

March Birthdays

LaVon Schmidt	3/01	Betty Schatz	3/14
Greta Kucera	3/01	Haley Kinkade	3/16
Butch Koenig	3/02	Lois Elles	3/16
Bryan Petry	3/02	Christopher Buzek	3/16
Jase Rideout	3/03	Cathy Newbern	3/16
Larry Svetlik	3/03	Ronnie Heldt	3/17
Becky Smiley	3/03	Emily McBrayer	3/18
Kathryn Reynolds	3/04	Macey Thigpen	3/18
Kristi Heidrich	3/04	Sandy Muegge	3/18
Rahley Fields	3/04	Delores Seifert	3/18
Darrell Smith	3/04	Redden Fields	3/19
Jett Ripple	3/05	Barry Koenig	3/20
Carrie Staples	3/05	Kathy Svetlik	3/20
Lena Svetlik	3/06	Bentley Koopman	3/21
Carly Stryk	3/07	Jay Thigpen	3/22
John Ellsworth	3/07	Mykenzie Sharp	3/22
Eric Heidrich	3/08	Kim Migura	3/22
Melissa Heinrichsen	3/08	Katherine Schuelke	3/23
Dolores Frisbie	3/08	Amy Shedd	3/23
Kalli Novosad	3/08	Clay Thigpen	3/24
Greg Domstead	3/08	Casey Bowen	3/25
Brandt Koopman	3/08	Mark Carroll	3/25
Erin Williams	3/09	Donna Heinold	3/25
Blake Thigpen	3/10	Janice Urban	3/26
Brenda Bridges	3/10	Bailey Heinrichsen	3/27
Sharon Montgomery	3/11	Carrie Hendrix	3/28
Chad Bridges	3/12	Scarlett Mercer	3/28
Samantha Buzek	3/12	Ronald Ledbetter	3/28
Kurt Heil	3/13	Katelyn Jeffers	3/29
Charlotte Koenig	3/13	Laurie Koehl	3/30
Katie Alex	3/13	Callie Mae Haug	3/31
Sandra Hiller	3/13		



April deadline is
Monday, March 20, 2024

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

March 2024

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church

516 N. Main, Victoria, TX 77901

Office Hours M-Th 9:00a - 4:00p

Rev. Chip Reynolds, Senior Pastor

Phone: 361-575-3623

Fax: 361-575-8877

Email: Office@FELCVictoria.com

Website: www.FELCVictoria.com

TV Broadcast 10:30a Sundays

KXTS-TV Channel 41 – Optimum Cable Ch. 9

10:30 Sundays live streaming at “[Facebook.com/FELCVictoria](https://www.facebook.com/FELCVictoria)”

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS – If you feel your child is ready for First Communion, Pastor Chip will be having classes **March 3** during the Sunday School hour at 9:15a.m. for child(ren) and parents. The students will receive First Communion Maundy Thursday, March 28. *To register your child, please call the church office at 361-575-3623 or sign up in the Narthex.*



DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD

Daylight Saving Time begins
Sunday, **March 10**,
So, before you go to bed
Saturday, **March 9**,
be sure to set your clocks *ahead* 1 hour!



WATCH FOUND - If you have lost a watch, one has been found!
Please call the Church Office 361-575-3623 to describe it.

FIFTY AND FUN – Fifty and Fun will meet **Thursday, March 14**, in Felger Hall at 6:00p.
Please join us for fellowship and games.
Please bring a meat, side dish or dessert to share.
Hope to see you there!!!

I have always heard it said that we are in the business of kingdom building. Usually people cite Acts 1:8 as a reference for this church mentality:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

So, we grab onto this verse and we start running with it, “Let’s go Evangelize!” And the event planning takes off. But there comes a point where we have to carefully look at all the stuff we do and make a distinction about why we are doing it.

