



FSBC Messenger

APRIL 2026 | 200 Oil Hill RD | El Dorado KS 67042 | 316-321-3465 | fsbclaura@gmail.com

The Deacon's Corner

By the time you read this article, March Madness will be well underway. In fact, your bracket may be “busted” like the brackets of millions of other college basketball fans from across the nation. Every spring, millions of sports fans watch the excitement of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament. For basketball junkies, it represents hours of basketball games with exciting finishes and Cinderella stories. It seems like every year there is a new underdog team that emerges, winning games that they are not supposed to win, moving on to play in the next weekend of the tournament. It truly is a fun time of year.

Hundreds of college basketball programs start practicing in the fall with the hopes of “cutting down the nets” on the first Monday in April. Hours of practice and many games take place before the big game begins. On Selection Sunday, coaches, players, and fans huddle in front of their TVs waiting to hear if their team will be called to play in the “Big Dance.” Perseverance and determination are huge factors playing into being eligible for the tourney. This reminds me a little about Paul. In Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, he compared the Christian life to an athletic competition.

In 1 Corinthians 9:24, Paul writes, “*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.*” Just as college basketball teams prepare all season for the tournament, believers are called to live with discipline, focus, and purpose.

Basketball players experience many highs and lows during the course of the season. Tough opponents, buzzer beaters, and injuries can wear out players and teams. The best teams adjust, work together and keep practicing because they have an ultimate goal in mind. Does this remind you a little of the Christian life? We experience challenges, setbacks, trials and tribulations all along our Christian walk. Scriptures encourage us to remain faithful and to continue pursuing God’s purpose.

Here’s one more reminder for Believers who are in the midst of the struggle we call the Christian life. We are told in Hebrews 12:1 to “run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” Keep moving forward, trusting God to deliver you through life’s challenges.

Blessings To All
Rod Luehrs
Chairman of the Deacons

Invite
someone to
Celebrate our
Risen Savior
with us!
**Resurrection
Sunday**

- 7:00 am
SONrise
Service
- 9:00 am
Potluck
Breakfast
- 10:30
Worship
Service





The Pastor's Pen



What if?

Greetings Church! I love you, Church!

There has certainly been a frequent topic of conversation in the world the last few months. "Do you think Jesus is coming back soon?" People cite (among other reasons) global political movements, development of Artificial Intelligence, an increase in visible demonic activity, and, especially, what could be the beginnings of a third, and perhaps, final world war centered around Israel and enemies from the east as reasons they are pondering whether or not these are the final days before the Return of Christ and / or the Great Tribulation prophesied in the Bible. Add to these reasons that various "prophets" (political and otherwise) are declaring that 2027 requires preparations due to predicted economic collapse, full-fledged war, and Islamists attempts to bring back the 12th Imam (and thus the final holy war) next year. These make for curious conversation, indeed.

As if my two cents mattered, I certainly see many signs that "That Day" could very quickly be upon us. Only perhaps a few other events might need to unfold to fully set the stage for the "End of Days." But I would not be surprised at all if Christ returns before this article is able to be read in this publication. (And I would certainly not be disappointed, for I have utmost confidence that I will be in far better conditions

than remaining in this world to read anything at all.)

Which brings me excitedly to my "What if?" question. What if this coming Easter, April 5, were to be my final Easter celebration restricted to this world? What if I would not be in this world, due to my death or the return of Jesus the Christ, to attend a Resurrection Celebration when March 28, 2027, rolls around for the world's remaining citizens?

First of all, YAY ME!!! I win! I will be rejoicing in the resurrection every day (as if eternity were measured in days), not just one day designated on a calendar. Second, if Christ returns, I won't care very much about how the left-behind world approaches a day or a victory reserved only for the believing Church which has met their Messiah in the air.

But my most urgent reason for the "What if?" is how should I be anticipating and preparing to celebrate this coming Resurrection Sunday if the Lord tarries? Do world events urge me ever closer to aligning with what God wants me to do in these troubled times? Would my hope in resurrection reality actually change my celebration on one day but my devotion every day?

What if?

I am so very excited about some developments in the possible future of our church. First, I am in conversations with a man who may be interested in becoming our Worship Leader. Kim Portillo and one of his daughters led worship for us March 15. He and his wife had attended our worship services a couple of weeks earlier to check us out before being interested in talking about the possibility. So far, everyone is excited about the possibilities. The next steps would be to have Kim come in for discussions with the Deacons and worship team to get to know him and his philosophy and practices of worship. Should everyone be ready to move forward, then he would be interviewed by the Administrative Team, who, per our Bylaws, have the authority to hire for such a position. The congregation already approved the position a few years ago. Both I and the Administrative Team would welcome any thoughts the congregation has.

As far as the Youth Pastor search, our initial pursuit with a potential youth pastor ended due his determination that his new role in his main job would not allow him the time to serve us in that way. I am, however, in conversations with another local young man about the possibility. So far, at the time of this writing, no resumes have been received from our posting on sbc.net.

