

First Lutheran Church

105 Village Road
Hot Springs, AR 71913
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FIRST WORD

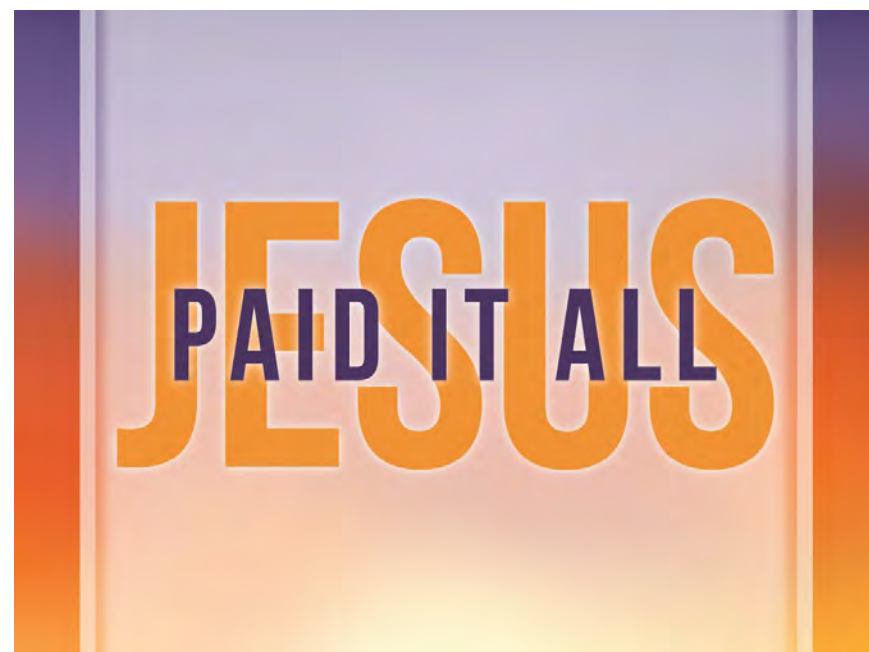


2018



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV



THE LENTEN SEASON

We are observing the 6-week time of Lent leading up to Easter Sunday. You are invited to join us on the journey each Wednesday for services of Scripture and Prayer at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. We are reading through the Passion account, and learning from the Apostle John who received a revelation from Jesus while exiled on the island of Patmos, which we now call the book of Revelation. In this vision, Christ gave John seven messages for seven first-century churches in Asia Minor. Each Wednesday we will discover why Christ wanted to speak to these seven churches and what the messages mean for us today. Invite a friend to join you and draw closer to the Savior during this special time of year.



Daily Bible Reading



March 1-4, 2018
Thursday Exodus 39:1—40:38
Friday Leviticus 1:1-17
Saturday Leviticus 2:1-3:17

Week 10 – March 5-10, 2018
Monday Leviticus 4:1—6:30
Tuesday Leviticus 7:1—9:24
Wednesday Lev. 10:1—11:47
Thursday Lev. 12:1—15:33
Friday Lev. 16:1—17:16
Saturday Lev. 18:1—19:37

Week 11 – March 12-17, 2018
Monday Lev. 20:1—22:33
Tuesday Lev. 23:1—25:55
Wednesday Lev. 26:1—27:34
Thursday Numbers 1:1—3:51
Friday Numbers 4:1—6:27
Saturday Numbers 7:1—8:26

Week 12– March 19-24, 2018
Monday Num. 9:1—10:36
Tuesday Num. 11:1—12:16
Wednesday Num. 13:1—15:41
Thursday Num. 16:1—18:32
Friday Num. 19:1—20:29
Saturday Num. 21:1-35

Week 13– 26-31, 2018
Monday Num. 22:1—25:18
Tuesday Num. 26:1—27:23
Wednesday Num. 28:1—30:16
Thursday Num. 31:1-54
Friday Num. 32:1—34:29
Saturday Num. 35:1-36:13

Holy Week **EASTER IS COMING!!!**
Maundy Thursday **March 29 @ 6:30 p.m.**
Good Friday **March 30 @ 6:30 p.m.**

EASTER SERVICES: April 1 @ 8:30 & 11 am.

