



March 2026

Becoming An Influencer For Jesus Part 1

**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

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An influencer is someone who has been able to acquire a following in some area of interest on social media or in circles of people. It is a newer career that many younger people aspire to.

Can we of a more mature generation seek to influence people toward learning the Bible and to become zealous for Jesus Christ. Jeremiah 15:19, NLT The prophet Jeremiah was told by the Lord "If you speak good words rather than worthless one, you will be my spokesman. You must influence them; do not let them influence you!" I read about this in an article titled "365 Opportunities to Live Like Jesus" by David Jeremiah. In his January Turning Points magazine. Dr Jeremiah provides suggestions for becoming an influencer:

1. Learn about Jesus and come to know Him better than ever. Philippians 3:10 "I want to know Christ-yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,"

We should immerse ourselves in the Gospels, i.e., Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In them we discover the risen Christ in person. We learn about Jesus; what he accomplished for us and what we are supposed to do. We get to see Jesus loving people, showing compassion, teaching and discipling, rebuking and correcting, suffering, and dying for us.

2. Live like Jesus. As we get to know Jesus better, we should witness extraordinary changes. The Holy Spirit will work in our personality, to mirror images of the temperament of Jesus. His nine core character traits – love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control – begin to emerge as dominant attitudes within us. This is called the “fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5:22-23.

2 Corinthians 3:18 “And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His *very own* image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit. Amplified Bible.
The Holy Spirit changes us!

Next month I will discuss two more ways to become an influencer for Jesus.

God Bless you all, Jackie Bearden
Congregational President

Church Council Meeting

March 1st

MEN'S CLUB: photos of Eddie Gottsman, Dennis Dix, and Charlie Ferman as they were working hard on the shrubbery around the AC system. And also that we have received a donation through Thrivent for \$250.00 from a congregation member for the Men's Group to go towards this project such as buying the replacement shrubs.



Pancake Supper: The Men's club Served up Pancakes, Bacon, Sausage and scrambled eggs. Shrove Tuesday was a great success. Everything went really well and everyone enjoyed themselves. We had a group of 25 here for the dinner. A shout out for all the great help with Ed, Dan, Daryl, Daniel, and Scott doing all the cooking, on top of prep and or setup with Lyn. And also for our host/ maitre'd Charlie. A big thank you to everyone with cleanup afterwards. And prayers for those who couldn't come because of sickness.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

A very big thank you to Keith Higgins for putting together a fantastic pizza party for the Sunday School, Confirmation, and Youth Group students. They all had fun playing matching games, memory games, and dexterity games!



Lent



LENTEN SERVICES AND SOUP LUNCHESES

February 25, we begin our Lenten services at 11 AM every Wednesday throughout the Lenten Season. Soup lunch follows the service. We need Soup makers each week. A sign up for Soup makers is on the welcome center. We need 2 soup makers each week. Thanks to the ones who have already signed up. Please check the list and see the days we need soup makers.



FROM THE LADIES GUILD: THANK YOU!! To all who donated to our Bakeless Bake Sale. Your contributions added up to \$231. AND an even bigger THANK YOU to all our volunteers and shoppers at our February rummage sale. We raised an amazing \$6,338.60!!! Our largest amount yet! (ANOTHER THANK YOU TO AN UNANIMOUS DONOR FOR THEIR EXTRA LARGE DONATION!) AND we set the date for our 2nd sale this year — November 13 & 14 2026. More info on that later.

The Ladies Guild is looking for help! 1) We need a Sunshine Lady. You don't have to be active in the Guild. We are looking for someone who would send our shut-ins and our parishioners with health concerns notes of cheer. 2) it is time to look for new officers. We are looking for a new President and a new Treasurer. These are two-year posts. If you are interested in any of the above, or would like more int, please contact Cathy Walter at 231-398-0565. Ladies, remember— if you are a member of FOLC, you are automatically a member of our Ladies Guild!





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.

**2024-2026 Biennium
District Mission Grants
\$136,737.83**

1. District scholarships for Pastoral and Church Worker Students—\$30,000.

2. Facilitating Futures: Forward Paths for Young Men and Women aging out of Foster Care—\$10,000 to provide housing, education and job training to at-risk youth aging out of foster care to become independent. .

3. Reaching College Students So They Thrive in Christ—\$9,000 to invest in a campus mission intern to expand it's mission reaching non-Lutheran and unchurched students with the Gospel message.

4. Wheels of Plenty—\$10,000 to purchase a food transportation truck to continue serving families at their food pantry in Spring Hill, FL for physical and spiritual care needs.



5. Center for Seafarer Mental Health—\$8,750 to renovate the welcoming center and to help share the Good New of Jesus with the 60,000 seafarers who call on the Port of Savannah annually..

6. Proclaiming Jesus to the Visually Impaired—\$10,000 to Lutheran Braille Workers for braille and large print production supplies for leadership training resources, devotionals and Bibles.

7. Christian Care and Early Childhood Education—\$10,000 to expand outreach services in bringing the Good News of Jesus to children and their families in the Titusville, FL community.

8. Surgical Sterilizer—\$10,000 to purchase a surgical equipment sterilizer for a medical ministry in Honduras. The sterilizer will allow more time to pray with patients and bring the Gospel to forgotten people.

9. Feeding Haitian Children Through Gospel and Meals—10,000 to serve noon meals to children in Haitian Christian schools Without these meals, children would struggle to grow, learn, thrive and understand the mercies of Christ..