Church, please welcome this admonishment: Our offerings this year have not been nearly enough to accommodate our regular needs, let alone adding one or two staff. PLEASE pray for this important part of our church life and ministry to be addressed first in the halls of Heaven, and then in our corporate body.

Pastor David

Thank you for Serving!

Date	SS. Nursery	Sound Room	Prayer	Bus Drive	Children's Church	Nursery During Church		Head Counter	Counter 2	Counter 3	Date	Wednesday Meal Prep
4/5	Julie, Cara	Jeff, Laura	David C.	Deb	Brickley	Rod	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Laura L.	Marsha P	4/8	Susan F., Marsha
4/12	Angelina, Cara	John, Lisa	John M.	Janna	Brickley	Keith A.	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Ulala P.	Karen D.	4/15	Karen & Phil D
4/19	Betty, Cara	Jeff, Laura	Joe R.	Paula	Brickley	Karen L.	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Susan F.	Janna D.	4/22	Mary G.
4/26	Keith, April	John, Lisa	Rod L.	John	Guest	Angelina	Susan M	Johnie G.	Rod L.	Laura L	4/29	Deb, Laura, Rod
5/3	Jennifer, Cara	Jeff, Laura	Johnie G.	Deb	Reinert	Julie H.	Cara S.	Deb S.	Laura L.	Marsha P	5/6	Paula
5/10	April, Cara	John, Lisa	Joe L.	Janna	Reinert	Susan M.	Cara S.	Deb S.	Ulala P.	Janna D.	5/13	Susan F., Marsha
5/17	Julie, Cara	Jeff, Laura	John B.	Paula	Reinert	Jennifer L	Cara S.	Deb S.	Susan F.	Karen D.		
5/24	Betty, Angelina	John, Lisa	David C.	John	Reinert	Rod	April	Deb S.	Pat M.	Johnie G.		
5/31	Keith, Cara	Jeff, Laura	John M.	Deb	Guest	Karen L.	Cara S.	Deb S.	Rod L.	Laura L.		

Operation Christmas Child

Items to collect for April: *Hygiene items*

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

Youth News

“Called” is the theme of Super Summer this year. Our speaker will be Robbie Nutter, Director of Collegiate Ministries with Church Forward. Matt Atherton will be leading worship. We have had Matt in the past and always enjoy him.

Camp will be July 13-17. Jennifer Lafferty will be going with the teenagers and hopefully the man God sends us as youth pastor! I am unable to go this year due to family commitments.

\$50 is due by May 1st to reserve the teenager’s spot and commit them to go. Three ministry opportunities also must be completed. The church will pay the rest of what is owed if a student meets these criteria and has been a part of youth group during the 2025-2026 school year.

Please be praying for students to go and for God to work in their lives during that week!

Lisa Crook,
Youth Leader

FSBC Kid's Ministry
April 2026
First Southern Baptist Church
200 Oil Hill Rd, El Dorado, KS
316-321-3465
Bus 316-452-3594
Paula Mattice 316-258-6596



12 Disciples
Escape
Room.

Solve the clues to escape. A fun way to learn about the Twelve.

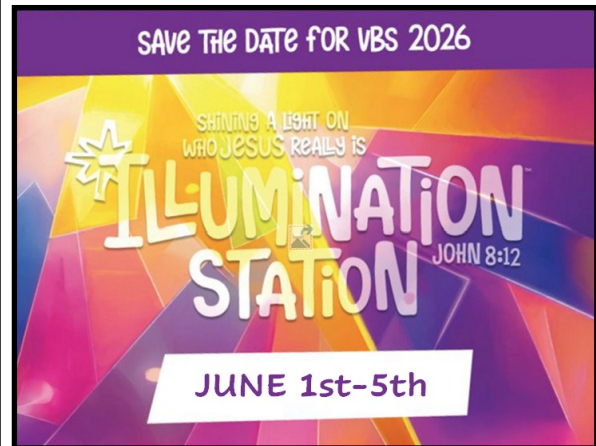
Important Upcoming Dates:

- *April 5th– Resurrection Sunday
 7am SONrise Service @ Bandshell
 10:30am Worship Service
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- *Van will only run for 10:30 service
- *April 25th–Kid's Fishing Derby
- *April 26th–Sunday Sundae
- *May 13th–Last day of Kidz Club
- *June 1-5th–VBS!

HAPPY SPRING!

The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, flowers are sprouting. Winter is over! A new season is upon us, and a busy season it will be. Spring sports will begin, schools will be wrapping up before you know it, and we will begin to find more things to do outside. Busy busy busy. Don't let the busyness of spring keep you from Jesus. Keep the kids involved in church. Teach them that God is the one who changes the seasons. He embraces the new life of spring and wants us to enjoy it as well. He is the creator of all things. Take time to talk about our Lord as you plant a flower or watch a spring storm roll in.

