

**The Second Sunday in Lent**

**February 28, 2010**

**A cordial welcome** to all who are visiting with us today! Please sign a Visitor Card from the pew rack or the Guest Book at the entrance. Join us afterward for coffee and refreshments on the lawn or in the narthex.

**A Nursery** for children under six is available each Sunday morning.

**Lutheran worship** calls for more standing than in many other churches. Persons unable to stand during the service may remain seated. Also, persons who have difficulty walking may sit in the very front pew and receive communion there.

**Holy Communion** in our congregation is open to all baptized Christians. Lutherans believe and teach that in this sacrament Jesus Christ is truly present to heal our brokenness and empower our lives. Congregants come forward in two lines in the center aisle. They obtain an empty glass or, if preferred, a glass of white grape juice from an usher at the front of the aisle, and then stand around the carpet. Communicants consume the bread and wine upon receiving them, and wait for the blessing. Then they go to the side aisles, place the communion glasses in the baskets provided, and return to their seats.

**Sunday Church School** for youth and adults is available from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. The class meets in the Parish Hall. The topic in March will be the *Saint John Passion* by Johann Sebastian Bach. The class will be taught by Pastor McClanahan.

**Communicants** are asked to complete a communion card and place it in the offering.

**The Remainder of the Annual Meeting** of the congregation will be held today at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall following a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. A recommendation of the Council has been put forth as to whether to become a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas while remaining a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Please attend this important meeting and vote.

**Alexander Steven and John Steven**, the sons of Steven and Monika Mitby, will become members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church today through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. They were born on February 6, 2010. Serving as sponsors *in absentia* are David and Amy Mitby. (At the physician's instruction, the children are to avoid contact with people at the present time. Steven and Monika give their assurance, however, that when the children have matured sufficiently, they will be more personally introduced to members and friends of the congregation.)

**The Annual Reports** are ready to be picked up near the office in the Education Building.

**A Calendar of Events** is located on the last page of the bulletin.

## The Order of Service

### The Prelude

*Have Mercy on Me, O Lord God*  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

### The Trinitarian Ringing of the Tower Bell

*Stand*

### The Introit (Choir Scholars)

Text: Ancient source  
Music: Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy loving-kindnesses, for they have been ever of old. Let not mine enemies triumph over me. God of Israel, deliver us out of all our troubles. Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul; O my God, I trust in thee, let me not be ashamed. *Gloria Patri...*

### The Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins, in the

name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit. On the other hand and by the same authority, I declare to the impenitent and unbelieving that so long as they continue in their impenitence, God has not forgiven their sins and will assuredly visit their iniquities upon them, if they turn not from their evil ways and come to true repentance and faith in Christ, before the day of grace is ended.

**C: Amen**

### **Silent Processional**

#### **The Apostolic Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## The Kyrie

The image shows a musical score for 'The Kyrie' in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e! God, Fa - ther in heav'n a - bove, you a - bound in gra - cious love, of all things the mak - er and pre - serv - er. E - le - i - son! E - le - i - son! Ky - ri - e! O Christ, our king, sal - va - tion for all you came to bring. O Lord Je - sus, God's own Son, our me - di - a - tor at the heav'n - ly throne: hear our cry and grant our sup - pli - ca - tion. E - le - i - son! E - le - i - son! Ky - ri - e! O God the Ho - ly Ghost, guard our faith, the gift we need the most. And bless our life's last hour, that we leave this sin - ful world with glad - ness. E - le - i - son! E - le - i - son! A - men

## The Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**The First Lesson**

**Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18**

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup>But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup>He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

A: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**The Psalmody (read responsively)**

**Psalm 27**

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**<sup>2</sup>When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

**<sup>4</sup>One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;  
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the  
temple.**

<sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high  
upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup>**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of  
rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup>**My heart speaks your message— "Seek my face."  
Your face, O Lord, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O  
God of my salvation.

<sup>10</sup>**Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the Lord will take me in.**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O Lord;  
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup>**Subject me not to the will of my foes,**

## **The Second Lesson**

## **Philippians 3:17—4:1**

<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

A: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Stand*

## **The Verse (Cantor)**

Text: Traditional Gradual for the Day  
Music: Paul Bunjes (1914-98)

The troubles of my heart are enlarged; oh, bring thou me out of my distresses. V. Look upon my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins. Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endureth forever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can show forth his praise? Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times. Remember me, O Lord, with the favor that thou bearest unto thy people; oh, visit me with thy salvation.

