



Messenger

April 2025

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

200 Oil Hill RD

El Dorado KS 67042

316-321-3465

fsbclaura@gmail.com



The Deacon's Corner

Greetings Church Family,

Three years ago, our church started a tradition that is one of the most inspiring Sundays of the church year. Worker's Appreciation Sunday is a day set aside to recognize members of the body who serve in our local body of believers. March 2, workers were recognized, but in a very unique and heartwarming manner. One by one, members of our church body stood and personally thanked individuals for their work in service of the Kingdom. With every expression of gratitude I was reminded of how this followed the example of the early church recounted in the book of Acts. In the early church, we read of believers who gave of themselves because of their love for one another. Those demonstrations of love were because of their love for King Jesus.

It is nice to be recognized, but we do not serve for the recognition. We serve because of our love for Jesus and His church. Though not every story could be shared, I know there are countless other examples of brothers and sisters giving of themselves.

In reflecting back to that morning, I am reminded that each person fills a role in the body. Scripture reminds us that we are part of a body that functions when all the parts work together. God has designed us with our own unique gifts and talents. Those gifts and talents are not meant to be pent up, but shared for the benefit of all. So how did each of these individuals get involved? It starts with recognizing that we are not called to be "pewsitters." Believers in Jesus are all gifted with Spiritual Gifts. The Bible explains

some of these gifts in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. Though some individuals have the same gifts as others, God uses each obedient child to carry out their gift in a very unique way. Amazingly, God knows how to knit all of these gifts and talents together to carry out the Kingdom work.

New and more seasoned Christians do not always know their spiritual gifts. The Deacon body has been considering some special classes that we might do within the Sunday School hour. One of the proposed classes is a 6 week class concerning Spiritual gifts. If this is something that you would consider participating in, please let me or one of the other deacons know of your interest. Our church needs your talents, passions, and spiritual giftedness to help carry out God's work. Until next time...

Blessings to All,

Rod Luehrs

Chairman of the Deacons

Deacons: Rod Luehrs, John Brickley, Joe Reinert and Joe Leibbrandt.

Our Current Schedule

- **Sunday School 9:30 am**
- **Sunday Worship 10:45 am**
- **Sunday 5 pm**—Women's Bible study
- **Mondays 6:15 pm**—Prayer meeting
- **Mondays 6:30 pm**—"Satisfied" Group
- **Tuesdays 6:30 pm** Celebrate Recovery
- **Wednesdays 6:30 pm**—Bible Study for all ages.
- **Thursdays 6-8 pm**—Griefshare



The Pastor's Pen



Greetings Church! I Love You, Church!

And Happy Easter! Or should I say, Happy Resurrection Day? I am not sure if you have heard more discussion these last few years about the beginnings of our Easter and Christmas celebrations, but I have noticed an increase in these debates. People are challenging the integrity of our use of these dates and events for many reasons. At best, they are looking for purity in our faith and practice. At worst, they want to undermine the veracity of our Jesus and faith by pulling a perceived foundation out from underneath our spiritual feet. Is that possible? Do their claims hold historical weight? How should we respond to such questions?

Questions revolve around the reality that there used to be pagan or secular festivals held in those calendrical seasons that we now celebrate Christmas and Easter in the Christian calendar. Christians did, indeed, coopt those festivals for a focus on Jesus. Questioners will state that because those festivals did not have a Christian origin there are several strikes against our celebrations as believers. They will suggest that coopting these festivals demonstrates our church institutions' desire to control the masses, choosing manipulation over authentic persuasion as a means to prop up our supposedly fragile faith and unattractive message. Further, they will say that because we do not know the actual dates of Jesus' birth (it may have likely been in the spring), our Christmas celebration December 25th is illegitimate. They say that Easter is a pagan term that is unfit for Christian use. The same is said of Christmas trees and other decorative practices. The higher criticisms are that our worship practices are tainted, defiled, and undermined by the historical origins and that God is not pleased and we are wrong for utilizing them.

How should we respond? We want to honor Jesus' birth and resurrection because they are truly foundational to our faith. We also want to make Him famous for His great salvific work on the cross. We don't want to be put to shame. We want to advance the Gospel to even those who criticize our practices. So, how should we respond? With truth and victory by faith. Let me give you some pointers.