I think there is a vast difference between “kingdom building” and “Kingdom building.” And it is not just the changing of a letter to a capital (though that makes it more obvious.) It really is all about focus and implementation.

Kingdom building is really about sharing the Gospel with people through our work in the faith. We have spent a good bit of time this year hearing and seeing Jesus doing exactly that in the Scriptures. His ministry centered on “repent and believe in the Gospel” (Mark 1:8.) It was about building the Kingdom through the interactions He had with people.

And then in Acts, the apostles were commissioned to go about that work in ever-widening circles. (The circles reaching farther out from the pebble dropped in the water.) They were sent out to build the Kingdom.

The issue arises when we start letting our kingdoms get in the way of His Kingdom. It is our nature to take possession and ownership. It is why Jesus had to tell Peter to “Get behind me Satan” and why Judas ultimately betrayed Him. Our kingdoms, events, groups and places of leadership, become our focus more than the reason for their existence.

It is innocent enough, I think. We want to do Kingdom work and use our little kingdoms to do that. But, when the little kingdoms become more important than the work that they are supposed to support, we have put our needs and desires squarely in front of God’s and we have lost perspective.

So, we must be on guard! Keep God where He should be in this process. We are about Kingdom building. He must be the most important thing. Approach everything you do with the thought, “Am I putting God’s desire or my desire first in this process?” Letting our vision get soft on His work through us, through the church, and in this world can be a very dangerous thing. We should always be about making sure that the Gospel is the main message, first and foremost. So, stay focused on Him and His kingdom, not the stuff that we claim as our own.

In His Arms
PC



KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY – CUERO STEVENSON UNIT

- * Randy Sternadel is the Kairos Leader for the Cuero Stevenson Unit
- * Volunteers from Port Lavaca, Victoria, Cuero, and others will be leading the 33rd Kairos Retreat Weekend on October 23-27, 2024
- * Funds could be used to help cover the expenses of this year’s and future retreats at the Stevenson Unit (Average cost for retreat is \$14,000)
- * Kairos Prison Ministry brings the light, love, & friendship of Jesus Christ into the lives of prisoners and their families
- * Prisoners learn they are forgiven, and they learn they are loved thru this life changing and often lifesaving experience
- * The Retreat Weekend is based on a series of talks, discussions, chapel meditations, and creating a Christian community
- * The concept is to build the Christian community inside the institution where the Kairos Community prays and fellowships together on a regular basis (these are called ‘Prayer and Share’ groups that meet weekly)
- * Prison violence and recidivism rates are greatly reduced when the Kairos Ministry grows in the prison

SOUTH TEXAS CHILDREN’S HOME MINISTRIES

- * Headquartered outside Beeville, in Pettus, Texas
- * Ministries include: Homes for Children, Homes for Families, Family Counseling, Pastoral Care, Family Support, Ministry Consulting
- * STCH seeks to be an extension of the child’s home as they partner with parents, grandparents, or other legal guardian to restore relationships and return children to their families when possible
- * Children placed at STCH live with house parents and each cottage functions like a normal household, with meals in the home and the family enjoying activities together
- * The children attend public schools & local churches, and participate in sports & a variety of life-building activities
- * Benefits include:
 - Quality care in a single home environment in a safe neighborhood for children ages 0-17
 - Opportunity to grow socially, mentally, & spiritually
 - A rural setting with horseback riding, and the chance to raise project animals
 - Multiple professional support services, including caseworkers & professional counselors
 - If a child graduates while in STCH care, STCH provides help for the student to attend college or trade schools
 - Parent or legal guardian retains legal custody of the child/children

FELC HERITAGE DAY COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUND

- * Fund set up to distribute funds to organizations, groups, and/or individuals around the area on a needed basis throughout the year
- * The fund must be depleted before the following year’s H. Day Celebration

2024 FELC Heritage Day Celebration Recipients

On January 23, 2024, the Heritage Day Celebration Steering Committee met to vote & select the 2024 Heritage Day Celebration Recipients. Twelve nominations were submitted this year. The Steering Committee would like to sincerely thank everyone who submitted a nomination for this year's event. The nominations that were not selected as recipients, were given funds via the Heritage Day Celebration Community Assistance Fund. We would like to thank the congregation for your continued help & support for the annual Heritage Day Celebration. This event and its success is not made possible without you. We look forward to celebrating the 2024 FELC Heritage Day Celebration on April 28th!!

