

Four Mile Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

903-887-0833 (Church Office)

Website: www.fourmilelutheranchurch.org

Facebook: Four Mile Lutheran Church



A Christian community caring, sharing, and helping others.

July 2022

Happenings

July 3

Worship Service 10:45am

Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia

Assist: Christie Beene

Holy Communion

July 4-Celebration

Cemetery Business Meeting

10:30am

Memorial Service 11:00am

Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia

Flag Raising 11:45am

Lunch noon

Loud & Silent Auction

July 10

Worship Service 10:45am

Assist: Steve Knox

Council Meeting

July 17

Worship Service 10:45am

Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia

Assist: Wayne Nelson

Holy Communion

July 24

Worship Service 10:45am

Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia

Assist: Lisa Knox

Potluck

July 28

Worship & Music 1-3pm

Choir Practice 3-4pm

July 31

Worship Service 10:45am

Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia

Assist: Wayne Nelson



Presidents note:



Fellow Congregation members,

This great country was officially declared independent on July 4, 1776. If the founders were dogmatic about anything, it was the belief that a person's faith should not be intruded upon by government and that religious doctrine should not be written into governance. James Madison, for instance, was vigorously opposed to religious intrusions into civil affairs. Patrick Henry, Ratifier of the U.S. Constitution said:

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."

72 years later Four Mile Lutheran Church was founded by Norwegian Immigrants and for almost 175 years we have been in continuous operation. While this is indeed something to be very proud of, and historically significant for this area, I feel it requires of its members a stronger dedication to its preservation both of existence and mission. We find ourselves in a society, changed by the times, that embraces the immediate feel good of instant gratification enhanced by technological advances.

Many of our members travel quite a way, distances unthinkable in 1848, to worship here. Unfortunately, we remain a small congregation remarkably alone on the prairie. Ironically, larger congregations in major metropolitan settings are experiencing decline in attendance and membership. It seems to be the popular movement to eschew formal religious involvement and to embrace the selfishness of the "what's in it for me" thought pattern. I remind you that this country was founded celebrating individual freedom yet grew due to community involvement. According to Aristotle, a philosopher in Ancient Greece, "**the whole is greater than the sum of its parts**".

As we gather on Independence Day, to raise funds for the Cemetery and to celebrate the growth of this great country in which we are privileged to live and thrive in freedom, lets us remember from whence we came. Let us dwell on what made us what we are and embrace what we must do to continue our way of life to continue God's great commission.

I hope to see you all on Independence Day at our little church on the prairie.

Best regards, *Ted Swinford*

Online Worship Services

If you can't attend or you are not ready to return to Four Mile at this time, we are broadcasting all Sunday services.

For services you can connect remotely two ways.

🌀 You can join the online presentation with the link <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/cmbeene> With this option, you should have visual images, depending on what technology allows.

🌀 Or if you feel your internet is not fast enough, you can call **602-580-9524** and enter the access code **1585132#** when prompted. This only uses your phone line (land line or cell), and you can hear the audio portion of the service.

Worship booklets will be emailed on Fridays. Please print so that you can follow the service.

We are seeking to grow in our spiritual life by incorporating technology as we find new ways of being the body of Christ together.

Another Way to Attend Online Worship Services



Vicar Ed Fiducia has kindly set up our live worship services on our Four Mile business FaceBook page—it's the page with a picture of our church. Ed is also posting our Sunday bulletin on the page so everyone can follow along. Please "Share" the FaceBook post to your friends so that they can attend our services. If you have any questions or problems getting to our FaceBook page, get with Christie Beene.

Important--Church Offerings

Church offerings can be mailed to: Four Mile, P.O. Box 5004, Mabank, TX 75147 or go to the Four Mile website, www.fourmilelutheranchurch.org, select "Online Offering" from the menu on the left-side of your screen, the following box will appear:

Enter your amount, select if you want a "Recurring Giving", if not recurring, click on the "Give" bar at the bottom of the box. **NOTE:** There will be a 2.3% fee added to your amount to pay for this option.

It is very important for us to continue to support our church. **Thank you for your support of our ministry.**

Old Fashion 4th of July Celebration



You are invited to come to our celebration on **Monday, July 4, 2022** at Four Mile Lutheran Church, Hwy. 90 & VZ CR 2607, 2 miles E. of Prairieville Grocery Store.

It will begin with a cemetery business meeting at **10:30 am**, inside the church sanctuary. The Memorial Service will begin at **11 am**, and will end at 11:45 am. Vicar Ed Fiducia will bring the Memorial message.

Veterans, who are in attendance, will be recognized, and deceased veteran's names will be called, and the bell will toll.

Donations will be taken for upkeep of the cemetery. If you have loved ones buried here, we need your support. At **11:45am** we will have the flag raising and sing the Star-Spangled Banner.

Lunch will begin at 12:00 in our parish hall. You will have an opportunity to give a free will offering. We will be providing brisket, hot dogs, iced tea, coffee, and water. We ask that each family bring a large dish of your choice, vegetable, salad, or dessert, to share with others. Bring more if you like!! It's POT LUCK!

Again, this year, in order to earn extra money for the cemetery upkeep, there will be a "loud auction" in the Parish Hall, as soon as everyone is seated for lunch and also a "silent auction" in the little historic church (Sunday School room) to participate in, ending at 1:30 pm.

Cemetery members will be asking for donations of items, at church and in the communities. This marks our 174th year.

Spaces, in this peaceful, lovely place, are for sale at \$100 if you are a member of Four Mile Lutheran, or \$300 each for non-members. Cremation spots are \$150.