Invite your family and friends to experience the joy of Easter this month! Bring them to church with you!



NEW CHURCH VAN!

We are thrilled to have a nearly-new 2016 15-passenger van for our ministries! We thank the many people who donated towards this project. We pray that this van will provide reliable transportation for many years. Special thanks to Peggy Brockett for beginning the fundraising through T-shirt sales and to Ken & Barb Benck for the FLC License plate project and for locating the van at Crain Automotive in Conway.



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 11. We will lose an hour of sleep but we get to enjoy God's creation one more hour each evening!

CITY-WIDE EASTER PARTY & EGG HUNT!

We are joining many churches in Hot Springs to put on a BIG event on Saturday, March 31, 9:00 a.m. –noon at the Hot Springs Mall! We will also have an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday morning between church services. See the full article on page 4!



APRIL 22
Blood Drive

April 29
Faith in Action
Sunday!

First Lutheran Church - LCMS
105 Village Road, Hot Springs, AR 71913 501-525-0322
E-mail: flchs@flchs.com Website: www.flchs.com
Worship Services 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Watch us on Cable Ch. 10 —9pm Mon. & 8:30pm Sat.

FIRST WORD



Ministry Highlights!

Rain, rain, go away! Come again some other day! I would imagine you have had that thought or one like it over these past several weeks. We have gotten a lot of rain and there's more to come. When we get too much of a good thing all at once we often complain about it because it's not how we want to receive it. We would rather have rain on the days we think we need it and sunshine on the other days so we can enjoy life our way. But God's ways are higher than our ways. He has other plans and He carries them out whether we like it or not. The reason God works this way is because he loves us so much and doesn't want us to take Him for granted and lose out on the eternal life He has for us in Christ. So He directs even the weather so that all things will work out for our spiritual and eternal good as we seek Him in prayer, draw near to Him for His comfort and peace, and honor Him with our whole life when it rains and when it doesn't!



Here are some things God seeks to work for our good when He gives us too much of a good thing all at once. In these times He often seeks to...

Draw Us Close to Himself! When we are getting too much rain or not enough rain, God has our attention. It is a reminder that He is in control of these things and we need Him to take control of these things for our good. God once used rain to get the attention of His people back in Elijah's day. He had Elijah pray for the rain to stop and then He had Elijah pray for the rain to come. Through it all God was calling His people to repentance and was reminding them of their total dependence upon Him. God does this because what He wants more than anything is our heart. He doesn't want us to give our heart to any other person, thing or god. So He gives us too much of a good thing like rain to get our attention so we will give him our heart!

Fill Us With His Life-Giving Spirit! Once God has our attention and our heart, He uses too much rain or not enough rain to fill our hearts with His life-giving Spirit. We need the Spirit to empower every part of our Christian life. We need the Spirit to believe, behave, serve, love, wait, speak, give, honor, worship, endure, and do all that God has for us as we press on toward the goal for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus. Sometimes we

try to control the Spirit just like we want to control the weather so it works out the way we want it instead of the way God wants it. Where God wants to fill us to overflowing with His Spirit so that we love at all times, believe at all times, give at all times, serve at all times, we try to limit the Spirit's flow so it comes just a little bit at a time where we think we can handle it. But God loves us too much to let us live that way so He gives us too much of a good thing in His Spirit so that streams of living water will flow within us (John 7:39) and we'll experience the fullness of life He gives.

Flood the World with His Love! This is why God draws us close to Himself and fills us with His life-giving Spirit. He does it because He wants to flood the world with His love so that people are drawn to His Son Jesus and the life and salvation He freely gives. He wants everyone to enjoy all of the good things He gives through Jesus now and forever with Him in heaven. And so He sends the rain in copious amounts to places like Hot Springs, Arkansas so we will be open to His plan, receive His Spirit, live in the overflow, and share His amazing love with others in a way that it floods their world and draws them to Christ!



