



## 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](mailto:forestoakslutheran@outlook.com)

[forestoakslutheran.com](http://forestoakslutheran.com)

# April 2025

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Jackie Bearden, FOLC council President

Opposing opinions can cause division, anger, and outbursts. Sometimes just saying "that is not true" or saying nothing at all can cause a very negative reaction. It is all based on your personal perspective and perhaps the people you align yourself with and listen to. In that case anything I would say would not persuade anyone to change their opinion.

Jesus and then Paul discussed the challenges of dealing with unbelievers during their ministries:

Luke 16:31 "He (Jesus) said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead' "

Paul explaining to King Agrippa of his own conversion in Acts 26:9 "I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth." But Paul had a visit from Jesus on the road to Damascus in Acts 26:17-18 "I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light; and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." And Paul followed through and always knew what to say to bring the message of light

However, in Acts 28:24 we find “Some were convinced by what he said but others would not believe.”

Since I do not express my opinions eloquently, I do not start debates just those outbursts, however, I must remember Hebrews 12:14-15 “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.” Lord have mercy for the times I failed.

I want to share a prayer I read in my morning devotions on 3/15/25 Holy Bible app, it does not relate to the topic at hand but is a simple sweet prayer: “God, thank you for sending us Your holy Son. Thank you for sacrificing what You loved most so that we could experience intimacy with You. You are so kind and good to all who choose to know You. Today and every day, please draw me closer to You. I want to spend the rest of my life entering Your presence with thanks. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

God Bless you all and Happy Easter.

Jackie

## LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY WEEK			
 Palm Sunday	 Maundy Thursday	 Good Friday	 Easter Sunday



*"The noblest and greatest work and the most important service we can perform for God on Earth is bringing other people and especially those who are entrusted to us, to the knowledge of God by the holy Gospel." – Martin Luther*

As I was doing some spring cleaning of files recently, I came across an article in a December 1970 Concordia Publishing House magazine called "Interaction", which stated, "It is a fact that on the average churchgoers in our country harbor more racial, ethnic, and religious prejudice than non-churchgoers." It made me stop and think how those words still resonate 55 years later, given the discord and division we see today all around us, especially since the pandemic. I will also admit how much I am confounded and conflicted, and even somewhat disappointed at this later stage in my life by what is going on around me, given what I was taught very early in life as a Lutheran Christian about God's abundant love for everyone and Jesus' life of servanthood and how we should proclaim that love and life.

In my daily devotions using the Portals of Prayer, I recently read 1 Corinthians 8:9: *"But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak."* The explanation further stated, "If exercising our freedom causes a weaker Christian to stumble in his or her faith, then our action is a sin." WOW! That really got me thinking not only about my actions, but how the words and actions of other Christians are a stumbling block to me! Is my - our- behavior a stumbling block to others?

People are searching for something. That is evident by the protests for equality, for justice, for following the rule of law, for a peaceful life. Why are we, as Christians not just telling the truth about Jesus instead of adding to this outrage? As Christians, we should want to see everyone living their best life and looking to eternal life. How many people have we as Christians failed to draw to Christ?

How many have we caused even our brothers and sisters in Christ to stumble? Looking around today seeing all the discord and division in our country led me to think about how difficult it is to draw people to Christ. This division is impeding our ability to do our mission, what God has commissioned us to do – teach all people about His great love for us. I'm concerned that we

are or can be a stumbling block and that we need to be careful in what we do and say.

I have no real answers other than to remain in the Word. It is my prayer that God will give us the wisdom to unite, stop sowing discord, remember our mission to draw people to Christ, and take care of one another both in body and soul. We shouldn't be oversimplifying issues, resisting differing ideas, and always insisting that we are right in our earthly views. We need to speak of our faith, make distinctions that show we are aware of complex issues, are thoughtful and open to new insights, and not just go along with the crowd. Our faith must be a personal concern and relevant to our daily activities, and shared with love that doesn't cause others to stumble in their faith.