10. Who is my Neighbor? Bible Books for Non-English Speakers—\$8,500 to provide 2,000 Bible books in multiple languages to introduce immigrants throughout Florida and Georgia to Jesus by LCMS churches/mission teams.

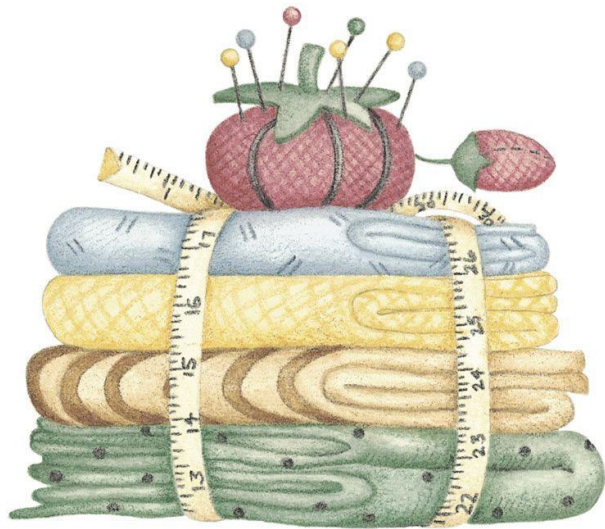


11. Supporting Costs of a Missionary Couple for Christian Outreach to International Communities in the Florida-Georgia District—\$10,000 to provide support, ministry needs and materials costs such as translated Bibles and Gospel tracts for a POBLO missionary couple in the Florida-Georgia District..

12. Trinity Lutheran Academy Security Locks—\$10,000 to enable installation of security locks on interior and exterior classroom doors to provide safety and security to nearly 100 children in eight classrooms.

13. Buma Village Project—\$487.83 (partial) to build a Christian church/school in Buma, Sierra Leone..

Mission Grant #4 was for Forest Oaks Lutheran to purchase a truck for our food Pantry



QUILTERS GROUP

Our Quilting Group is grateful for another year of Blessings. We thank everyone who continues to support us. Our recent craft sales have been very successful. We continue to sew baby items for “A New Generation Center” in Spring Hill. As is customary for our group. We gifted two individuals recently baptized . In view of our cold weather, two quilts have been gifted to a friend of our group.

We meet each Monday from 1-4 PM we welcome various talents. So come and join us to see what we do!

GAME DAYS

will be every Wednesday at 1:00. Come for Lenten services and soup lunch then stay to play games

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.

<u>Memorial Gift From:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>For the Benefit of:</u>
Margo Hoyt	Cliff Hoyt	Future Maintenance Fund
Audrey Dean	Harold Dean 12th Anniversary of Passing	Unspecified General Fund
Cathy Walter	John Hoch	Food Pantry Fund
John & Jeanette Corlito 1 Lagoon Dr., Brightwater, NY	Otto Prostka	Unspecified General Fund

Anniversaries

03/04	Joe & Donna Brookes
03/21	Raymond & Mary Klein
03/26	Don & Barb Mourand
03/27	Norma & Robert Higgins
03/28	Tom & Diane Shay
03/29	Dennis & Barbara Dix

Birthdays

03/01	Jocelyn Fischer
03/06	Ted Ryder
03/06	Alan Shingle
03/07	Nancy Skinner
03/08	Casey Braun
03/08	Marcia Pridgen
03/11	Lonnie Benmore
03/13	Lyla Mock
03/13	Pamela White
03/16	Walter Salter
03/18	Audrey Stead
03/19	Bob Pavlik
03/20	Deanne Beard
03/22	Onica Dollins
03/28	Geoff Blackburn
03/29	Keith Higgins
03/31	Mary Arndt

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

MARCH BRINGS LENTEN SERVICES AND HOLY WEEK

March 29 Palm Sunday 9:30 AM

April 2 Maundy Thursday 7 PM

April 3 Good Friday 7 PM

Sunday March 5 Easter Day 7 AM Sunrise Service Breakfast Following
9:30 AM Easter Services, Easter Breakfast Following

NEWS FLASH!

WE HAD A FEW DAYS OF PHONE AND INTERNET OUTAGE DURING FEBRUARY. IF YOU CALL THE CHURCH AND GET THE ANSWERING MACHINE PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE SO WE CAN CALL YOU BACK.

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 April newsletter will be March 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.

March 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 Church council Mtg.	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 Lent Service 11 AM Soup lunch Game Day 1 PM	5 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Bible Study 9 AM	6 Office open 9 AM-1 PM	7
8 Mites Sunday Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Confirmation class Fellowship Time Youth Group Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Communion	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 <u>Finance Mtg. 9 AM</u> Ladies Guild Men's Club, 10 AM Game day 1 PM Lent Service 11 AM Soup lunch	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, 11:30 AM
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	18 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Lent Service 11 AM Soup lunch Game day 1 PM	19 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Bible Study 9 AM Produce Drop 9 AM	20 Office open 9 AM-1 PM	21
22 Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Confirmation class Fellowship Time Youth Group Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Communion	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 Lent Service 11 AM Soup lunch Game day 1 PM	26 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Bible Study 9 AM	27 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Fish Fry 5 PM	28 Office Closed Women's Bible Study 10 AM Grief Support, 11:30
29 Palm Sunday, Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Confirmation class Fellowship Time Youth Group Pastors Bible class Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM	30 Office Closed Quilters 1 PM	31 Office open 9 AM-1 PM TOPS 9 AM Food Pantry 9 AM	April 1 Office open 9 AM-1 PM Game day 1 PM	April 2 Maundy Thursday 7 PM	April 3 Good Friday 7 PM	March 4

Holy Week