## **The Gospel**

**Luke 13:31–35**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

### **C: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem. <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord

### **C: Praise to you, O Christ**

*Sit*

## **The Sermon**

*Why Don't People Go to Church?*

*Stand*

## **The Hymn of the Day ELW 727**

*Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth*

## **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

*The congregation is seated.*

[P] In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus

Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

*[Parents:]* **We present Alexander Steven Mitby and John Steven Mitby to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.**

**[P]** In Christian love you have presented these children for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring them to the services of God's house, and teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As they grow in years, you should place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

*[Parents:]* **I do.**

*The congregation stands.*

**[P]** The Lord be with you.

**[C]** **And also with you.**

**[P]** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**[C]** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**[P]** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of eternal life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father [✠], and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away their sin by the cleansing of this water, and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**[C] Amen.**

**[P]** I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith in which we baptize.

**[P]** Do you renounce all the forces of evil?

*[Parents:]* **I do.**

**[P]** Do you renounce the devil?

*[Parents:]* **I do.**

**[P]** Do you renounce all his empty promises?

*[Parents:]* **I do.**

**[P]** Do you believe in God the Father?

**[C] I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**[P]** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**[C] I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**[P]** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**[C] I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*[The pastor baptizes the children.]*

**[P]** Alexander Steven, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**[P]** John Steven, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**[P]** God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Alexander Steven: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

**[C] Amen.**

Pour your Holy Spirit upon John Steven: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

**[C] Amen.**

*[With chrism (oil) the pastor makes the sign of the cross on each child's forehead.]*

**[P]** Alexander Steven, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**[C] Amen.**

**[P]** John Steven, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**[C] Amen.**

*[The pastor presents the baptismal candles.]*

**[P]** Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

**[P]** Let us pray: O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the parents of these children. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their children. Strengthen them in their own faith so they may share eternally with their children the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**[C] Amen.**

**[P]** Through Baptism God has made these children members of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

**[C] We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.**

*The congregation is seated for the hymn.*

**Hymn 781**

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

*Stand*

**The Prayer of the Church**

*The prayer concludes:*

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**The Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Greet others near you in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**R: Peace be with you.**

*Sit*

**The Offering**

**The Anthem**

*Thou Goest to Jerusalem*

Text: *Anna Hoppe (1921)*

Music: *Melchior Franck (1631)*

*Stand*

## The Offertory

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

## The Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray:

Merciful Father,

**C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al-so with you.

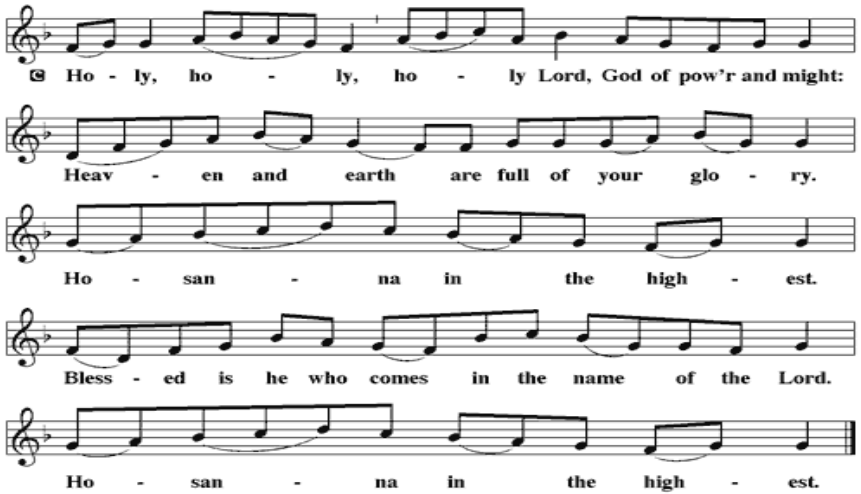
☩ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