Please join me in this prayer from the January-March 2025 Portals of Prayer, page 115:

*Heavenly Father, You have given us a spirit of freedom, not a spirit of fear. Lead us in paths to use our freedom for the sake of the Gospel, not just to seek what is best for ourselves. Holy Spirit, work in our lives so that we might use the freedom we have been blessed with to build up those around us, to draw them closer to You and to Your perfect will for their lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Judy Ward

## **Dinner with Seminary Students**



Lutheran Women in Mission hosted a dinner for second-year seminary and deaconess students at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, on March 3. LWML President Eden Keefe, Executive Director Vanessa Johnson, LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gary Piepkorn, LWML Public Relations Director (PRD) Debbie Yocky, Marketing and Development Coordinator Briana Exline, and Social Media Coordinator/Copywriter Will Sutter attended the event. Together, they celebrated the seminarians' upcoming transition to vicarage and internships. It was a wonderful night on the beautiful Concordia Seminary Campus with mild weather and an almost palpable buzz of excitement in the air.

The seminary students are well-acquainted with the Lutheran Women in Mission office on campus, where they have spent many mornings after chapel enjoying cookies, sipping tea or coffee, and engaging in conversations about their classes, interviews, and aspirations for the future. Pastor Piepkorn opened the evening in prayer and shared how Lutheran Women in Mission has been a blessing as a parish pastor. LWML President Eden and PRD Debbie briefly spoke on our mission and how we can continue to support these church workers as they embark on their vicarages and internships. President Dr. Thomas Egger ended the evening by thanking the LWML for their presence on campus and their support of church work students.

# LADIES GUILD NEWS



A big thank you to each of you who supported the Ladies Guild and LWML in our various fundraisers. A special thanks to all the helpers and donators for our rummage sale. With your contributions we are again able to make several donations. Donations will be made to our FOLC Food Pantry and our Future Maintenance Fund. We are able to increase the amount set aside for our LWML activities and functions and this year we are able to donate to 3 Concordia Seminary Students. All 3 students are part of our FL/GA district. They would love to hear from you if you would like to send them an email or a letter. You can get their names and addresses from the church office or in the weekly Sunday bulletin.

2023-2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 24

## GOD'S WORD FOR CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN MISSIONS LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION | \$100,000



### *Spanish Lutheran Books Given Freely to Reach the Unsaved*

People in the Christian church continually spread the Good News of eternal salvation made possible through the substitutionary life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), translates, publishes, and distributes a wide variety of Lutheran books in multiple languages. Some of the books include the *Bible with Luther's Small Catechism*, *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*, devotion booklets, and theological textbooks for pastors and seminary students. The gift of these written books brings many into the fellowship of believers.

Created in 1992 and based in Macomb, Michigan, LHF has taken advantage of open doors in countries where Christianity and Lutheranism are not well established or even non-existent. "Over the past 30 years, LHF has published nearly 1,300 titles in over 140 languages for churches on every continent except Antarctica. The books are given free of charge to the people and ministries who need them."

The grant for \$100,000 will help LHF meet the growing need for Spanish Bibles that include *Luther's Small Catechism* in Central and South America. By combining the catechism with the Bible, readers will be able to better understand the teachings and doctrine within the Bible. *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*, devotional booklet — *Jesus Never Fails*, *Luther's Small Catechism*, and *Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics Volume 1* will also be translated and published.

Worldwide more than 300 million people speak Spanish. The books published by LHF will touch the Latino population who were traditionally Roman Catholic and those who are unchurched today. All books published by LHF are given free of charge. People reading these publications will learn of the love of Christ and they will grow in their understanding of God's Word for them. The support of LHF spreads the Word and trains new leaders within the Lutheran church.

*All Scripture is  
breathed out by  
God and profitable  
for teaching,  
for reproof, for  
correction, and  
for training in  
righteousness, that  
the man of God  
may be complete,  
equipped for every  
good work  
(2 Timothy 3:16-17).*

## Set Apart to Serve



*ictured above: LCMS President Rev. Dr. Harrison presided as LWML President Eden Keefe and LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach presents a \$100,000 mission grant check for Set Apart to Serve to Rev. Dr. James Banek, Executive Director for Pastoral Education.*

LWML Mission Grant 10: Set Apart to Serve provided \$100,000 to support the LCMS church work recruitment initiative. ***Read the feature about our partnership with Set Apart to Serve in the LCMS Reporter>***

### Mite Explanation and History

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](#), available from the district, zone, or LWML office, are distributed to every woman in a society, and often 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](#)).*

### Mite Boxes — How They Began

Perhaps inspired by the various "cent" or "mite" societies of the early 1800s, the Woman's Mission to Woman (Baptist) urged members in its first circular letter in 1871 to use their new Mite Box to raise funds. The entire family was encouraged to contribute. The garnet-colored paper box had an opening on the top and the words, "Woman's Mission to Woman," in gold letters on the side.

