

First Lutheran Church
105 Village Road
Hot Springs, AR 71913
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Thanks
be to **God**
through
Jesus Christ
our
LORD!
♦ Romans 7:25 ♦

First Lutheran Church - LCMS
105 Village Road, Hot Springs, AR 71913
501-525-0322 E-mail: office@flchsar.com Website: www.flchsar.com
Worship Services—Saturdays @ 4 p.m. Sundays @ 8:30 & 11 a.m.



FIRST WORD

 **NOVEMBER**
DECEMBER 2025

NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE: GOD’S CLOSET

October saw quite a few people from the community struggling with life issues and asking for food bags from God’s Closet. They always left encouraged by prayer and God’s love for them through our ministry. It’s time to fill up God’s s Closet again with lots of pantry items for November. Items most needed are: Spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce, canned chili, stew, soups, dried mashed potatoes, cereal boxes, canned chicken, and canned fruit. A big “Thank You” to everyone who donates to this important community resource!

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, November 26 @ 6:00 pm.

We will have a special worship service to give thanks and praise to God for all the blessings of this year! The service will be held in the Church Sanctuary.



We Gather
Together



THANKSGIVING MEAL TO SHARE on THANKSGIVING DAY AT NOON

We will host a Thanksgiving Day meal for everyone who wants to share this special holiday meal with our church family in the Fellowship Hall on Thanksgiving Day at 12:00 p.m. It will be pot-luck style with turkey and ham provided. If you are alone this holiday, we invite you to join us. We will have a sign-up sheet for side dishes and desserts. Write “Thanksgiving Meal” on your worship card and use the sign up sheets to let us know what dish you want to bring.

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE

We plan to get 25 “angels” to buy gifts for this holiday season. Tags with gift suggestions and clothing sizes will be available soon. Everyone is encouraged to bless a child in our community by providing them gifts for Christmas!



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, December 24

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

THURSDAY, December 25

10:00 A.M. Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion



Today's Light Bible Reading

Week 96 – November 1
Saturday Hebrews 1

Week 97 – November 3-8, 2025
Monday Hebrews 2
Tuesday Hebrews 3
Wednesday Hebrews 4
Thursday Hebrews 5
Friday Hebrews 6
Saturday Hebrews 7

Week 98 – November 10-15, 2025
Monday Hebrews 8
Tuesday Hebrews 9
Wednesday Hebrews 10:1-18
Thursday Hebrews 10:19-39
Friday Hebrews 11
Saturday Hebrews 12

Week 99– November 17-22, 2025
Monday Hebrews 13
Tuesday James 1
Wednesday James 2
Thursday James 3
Friday James 4
Saturday James 5

Week 100– Nov. 24-29, 2025
Monday 1 Peter 1
Tuesday 1 Peter 2
Wednesday 1 Peter 3-4
Thursday 1 Peter 5
Friday 2 Peter 1-2
Saturday 2 Peter 3

Week 101 – December 1-6, 2025
Monday 1 John 1
Tuesday 1 John 2
Wednesday 1 John 3
Thursday 1 John 4
Friday 1 John 5
Saturday 2 John 1

Week 102 – December 8-13, 2025
Monday 3 John 1
Tuesday Jude
Wednesday Revelation 1
Thursday Revelation 2
Friday Revelation 3
Saturday Revelation 4-5

Week 103– December 15-20, 2025
Monday Revelation 6-8:5
Tuesday Revelation 8:6-9
Wednesday Revelation 10
Thursday Revelation 11
Friday Revelation 12
Saturday Revelation 13

Week 104– December 22-27, 2025
Monday Revelation 14
Tuesday Revelation 15
Wednesday Revelation 16
Thursday Revelation 17
Friday Revelation 18
Saturday Revelation 19-22



Ministry Highlights!

First off, I just want to say how thankful and blessed I am to be your pastor. I know Pastor Anthony feels the same way. We love being able to lift up Jesus together in

worship and ministry. We love to co-labor with you to see it happen throughout our community as we go through the open doors the Lord places before us. How amazing is it that we can share His kingdom truth and love with so many and different ways. The Lord has richly blessed us, and we have the joy of living it out in being a blessing to each other and our community.

