

First Lutheran Church of Oklahoma City

Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations since 1991



Where The **Bible is True** and **Jesus is Lord**
November, 2024

In this issue:

Who Is First Lutheran? What are We about?

Budget Meeting
October Contributions

November's Personal Scripture Readings

Missions

Prayer Requests

Readers/Ushers

Birthdays

Who is First Lutheran & What are we about?

Have you ever noticed that God's economy is totally and completely backwards or even upside down from the rest of the world? If you need money – give what you have away. If you are hungry – give your food away. If you need clothes – clean out your dresser and closet and give what you have to those in need. A friend of mine calls this *Giving God something to work with*.

So, with this thought in mind, "How can we make First Lutheran Church of Oklahoma City grow?" Well, I want to ask, "What is our focus?" It appears to be the building. That gets me thinking about money. We all know that our church building is in desperate need to some MAJOR repairs. Our predecessors did us no favors when it comes to the outside of our building. It has cost us a fortune. But, let's ask another question...thinking about money: "Who does First Lutheran Church support?" What are we giving God to work with in our Church?

I know we are all pretty good about giving to the Church and we all believe that if we give, God will in turn, continue to care of our needs. Philippians 4:19 says, "*My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus*." This is something we can all bank on, Thank God.

But all in all, who *does* First Lutheran Church support? Are we supporting any missionaries? Are we supporting any local ministries? Are we even supporting our denomination? I'm not talking about an annual gift or what we all do on our own. I'm speaking about First Lutheran Church of Oklahoma City as a single entity.

Why am I even asking this question? Well, let's see . . . what is Jesus final instructions to us in Matthew? *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:19-20)

I would say that the **single most important thing to Jesus is evangelism**. I would be so bold as to say evangelism is at the heart of the Lord. **The second most important thing to God is caring for the Poor.** In Matthew 25:31-41 Jesus says **FOUR TIMES:**

Feed the hungry
Take in strangers

Give water to the thirsty
Care for the sick

Clothe the naked
Visit the prisoners

We annually do Operation Christmas Child. We work very hard at that. Everyone gets involved. It's wonderful. But what about the other 11 months of the year? (Yes, I know that we begin in the summer with collecting items for this event.) But there are still other things we can do as a church to reach out to the rest of the world.

So, once again I pose the question, "Who is First Lutheran Church of Oklahoma City supporting?" We give to the Infant Crisis Center, we also send an annual amount to the AFLC, but First Lutheran Church of Oklahoma City doesn't really support any ministry on a regular monthly basis. So, what are we telling the Lord, through our actions, what our focus is? Are our financial actions telling the Lord that we are mostly focused on ourselves? There are missionaries through the AFLC that First Lutheran Church of Oklahoma City can support. We can support the City Rescue Mission or other shelter organizations (PIOVT is one), we can support the Infant Crisis Center, or any other pro-life organization.

What are we doing in the way of outreach? Do we even send out cards to those who are sick in the church? Is anyone calling those who have been out for a while to find out if they are okay? When was the last time someone sent you a card?

Below are some statistics about Cancer in Oklahoma:

About **22,000 people are diagnosed with cancer** each year in Oklahoma.

- **Cancer deaths:** More than 8,000 people die from cancer in Oklahoma each year.
- **Cancer mortality rate:** Oklahoma has the seventh highest cancer mortality rate in the United States.
- **Cancer incidence rates:** Cancer incidence rates are higher in urban areas than in rural areas.
- **Cancer types:** Some cancer types with higher age-adjusted incidence rates in Oklahoma include lung and bronchus, liver and bile duct, leukemia, and melanoma of the skin.

We have approximately 29/30ish people in our congregation. Of those 29 – 30 people, I know of **4** breast cancer survivors, **one** prostate cancer survivor, and **one** with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma who is continually receiving treatment, and hasn't given up. Why don't the 6 of them get together with some boxes of Encouragement Cards, write a note of encouragement and give the box(es) to the different hospitals in the area? That would mean a lot to those who are newly diagnosed. A brief note from a survivor along with a note to their spouse from a spouse who has walked that road with the patient is an amazing encouragement.

The majority of our congregation is over the age of 50. Some of us have already lost our parents, myself – I'm in that process...not fun. But what about putting little bags together to take to a nursing home...putting stationary, a pen, a book/magazine, a deck of cards, a note from us in a little bag and giving those to the smaller nursing homes? We could collect for them as well as Operation Christmas Child. This is the perfect time of year to pick up lap size blankets. They are at Wal-Mart for under \$10.

How long does it take to schedule a day to go to a nursing home or a hospital and then go visit people? You can plan to visit 3-4 patients, leave them a little card and share the love of Christ. When my father was in the hospital, there were a number of folks who had no visitors.

It only takes a quick phone call to get on the list to be trained to visit those in prison. The training is in November. Don't let the idea that they are prisoners scare you away. We're all prisoners until we come to Christ. They have great Churches in prisons. These folks are on fire for God. They need the biggest help when they get out of prison. That's a ministry in itself. I know of a church that has prisoners in their congregation every Sunday. I can connect you with their contact person if you're interested.

Or what about putting together bags for the homeless. Oklahoma City has a large homeless population and they ALWAYS need things – good quality socks, hand warmers, personal hygiene items, hand wipes, good wholesome food (stuff with little to no sugar, but lots of nutrition). Things like this.

What about a Mom's day out? We can volunteer to watch children for 3-4 hours while Mom's do some Seasonal Holiday Shopping. Give specific hours and make sure you're willing to work those hours.

What about a Men's monthly golf time? Invite men who you would like to invite to church. Meet at a specific club house, enjoy coffee together, to play a round of golf (9 holes) and then have a brief Word from the Lord?

