

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

1311 Holman Street

Houston, TX 77004

713.529.3589

office@felchouston.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

How to Join First Evangelical Lutheran Church

For those who have visited First Church and are interested in becoming a member, we plan to receive members several times a year: The Baptism of Our Lord, Palm Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, Reformation Sunday, and through baptism at the Vigil of Easter. For those new to Lutheranism or to the Christian faith, a class is offered prior to reception. All members are invited to attend this class as a refresher course. For those who wish to join by way of transfer, an orientation class is offered the Sunday prior to the reception. Lunch is always provided.

Associate Membership

Associate Membership is available to members of other Christian congregations who would also like to participate in the life of this congregation. Please ask the pastor for more details.

Holy Trinity Sunday

Holy Trinity Sunday is a festival always celebrated the Sunday after Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. The Church year gives us Pentecost to begin what may be called the Church Semester of the year and to remind us that the Holy Spirit is actively involved in the life of the Church. Holy Trinity Sunday is a time to reflect on who is to be at the center of our life together: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

How to Become Involved at First Church

Those wishing to become more involved at First Church can speak with Pastor McClanahan or Pastor Peterman about a growing number of opportunities. The young adults group *Selah* offers fellowship and service activities once a month. Every third Friday at lunch the Julius Knigge Class meets for seniors. A new group for parents with young children is in formation.

Sunday Church School Class

Starting today, a new class will explore the non-Lectionary gospel texts. As you may know, our gospel texts are appointed on a 3-year cycle called the Lectionary. This moves us through the birth, teachings, miracles, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, the core of our life together as a Christian community. The lectionary does leave a number of interesting gospel stories uncovered from the pulpit, however. This class will give us the chance to explore those less familiar texts in great detail. The class will begin in June, and is in the Parish Hall at 10:00 Sunday mornings. The class will begin with Matthew and move through the gospels in order.

Coffee and a light breakfast are provided.

Narthex Chapel Restored

As you walk into the narthex, if you look to the right, you will find a lovely room there, another example of the many blessings of this building. Originally intended to be a small chapel, the room was for many years re-purposed as a storage room, and still is used as the room in which brides wait before processing down the aisle.

While there is still work to do, an altar and pews are in place, and storage shelves and tables have been removed. The chapel will serve as a place of daily Morning Prayer for the community and as a place of meditative prayer for our members anytime during the week.

A Basket for Food Donations to Christian Community Service Center is placed outside the narthex after our worship service and inside the narthex before the service. The needs at CCSC are canned goods and baby food. Please bring them to church and drop them in the basket on Sundays. See the May issue of First Edition for more details.

Book Club at First Church

The book club's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 9, at 6:30 p.m. We are currently reading *Quite a Year for Plums* by Bailey White. All are invited to join us for food and a discussion of the book. For more information, contact Amanda McClanahan at 713.203.1279.

First Church is Home to a Restaurant!

Ready...Set...Lunch (RSL) is a new lunch service that is located in our kitchen Monday through Friday. The food is excellent and the prices are reasonable. A portion of their proceeds is donated to First Church to be contributed to one of the missions we support. If your business or social gathering ever needs delivered meals for lunch, please call RSL at 832.725.4000. Brian or Tesa will be happy to work with you.

CCSC Needs School Supplies

Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is one of the great Houston charities First Church sponsors, both financially and through our service. They are currently seeking sponsorship for 6,000 students for back-to-school supplies among their many partner congregations. The Service and Care Committee has set sponsorship of 25 students as an easily attainable goal for First Church.

The cost per child is \$45, and that purchases a package of basic school supplies, a school uniform and a new pair of shoes. The deadline is the end of July. If this is a ministry you can support, simply mail a personal check to CCSC, P.O. Box 27924, Houston, TX 77227, or donate online via www.ccschouston.com. Just inform the church office when you do so we know when we've reached and surpassed our goal! Thanks for your compassion and love of neighbor.

Choir Participation

The choir rehearses only on Sundays at 9:30 am before the Eucharist. Participation can be on a week-by-week basis and singers are welcome at any time, or from time-to-time. No audition is required, but sopranos must be able to sing with little or no vibrato. Although one needs only to present oneself at the 9:30 am rehearsal to sing, further information can be obtained from Carroll or Dorry Shaddock at 713.661.6106, or at dss@shaddocktexas.com.

New Members will be received today: Dorothy Hicks by Affirmation of Faith; and Dorry Shaddock by Transfer from Christ the King Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas.

Schedule for the Week of May 23, 2010

Sunday, May 23

- 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, upstairs Choir Room*
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Church School for adults and youth,
Parish Hall* - *Non-Lectionary Gospel Texts*
- 11:00 a.m. Eucharist (*Lutheran Book of Worship*, setting 2)*

Monday, May 24

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Conference

Sunday, May 30

- 9:30 a.m. Choir rehearsal, upstairs Choir Room*
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Church School for adults and youth,
Parish Hall* - *Non-Lectionary Gospel Texts*
- 11:00 a.m. Eucharist for the Festival of the Holy Trinity
(*Lutheran Book of Worship*, setting 2)*

*Nursery Provided

Staff

- The Rev. Evan S. McClanahan, STS.....Pastor
- The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman, STS.....Consulting Pastor
- Carroll Shaddock.....Music Director
- Dorry Shaddock.....Organist
- Sabrina Smitherman.....Administrative Assistant
- Janice McLennan.....Nursery Attendant
- Nelson Rendon.....Custodian