Another blessing we want to acknowledge is the joy of being in God's Word together in the many ways it is happening in our congregation. We have Sunday morning and Wednesday morning Bible classes being taught by Jackie Johnson. Wayne Rowland is teaching Revelation Class once again. We have a Monday night women's Bible Class, taught by Karen Beyer, and a Better Man class taught by Pastor Anthony. We have our men's Today's Light Bible group that meets every Thursday morning at 6:00 am at the English Muffin. I lead our Saturday morning men's Living Free group from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. We have our One-Eighty Youth Ministry on Wednesdays with gifted teachers and helpers pouring truth and love into our young people. We also have several small groups that meet in homes and encourage each other in Word and in prayer. And then there's Katrina Watkins, leading us through 90 days of inspiring devotions through the book of Acts, using the "Acts to Action" book. Her video devotions are a daily blessing to many and can be found on our church webpage! Again, how blessed we are with such love for God's Word and the desire to live it out boldly in these days!



We are blessed with our Governing Board. They have been busy overseeing the construction of our new Bus Barn, the demolition and cleanup of the Payton property, and working with the All Children's Academy to acquire new playground equipment. In addition, they have spearheaded updating our constitution and seeing that repairs and maintenance of our buildings are done on a timely basis. Again, we are so blessed with such great leadership.

We are also blessed that in November and December, we have two individuals who are coming to bless us with their unique knowledge of God's Word and how to apply it in Kingdom Building. November 14-16, Jay West, from Omaha, NE, will be returning to share on prayer and the glory of God. He has many testimonies to share

of people being healed and set free. More details about Jay's visit will be communicated in the bulletin. In addition, Ben Williams, from Oklahoma City, OK, is coming December 12-14. Ben is a gifted evangelist who shares unique ways to engage people in conversations that lead to sharing the gospel. Both of these men are gifted in their particular area of ministry and are coming to bless us in those areas for our ministry here.

But the greatest blessing in the next two months is the joy we have of worshiping Jesus for who He is and all that he has done for us. Don't miss these special celebrations as we gather on Thanksgiving Eve to acknowledge the Lord for all his goodness to us in the gifts of life. Then get ready to join us on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as we gather to celebrate Jesus' birth and the life he came to give us in delivering us from the kingdom of darkness so we might live in his glorious kingdom now and forever.



Please join Pastor Anthony and me as we give thanks to God for all his blessings and seek to live them out by being a blessing to each other, our community, and the world, which needs the blessing we all receive from Jesus. If I can be a further blessing to you on this journey, please let me know. I am here for you! Be blessed even more as you live for and follow Jesus! Love you all!

Pastor Jon

FRIDAY PRAYER & PRAISE: 6 pm. every Friday

NEW MEMBERS

Margaret Hawkins
Caesar & Jessica DelBianco



BAPTISMS

Jessica DelBianco October 12
Linda Colley October 22
Lennox Watt & Riggs Patton - November 2

ACTS TO ACTION!

Reading Plan & Daily Videos!

Nov. 3-7 Day 71-75
Nov. 10-14 Day 76-80
Nov. 17-21 Day 81-85
Nov. 24-28 Day 86-90

This video devotion series finishes up at the very end of the Pentecost season. God's timing is always perfect. Thank you Katrina, for using your talents and passion to share this exciting journey through the Book of Acts!



Sharon Echols	11/2
Marcus Bartholemew	11/9
Eric Roe	11/10
Ed Stulpinkas	11/12
Jennifer Brockett	11/13
Donna Rowland	11/17
Connor Sexton	11/17
Austin Davis	11/20
Christy Allen	11/23
Kyle Rosberg	11/24
Anne Stuhr	11/24
Shayd Guin	11/25
Anthony Watkins	11/26
Jackie Swan	11/27
Katie Weston	11/28
Correne Fuhrman	11/29
Chris Wilmoth	11/29
Larry Wittnebert	11/29



NOVEMBER

Kyle & Samantha Rosburg	11/5	9 yrs
Brian & Trish Masini	11/16	1 yr
David & Sharon Thornton	11/23	33 yrs
Greg & Jewell Rapier	11/30	46 yrs