I thought you might enjoy a little insight on why God would send the rain that He has and why He might even send some more. If I can help with any other questions you might have, please do not hesitate to let me know. I would love to ponder the deep things of God with you as we journey together in love toward the day when we will live together in God's love forever and ever! Blessed to be experiencing too much of a good thing with you!

Pastor Jon

BAPTISM IN FEBRUARY!

2-11 Camila Gray



Statement of Income & Expense 1/1/18 Thru 1/31/18

	Church Total
INCOME	\$ 39,569
EXPENSE	\$ 35,960
Gain (Deficit)	\$ 3,609

March 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00am Men's Breakfast	2	3 8 a.m. Just for Men
4 7:45 Choir 8:30 Communion 9:45 Classes 11 Worship	5 6:00 p.m. Women's Study	6	7 9:00 Bible Study 3 pm After - School Program 6 pm. Lifehouse 6 pm Bible Class LENT 4	8 6:00am Men's Breakfast	9	10 8 a.m. Just for Men Pinewood Derby
11 7:45 Choir 8:30 Worship 9:45 Classes 11 Communion	12 LWML 12:30 pm. 6:00 p.m. Women's Study	13 Braille 10:00 a.m.	14 9:00 Bible Study 3 pm After - School Program 6 pm. Lifehouse 6 pm Bible Class LENT 5	15 6:00am Men's Breakfast Braille 10:00 a.m.	16	17 8 a.m. Just for Men
18 7:45 Choir 8:30 Communion 9:45 Classes 11 Worship	19 6:00 p.m. Women's Study	20 Braille 10 a.m.	21 9:00 Bible Study 2 pm Prayer Shawl 3 pm After -School Program 6 pm. Lifehouse LENT 6	22 6:00am Men's Breakfast Braille 10 a.m.	23	24 8 a.m. Just for Men
25 7:45 Choir 8:30 Worship 9:45 Classes 11 Communion Palm Sunday	26 6:00 p.m. Women's Study	27	28 9:00 Bible Study 3 pm After -School Program 6 pm. Lifehouse 6 pm Bible Class	29 6:00am Men's Breakfast Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm.	30 Good Friday Service 6:30 pm.	31 City Easter Party 9 a.m.

KEEP IN PRAYER

Members:

Walter Stallings Ernestine Neighbors Pat Bennett Robby Echols Shalanya Grigsby
Pastor Roy Jacob Dorothy Brennan Judy Slebodnik Joanna Hanson Ilse Stritzke

Family and Friends

Steven Swanigan (Johnson) Pultz & son Jake (House) J. C. Cloud (Richter)
Elayne Moore (Noack) Natalie Kelmer (Taylor) Barbara Cutler (Slebodnik) Noah Campean (Benck)
Colleen Hufford (Slebodnik) Billy Taylor (Taylor) Michelle Needler (Thompson) Sissy Jones (Richter)



SMALL GROUPS BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER!

Small groups meet for Bible Study, prayer, and fellowship during the week.

Get connected to Christ's body at FLC!

- † **Bible Buddies**—Odis & Lorene Burroughs, Leaders 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. at Burrough's home
- † **Mustard Seeds**—Ken Benck, Leader Meets twice/monthly at church—2nd & 4th Mondays 9:00 a.m.
- † **Searchers**—Bob Kunstman, Leader Meets 2nd & 4th Mondays at various homes 6 p.m.
- † **ChicChat**—Caren Knabe, Leader Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. at Kay Helmich's home
- † **Enlighteners**—Lyle & Nancy Reininger, Leaders Meets 1st & 3rd Monday 1:00 p.m. at church
- † **Men's Breakfast**—Jerry Edgin, Leader Meets Thursdays 6:00 a.m. at English Muffin Café
- † **Wednesdays in the Word** — Jackie Johnson, Leader — Meets Wednesdays @ 9:00 a.m. at church
- † **Women's Bible Study**—Karen Beyer, Leader—Meets Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m. Church Fellowship Hall
- † **Just for Men**—Pastor Jon, Leader—Meets Saturdays @ 8 a.m. Church Fellowship Hall

If you would like information on joining a small group or starting a new group, contact the Church Office!

