

# Four Mile Lutheran Church



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

903-887-0833 (Church Office)

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Website: [www.fourmilelutheranchurch.org](http://www.fourmilelutheranchurch.org)

Facebook: Four Mile Lutheran Church



**A Christian community caring, sharing, and helping others.**

**December 2022**

## Happenings

### December 1

Worship & Music 1-3pm  
Choir Practice 3-4pm

### December 2

Youth – Christmas Event  
Downtown Mabank

### December 4

Worship Service 10:45am  
Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia  
Assist: Lisa Knox  
**Holy Communion**

### December 10

**WELCA Christmas Party** 11 am  
in the Parish Hall  
Bring a salad and a \$25 gift to  
enjoy the fun!

### December 11

Worship Service 10:45am  
Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia  
Assist: Steve Knox

### December 18

Worship Service 10:45am  
Leader: Wayne Nelson  
Assist: Christie Beene  
Council Meeting

### December 23

#### **Little Christmas**

Worship Service 7:00 pm  
**Holy Communion**  
Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia  
Assist: Wayne Nelson  
Snacks served after the service  
Santa Claus

### December 25

#### **Christmas Day**

#### **Holy Communion**

Worship Service 10:45am  
Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia  
Assist: Wayne Nelson

## Presidents note:

Fellow Congregation members,

**John 15:12-18 ESV**

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

In 2023 Four Mile Lutheran Church will celebrate 175 years of continuous operation. During that time, we have withstood many trials and tribulations. We have all heard (if we have been listening) others speak of how the Church is not the building but the people are the Church. We have heard of Disciple Lives, Purpose Driven Lives, people with Callings, etc. The common item amongst all of these giving them the power to gain traction and thrive are “The People” involved. People following God’s commandments, to love and value their families. We are in multiple families, each and every one of us. Immediate, extended, work, clubs, communities and from whence it all arose- “our church” family. Working together these families can accomplish much good.

The Holidays are here, Thanksgiving has past and we approach the Christmas season for Christians, Hanukah for the Jewish and the more recent addition Kwanza celebrated by African American culture. Also occurring during this time of year is a heightened rate of depression experienced by many. What should be the happiest time of the year is frequently for many the hardest time of the year to face. Short end of the story? Our families need us. The love, compassion, companionship and just plain random act of kindness are craved and so valued.

How do we tell who needs us? You have to keep in mind that while there can be outward signs, there are many who can keep things very compartmentalized. They may not show the outward signs. How do you tell then? Expanding your relationship with one another. Get to know your “Family”. Reach out to them, offer that kind word or deed. Crawl out of your “comfy box”. Even if the best you can muster is to support the good deeds of others, enabling them to reach more. But I encourage you to expand your life experience and reach out to your “families” and lend a hand or supportive shoulder.

We will be having worship on Christmas Day as well as our traditional **Little Christmas** service on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. I do so hope that we all can be together on **Christmas Day** to worship and give praise together. One common item of Little Christmas needs everyone’s attention. This is the time of year when we show our appreciation to a few individuals who do a lot both behind the scenes and on the “stage” to make worship happen. If you agree, and I’m sure you do, that these folks go above and beyond and deserve a little extra Thank you, please make a contribution. You can make these by designating as part of your giving towards “Staff Appreciation gift” or you can make more anonymous donations to Christie or myself.

Best regards, *Ted Swinford*



**A VERY MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
and Happy New Year!

## 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:**

**1.** 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.

**OR**

**2.** 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.

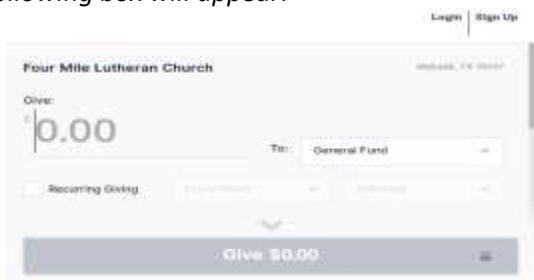
📞 Or if you feel your internet is not fast enough, you can call **17208432668 (new phone number)** and enter the access code **1585132#** when prompted. This only uses your phone line (land line or cell), and you can hear the audio portion of the service.