CHRIST'S KITCHEN

- * Serves over 17,000 hot meals to the homeless and poverty-stricken residents of the Victoria area
- * This March they will be celebrating 39 years of providing meals
Offers free lunch to people Monday thru Saturday from 11am-1pm
- * Located at 611 Warren Avenue, here in Victoria

COLE OHRT WALK STRONG (C.O.W.S.) FOUNDATION

- * The goal of the COWS Foundation, formed in 2019, is to provide outpatient opportunities to children and adults with traumatic injuries or birth defects regardless of their ability to pay
- * Cole Ohrt was involved in an ATV accident in 2017 and was paralyzed from the neck down
- * Cole needed many hours of rehab daily and made many trips to Houston to complete his therapy & rehab
- * A specialized walking machine, the Lokomat Pro, has been shown to be very beneficial in assisting in gait rehabilitation for children & adults with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, & other debilitating medical conditions
- * Building Kids Steps, a local certified outpatient rehabilitation facility in Victoria, houses the large walking machine and supervises its use
- * The walking machine and its components are currently being used by many children and adults
- * Fundraising efforts are on-going as new pieces to the Lokomat Pro are purchased and added to the rehab methods
- * This foundation helps provide support to those using the machine who may have reached their insurance maximums or those unable to pay
- * Money from the fundraising is in the form of scholarships that is set aside for patients who need it despite the limitations of their insurance or ability to pay

ADULT EVENING CONFIRMATION STUDY

The Latin word *confirmare*, the earliest ancestor of “confirmation,” literally means “to strengthen.” Paired with the word “faith,” this produces an appropriate definition of “confirmation” as used in this way—it’s a time to *strengthen faith*.

Beginning **March 5**, Pastor Chip will be leading a study on our Christian (specifically Lutheran) beliefs according to the Small Catechism. We will meet in Felger Hall on **Tuesdays** from **6:30p – 8:00p. Child Care Available!**

Come learn, renew, or refresh your knowledge of Lutheranism. The basis for this study is not about judgment or proving how smart or faithful we are by displaying our knowledge. The intent is to clarify and solidify what we believe so that we can more effectively follow Christ. Come and journey together with Pastor Chip as we look at our faith through Scripture and the Small Catechism.

CONGRATULATIONS – Meagan Fishbeck and Larnzo

Johnson on the birth of a son, Jeffery Elroy Lamar,
born February 7, 2023.



HERITAGE DAY 2024-Ticket Sales!!!! Ticket sales (Cash or Checks accepted) will begin Easter Sunday, March 31 - April 21 in the Narthex prior to the 8:00AM service and up to the beginning of the second service at 10:30AM.

Tickets are \$15.00 each which ***includes*** a BBQ plate of Brisket & Sausage, German Potatoes, Pinto Beans, Pickles, Onions, Bread, and a Dessert.

Heritage Day T-Shirts will also be available for \$15.00, all sizes.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Nyle Ruth Leshikar - Vitality Court
1303 N. John Stockbauer - #114
Victoria, TX 77901

Janet Hutson - Vitality Court
1303 N. John Stockbauer - #115
Victoria, TX 77901

Sunday Services Attendance and Offerings

Date	8:00a Attendance	10:30a Attendance
1/28	75	205
2/4	80	188
2/11	77	194
2/18	72	205

2/14 Ash Wed,	12:05p 91	7:00p 91
2/21 Wed	85	25



Our Love and Sympathy to the family of:

- Rev. Elliott Pancoast (former Pastor of FELC)
- Lillian Lau

SPECIAL PRAYERS



Florence Kirkland, Vincent Fortado, Trace Cranford, Christine Collins, Elena, Arlene Kinsel, Ramay, Steve, Kathy Ahlstrom, Aileen Lott, Pat Trapp, Bobbie Guinn, Joyce Randall, Alicia Little, Susan Friedrichs, Rachel, Bessie Hobbs, Cole Ohrt, Jay Thigpen, Jerry, Sandy Muegge, Dan, Allan, Bob Laman, Kooper White, Al Reinhardt, Mari Myers, Richard Bludau, Trinity Runge, Courtland Johnson, James Reinhardt, Zac Koenig, Jim Richman, Phil Schmidt, Al Johnson, Jenita Tesch, Mark Peterson, Beth Riedesel, Charlene Balfanz, Franklin Elles, James Jackson, Bill Klesel, Caitlyn Lassmann, Benna Beyer

March Tellers

4 - Muegge/Hiller
11 - Malina/Kelly
18 - Kucera/Elles
26 - Elles/Westbrook

March



2/17-3/1 — Kathleen Sproles
3/2 - 3/15 — Jackie Schlinger
3/16 - 3/29 — Carol Turley
3/30 - 4/12 — Kathleen Sproles

Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies will be available through the church, furnished by Renken's Nursery.

The cost is \$15.00 each.

Fill out the order form below and return with payment (checks made payable to FELC).

Use the order form printed below (**PLEASE PRINT**). Please fill out the order form (one form per lily order), enclose your check or cash and place it in the envelope in the Narthex or return it to the church office at 516 N. Main St. Victoria, TX 77901.

(Make checks payable to FELC)

LILIES ARE PRE-ORDERED; ONLY 60 ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN

PLEASE PRINT

******PLEASE USE ONE (1) ORDER FORM FOR EACH LILY ORDER******

You can write one check for total order

Giver's Name _____

Giver's Telephone _____

Bulletin Information

(Please Print)

In Honor Of: _____

In Loving Memory Of: _____

Other: _____

Given by Whom: _____

(Wording will be in bulletin)



Deadline for Order and Payment, is Tuesday, March 26 at 4:00p.m.

OR when all 60 orders have been taken.

PLEASE GET YOUR ORDER/MONEY IN BY THIS DATE TO ENSURE ORDER IS COMPLETED

NOTE: Please pick up your plant(s) after the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, March 31st,
OR before 4:00p Thursday, April 4th

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Members received February 11, 2024

Lori Amsler
Tanner
27 Kolle St.
Inez, TX 77968
361-237-8506

Michael & Sheryl MacFarlane
212 Wildrose Dr.
Victoria, TX 77904
361-550-8395

Craig & Lee Ann Bowen
192 Lakeshore Dr.
Victoria, TX 77905
361-935-5744

Mike & Brooke Mercer
Scarlet
6022 Country Club
Victoria, TX 77904
361-574-9963

Arlen & Wanda Buchhorn
706 Mueller Rd.
Victoria, TX 77905
361-572-3489

Emily Molder
255 Kendrick Rd.
Inez, TX 77968
361-894-4553

Natalie Farber
116 Terra Vista Ranch Rd.
Victoria, TX 77904
254-718-2658

Kyle and Micayla Motal
503 Bridle Ln.
Victoria, TX 77904
361-905-0158

Iris Hegemier
201 Sirocco Dr.
Victoria, TX 77904
361-894-6486

Russell & Brenda Svetlik
Lena & Walker
188 Gotfried St.
361-676-5503

A. J. & Marcy Logan
Aubrey, Leighton & Lynleigh
107 Andrew Dr.
Victoria, TX 77904
361-676-2628

Erin Williams
Paisley
4507 John Stockbauer # 16
Victoria, TX 77904
361-550-8105

HOLY WEEK EVENTS AND SERVICES

Communion at all services unless listed.