DECEMBER

Kipp & Susan Marable	12/7	23 yrs
Rob & Joyce Swartz	12/19	50 yrs
Chris & Shannon Collier	12/24	32 yrs
Bob & Elaine Raines	12/27	55 yrs

If you don't see your birthday or wedding anniversary on this list, please contact the church office so that we can celebrate with you in the Sunday bulletin and weekly email. Thanks, Karen Beyer



Joyellen Rosamond	12/2
Kateena Walker	12/3
Christine Hansen	12/6
Mary Wittnebert	12/8
Robert Swartz	12/9
Amari Thomas	12/13
Randy Buck	12/15
Doris Roberts-Marable	12/16
Amy Snider	12/16
Billy Gage	12/16
Roy Goldberger	12/17
Mark Rosburg	12/18
Lillian Sexton	12/21
Bryn Braughton	12/23
Johnnie Longnecker	12/23
Pam Gruber	12/26
Erica Roe-Stoker	12/29
Jerry Edgin Jr.	12/30

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

We welcome new members to our Traditional Choir this holiday season! We practice at 7:45 each Sunday morning. A special Advent choir is forming and will perform on Sunday, November 30 at the 11:00 service. Our first practice is Sunday, Nov. 9 following the 11 am. Service. Our handbell choir is starting practice on Sunday, Nov. 9 @ 5 pm. In the church balcony. Contact Karen Beyer if you would like to sing or ring praises with us!



FALCO'S CHILDREN'S VILLAGE- TANZANIA SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT!

We are going to have a **Giving Tree** to make a special Christmas gift to the over 120 children at our orphanage. Pick an ornament off the tree and give a \$10 gift! We will send it to Jerry & Valerie Backus so that they can buy Christmas gifts for each of their children! Our goal is that all 120 ornaments will be taken! (Make checks payable to: First Lutheran Church)

If you are willing to help them throughout the year, please donate by making a one time donation through First Lutheran Church or mail it to: Falco's Children Africa, Inc. P.O Box 14 Sapulpa, OK 74067 You can give online at www.FalcosChildrenAfrica.org You can sponsor a child for \$40/month at www.hishandsfortanzania.org



PASTOR APPRECIATION THANK YOU

We want to thank the congregation for the lovely "Dinner Out" gift cards to our favorite restaurants during "Pastor Appreciation Month". We love serving this congregation, co-laboring with all of you as we lift the name of Jesus high and as we show love to our community and church members, being the Body of Christ. You all are in our prayers, that God will meet all your needs in Christ Jesus.

Jon & Karen Beyer Anthony & Jackie Johnson

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE

We have a nice selection of individual and packaged religious cards for sale at our card table in the church lobby. Individual cards are \$1 and packages are marked.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Uva Breckling: General Fund by Scott Seller (Seller Eye Clinic), Cynthia Mullett, Alan & Lana Lundgren; Falco's Children Village by Kenny & Christy Allen, Juanita Metzler; Touch Team by Cynthia Mullett; Flower Fund by Cynthia Mullett


In Memory of Gene Becker: Falco's Children Village by Kenny & Christy Allen

In Memory of Rev. Dan Matesovsky: Falco's Children Village by Kenny & Christy Allen, Juanita Metzler

HOLIDAY CARD LIST

The 2025 Holiday Card List will be ready in early November. It is filled with names of family and friends who are elderly, home-bound or alone and could use some extra love and cheer. Pick up a copy and send some Christmas greetings to any or all of the people on the list! It's a wonderful act of service to let these home-bound or hurting people know that they are thought of and loved in Jesus Name.





HIGHLIGHTS FROM ONE-EIGHTY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Each Wednesday we have 40-50 students from 5th—12th grade after school for unity & family building, recreation, Bible study, games, and dinner! It's been an amazing ministry this Fall! We've had some special speakers, sharing important information and skills with our students also.