**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.

## 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](http://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.**

## Devoted Member Passes Away



It is with a sad heart to tell you that Jimmy Ellington passed away on Nov. 22 at home. Services were held at Eubanks Funeral Home in Canton on Saturday, Nov. 26. Please keep Diane Ellington and the family in your prayers. Jimmy kept our church yard mowed for many years. Rest in peace, Jimmy. We will miss you.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

We had our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, November 20. The proposed budget for 2023 was presented. After some discussion, a few changes were made to the budget numbers for a pastor. The budget was approved based on these changes. The 2023 council members will be the same as the 2022.

## WELCA—Outreach, Thanksgiving Food



The ladies of Four Mile (WELCA) were pleased to provide thanksgiving food for families needing some help this year. The families were identified by Eustace Primary school counselors. It was so gratifying and rewarding to help these families. We also provided food for breakfast, lunch and snacks for the kids of three different families, with a total of 6 adults and nine children. All of the families were so appreciative. Thank you, Maudine Ruebman, Becky Cleveland, Kathryn Manning, and Christie Beene for doing the shopping.

## WELCA Christmas Luncheon



**All women** of Four Mile and friends are welcome to attend the WELCA Christmas Luncheon on **December 10 at 11 am**. The luncheon will be held in the Parish Hall. Bring a salad to share with the group. WELCA officers will provide the desserts. Bring a wrapped \$25 gift. We will play a gift exchange game. It will be loads of fun!! Please plan to attend this event and enjoy a beautiful time together as we share in the JOY of this Holy Season.

## Appreciation Gifting

It is that time of the year that we show our appreciation to our four staff members for the outstanding job that they perform throughout the year.

If you would like to contribute to this, please see Christie Beene no later than **Wednesday, December 20, 2022**. Christie will put it together and it will be given at our Little Christmas Service on December 23.

If you don't see Christie, you can give it to Ted Swinford and he will get it to her.

Thank you, *Ted Swinford*

## Talking About Appreciation...

Vicar Ed Fiducia last day to serve at Four Mile is **Sunday, December 25**. Due to family and business obligations, Vicar Ed must step away from Four Mile for a while. We are so appreciative of his time at Four Mile. We will miss his enlightening sermons and his time dedicated to us. We would like to thank his family for sharing Vicar Ed with us.

## Little Christmas at Four Mile—Dec 23



What is Little Christmas? We at Four Mile have our candlelight service on **Friday, December 23 at 7pm** to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Vicar Ed Fiducia will lead this wonderful service. Little

Christmas tradition has been in place for many years. It was determined that many families want to spend Christmas Eve with family and friends. So, Little Christmas is our Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

Following the service, light snacks will be available in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to bring a finger food—not needing a fork. Sometimes, it is known that Santa Claus stops by too. **Please mark your calendar for December 23**. We hope you will join us and enjoy the fellowship. Invite your families and friends.

## Lutheran World Relief School Kits 2022

The youth and the women of Four Mile Lutheran Church work together each year to make 72 school kits, which will be delivered through Lutheran World to those in need in disaster areas. Merit and I delivered the 9 boxes of school kits to Messiah Lutheran Church in Plano, where they were loaded into semi's to start their journey to students in need of supplies.

Lutheran World Relief helps with relief in many areas, but presently Four Mile works just with the school kits. When families try to rebuild after disaster many are unable to provide the necessary school supplies, without these school kits. Because education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty, these school kits help provide normalcy in times of crisis and students are able to begin to heal from their trauma.



## A Very successful 2022 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Our 77 Four Mile Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were included in the 13,896 shoeboxes transported from our area to the Dallas processing center. We had great fun packing these boxes to overfill with special goodies for our special recipients...

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes is an opportunity to bless children in need around the world. These boxes are filled with special items for children who would not have a gift, and it leads them into "The Greatest Journey," which is a 12-lesson discipleship course designed especially for these recipients. The children are invited to trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and they become faithful followers of Jesus Christ in their daily lives, learning how to prayerfully share the Gospel with family and friends.



## Representing Four Mile Lutheran at Mabank Market Street Halloween 2022

The Four Mile youth purchased 100 glows in the dark crosses, 75 bible verse bracelets, 9 bags of candy and 50 individual bags of peanuts to give out during the Mabank Market Street Halloween. We were told there probably wouldn't be as many kids this year since all the major churches were having trunk or treats, but that was not the case and we ran out! Lesson learned; we are planning to at least triple our supply as we prepare for the December Christmas Market Street vent! Thank you to Lisa Knox and Christie Beene for producing 100 Four Mile brochures for us to give out to the parents. Thank you to Tora Hajek, the Vinson family and Christie Beene for helping me represent Four Mile Lutheran in Mabank, while having a great evening meeting so many people.