MUSTARD SEEDS BIBLE STUDY GROUP CHANGES TIME

The Mustard Seeds Group are starting to meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays @ 9 a.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. This group is led by Ken and Barb Benck. If you would like to join a small group for study, support and fellowship, then try out the Mustard Seeds this month! (March 9 & 23)

SPRING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

"NEHEMIAH, A Heart that can Break"

Nehemiah's heart broke so deeply for the suffering Jews that he left the comfort of his Persian palace to restore their desolate community. Through 7 sessions, starting Monday, March 5 @ 6 pm., this study will inspire you to listen to what God has put in your heart to do. Let God break your heart for the hurting, because He often uses a breaking heart to restore the broken! You'll need a student book for 5 daily assignments each week! Contact Karen Beyer to register for this class. Enjoy the fellowship and support of your sisters in Christ through this journey!

PINEWOOD DERBY!

Saturday, March 10 Registration and Weigh-In @ 10:30 a.m.

Races begin @ 11:00 a.m.

Cub Scout Pack 1 invites everyone, boys, girls, parents, teachers, anyone who wants to be creative and have fun! Just pick up a car at Michaels or order one online and carve it up however you'd like. Decorate it with paint, stickers, beads, Legos, glitter, wire, rocks, plastic bugs—whatever you can imagine! Bring your car to race day and compete on our digital track. You can win a design award or a speed race! There are a few rules: The car can't weigh over 5 oz. Or be taller than 4/3/4" or wider than 7". Graphite is the only lubricant allowed. All 4 wheels must touch the track, and no moving internal or external parts. The cost is \$3 per entry. Email questions to darynl608@gmail.com



Memorials Given

In memory of **Roscoe Jones:** Van Fund by Juanita's Metzler;

Building Fund by Mary Dwiggin;

General Fund by Odis & Lorene Burroughs, Barbara Meiners, Henry and Linda Thompson, Joseph and Gloria Ferrara.

Prayer Shawl Ministry by Olive Jean Donath and the Enlighteners Small Group



Our choir will sing on Sunday, March 11 and for the Holy Week and Easter services! We would love for extra singers to join us during Holy Week We will practice on Sunday mornings, March 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 7:45 a.m. in the Choir Loft.

March Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries!

Ron Clark	3/1	Mason Wittnebert	3/17
Oliver Steven-Assheuer	3/1	Michael Hughley	3/19
Odis Burroughs	3/4	Buddy Pirozzolo	3/20
Lin Carnahan	3/4	Hayley Cole	3/21
Olivia Edgin	3/8	Jennifer Shelor	3/21
Charlene Lampinen	3/8	Courtney Martin	3/23
Wayne Rowland	3/8	Logan Lammers	3/25
William (Jack) Crosby	3/11	Matthew Turner	3/26
Barney Bond	3/12	Jill Lacomfora	3/28
Wilhelm Richter	3/14	Jeff Reed	3/28
Bryan Rosburg	3/14	Kevin Archer	3/30
Debbi Chaney	3/15	Graham McCullough	3/31
Tom Ludwig	3/15		
Ilse Stritzke	3/15		
Kay Helmich	3/16		
Rob Snider	3/16		
Logan Cole	3/17		
Sue Ellen Quinn	3/17		



Jason & Angela Looney 3/20—14 yrs.
 Randy & Sherry Buck 3/21—26 yrs.
 Doug & Judy Field 3/23—46 yrs.
 Don & Carrie Thompson 3/30—23 yrs.

GREETING CARDS FOR SALE!

You can get individual or boxed cards for many occasions in the narthex. We have Easter Cards this month!