First, acknowledge the historical facts about the origins of our festivals. The Church certainly did coopt pagan and secular celebrations to make more of Jesus and give its members a righteous reason to celebrate

at the times Satan had the attention. These are facts that we need not shy from, however, because they do not automatically demand the undermining conclusions often made. More about that later.

Second, find out from the detractor why they make their objection. Their motivations may be admirable or adversarial, holy or evil. Your response would vary based on the stance from which they proffer. Antagonists merely want to spout to justify their biases and no response is necessary, only blessings and an offer to discuss further if they want to truly talk about it. Genuine curiosity can be satisfied with acknowledgement of the facts and some basic spiritual truth.

The reality is that none of these coopting practices are any concern for the mature believer in Jesus Christ. Get out your Bible and look up 1 Corinthians chapters 8 and 10. Here we find some great wisdom and instruction about a parallel issue to our holy celebrations: food sacrificed to idols. The key passage is 8:5-6, "⁵For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth—as there are many “gods” and many “lords”—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father. All things are from him, and we exist for him. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ. All things are through him, and we exist through him.” But read all of both chapters to get the full instruction.

Here is the mature believer's stance: The origins are inconsequential to what we are currently practicing as long as we do not give Satan a foothold into our mindset. We dare not surrender to these challenges if we would be tempted to offer Satan any credit or victory. Jesus wins! He has overcome His enemies of lies and evil! We could celebrate Christmas any time of year and it would not matter as long as we make it all about Jesus. I do not like the commercialization of either holy day. I understand its value to our secular, economic society, but I resist its pressure for the sake of emphasizing Christ. I will eat a chocolate bunny, but I do not ascribe any fuzzy meaning to the Resurrection Day focus I bring to the glorious Easter morning! The Christmas tree, the bunny, the eggs, the dates all mean nothing unless I give them undue importance. I refuse to give Satan back the Christmas tree, the dates, the festivals, or the undermining of my pure worship, which is not based on form but heart. (In addition, I am taking back from Satan the meaning of the rainbow!)

So, Happy Easter, Church! And Happy Glorious Resurrection Day!

Pastor David Crook

Youth

On Thursday, March 13th, nine Youth and five Adults attended Winter Jam. Not everyone enjoys every style of music, but all who attended had a fantastic time and heard God's word in an exhilarating way!

Sunday, March 30th is Youth Day! We are looking forward to taking over the morning worship service. Be

there and see our young leaders shine!

Camp will be here before you know it!!! Youth need to turn in \$50 by May 1st. If they need help paying this, we will have opportunities to make this money! We want the youth to take ownership for their way to camp so please let me know if you want to help with fundraising!

Youth also need to participate in three mission outreaches, get registered online and have a parent complete the challenge course permission online. Right before camp, we will also need a medical form turned in signed by the parent.

Lisa Crook
Youth Leader

Outreach

Food Pantry Grocery List:

- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Rice
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Beans
- Canned Meat
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Ramen noodles

Blessing Box Suggestions

Snacks (Crackers, Nuts, Jerky . . .)
Ready-to-eat pop top canned food
Instant coffee
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes
Brushes, combs
Deodorant
Soap, Shampoo
Baby wipes
Feminine products
Socks
Stocking caps
Gloves
Hot hands

Operation Christmas Child

Items to collect for April:

Hygiene items

- Toothbrushes
- Floss
- Hair combs/hair brushes
- Wash clothes
- Nail clippers
- Stick deodorant
- Non liquid lip balm
- Adhesive bandages
- Compact mirrors (ones that fold)
- washable/reusable menstrual pads

Volunteers

	Sound Room	Prayer	Bus Driver	Children's Church	Nursery During Church		Head Counter	Counter 2	Counter 3	Date	Wed. Meal Prep
4/6	Jeff, Laura	Johnie G.	Janna	Brickley	Keith A.	Karen L.	Johnie G.	Laura L.	Marsha P	4/9	Robert & Carol
4/13	John, Lisa	John M.	Sheila	Brickley	Johnie G.	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Ulala P.	Deb	4/16	Susan, Marsha, Paula
4/20	Jeff, Laura	John B.	John	Brickley	Julie H.	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Susan F.	Janna D.	4/23	Mary G. Carolyn J.
4/27	John, Lisa	David C.	Janna	Guest	Rod	Karen L.	Johnie G.	Laura L.	John T.	4/30	Darlene & Sandy

FSBC Kid's Ministry

April 2025

First Southern Baptist Church

200 Oil Hill Rd, El Dorado, KS

316-321-3465

Bus 316-452-3594

Paula Mattice 316-258-6596

UPCOMING DATES

April 13: Palm Sunday Kids Special

April 19: Family Easter Event 2pm

April 20: Sunrise Service 7am

Church Breakfast 9am

Resurrection Celebration 10:30am

May 14: Last Wednesday Kidz Club

June 2-6: VBS!