## A place for your grief, fear and loss

The reality of life—memories of the past and the pain of the present—can leave many people feeling less than merry in December. It might be the death of a loved one, a discouraging diagnosis, a job loss, or some other crisis.



As a community of women, we have committed ourselves to promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world. How can we do that for those who are sad or suffering this season?

We will gather on the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere—the Winter Solstice—December 21.

**Register now to attend the Blue Christmas Service.** The service (webinar) will take place at **7:00 p.m. CST on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, via Zoom.**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

## Rebecca Project/821 Ministry Feeding the elderly, disabled and homeless

The Four Mile youth have been continuing to help feed the 175 elderly, disabled and homeless through the 821 Ministry.



## Flower Chart for 2023



The new 2023 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.

**Deadline for articles for the January Newsletter is Wednesday, December 28**

## Happy Birthday!!!!

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

- Dec 1: Blake McNair  
Jeff Norman
- Dec 6: Kaiden Mackelfresh  
Carson Manning
- Dec 9: Sabrina Swinford
- Dec 14: Chris Johnson
- Dec 16: Julie Vinson
- Dec 23: Mark Hopkins
- Dec 24: Steve Knox
- Dec 29: Ashton Norman Johnson



## Anniversaries in December

*Congratulations to the following members*

- Dec 12: Larry & Pastor Jan Castleberry
- Dec 19: Matt & Susan Winkelvoss
- Dec 31: Gary & Barbara Holan



## Worship Assistants for December

- Dec 4: Lisa Knox
- Dec 11: Steve Knox
- Dec 18: Christie Beene
- Dec 23: Wayne Nelson
- Dec 25: Wayne Nelson

## Flowers for December

- Dec 4: Gary & Barbara Holan in honor of all saints
- Dec 11: Heather Vinson – celebrating Julie’s birthday
- Dec 18: Gary & Barbara Holan in honor of all saints
- Dec 25: Gary & Barbara Holan in honor of all saints



Please keep Diane Ellington and the family in your prayers

## Please pray for the following persons:

### Prayer List

#### Members

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



### **Family & Friends**

Micah Thane, Lynda & Jim Chiles' granddaughter  
Pastor Jamie, daughter of Pastor Gnana Segaran  
Christian, Betty Trednick's nephew  
DJ Rolfsmeier, Lisa Knox mom  
Phyllis, Ted's mother  
Nancy Hiser  
Mark Knox  
Andy Ruebman  
Joyce Hideman  
Stuart Hulsey  
Dana & Heather Brau  
Pray for our nation  
Pray for our Military forces

**NOTE: If your relative/friend needs to be removed from this list, please let Maudine Ruebman know—thank you.**

### **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

# December 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Worship/Music 1-3pm Choir 3-4pm * Blake McNair * Jeff Norman	2 Youth – Downtown Mabank	3
4 Worship Service 10:45 am <b>Holy Communion</b> Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia Assist: Lisa Knox 	5	6 * Kaiden Mackelfresh * Carson Manning	7	8	9 * Sabrina Swinford	10 <b>WELCA Christmas Party &amp; Luncheon 11 am in the Parish Hall</b>
11 Worship Service 10:45 am Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia Assist: Steve Knox	12 **Larry & Pastor Jan Castleberry	13	14 *Chris Johnson	15	16 * Julie Vinson	17
18 Worship Service 10:45 am Leader: Wayne Nelson Assist: Christie Beene <b>Council Meeting</b>	19 ** Matt & Susan Winkelvoss	20	21	22	23 <b>Little Christmas 7 pm Communion</b> * Mark Hopkins	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b>  * Steve Knox
25 <b>Christmas Day</b> Worship Service 10:45 am <b>Holy Communion</b> Leader: Vicar Ed Fiducia Assist: Wayne Nelson 	26	27	28 Newsletter articles due	29 * Ashton Norman Johnson	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>  ** Gary & Barbara Holan

\*Birthday      \*\*Anniversary