

# The Guided Light

Memorial Lutheran & First Presbyterian Churches

September 2020

2021 29th Street North, Texas City, TX 77590

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Facebook: Memorial Lutheran & First Presbyterian Churches

## Happenings...

### Every Sunday

Adult Sunday School ZOOM 9:00

In-person Worship 10:15

Facebook Worship 10:15

### Every Tuesday

Busy Bunch 9:00

### Every Tuesday

Staff Meeting: 10:00 am

### Every Thursday

Facebook Live Prayer Meeting

12:00

### September 6

Care Team Calls to Homebound

### September 7

Labor Day

### September 11

Patriot Day

### September 14

Worship Committee ZOOM 6:00

### September 16

Pastor Chon's 1<sup>st</sup> Day!

### September 21

Council Meeting 6:00 pm

### September 28

Newsletter deadline

*Mission: "Growing the faith, connecting with the lost,  
and helping those in need as we share God's Word  
through education, sacraments, worship,  
praise, and fellowship"*





This is where I mount up and ride off into the sunset. We've come to the end of my time as your interim pastor and you now begin a new and exciting season of welcoming Pastor Chon and initiating one of the most profound and sublime of all relationships—that of pastor to the people of God. You have prayed and worked and sacrificed to align yourselves with the leading of God to get to this point. It's been a long journey, and we're only still just beginning! That's how it is in the economy of God and the Kingdom of Heaven, always and ever unfolding and always beckoning us to enter more deeply and respond more fully. I'm very excited to see what will come next for Memorial First and how you will bring the good news of Jesus to your part of Galveston County.

I know that you had a revolving door of pulpit supply preachers and short term interim ministers as you found yourself wandering through "the between time" for much longer than you anticipated. When I arrived, there were wounds that needed healing and mistrust that needed to be restored. I hope that I have been able to renew your confidence in the interim ministry process. I hope that today you have a greater awareness of the genuine concern, best intentions, and love for you by our bishop and the Synod staff. And, I want to thank all of you for the many ways you allowed me to be your pastor. 2020 has been a challenge for all of us and as the years go by, I will look back fondly on our time together; I trust the same will be true for you.

As I tie up loose ends and box up my personal stuff from Pastor Chon's office, I want to remind you that through all of the changes that you have weathered over the past few years to get to this point, there is One who remains constant: Our Lord Jesus Christ. He has been here from the beginning and will be with you for the rest of time. I encourage you to be open to the ongoing guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what is next for Memorial First. I am not a prophet or the son of a prophet, but I am confident that it will look a bit different from the church we had pre-COVID. There are important and challenging decisions which will still need to be made. But a passion for our Lord will see you through all your future trials.

Please know that you will always have a special place in my heart. I pray only the very best will be met for all of you in the years ahead. I pray that you will forgive me for any mistakes I have made and any offenses I have given (which I assure you were wholly unintentional). For what I have done and what I have failed to do, *mea maxima culpa*.

My last Sunday with you is September 13<sup>th</sup> and my final day in the office is Tuesday, September 15 if you have any unfinished business that I need to attend to.

Finally, I share with you something called the *Mizpah Blessing*: "The Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other." Be blessed and be well. Be faithful and be courageous.

Peace and all good,  
Pr. Steve



We are excited to announce that Pr. Chon Pugh has accepted the call to be our new settled pastor! She comes to us from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Mesa, AZ and will begin her ministry here in Texas City on September 16. Thanks be to God!





My Siblings in Christ,

I look forward to serving along side you in the ministry here at Memorial Lutheran and First Presbyterian (or as I have affectionately been referring to us as MemOne). I wanted to reintroduce myself to you. My name is Chon Pugh, pronounced Shawn Pew. Chon came from my great-grandmother's maiden name Rochon, which is French. Pugh is Welsh for son of Hugh. Next month my husband, Danny, and I will celebrate our forty-fourth wedding anniversary. Danny works remotely as a computer programmer for the courts department of the city of Tempe, AZ. He has worked there for 18 years.

Danny and I have four children Tally, Traeci, Daniel and Luke.