March—OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN SERVICE

CHURCH ELDERS
Randall Brockett 501-701-0269
 rpjbroc@sbcglobal.net

David Rosamond 501-282-1959
 djrosamond@att.net

Mark Dillard 501-767-5122
 Corey.dillard35@yahoo.com

Anthony Johnson 501-282-9938
 Keithj72570@hotmail.com

Jason Byers 501-282-5493
 JasonByers1524@aol.com

Robert Thompson 870-995-9021
 miaswalk@att.net

Brian Shelor 501-282-0338
 jbshelor@cablelynx.com

Robert Snider 501-538-7393
 sniderathome@sbcglobal.net

Will Williams 916-812-1697
 mail.williams@gmail.com

Clyde Hughley 501-282-9520
 clydeu1@gmail.com

Jim Cozzetto 501-276-6954
 jcozzetto@sbcglobal.net

8:30 Worship Service

READERS

- 3/04 Linda Anderson
- 3/11 Ken Benck
- 3/18 Bob Thompson
- 3/25 Anne Stuhr

USHERS Dick Martsching, Bill Fletcher & Fred Lienemann

ELDER Randal Brockett

Guest Services (Greeter)

- 3/04 Tanya Spencer
- 3/11 Cherie Rosborough
- 3/18 Carrie Thompson
- 3/25 Sally Kassaw

Sunday Office

- 3/04 Lillian Vail
- 3/11 Peggy Brockett
- 3/18 Lillian Vail
- 3/25 Joy Martsching

ALTAR GUILD Elaine Lliennemann



11:00 Worship Service

READERS

- 3/04 Gwendel Ellis
- 3/11 Clyde Hughley
- 3/18 Joshua Gray
- 3/25 Jackie Johnson

USHERS Harry Schumacher, Joan Edwards, Marvin Hanson & Odis Burroughs

ELDER Jason Byer

Guest Services

- 3/04 Wanice Pitts & Sharon Perkins
- 3/11 Jennifer Shelor, Pete & Doris Foelker
- 3/18 Anthony & Jackie Johnson
- 3/25 William Brown & Courtney Martin and Marvin Hanson

ALTAR GUILD Janell Williams

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE

	8:30	11:00	Total
02/04	113	118	231
02/11	88	110	251
Youth Camp 53			
02/18	125	122	247
02/25	105	150	255
Ash Wednesday			190
Lent 2 (2/21)			45
Lent 3 (2/28)			66

FIRST WORD is online! Find the link on our church's website www.flchs.com. Haven't been to our website lately? There's a whole library of past sermons & videos to watch! And you can register to give your offerings online!

KIDS CHURCH LESSONS IN MARCH!

Digging Into the Bible in One Year takes kids on a whirlwind journey from Genesis to Revelation. Children, age 4-4th grade will be learning awesome stories from God's Word! They'll grow in faith and excitement to be true followers of Jesus. Don't miss a Sunday!

- 3/04 God Helps David Defeat Goliath**
1 Samuel 17:1-51 "God is on our side!"
- 3/11 God Helps Abigail Make Peace**
1 Samuel 25:2-38 "God helps us get along!"
- 3/18 Jesus Washes His Disciples Feet!**
John 13:1-17 "Jesus shows us how to serve!"
- 3/25 Jesus is Crucified!**
Matthew 27:27-56 "Jesus loves us so much that He died for us!"



CHILDREN'S EASTER EVENTS!



This Easter, for the first time, many churches are joining hands and providing a BIG Easter Party and Egg Hunt for the children of the community on Saturday, March 31, 9:00 a.m.—noon. The event will be held at the Hot Springs Mall. Plans are for 30,000 eggs with candy, at least 5 bounce-houses, carnival booths, and First Responder vehicles. The goal of this event is to share Jesus' love and resurrection joy with our city while building unity in our community! We encourage our families to attend this event, and we welcome volunteers to help! More information will be coming out in the next few weeks.

FIRST LUTHERAN EASTER EGG HUNT: Easter Sunday morning @ 10:15 a.m. on the church lawn!



COLLECTING CANDY & PLASTIC EGGS: We welcome donations of wrapped candy and eggs for our hunt and to share with the City-wide Easter Event. Thanks for supporting the children of our city!

