times when people are most likely to ask searching questions and are open to the Gospel. Simple acts of kindness, such as receiving a care package or encouraging cards, become the most meaningful and impactful.

The cost to support one cancer patient for a year is \$100. This total includes the care package, 12 Cards of Hope, and postage. Since Phil's Friends is 100% donor supported, this \$100,000 grant will help reach 1000 patients with Christ-centered hope and compassion.

Each care package is lovingly hand-decorated, and the contents are customized according to the age and gender of the recipient. Care packages are filled with both practical and comfort items that a cancer patient can use during their treatments such as lip balm, a water bottle, lotion, a knitted hat, socks, a homemade blanket, a journal, puzzle books, and stuffed animals for children. The most important thing that is included in every package is the Bible, the only true source of hope and comfort.

Phil's Friends operates in the LWML Northern Illinois District, and the Bible verse from Matthew 25:36 is at the core of its mission. Testimonies are received every week from recipients telling how their care package and ongoing Cards of Hope strengthen, encourage, and uplift their spirits. Some recipients say they began reading the Bible for the first time and came to faith in Jesus. Phil's Friends plants Gospel seeds, reaches the spiritually lost, and rejoices over every person who will join Jesus in heaven.

*I was sick and you visited me
(Matthew 25:36).*

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest
(Matthew 11:28).*

We are writing this somewhat reluctantly, but as this is the time of year when thoughts reflect on the past and contemplate the future, the time has come. Forest Oaks Lutheran Church has been our home for twenty years. Prior to our move to Florida, we lived in Maryland, and many of our family still live there and we are considering a move back to Maryland to be closer to them. Like many who have faced a similar situation, as we are aging, whether we move or not, we find that we are not able to do many of the things we could do when we first arrived here and so, there are things that we need to pass on to others. While we are still here and there's some time for us to aid in the transition, others need to come forward and volunteer to follow in our footsteps. For example, there are bulletin boards at various locations throughout the church building, particularly near the fellowship hall, in need of care. Judy is having issues using a ladder to continue doing them. Since other organizations use our Fellowship Hall, in addition to members and visitors, it is good to have a Christian message for them to see. The food pantry can use a person who is familiar with EXCEL or any computer program that can assist them with tracking the amount of families and people we serve weekly and monthly.

Jess has been the treasurer or assistant treasurer for many years and, although the current assistant is very capable to continue, the church requires another person to help. Having someone volunteer now would enable Jess to help that person learn and be able to assist. Another major need will be someone to coordinate the church services with the Pastor and make the slides to be shown each Sunday as well as during special services. We consider these areas to be those that would benefit from an early transition and training. Please feel free to ask us questions or discuss your concerns about them with us.

We understand that as a somewhat small congregation, there are many things that need to be done and often can overwhelm even the most dedicated among us. We are asking you to prayerfully consider and make the bold step to come forward to fill the empty spaces that we are leaving behind so that we can move forward and you can continue your spiritual journey by serving the Lord, your fellow believers, and our community. Please keep us in your prayers, as you will be in ours. Peace and joy to you in the coming year. *Blessings, Jess and Judy Ward*



**RUMMAGE SALE WILL BE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 6 & 7**

News Flash!

If you are trying to contact the church office the phone number and email address is listed on this newsletter's front page. In case you missed it on the slides on Sunday or in the weekly bulletin or in this newsletter the email address has changed to forestoakslutheran@outlook.com. Any other emails to the church will not work.

The next Newsletter deadline for February newsletter will be January 11. We have a lot of activities going on so let's get these articles into the office so they can be on the calendar. I will send out a reminder for both of these articles. Please send your article to forestoakslutheran@outlook.com

Or put your article in Lyla's box outside the church office door.

January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Years Day Office closed No Bible Study	2 Office Closed Wedding, 9 AM	3 Office closed
4 Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Confirmation class Fellowship Time Youth Group Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal 12:30 P	5 Office Closed TOPS, 9 AM	6 Office open 9 AM-1 PM TOPS 9 AM Food Pantry 9 AM	7 Office open 9 AM-1 PM GAME DAY 1 PM	8 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Bible Study 9 AM	9 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Grief Support 6 PM	10 Women's Bible Study 11 am
11 Service 9:30 AM Mites Sunday Sunday School & Confirmation class Fellowship Time Youth Group Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal	12 Office Closed TOPS, 9 AM	13 Office open 9 AM-1 PM TOPS 9 AM Food Pantry 9 AM		14 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Women's Guild 10 AM Men's Club 10 AM	15 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Bible Study 9 AM	16 Office open 9 AM-1 PM
18 Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Confirmation class Fellowship Time Youth Group Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal	19 Office Closed TOPS, 9 AM	20 Office open 9 AM-1 PM TOPS 9 AM Food Pantry 9 AM	21 Lunch Bunch Noon	22 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Bible Study 9 AM	23 Office open 9 AM-1 PM	24 Office closed Women's Bible Study
25 Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Confirmation class Fellowship Time Youth Group Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal <i>Communion</i>	26 Office Closed TOPS, 9 AM	27 Office open 9 AM-1 PM TOPS 9 AM Food Pantry 9 AM		28 Office open 9 AM-1 PM	29 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Bible Study 9 AM	30 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Grief Support 11:30 AM
						31 Office closed

Happy New Year

2026