- Tally Perez - lawyer, married to Trent-hydro engineer, children Parker 11, Rory 10, Daniella 9 - Pearland, Texas
- Traeci Taylor RN - young living gold, married to Mark - Missouri Synod Pastor, children Samuel 13, Colby 12, Caleb 10, Abigail 9, Eli 7, Emma 6, Hannah 4, Josiah 2, and Hope 13 months - Wylie, Texas
- Daniel Pugh - ELCA pastor, married to Ashley- dietician-lactation specialist, children Jacob 12, Thomas 9, Avery 6 - Raleigh, North Carolina
- Luke Pugh - Middle School Principal, married to Kathleen - high-school AP history teacher, children Eleanor 5, Cora 2 - Tempe, Arizona

Danny was born in Homer, Louisiana lived in New Orleans from ages 3 to 5, moved to Bossier City, LA until he was 11 and then moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. I was born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas. Danny and I met in high school working at McDonald's. Together we moved to Houston/Sugarland for 14 years, Raleigh, North Carolina for 7 years and Phoenix, AZ for 18 years.

My mother, Emily Karcher, is in a memory care unit in Phoenix. Danny's parents will be moving to Texas soon from Arizona.

I have taught and directed preschool, worked in doctors' offices, am a certified spiritual life coach, served as a Lutheran Deaconess and a Pastor, I am a Lutheran Deaconess Association Deaconess and attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary. My life coaching credentials are through Southwest Institute for the Healing Arts and I completed the U of H continuing Ed program for substance abuse counseling.

I like to read, watch HGTV and laugh constantly at Big Bang. I am big on family and very glad to be here in Texas City.

Blessings,  
Pastor Chon



**UFA Monthly Collection Items:** Since food stamps can't be used to buy non-food items, the United Faith Alliance is asking churches to collect non-food items on a rotating basis. **Paper towels and cleaning supplies have been designated for the September collection.** Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the church narthex.

NewsLetter  
**DEADLINE**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**



**HAPPY LABOR DAY**

**SEPTEMBER 7**



September 2	Lee & Laura Stephenson
September 5	Joe & Adrietta King
September 14	Terry & Audrey Earl
September 15	Dwight & Rita Scott
September 18	Kevin & Jessica Franks
September 18	Donald & Debra Kotlarich
September 23	Woody & Barbara Silvertooth

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 1	Colby Chollett
September 2	Larry Edrozo
September 2	Tabitha Lewton
September 3	Lilly Lewton Brock
September 5	Sue Edrozo
September 6	Bill Bailey
September 7	Rick Dickson
September 11	Donald Hood
September 18	Martha Welch
September 19	Theresa Hodges
September 21	Peggy Dietel
September 21	Taylor Hood
September 21	Malachi Luke
September 22	Ben Chamberlain
September 23	Suzanne Galvan
September 23	Jeremiah Reed-Jacobs
September 24	Peggy Armstrong
September 25	Shirley Martinez
September 29	Bev Churchwell
September 29	Amy Hill
September 29	Kim Riggs



## In Our Prayers...

- *Pray for Rev. Chon (Shawn) Pugh – our new pastor: Pray for her passion for the Word of God; pray that God would give her a love for our church and the strength to adjust to the challenge of a new ministry during these difficult times of Covid 19; pray that God prepares her to shepherd our church through trials and blessings; pray for her family.*
- *Pray for our church as we welcome Pastor Chon this month. Pray for patience; pray we focus on what matters: a woman who loves Christ, His Word, and His church; pray that you and the entire congregation will open your hearts to love & support our new pastor.*