SCRIPTURE WRITING FOR MARCH



This month, join the women (and men) who are writing God's Word each day as a spiritual discipline and devotional tool. God's Word becomes even more meaningful as you write it out! Grab a pen and paper and start writing this month! We've chosen two plans as options for your daily walk. The first is Scripture with the theme "The Peace of God". The second plan is special for Lent and focuses on Jesus' suffering and death. There are special passages for Holy Week! Copies of these plans are on the "Snapshots" page in this newsletter and also will be available at church on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Empowered by God

In Matthew 6, Jesus discusses 3 specific spiritual activities in a way that's pleasing to God. His language assumes the disciples would already be doing these 3 things: "When you give...when you pray...when you fast..." Interesting combination. There isn't a believer who would not argue that God does expect us to pray or to give, but when we talk about fasting, all sorts of arguments begin to be heard why fasting is not for today. There are numerous references to fasting throughout the Bible. Christians who seek to grow and mature should remain sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in this area. Three main purposes of fasting are: 1) It allows us to come before God in humility and repentance, 2) It helps us to focus on God, and to become sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, 3) It empowers us through God for service. There seems to be a release of spiritual power when fasting and prayer are combined. However, reading about fasting isn't enough. Seek God to know what He is saying to you personally about this vital spiritual discipline. How will you respond?



Maxene Hanson, FLC Prayer Ministry

LWML—Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML will meet Monday, March 12th at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please join mission-minded women for Bible Study, dessert & fellowship. You can become acquainted with other women in our congregation!



Shirley McCormick, President

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:

Join us on Wednesday, March 21 at 2 pm. To knit and crochet items for people who are ill and need comfort! We meet in the Fellowship Hall.

EASTER LILIES: You can help to make our church beautiful on Easter Sunday by donating a lily plant! Plants may be taken home following the service. The cost for each lily is \$15.00 Use the Sign up sheet by the church offices.



THANK YOU's:

Dear Members of First Lutheran Church,
I can't thank you enough for volunteering to judge both the auditions and the talent show on February 6 at Park Elementary and the Intermediate School. I appreciate all of you and the time you have volunteered. Thanks again!



Ms. Jessica Utz, Music Teacher

Thank you so much for your prayers and thoughts I'm telling you those prayers add up. Made ever more special from folks not known by me. I like the card and love the Cardinal!

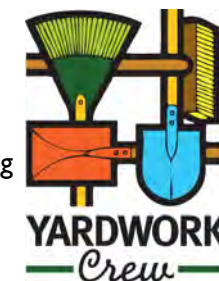
Richard Gollen, Shannon Collier's father

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers on my recent surgery for knee replacement. Please continue your prayers as my healing continues.

Ron Clark

SPRINGYARD WORK

Come and join our team to keep the church grounds maintained and beautiful this spring. An initial meeting will be held on Saturday, March 4, at 10 a.m. and then the work begins! Trimming, pruning, pulling vines and volunteer growth, removing rocks and deadfall, filling in holes and smoothing out ruts, etc. is the first order of business. Contact Bob Thompson if you would like to volunteer in any way during the coming weeks. We'll see you "IN THE YARD!"



BELTS FOR BOYS!

Thanks to everyone who donated belts for February's drive. We received over 50 belts for the young men at the Hot Springs Middle School. With the help of a Thrivent Action Team, even more belts are able to be purchased.

CHANGING COLLECTION SUNDAY



This past year saw a big decrease in donations for Collection Sunday each month. In 2018 we are changing things up! Each month we will designate one ministry or community project for everyone to donate towards. Bring your items into the church buildings to a collection spot any Sunday during the month.

MARCH COLLECTION: DIAPERS, size 5

Change Point Pregnancy Care and Family Resource Center is completely out of larger diapers!



Help us re-stock their shelves with diapers this month! Bring diapers any Sunday in March!

Let's continue to love and care for our local ministries as we provide them with needed resources!

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS!

Attention Thrivent members! You have until March 31 to allocate your 2017 Choice Dollars. Our congregation has been blessed to receive funds for many outreach events through this benefit. We thank all our Thrivent members who have supported our church in this way.



GAMES & FELLOWSHIP FOR SENIORS!

Monday, March 26 @ 1:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come for an afternoon of activities including some good games and fellowship. Invite a friend to join you! This is a great way to meet new friends!



KROGER REWARDS!

Do you have an account at Kroger.com? If you do, you can sign up for Kroger Community Rewards. Our youth program will receive quarterly checks based on the amount you spend with your Kroger card. Our church code is 81296.