

February 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



For Lutherans, Ash Wednesday is the solemn start of Lent, a 40-day season of repentance and preparation for Easter, marked by the imposition of ashes in the shape of a cross on the forehead as a reminder of human mortality ("dust to dust") and God's mercy through Christ. Services focus on confession, penitence, fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, emphasizing humility and turning from sin to Christ's redeeming sacrifice. Usually the pastor takes the ashes on the end of his thumb and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each worshiper, saying these words: "Remember: you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" is usually omitted as well.

By not using the alleluia — a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord" — until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year.

Ash Wednesday is February 18th this year. Our service of imposition of ashes will start at 9:30 AM.

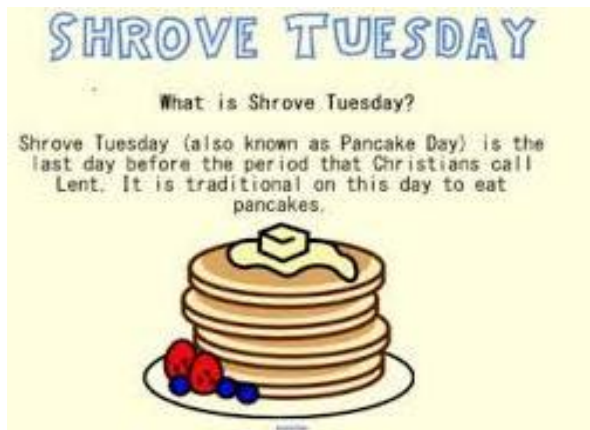
NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: a new church directory is underway! If you would like to add a fresh picture, please see Jackie Bearden or send a photo to folcproperties@outlook.com



RUMMAGE SALE WILL BE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 6 & 7

8 AM- 12 NOON BOTH DAYS



SHROVE TUESDAY: Pancake supper at 5 PM in the fellowship hall We will have a sign up sheet up so we know how many to prepare for

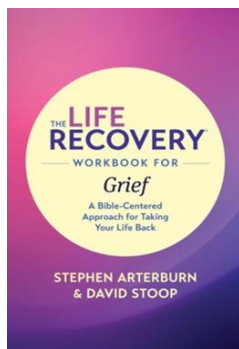
CARE MINISTRY

A new year 2026 brings us with new ideas. Mark your calendar so you don't miss out.

Game day will be every Wednesday at 1:00 except for February 4th when we set up for the Rummage Sale. And Wednesday February 18 when we have Lunch Bunch.

If you haven't joined in on Game Day, you ought to check it out. You'll get to know your sisters and brothers in Christ with lots of fun, and to play a game you know or a new one. You can come when you want. There is no commitment to play each week. Drema and Eddie Gottsman are your Hosts.

We also want to plan occasional potluck lunches after Sunday services. More information on that to come later.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:

The Grief support group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at 11 AM. Here at Forest Oaks



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](#)).

Mites Sunday is the second Sunday of each month. Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:4), the mite box is intended for regular contributions of mites — offerings that fund the national mission grants. Please continue to donate \$1.00 bills with the letters **L** for Lord, **J** for Jesus, and **C** for Christ as well as any change you have.

2025-2027 MISSION GRANT NO. 4

THE PERPETUAL CALL FOR PASTORS AND TEACHERS

LCMS OFFICE OF PASTORAL EDUCATION | \$100,000



Set Apart to Serve Encourages Church Work

Set Apart to Serve (SAS) is a Synod-wide program focused on forming and recruiting full-time church workers. Supplying the church with workers is one of the highest priorities for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

SAS is striving to develop a culture where every LCMS congregation, school, and entity intentionally forms and recruits church workers among their youth and adults. They are focusing on youth, second-career, multi-cultural ministry, and international outreach. Moving forward they will continue testing and refining all focus areas, form new partnerships, and expand resources available to congregations, schools, and families.

There are three areas of focus.

First, there has been an increased interest in full-time church work at the LCMS Youth Gathering, YouthLead, and Higher Things events. Concordia universities and seminaries are reporting increases in enrollment in church work programs, for the first time in 15 years.

Second, fostering an intentional culture of recruitment and developing tools to identify second-career candidates is vital to increasing enrollment in the seminaries.

Finally, the SAS strategies on multi-cultural and international workers will help bring all to know Jesus Christ.