Oh what a glorious time it is!,

Hallelujah, He Has Risen! Did you hear that? Our Lord is ALIVE! His sacrifice and suffering on the cross can save us from being separated from God. We only need to:

A-ADMIT that you are a sinner and have made mistakes.

B-BELIEVE that Jesus is God's only Son and He chose to die on a cross for you.

C-COMMIT your life to Jesus and follow Him by serving others.

If you or your child is ready to make a decision for Christ, please contact me or Pastor David so we can celebrate with you!

In His Service,
Ms. Paula



Family Easter Event

First Southern Baptist Church

Saturday, April 19, 2pm

Resurrection Story & Egg Hunt

On March 9th, the Sunday School students performed a song that helped them memorize Philippians 4:8, *"Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things"*. Great job kids!



L to R: Nathaniel, Emma, Agnes, Ida, Liz, Savannah, Landon, and Carrie

This month we will be focusing on the Death and Resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and beginning a unit on The Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13. It is our hope that the whole family can help the kids with this memorization of verses. It's so exciting to see young kids that are already hiding His word in their hearts.

APRIL 2025 Camp Fundraiser (all month)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Youth Sunday VBS Recruiting Day	31 John Throckmorton	1	2	3	4 Ulala Prewit	5 Donna Gragg, Phil & Karen Drake Sunday School Breakfast 8:30 am Leon
PAULA OUT OF TOWN 2-7						
6 PAULA OUT OF TOWN 2-7	7	8	9	10	11	12 9 a.m. Spring Clean-Up Day
13 Palm Sunday, Children's Easter Special 1pm "A- Team" (BYOL)	14	15	16 By 9 am Newsletter items due	17 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	18 Good Friday, No School	19 Bread of Life Food Ministry (10- 11:30) 2pm, Family Easter Event
20 Resurrection Sunday 7:00 am Sunrise Service 9:00 am Potluck Breakfast 10:30 Worship and Children's Celebration	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Johnie & Donna Gragg, Stephen & Paula Mattice, Rick Stewart	29	30			

HE IS
RISEN!

MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 National Day of Prayer	2	3 Sunday School Breakfast 8:30 am Leon
4	5	6	7 Vicki Edwards, Steve Rhodes	8	9	10
11 Glenna Wise, Jessica Gill Mothers' Day, Child Dedication	12	13	14 by 9:00 am— Newsletter items due (For June-July Summer Edition) Last Wednesday night program for Kidz Club	15 Joe Leibbrandt, Pat Leibbrandt 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	16	17
18 Joe Reinert Graduation Sunday, A-Team (BYOL)	19	20 Nancy Wright Last Day of School	21 Lonni Adkison Last Regular Wednesday night Youth Program for Summer	22 Jerry Dewitt	23	24
<div>Pastor OUT OF TOWN 22-26</div> <div>PAULA OUT OF TOWN 17-24</div>						
25	26 Memorial Day, Office Closed	27 David and Lisa Crook	28 Sheri Dean	29	30 Julie Hill	31
<div>Pastor OUT OF TOWN 22-26</div>						

Volunteers

	Sound Room	Prayer	Bus Driver	Children's Church	Nursery During Church		Head Counter	Counter 2	Counter 3	Date	Wed. Meal Prep
5/4	Jeff, Laura	Joe L.	Deb	Reinert	Keith A.	Cara	Deb	Laura L.	Marsha P	5/7	Robert & Carol
5/11	John, Lisa	Joe R.	Janna	Reinert	Johnie	John	Deb	Ulala P.	Deb	5/14	Susan, Marsha,
5/18	Jeff, Laura	Rod L.	Sheila	Reinert	Julie H.	Cara	Deb	Susan F.	Laura L	5/21	Mary G. Carolyn J.
5/25	John, Lisa	Johnie	John	Guest	John B.	Cara	Deb	Janna D.	John T.	5/28	Darlene & Sandy