## Also in Our Prayers...

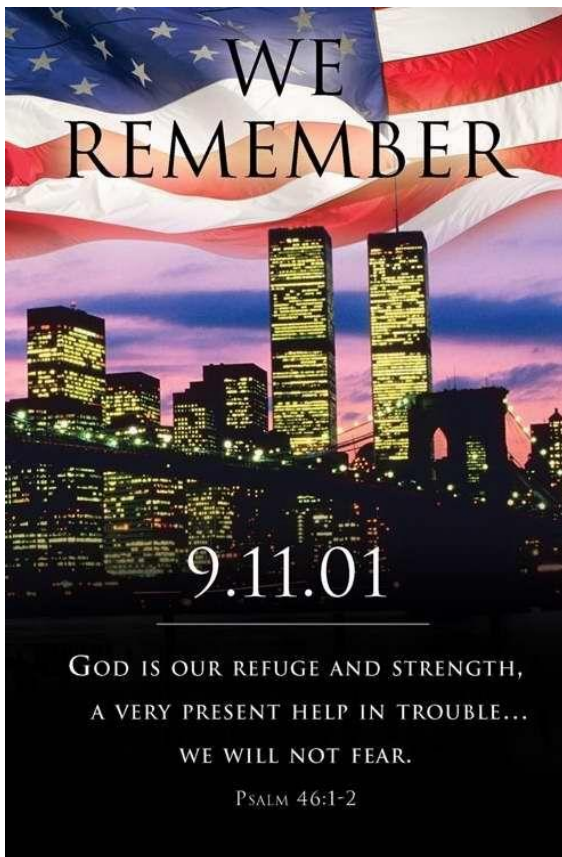
- Health Care Workers & 1<sup>st</sup> Responders
- Elaine Lewton
- Bill Wylly
- Dave Palmer
- Mike Allison
- Donna Allison
- Rocky Schaper
- Peggy Armstrong
- Catherine Brown
- Bev Churchwell
- Imogene Christian
- Linda Duncan
- Kathryn Franks
- Mary Guajardo
- Thomas Kaye
- Joe King
- Juanita Lux
- Shirley Martinez
- Kathryn McKaig
- Carol J. Rhodes
- David Robinson
- Theresa Smith
- Frances & Larry Weber
- Martha Welch
- Barbara Bradford
- Mary Bradford
- Shirley Cato
- Gerald Cleveland
- Patia Darras
- Carolina Diaz
- Terry Dellolio
- Beth Eslinger
- Ben Gayle
- Lindsay Grigsby
- Ira (Dubby) Hansley
- Barbara Heckendorn
- Maryem Holt
- Shirley Long
- John Marshall
- Danny Meyer
- Alice Metcalf
- Karla Peschka



- Karly Sevinsky
- James Thompson
- Wm. Knichel

**Military:**

- Alexis Copeland
- Marshal Fundling
- Kaleb Jacobs
- Andrew Redmon
- Georgie Rodriquez, Jr.
- Peri Schoppe



SCHERMER  
PECANS



**Pecan Sales began August 9th!** Tell your friends and family members. **Orders must be placed by October 2nd.** Order forms are available in the Church Narthex or by mail/email. Call Cindy Totty at 409-771-5793 for more details and to let her know you are taking orders.

## *A Job Well Done*

The past 12 months for Memorial First has definitely been one that isn't in the church play books. With the sudden resignation of Interim Pastor Liz Stein last May, Pastor Steve Stutz accepted our offer and quickly became acquainted with our church staff and Council and began picking up the pieces. He stepped right in and guided us through some challenging times. His past experience in counseling churches and organizations provided us with a steady rudder to guide us on a path for our end goal which was to hire a full-time Pastor. We are all happy to say that mission has been accomplished.

From the Church Council's perspective, Steve was always prepared for his stated responsibilities. Even though he already had an on-going counseling job when we hired him, he made us aware of them and never let his future work interfere with his commitment to Memorial First. He was required to preach 3 Sundays a month, yet he rarely missed a Sunday. That is, until the Coronavirus came on the scene and shuttered churches across the country.

With his skill on computers and laptops, along with features like Facebook and Zoom, he was able to continue having Sunday services and Council meetings from remote places. It would have been a greater struggle for us without his knowledge in this area.

Another strong point and most appreciated skill Steve has was staying one step ahead and alerting us to things which needed to be done beforehand. He definitely wore many hats: a Pastor, a coach, a counselor, a good listener, and advisor.

During all these events, Pastor Steve Stutz has guided us through them as well as any Interim Pastor could have.

Pastor Steve, we are truly grateful and most appreciative of your leadership and dedication to always being available and with a steady hand for a job well done.

RANDY DIETEL, Council President