This \$100,000 grant will help the Set Apart to Serve program encourage more members to consider church work. It will provide insight, collaboration, and needed resources to spread the saving Gospel message to all people.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest"
(Matthew 9:37-38).



Congratulations to Kathy Hougen and Allen Dodge, who were married here at FOLC on January 2. Some of our ladies gave Kathy a bridal shower the day before.







Food Pantry

The pantry remained very busy over the holidays. We were fortunate in sharing the Christmas generosity with many of our church members as well as the clients themselves. Our neighbors “Timber Pines” conducted a food drive to benefit the pantry at a time when the need was great, a “Thank you to all”

“Angels Among Us”

I believe every one of us reflect on the time in our life we shared a moment with someone we considered an “Angel” This was generally a title held for a person generous of their heart and time. We at our pantry have been so blessed with such a person. I’m speaking of Betty DeThomas who throughout our many years has been one of our biggest supporters.

Betty was an active member of TOPS which hold their weekly meeting in our Fellowship Hall. Betty was the cheerleader, always the first to ask our Pantry what was needed for any holiday, back to school needs for the kids or any other food that was needed. Betty did not drive, but that didn’t stop her. She made her pitch to the members, did the shopping and would bring in much needed items to us to distribute to hundreds over the many years. I know she was touched by everyone who came in contact with her and loved by all. We thank the Lord for the gift of her friendship and a witness to her generosity.

The TOPS organization has made a generous donation to the Food Pantry in memory of Betty and we are honored for such a loving remembrance.

Lonnie Benmore

LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Women's Bible continues into February we are studying the Liz Curtis Higgs book "Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible" The 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.



LUNCH BUNCH:

Stay tuned for information about the upcoming lunch bunch.



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.

CHARLIE FERMAN Charlie works in our food pantry every week

He is known by our clients for his dress up costumes. Here you have baby New year, Christmas and I am not sure what he was celebrating with the salsa costume!



Anniversaries

02/12	Walter & Yvonne Salter
02/14	Mike & Onica Dollins
02/14	Robert & Kimberly Lineback
02/25	William & Marcia Pridgen
02/29	Cindy & Mike Braun

Birthdays

02/02	Daniel Killian
02/06	Barb Stamer
02/07	Hank Rullman
02/09	Loretta Gilchrist
02/13	Larry Schmitz
02/14	Stan Benmore
02/21	Kathleen Ridder
02/23	Debbie Hennessy
02/25	Darla Morris
02/28	Ken Mattia

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

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 March newsletter will be February 15. 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.

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Confirmation class Fellowship Time Youth Group Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM	2 Office Closed Quilters 1 PM	3 Office open 9 AM-1 PM TOPS 9 AM Food Pantry 9 AM	4 Office open 9 AM-1 PM No Games today!	5 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Bible Study 9 AM	6 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Rummage Sale 8 AM-Noon	7 Office closed Rummage Sale 8 AM-Noon
Set up for Rummage Sale Monday-Thursday in the fellowship hall						
8 Mites Sunday Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Confirmation class Fellowship Time Youth Group Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM <i>Communion</i>	9 Office Closed Quilters 1 PM	10 Office open 9 AM-1 PM TOPS 9 AM Food Pantry 9 AM	11 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Finance Mtg. 9 AM Ladies Guild Men's Club, 10 AM Game day 1 PM	12 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Bible Study 9 AM	13 Office open 9 AM-1 PM	14 Office Closed Women's Bible Study 10 AM Grief Support, 11AM
15 Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Confirmation class Fellowship Time Youth Group Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM	16 Office Closed Quilters 1 PM	17 Office open 9 AM-1 PM TOPS 9 AM Food Pantry 9 AM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5 PM	18 Office open 9 AM-1 PM ASH Wednesday 9:30 AM	19 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Bible Study 9 AM	20 Office open 9 AM-1 PM	21 Office Closed
22 Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Confirmation class Fellowship Time Youth Group Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM <i>Communion</i>	23 Office Closed Quilters 1 PM	24 Office open 9 AM-1 PM TOPS 9 AM Food Pantry 9 AM	25 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Lenten Services, 11AM Soup Lunch following Game Day	26 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Bible Study 9 AM	27 Office open 9 AM-1 PM	28 Office Closed Women's Bible Study 10 AM Grief Support, 11 AM