In His Service,
Ms. Paula



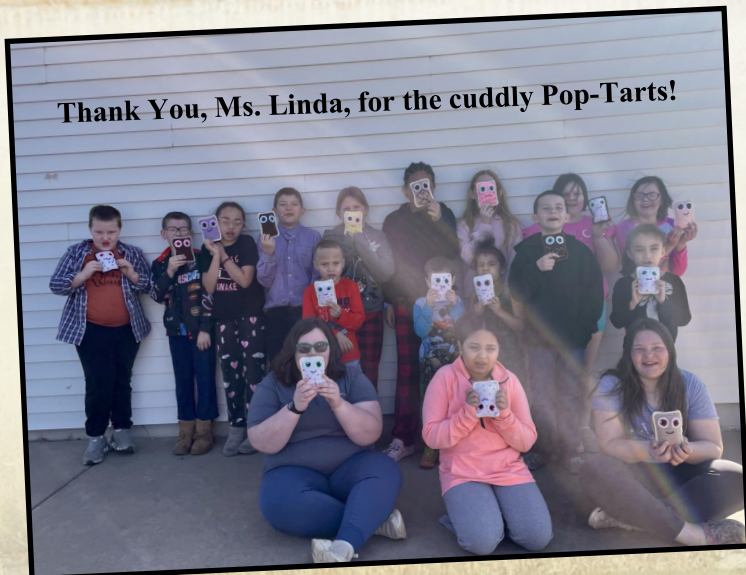
VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Join us for the opportunity to show kids who Jesus really is!
 See Ms. Paula if you would like to be a part of our VBS.



The Kid's Ministry team traveled to Tulsa for the Children's Ministry Expo. It was such a blessing to learn more ways to share Jesus with our kiddos.

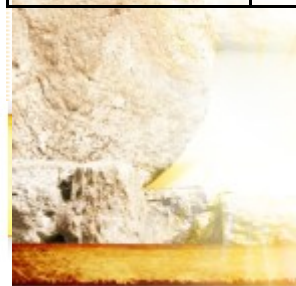
Thank You, Ms. Linda, for the cuddly Pop-Tarts!



The kids enjoyed the annual PJs, Pop-Tarts, & Praise Party on Daylight Savings Sunday. There were plenty of Pop-Tarts, lots of Jesus praising, and even some cuddly Pop-Tarts for each student. Thank you, Ms. Linda, for taking the time to make them for all of us. A special thank you to Ms. Janna, Ms. Deb, and Ms. Karen for all of their help.

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Palm Sunday, Kid's program VBS Recruiting Day	30	31 John T	1	2	3 Good Friday, No School Community Good Friday Service, Noon at Nazarene Church	4 Ulala P Sunday School Breakfast 8:30 am Leon
5 Donna G, Phil & Karen D Resurrection Sunday • 7:00 am SONrise Service • 9:00 am Potluck Breakfast • 10:30 Worship and Children's Celebration	6	7	8	9	10	11 7am Men's Breakfast
12 1pm "A- Team" (BYOL)	13	14	15 By 9 am Newsletter items due	16 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	17	18 SCASB Leadership Conference 8:30-3:30 FBC Independence
19	20 Pat & Susan Moore	21	22	24	24	25 Little Buddies Fishing Derby
26 Sundae Sunday	27	28 Johnie & Donna G, Stephen & Paula M, Rick S	29	30	 <p>FSBC MEN'S MINISTRY EVENT Private Pond, Fun Fishing, Lunch</p>  <p>LITTLE BUDDIES FISHING DERBY SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH 9AM-1PM</p>	



SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED OR KIDS MAY
MAY BRING THEIR OWN FISHING GEAR. LUNCH
PROVIDED. TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED IF
NEEDED.
PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. CALL THE CHURCH
OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!
316-321-3465

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28 Johnie & Donna G, Stephen & Paula M, Rick S	29	30	1	2 Sunday School Breakfast 8:30 am Leon
3	4	5	6	7 Vicki E, Steve R	8 National Day of Prayer	9 7am Men's Breakfast
10 Mothers' Day, Child Dedication	11 Jessica G	12 Newsletter items due (For June-July Summer Edition)	13 Last Regular Wednesday night Kid's Club	14 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	15 Joe L, Pat L	16
17 Graduation Sunday, <u>EMAIL A-Team "meeting"</u>	18 Joe R <u>6:30 VBS Volunteer Meeting</u>	19	20	21 Lonn A Last Day of School	22 Jerry D	23 Kaitlyn O
24	25 Memorial Day, Office Closed	26	27 David and Lisa C	28 Sheri D	29	30 Julie H

31
5 pm VBS Kickoff Event & Family Game Night

SAVE THE DATE!
JUNE 1-5, 2026

QR REGISTRATION

Lifeway

SHINING A LIGHT ON WHO JESUS REALLY IS

ILLUMINATION STATION

JOHN 8:12