- 1. Cooper-Anthony Mercy Child Advocacy Center (Hot Springs)**
Topic: *Human Trafficking Awareness & Child Abuse Prevention* They shared valuable insights on safety, awareness, and how students can protect themselves and others.
 - 2. Pastor Reverend Hampton – Gethsemane Missionary Baptist** He kicked off the year encouraging our youth to build strong family bonds and walk together in faith.
 - 3. Langston Elementary Leadership Academy Principals:** Dr. Kyria Wilson & Eric Lenox presented on *Team Building and Leadership Skills* Dr. Wilson inspired the students to work together, lead with integrity, and believe in their potential.
- We thank these community experts for investing in our students! We encourage members to come and see what God is doing in the lives of students each Wednesday afternoon! Contact Pastor Anthony for more information.


Scripture Writing for November & December: Join us in writing Bible verses each day!

Grateful for God's Great Love
SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN NOVEMBER



Enjoying this Journey

by Jackie Johnson




As the holiday season approaches, our hearts fill with anticipation—family gatherings, joyful music, and tables overflowing with delicious food. Yet for me, this time of year also brings an undercurrent of struggle. Between festive treats, busy schedules, and emotional stress, maintaining a healthy balance can feel like an uphill climb. If I’m honest, it’s not just about the food. The holidays stir up a plethora of feelings—comfort, nostalgia, longing for those who may no longer be here with us. We celebrate with good intentions but oftentimes end up frustrated with overindulgence. But friend, let’s remember this truth: our worth isn’t measured by the number on the scale, but by the One who carried the cross. God cares about every part of us—body, mind, and spirit. He calls us to care for our bodies not out of shame, but as an act of stewardship and gratitude. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 reminds us, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit... therefore honor God with your bodies.” So, as you enter this holiday season, give yourself grace. Plan your meals thoughtfully, move your body with joy, and remember that balance is better than perfection. Enjoy your grandma’s sweet potato pie, but also enjoy a peaceful walk afterward. Laugh more. Stress less. Rest in God’s love, which satisfies deeper than any dessert ever could. The greatest gift you can offer yourself this season isn’t a smaller waistline—it’s a heart at peace and a renewed spirit that draws nearer to Christ.

JOIN ME IN PRAYER: Heavenly Father, as we enter this season of celebration, help us to walk in balance and grace. Guard our hearts from guilt and our minds from comparison. Remind us that our bodies are gifts from You—worthy of care, but never our source of identity. Give us wisdom to make healthy choices, discipline to stay focused, and joy to savor every blessing. May our celebrations reflect Your goodness and our gratitude overflow at every table we gather around. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

SMALL GROUPS BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

- Get connected to Christ’s body at FLC. Contact the Church Office to help you find the right small group!
- † **Bible Buddies** —Odis & Lorene Burroughs, Leaders 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 6:30 pm at Burrough’s home
 - † **ChicChat** — Sharon Echols, Leader 2nd Wednesday 5:30 pm @ Sharon Echol’s home.
 - † **Enlighteners** —David & Linda Steele, Leaders 1st & 3rd Monday 1:00 pm at church
 - † **Men’s Breakfast** —Jerry Edgin, Leader Thursdays 6:00 am at English Muffin Café
 - † **Wednesdays in the Word** — Jackie Johnson, Leader Wednesdays 9:00 am Fellowship Hall
 - † **Just for Men**—Pastor Jon, Leader Saturdays 8 am Church Fellowship Hall

CONNECTING TO SERVE—SERVING TO WITNESS



SHINE YOUR LIGHT. SHARE GOD’S LOVE!

