

Church of God, awa-East Texas & Ruston

Announcements • June 17, 2023

Ken Treybig, Pastor

Phone: 903-714-3684

Web sites: <http://cogwa.org>, <http://easttexas.cogwa.org> Friday Sunset: 8:29 p.m. (ET), 8:19 p.m. (R)

East Texas: 24345 County Rd 3107, Gladewater – 2:30 p.m.

Song Leader – James Richards

Pianist – Melissa Fulgham

Sermonette – Rod Gehrke

Sermon – Joel Meeker

Ruston: – Fairfield Inn & Suites, Ruston - 1 p.m.

Song Leader – John Ivey

Pianist – Johna Barnette

Sermonette – Steve Barnette

Sermon – Mike Machin

General Announcements

Father's Day

We wish all our fathers a happy Father's Day tomorrow, June 18.

Mid-Week Bible Study

Our next mid-week monthly Bible study will be Wednesday, July 5, at 11 a.m. at the East Texas Church building. Please bring snacks and finger-foods for a light lunch.

Summer Camps

Our camp season began this past week with Camp Lone Star. It was a LARGE camp with 108 campers and 100 staff members! We didn't all fit in the Dining Hall so we had to have 'overflow' rooms in nearby dorms! It was hot, but we were blessed with intermittent cloud cover and a breeze so we had a wonderful time. Thank you so much

for your prayers! God truly answered them in abundance!

Next week is Sequoia Preteen camp in CA and the following week is Camp Agape Preteen in South Carolina.

This year's theme is "Mapping Your Future" to encourage some thinking past the current day or week. Your continued prayers for God's blessing and protection on all our camps this year would be greatly appreciated.

Festival Assistance

Each year many faithful brethren donate extra funds from their Festival tithe so that other needy members can receive the financial assistance they need to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. Last year these generous contributions enabled nearly 135 people to attend the Feast who would have been unable to attend otherwise. The Church recognizes its responsibility to see that those contributions are distributed fairly and equitably.

If you have faithfully saved your Festival tithe and will still not have sufficient funds to attend the Feast this year, we will be happy to help where we can. If you think you will need additional funds to be able to attend the Feast this fall, please contact our local Festival adviser, Tom Moffitt in East Texas and Chris Teague in Ruston, or your pastor

to get a Festival Assistance Member Information form. Complete the form and return it to your pastor or Festival adviser as soon as possible. (All information on the form will be treated as confidential.)

Ministerial Services has asked us to have all assistance applications turned in by **July 10**, so please pick up the form and return it to your congregation's Festival adviser or your pastor as quickly as possible.

Again, Festival financial assistance is available for those who do not have adequate funds to attend the Feast even though they have faithfully saved their Festival tithe.

Excess Festival Tithe

Through the years, many of us have seen and experienced a variety of ways in which God has fulfilled His promises to bless those who faithfully tithe. While some members have limited income, the generosity of their spiritual brothers and sisters has enabled hundreds to share in the blessings of the Feast of Tabernacles each year. On their behalf, we wish to extend a warm thank you! to those who have shared their abundance.

We are once again approaching the time when we will need to provide financial assistance to

Elders – Here to serve you

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Scott Hammer – (903) 738-5367

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James Ellis, Assistant Pastor – (903) 261-1928

Mike Machin – (386) 931-1879

John Trotter – (903) 636-4515

those brethren who would be unable to attend the Feast without help. Government regulations permit charitable organizations to provide a modest amount of financial aid to those in need so they can share in this kind of religious activity. Therefore, we have established policies and procedures that allow the Church to legally, fairly and equitably provide this special benefit to members who qualify.

It would be helpful if those who wish to contribute excess Festival tithe to help their brethren attend the Feast can begin to send in those funds. You may include any contributions with your regular tithes and offerings if you wish—just be sure to indicate how much you wish to designate for this special purpose.

Thank you in advance on behalf of the many who will be able to enjoy the Feast of Tabernacles this year as a result of your generosity in sharing the blessings God has given you.

Tithe of the Tithe

Years ago, the Church of God established a custom of asking members to voluntarily contribute a tenth of their Festival tithe—referred to as a “tithe of the tithe”—to the Church to cover the many expenses incurred in providing so much of what we enjoy at the Feast. These expenses include hall rent, office supplies, audio and video equipment, decorations, activities, etc. Since all of us benefit from these items, it seems appropriate that we all contribute a portion of the Festival tithe we have saved to meet those expenses. If you are unable to contribute a full tenth of your Festival tithe but would still like to

help, all such contributions are appreciated.

If you send a contribution to help meet these Feast expenses, please label it “tithe of the tithe,” so we will know your intent. You may include those funds with regular tithes and offerings if you wish—just clearly indicate how much you wish to designate for this purpose.

Again, we thank you for your generosity in helping to make the Feast special for all of us.