☩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### The Sanctus



♩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### The Eucharistic Prayer

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

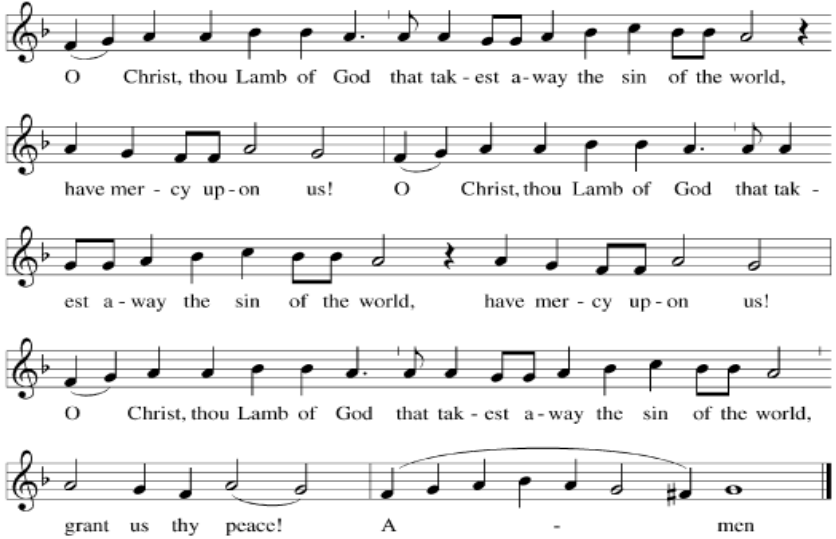
### The Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## The Lord's Prayer

**C:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

## The Agnus Dei



O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a - way the sin of the world,  
have mer - cy up - on us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak -  
est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us!  
O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a - way the sin of the world,  
grant us thy peace! A - - - - - men

*Sit*

## The Communion

*Communicants consume the elements after receiving them, remain in place for the blessing, and then return to their seats.*

### The Anthem (Choir Scholars)

*From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee*  
Text and music: Martin Luther (Psalm 130)

### The Communion Blessing (After each table of communicants)

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

*Stand*

## The Canticle



Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.



And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!



Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;



but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

## The Prayer

A: Let us pray: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

## The Benediction



☩ Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,      ☩ A - men  
bless you now . . . . . and for - ever.

## The Recessional Hymn ELW 802

*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

## The Postlude

*Prelude in G Major*  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)

## Calendar

<b>Today</b>	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	Luncheon
	1:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting, Part II
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:00 p.m.	Taize Lenten Service
<b>Next Sunday</b>	9:45 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	Property Committee
	12:30 p.m.	Service and Care Committee

## WORSHIP ENABLERS

David Hokanson.....	Bell Ringer
Herb Richter.....	Usher
Joshua Guntow.....	Usher
Maridith Allen.....	Usher
Jim McLane.....	Usher
Jeffrey Hokanson.....	Crucifer
Caroline Lucke.....	Acolyte
Peter Hokanson.....	Server
Stephanie Davis.....	Assisting Minister
The Rev. Evan S. McClanahan.....	Sermon, Liturgist of the Eucharist
The Rev. Edwin D. Peterman.....	Liturgist of the Word
Fran Allen.....	Verger
Fran Allen, Gertie Beutel.....	Altar Guild
Jackson Felder.....	Cantor
Carroll Shaddock.....	Choir Director
Dorry Shaddock.....	Organist

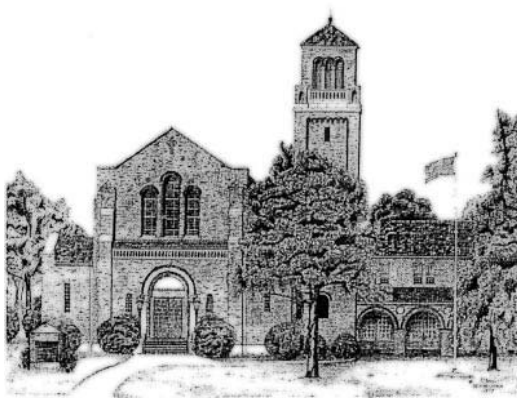
## CHURCH STAFF

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

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**First Evangelical Lutheran Church** was founded in 1851, and played a vital role in the formation of Lutheranism in Texas. The church building is located at Holman and Caroline, across the street from the Houston Community College, convenient to the Ensemble/HCC Metro-rail stop in the 3400 block of Main Street.



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