Palm Sunday 8:00a Worship
March 24 10:30a Worship



Maundy Thursday 7:00p Communion
March 28 Worship with First Communion



Good Friday 7:00p Worship
March 29 (no Communion)



Saturday 10:00a Family Easter Celebration (all ages!)
March 30 Games, snacks, egg hunt, crafts
(Bring your Easter Baskets)

Easter Sunday 8:00a Worship
March 31 8:30a — 10:30a Easter Breakfast
(Free Will Offering)
10:30a Worship



There will not be an Easter Egg Hunt Easter Sunday.

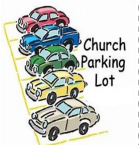
Children bring flowers to place at the cross at any service

GROWTH FUND UPDATE

Donations to date: \$106,887.00.

We have started payments on our loan; an accurate loan balance will be in the April Newsletter.

Please prayerfully consider to continue to donate towards “FELC Growth Fund” or “Parking Lot.”



Thank you

- Thank you to all the wonderful church members for your caring thoughts, prayers, calls of encouragement, cards and memorials following the death of our special son-in-law, Rusty Reininger. As long as we live, he will live as we remember him. **Diana and Ken Rippstein.**
- On behalf of the children and youth of FELC, we want to give a huge Thank you for your continued love and support! We had a great turn out for the Shrove Pancake Dinner and the Grab and Go Burger Fundraiser! Thanks to the Board of Congregational Life for their sponsorship, cooking skills and hard work! We are so blessed by all of you!
Your sister in Christ, **Julie Thigpen**
- The Souper Bowl Sunday for VCAM was a huge success. We, as a congregation, raised \$260.00 in donations and 372 pounds of soup. Thank you for supporting VCAM as they continue to help others in need. **FELC Board of Social Concerns**



LAY READERS and COMMUNION ASSISTANTS-

Members of the congregation serve as lay readers for the lessons and psalms during the worship service as well as assist with communion. A new schedule comes out in March. If you would like to serve as a lay reader and/ or a communion assistant, please notify the church office, 575-3623, or Barbara C. Reinhardt, 550-6344 to be included in the new schedule.

Heritage Day 2024 — April 28, 2024

ONE WORSHIP AT 10:00A.M.

Heritage Day is back and will again be a big day of celebration and fun! We are gearing up and getting ready and hope that you are too. Let's make the biggest Heritage Day ever!

We are in need of Live and/or Silent Auction items so please consider donating. Please bring your item(s) to the church office. Country Store is also needing items to sell.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Worship Schedule

Date/ Time	Worship Assistant	Lay Readers	Communion Assistant	Deacons
3/3 8:00a	James Reinhardt	Tracie Depine	Tracie Depine	Alton Johnston
3/3 10:30a	Al Reinhardt	Sandra Serold	Sandra Serold Bryan Serold	Marty Foss
3/10 8:00a	James Reinhardt	Katherine Schuelke	Katherine Schuelke	James Janak
3/10 10:30a	Mary Gail Moody	Jennifer Matus	Jennifer Matus Marie Plemons	Jeff Sproles
3/17 8:00a	Ginger McGill	Kathryn Reynolds	Kathryn Reynolds	Aaron Muegge
3/17 10:30a	Al Reinhardt	Gary Childress	Gary Childress Doris Childress	Jim Hartman
3/24 8:00a	James Reinhardt	Kathy Svetlik	Kathy Svetlik	Alton Johnston
3/24 10:30a	Mary Gail Moody	Carrie Hendrix	Carrie Hendrix Sandra Heldt	Marty Foss
3/31 8:00a	James Reinhardt	Sue Boldt	Kathleen Sproles	Jeff Sproles
3/31 10:30a	Al Reinhardt	Jennifer Hartman	Jennifer Hartman Tracy Hermes	James Janak