For those who enjoy history – check out some of the many museums OKC has to offer?

Start a book club – read something worth reading – Biographies, Missionary stories, etc. Then get together by-weekly to discuss the book.

What do you enjoy doing? Is there any reason that can't be done as a group with the folks from Church? Invite friends, neighbors, strangers who need a church home.

Let's get out of this rut and move forward. Time is running out. Let's NOT be a Laodicean Church. I know individually we're not, so let's join together and see what an impact we can have on First Lutheran's legacy.



DON'T FORGET to set your clock back one hour this Saturday night.



Joe Glass presented the 2025 budget proposal to the Congregation on Sunday, October 27th after the Service. The budget was reviewed by the congregation during the Budget Meeting and was approved. If you missed the meeting, extra copies of the approved budget are available in the office. If you would like one

you can pick it up Thursday during Bible Study or Sunday mornings or by phone – just call the church and we will mail it to you.

Total October Contributions:

October 6	\$1,567.00	Redeemer	\$ 600
October 13	\$1,616.00	Redeemer	\$ 480
October 20	\$1,756.00		
October 27	<u>\$3,536.42</u>	Redeemer	<u>\$ 3,100</u>
	\$8,475.42		\$ 4,900



November's Personal Scripture Reading

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
11/1	Nehemiah 9	11/16	Jeremiah 10
11/2	Nehemiah 10	11/17	Jeremiah 11
11/3	Nehemiah 11	11/18	Jeremiah 12
11/4	Nehemiah 12	11/19	Jeremiah 13
11/5	Nehemiah 13	11/20	Jeremiah 14
		11/21	Jeremiah 15
11/6	Jeremiah 1	11/22	Jeremiah 16
11/7	Jeremiah 2	11/23	Jeremiah 17
11/8	Jeremiah 3	11/24	Jeremiah 18
11/9	Jeremiah 4	11/25	Jeremiah 19
11/10	Jeremiah 5	11/26	Jeremiah 20
11/11	Jeremiah 6	11/27	Jeremiah 21
11/13	Jeremiah 7	11/28	Jeremiah 22
11/14	Jeremiah 8	11/29	Jeremiah 23
11/15	Jeremiah 9	11/30	Jeremiah 24



AFLC Home Missions



There are 5 NEW Home Missions churches on the AFLC website. We can pray for and/or support any or all.

They are:

1. Living Stone: Chinese Lutheran Fellowship – St. Paul, MN
2. Hope Free Lutheran Church – Killdeer, ND
3. Waikiki Beach Gathering – Honolulu, HI
4. Hope Lutheran Church – Enderlin, ND
5. Emmanuel Lutheran Church

WORLD MISSIONS

The AFLC has 7 people currently serving in 5 different locations around the world – with an emphasis in South America. Those locations are:

Mexico, Brazil, Paraguay, Uganda and India. There are also two families that are “loaned out” to “They Need the Bible” and Wicliff Bible Translators, respectively.

Each of these different arms of missions need our prayer and/or financial support. Have you ever considered going on a 1–2-week mission trip where you leave the USA and see what the other parts of the world are up against? It is something we could all consider and do as a group.



Readers and Ushers

November 3 All Saints Sue/Jim
November 10 Gary Jo/Penny
November 17 Chuck /Carol
November 24 Last Sun. Joe G./Penny L.

Happy Birthday

November 17 Guiliana White
November 18 Joe Ralls
November 29 Jevon Wright

Military Members to pray for:

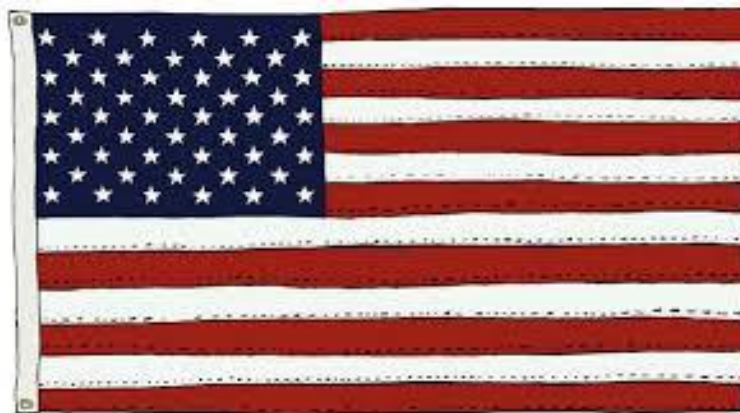
Gabriel Adams
Ryan Brubaker
Jacob Lee
Dillon McDuffie
Jared Ray
Joshua Ray
Lunna Ray



Prayer Requests

Sharon Billeg
Michael Bloese
Suzanne & Amber Borum
Joe Glass
Carolyn Lewallen,
Trent Mitchell
Betty Ray
Claudia Wright

PRAY FOR OUR NATION:





- November 2 Confirmation 10:30 a.m.
November 5 Election Day
November 6 Mid-Week Bible Study – Acts 5:30 p.m.
November 7 Mid-Week Bible Study – Acts 10 a.m.
November 9 Confirmation 10:30 a.m.
November 13 Mid-Week Bible Study – Acts 5:30 p.m.
November 14 Mid-Week Bible Study – Acts 10 a.m.
November 16 Confirmation 10:30 a.m.
November 17 Operation Christmas Child Packing Party after Service
November 20 Mid-Week Bible Study – 5:30 p.m.
November 21 Mid-Week Bible Study – 10 a.m.
November 23 Confirmation 10:30 a.m.
November 25-30 No Midweek events – Happy Thanksgiving