### LWML Mite Boxes

Over the years, many Lutheran Ladies Aid societies used a box to gather funds in support of local and synod ministries.

Under the original 1928 Lutheran Women's Missionary Endeavor organizational plan, each woman in every congregation would receive a Mite Box if she participated in the Ladies Aid. Receipts from the 92 Ladies Aid societies totaled \$6651.31 in 1930.



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, formally recognized by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1942, required by the newly adopted constitution and bylaws, that 25% of all missionary contributions be given to the national organization, shared from the districts.

At the 1953 convention, delegates reaffirmed the policy of raising funds only through voluntary offerings. Instead of "mite boxes" some societies called their ingathering devices "blessing boxes" or "mission boxes" or "thankoffering boxes." The first Mite Box design had space for districts to imprint local messages.

In publications and speeches, Leaguers were reminded not to just tuck their Mite Box away out of sight and then on the day of the meeting take out a dollar bill, put it in an envelope and hand it to the secretary. Among the suggestions offered were:

- Put your pennies in the box at the end of each day
- Say "thank you" with an appropriate amount whenever calamity or misfortune has been averted
- Empty all your loose change from your kitchen coin bowl into the box on meeting day

## **LENTEN SOUP LUNCHES AND LENTEN SERVICES SOUP ALERT:**

First let me thank our soup makers. They gave us a wonderful variety of delicious soup. However at last count, I am still one Wednesday without a sign up. I need two soup makers to feed approximately 20 people each. This would be April 9th, any questions please contact Lonnie Benmore

### **Mail Carriers Food Drive:**

Our mail carriers help us yearly with a nationwide food drive. It is the day before Mother's Day. We are one of the collection sites. It requires a lot of work. We have mail trucks dropping off food that they collect. It should be May 10th and our trucks start early in the morning about 11:00 and run up to 7:00. Different food pantries participate and help is needed for collecting and packing. All pantries join in the labor and share in the collection. This is how many of us acquire our canned foods for our clients. As the date draws closer, I will have a sign-up sheet at the welcome center.

**Food Pantry:** Thank all of you who have supported us over the last year we would not be able to meet our mission without you. God bless you all,  
Lonnie





COME ON IN  
**OPEN  
HOUSE**



**PALM SUNDAY**

April 13, 2025

12 pm – 3 pm

At the Pridgen's Home

2418 Knoll Drive

Spring Hill, FL

**CELEBRATING THE FOREST OAKS LUTHERAN  
CHURCH'S  
2025 CONFIRMATION CLASS**



AND

Jeffrey Pridgen's Birthday



# PROPERTIES REPORT

Hello everyone, now we're in the busy month of April. We of course have Easter coming up, so our lent service's will be ending. As will our confirmation classes as this class graduates.

We started the confirmation class in the fall of 2023. The class has varied in size throughout but always had a steady group. I'm proud they stuck it out this whole time wanting to learn about the Bible and the small catechism. We will have a small add on to the Palm Sunday service to recognize the students.



We have also been enjoying the new truck for the food pantry. A big thank you to the LWML group for supplying us with a grant to purchase this truck and to Jan Shur for all her work in filing for the grant, promoting it, and staying on top of everything

that needed to be done for it. And to Charlie and Paula Ferman for providing us with the truck, as well as Charlie joining our food pantry team of volunteers also. The truck is a 2013 Ford F-150 with all the bells and whistles including the towing package that we needed, a beautiful well driving truck with 111,000 miles. Now I know my old blue could still keep hauling everything, but it is nice being able to go over a hill at a normal 45 like nothing instead of being slowed down to 25-30, so ok.

The building and property have been moving along. We do have an AC unit for the narthex that is down right now. Something went out of balance and shook some things up. I am in the middle of tearing it apart now to find the bad part. It should definitely be working by the time you are reading this. Then it is time for all 13 AC units to get their usual yearly/by-yearly maintenance.

I hope everyone has a Blessed month and Easter, Thank you, Keith

## **CARE MINISTRY EVENTS FOR MARCH**

Because of all the Holy week and Easter activities most of the regular activities are on pause for April. Check the Sunday Bulletin for announcements. There will be no care ministry meetings or lunch bunch.

## **EASTER BREAKFAST**



On Easter Morning we have Easter breakfast and help is greatly needed. We serve after sunrise service and after our morning service. Sign-up sheets at welcome center. We need cookers for strata's, fruit and pastries. Also help in kitchen serving and cleaning up. There is something for everyone.