Katrina Watkins


When I look back over the past few months, I can’t help but smile at all that God has been doing here at First Lutheran Church. From the laughter echoing through our hallways during One Eighty youth nights to the prayers lifted up in our women’s circles and the joy shared at community events, you can feel that something special is happening, the Body of Christ is alive and moving. We’ve been busy, yes — but it’s a good kind of busy. It’s the kind that fills you up rather than wears you out. It’s the kind that reminds us why we’re here. Whether it was serving meals, collecting clothes, worshiping together, or simply checking in on someone who hadn’t been around in a while, I’ve seen Jesus show up in so many ways through you. Each ministry big or small, tells a story. The story of people stepping out of comfort zones, giving their time, talents, and hearts to make sure others know they’re loved. From the hands that served at Jackson House to the smiles shared during our Fall Fest, from the prayers whispered over those who are hurting to the songs sung on Sunday mornings, it’s all worship. It’s all witness .And as we look toward what’s ahead — Advent, new small groups, youth service opportunities, and outreach events — my heart fills with hope. These aren’t just dates on a calendar; they’re moments for God to move again. Opportunities to reconnect, to grow, and to remind our community that First Lutheran isn’t just a building, it’s a family, it’s a mission, it’s a place where Christ’s love takes action. In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells His followers, “You will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.” That calling didn’t stop with them, it continues through us. Being His witness isn’t about having all the right words; it’s about living out love in everyday ways. When we show up, serve, give, and care, we’re telling the world about a Savior who still changes lives. So let’s keep connecting. Keep serving. Keep being the warm hands and feet of Jesus in a world that desperately needs His touch. Together, we’re not just part of the Body of Christ, we’re part of His story. And I’m so grateful to be living it with all of you.

LWML—Lutheran Women in Mission

A big **THANK-YOU** goes to the congregation of First Lutheran for your continuing support for the MITES Mission Projects. The October 'Noisy MITES' Sunday contributions totaled **\$1,337.00!**

All ladies are welcome to our Bible Study/Meetings in the Fellowship Hall.

- Monday 12:30 pm November 10
- Monday 12:00 pm December 8



Our December meeting is a special Christmas potluck party, starting with lunch and a special program, celebrating Jesus’ birth. Join us for this wonderful event.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

All are welcome to this ministry which meets in the Fellowship Hall. We are knitters & crocheters.

- Wednesday 1 pm November 19
- Wednesday 1 pm December 17

SERVING LUNCH @ JACKSON HOUSE

Monday, November 10. We all meet at 10:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m. to prepare and serve lunch. If you would like to join us doing the Lord’s work and have some fun, too, please call Linda Colley @ (501)760-1547, so that she can schedule each team.

SERVING A THANKSGIVING MEAL TO DISABLED ADULTS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

In October a group led by Larry & Mary Wittnebert, served a chili lunch for residents of Chaucer Street Apartments. While good food was shared, it was obvious to all that the love of Jesus was shared in a powerful way through all the conversations and prayers given. On Thursday, November 20 at noon, the same group will serve a Thanksgiving meal to another apartment complex off Whittington Ave. We will go door to door, delivering good food and a powerful serving of the love of Jesus! If you would like to be part of our group, contact Mary Wittnebert.

KIDS CHURCH CONNECTS KIDS TO JESUS!

Children are excused each week during worship services for a special Bible story teaching time. Would you like to be part of our Sunday morning children’s ministry? If you have a love for children, you have everything it takes to lead them to Jesus. Contact Karen Beyer to learn more about our curriculum and ministry needs.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

We are excited to have our children lead a Christmas celebration! They will present a Christmas play, “**The I Hate Christmas Club**” on December 14 @ 10 am. Children will be practicing their lines during Kids Church starting Nov. 9. This delightful play will help kids understand the true meaning of Christmas! We hope everyone will plan to attend this play at 10 a.m. in the Family Life Center!

GOOD NEWS CLUB: We’re

reaching students with afterschool Bible story time at Langston School on Nov. 6 & Nov. 20. @ 3:45 pm. Join us as we share the love of Jesus with young children through lessons, songs, and fun! Contact Lin Carnahan for more information on this ministry.



CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH: NEW STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM AT FLC!

We believe in celebrating our young people, not just for who they are in Christ, but for all the wonderful things they’re accomplishing at school and in life! We are excited to announce the launch of our new program, created to honor the hard work and leadership of the children and teens in our church family, including the Junior Worshipers and ONE-EIGHTY. This includes their academic achievements, perfect attendance, leadership awards, honor roll, earned straight A’s, great improvement, or chosen as “Leader of the Week,” Parents and guardians, please turn in copies of report cards, certificates, or any award recognitions. Let’s work together to encourage our youth by recognizing their achievements every nine weeks and the end of each semester. Your participation helps us remind our students that their efforts matter, and their light truly shines in everything they do. Send information to Jessica Ellis: lajuliaellis@yahoo.com