A small "Museum", containing years of Four Mile memorabilia will be an added attraction for all who enjoy history. It's located in the Parish Hall, so please visit it. Several books will be for sale at \$10 each. Donations may be mailed to Four Mile Community Cemetery, P.O. Box 5004, Mabank, TX. 75147. 903-887-0833 or 903-385-0017

Flower Chart for 2022



The new 2022 flower chart is ready for persons to sign-up to provide flowers for our Sunday worship services. The chart is located in the narthex. If you would like to provide flowers for a particular day and are unable to sign the chart, please contact Maudine Ruebman and she will sign you up. Thank you.

Being A Good Steward

Quick reminders:



When the good Lord lays a person on your heart, PLEASE respond to His call and contact that person and let them know you're thinking of them. Use phone calls, texts, emails, Facebook Messenger or whatever is handy. We all have a directory so use it!! WE are the church and it's God's work Our hands!!

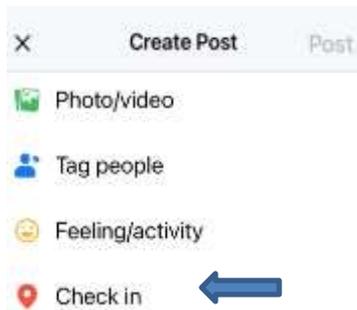
Lisa Knox

Stewardship

Facebook Postings

Just a quick note about checking in using Facebook (if you have an account): Start writing a post on your own page, then note that you can check in (see below) and type in "Four Mile Lutheran Church" and our address should come up and you click it.

This should help boost our page, so I invite you to check in anytime you're at our little church on the prairie!!



Lastly, it takes ALL of us to keep FMLC in working order. Clean up after yourself and leave everyplace you go in better condition than you found it—bathrooms, kitchen, communion rail, pew. Note when paper is low or you need to wipe the seat or sink. Since all of us use the church, all of us must steward the church. It's not just one person's job!!!

Prayerfully and thankfully,

Lisa Knox

Daily Grace Prayers

Sign up for Daily Grace

Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your spiritual journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless, and often surprising grace by signing up for a daily email message. You can also download the app for your IOS and Android devices. **Learn more at welca.org/dailygrace.**

Congratulations to Brinley Knox



Brinley Knox, daughter of Julie Knox, graduated from Mabank High School. A reception was held after the service on June 26 to honor her. Brinley plans to attend Trinity Valley College to study being a dental hygienist. We wish her much success.



Happy Birthday!!!!

When you see the following persons, wish them a happy birthday

- July 2: Jeff Hajek
- July 6: Gary Holan
- July 10: Robert Manning
- July 19: Lee Brau
- July 23: July Ellis



Anniversaries in July

Congratulations to the following members

- July 5: Bill & Eileen York
- July 23: Robert & Kathryn Manning
- July 24: Carly & Hunter Hopkins

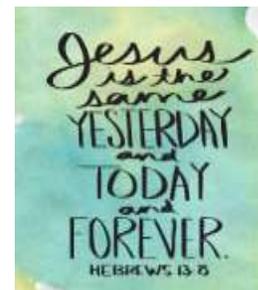


Worship Assistants for July

- July 3: Christie Beene
- July 10: Steve Knox
- July 17: Wayne Nelson
- July 24: Lisa Knox
- July 31: Wayne Nelson

Flowers for July

- July 3: Barbara Holan
- July 10:
- July 17:
- July 24:
- July 31:



Please pray for the following persons:

Prayer List



Members

Ken Andrews	Steve Knox
Sara & Lee Brau	Sally & Jim Nail
Larry Castleberry	Larry & Shirley Parker
Becky Cleveland	Phelps Family
Merit & Verree Dannen	Jack & Maudine Ruebman
Judy Ellis	Betty Trednick
Barbara Metch Holan	Bob & Kenda Watson
Debra Huffman	Bill York
Luanne & Terry Humphreys	

Family & Friends

Micah Thane, Lynda & Jim Chiles' granddaughter
Mark Knox
Andy Ruebman
Joyce Hideman
Stuart Hulsey
Dana & Heather Brau
Pray for our nation
Pray for our Military forces

**Deadline for articles for the August
newsletter is Saturday, July 27**

CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2022

President:	Ted Swinford
Vice-President:	Barbara Metch
Treasurer:	Christie Beene
Financial Secretary:	Peggy Swinford
Secretary:	Lisa Knox
Evangelism:	Council Staff
Property:	Steve Knox
Stewardship:	Lisa Knox/Verree Dannen
Worship/Music:	Maudine Ruebman
Youth:	Heather Vinson/Verree Dannen
Education:	
Cemetery:	Peggy Swinford

July 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 *Jeff Hajek
3 Worship Service 10:45 am Holy Communion Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia Assist: Christie Beene 	4th of July Cemetery Business Mtg. 10:30am Service 11:00am Flag Raising 11:45am Lunch noon	5 **Bill & Eileen York	6 *Gary Holan	7	8	9
10 Worship Service 10:45 am Assist: Steve Knox Council Meeting *Robert Manning	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Worship Service 10:45 am Holy Communion Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia Assist: Wayne Nelson 	18	19 *Lee Brau	20	21	22	23 *Judy Ellis **Robert & Kathryn Manning
24 Worship Service 10:45 am Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia Assist: Lisa Knox Potluck ** Carly & Hunter Hopkins	25	26	27	28 Worship & Music 1- 3pm Choir Practice 3-4pm	29	30
31 Worship Service 10:45 am Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia Assist: Wayne Nelson						

*Birthday **Anniversary