## **BREAKFAST STRATA**

## **MONDAY QUILTERS**

Our quilters continue to work on items to be sent to The Lutheran World Relief. Our sewing sisters Deb and Michele are making centerpieces for our tables. These are a special addition for our holiday and special events. We sincerely appreciate their contributions and efforts. Please consider joining us for the afternoon. Blessings, Ellouise

**SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP:** This is an appeal to anyone who bakes, likes to bake, likes to shop and can help us on Sunday mornings. I would like to give our parishioners a little history on how we have been able to enjoy such lovely snacks on Sunday morning. We have been blessed in being assigned a couple Publix stores which we pick up pastries and bread twice a week. The contributions have been donated to our food pantry, but at times we have a generous amount and have been able to share with the congregation. Keeping in mind that the pantry must always



come first due to the fact this is a donation for them. The Publix on Mariner and County Line is our Sunday pick up. The store is going through a similar renovation as the Publix on Spring Hill and 19.

This means we are on our own. There is a signup sheet on the welcome center where you can sign up for your

choice of a Sunday remember anything would be appreciated. I imagine all of us came from a church elsewhere that we did this weekly. I think we might have gotten a little spoiled. By the way we are looking at maybe a year. Again, thank you all. God Bless Lonnie Benmore

## **THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO BE OUR GUESTS**

### **HEAR THEIR STORY AND SEE THEIR BEAUTIFUL OLIVEWOOD CRAFTS**

On April 6 2025 and during the service, we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after the service we will be hosting at the church Narthex a nice display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olive wood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income . For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict, the wars , the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem , the COVID-19 pandemic , and nowadays the catastrophic ongoing war , due to this tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land . This made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they lost their source of income . The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites ,

Please help support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town of Bethlehem where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings.

A Christians family from Bethlehem will be telling us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and they will be presenting these carvings after the services.

It is never too late to help. All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem .

**Let us carefully tend to our roots, Christian children of God in the Holy Land.**

**And let us pray together for peace in the land where our Savior once walked to tell the world the good news of salvation .**

Thank you for your support

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. George Ghanem  
Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative 703-745-2604



## *Birthdays*

04/04 Christine Hensen  
 04/18 Jeffrey Pridgen  
 04/20 Starr Magladino  
 04/30 Diana Koelling

## *Anniversaries*

04/14 Phil & Sharon McKenna



## Memorials

Given by	In Memory of	Fund Name
Darleen Keck	Caroline Hilpertshauser	Endowment
Darleen Keck	Wayne Nibert	Endowment
Larry Schmitz	Vivian Schmitz	Food Pantry
Margo Hoyt	Albert Mutschler & Agnes Mutschler	Future Maintenance



# APRIL 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Food Pantry 9 AM TOPS, 9 AM	<b>2</b> <u>Lenten Service</u> 11 AM Soup Lunch Noon	<b>3</b> Bible Study, 9 AM	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Service 9:30 AM Fellowship Time Sunday School 10:45 Confirmation Class Pastors Bible class	<b>7</b> OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAY Quilters, 1 PM	<b>8</b> Food Pantry 9 AM TOPS, 9 AM	<b>9</b> <u>Women's Guild</u> 9:30 AM <u>Lenten Service</u> 11 AM Soup Lunch Noon <b>Game Day 1 PM</b>	<b>10</b> Bible Study, 9 AM	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Women's Bible Study 10 AM
<b>13</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:30 AM Fellowship Time Sunday School 10:45 Confirmation Class Pastors Bible class	<b>14</b> OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAY Quilters, 1 PM	<b>15</b> Food Pantry 9 AM TOPS, 9 AM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> No Bible Study today <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7 PM	<b>18</b> <b>Good Friday</b> 7 PM	<b>19</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> Sunrise Ser, 7:30 AM Easter Breakfast Morning Ser, 9:30 AM Easter Breakfast Communion	<b>21</b> OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAY Quilters, 1 PM	<b>22</b> Food Pantry 9 AM TOPS, 9 AM	<b>23</b> <b>Game Day</b> 1 PM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Women's Bible Study 10 AM
<b>27</b> Service 9:30 AM Fellowship Time Sunday School 10:45 Confirmation Class Pastors Bible class	<b>28</b> OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAY Quilters, 1 PM	<b>29</b> Food Pantry 9 AM TOPS, 9 AM	<b>30</b>			

Activities are subject to change watch the Sunday bulletin for activities