



INSIDE:

- + **Baptism Traditions**
- + **Impact of an OCC Gift**
- + **Donation Scam PSA**
- + **July Events**



A Publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance
July 2025



ONE is the official publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance (ECMA) which guides its mission, content, and theme. The ECMA encourage submissions from ECMA congregations. Photographs, stories, testimonies, and other submissions should be directed toward your church leaders or sent via email to

one@ourecma.com.

The ECMA ONE Advisory Board will choose appropriate and timely submissions for publication. The columns in ONE represent the views of the author.

Volume 19, Issue 3 • ourecma.com • Copyright 2025 individual authors and ECMA

Advisory Board

Kurt Beyers
Amy Hockersmith
Ben Houchen
Anna Towns

Editor

Terri Braun
terribraun91@gmail.com

Topic Articles

Editor's Note: ONE is published monthly by the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance (ECMA). This month we asked our writers to write on baptism and/or their church's baptism traditions.

Baptism in the Catholic Church

Written by:

Father Damian Richards

St. Nicholas of Myra Church here in Hays has a very nice baptismal font. It is on the north side of the Church. It is designed so that you can be baptized by immersion or by having water poured over your head.

You have to attend classes before you are baptized. If you are an adult, you attend Order of Christian Initiation Classes. If you are an infant, your parents attend a class. In both cases it is to help understand the implications of the Sacrament of Baptism.

We encourage baptisms to take place at Sunday Mass, although they can take place anytime. Adults are usually baptized at the Easter Vigil the night before Easter Sunday. If

a child is baptized, the child's parents and godparents are asked if they will raise the child in the practice of the Faith to keep God's Commandments.

We share a passage of scripture—usually Mark 10: *"Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* We then offer up prayers for the child about to be baptized and then ask the saints in heaven to pray for the child.

We then have a prayer of exorcism over the child. This is a preventative exorcism. Satan hasn't touched this child yet, and we are claiming the child for Jesus. We then ask the parents and godparents if they reject Satan and believe in Jesus Christ and the Trinity.

We then baptize with water in the name of the Father and

the Son and the Holy Spirit. While our baptismal font here at St. Nick's is designed to handle a full immersion baptism, most people choose to have their child baptized by having water poured over their head.

After the baptism, we clothe the child in a white garment. We say, "You have become a new creation and have clothed yourself in Christ. May this white garment be a sign to you of your Christian dignity."

We then present a baptism candle, lit off the Easter candle, to the family. "Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly so that your child, enlightened by Christ, may walk as a child of the light," is said. We then bless the family and all present.

Baptism in the Catholic Church (Continued)

Baptism is the reason for the containers of Holy Water you see at the doors of Catholic Churches. Catholics when entering the church, will dip their fingers in Holy Water and then make the Sign of the Cross as we walk into the sanctuary space.

It is a reminder to us of our baptism. Because of our Baptism we can now approach God in prayer. Those holy water fonts remind us of the great gift of Baptism and how it allows us to be in God's Presence.



Fr. Damian Richards, Pastor of St. Nicholas of Myra in Hays & St. Francis of Assisi in Munjor.

Sprinkled or Dipped?

Written by:
Rick Claiborn

"Without faith, it is impossible to please God."
Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

The church I grew up in was formal. There was not a lot of running around allowed. But I remember when I decided to explore an area of the church I had never seen, the baptismal. I thought I had found heaven itself. From the sanctuary all you normally saw was a set of red velvet curtains. When I was a kid I thought they must have been 20 feet tall.

When I accepted Jesus as my Savior I wanted to be baptized, ironically in the same forbidden area I had discovered earlier. This time

it looked different. It was bigger than it looked from the sanctuary. Water was maybe waist high to me, but that seemed pretty deep. From the sanctuary the opening you could see looked high up the wall but you actually had to go down a few steps to get into it.

From the sanctuary you saw only the preacher's upper body and he was wearing a white robe. From the baptismal when it was full of water, you could see his robe tied up around his waist so it would not get wet. That exposed his legs which were in rubber boots. Standing next to him in the water you were looking down into the sanctuary and you realized that every eye was looking at you. It was a little intimidating.

I never thought about other churches and how they facilitated baptisms, until my wife and I were dating. Her church baptized infants and neither her church nor mine

would recognize any other method than the one they used. She and I were married in the Catholic church she grew up in. Some members of my family did not support that. Early in our marriage we attended a combination of a Catholic Church for a period of time, followed by a Baptist Church for a period of time, followed by a period of time when we alternated attending both. Our results were mixed unfortunately, because we also developed a habit of attending neither for a period of time.

I was blessed in marriage in many ways, but one I cherish is that I was sitting next to my wife the day she accepted Jesus. It was during the closing prayer of a church service held at our local high school. I love that we have that memory. She was baptized at a local community pool literally across the street from our house. Some

Sprinkled or Dipped? (Con nued)

members of her family did not support that. The church had rented it for a picnic that day. There were probably 25 people baptized that day. Our pastor issued the challenge of leading my family to me and that included being baptized with my wife. Somewhere in our house is a picture of Mary and I having just been dipped in the water. In our arms were two of our babies. Beautiful.

We had agreed to raise our children in the church and tried to. Our oldest daughter was baptized in the Catholic Church as an infant. We watched Jordyn grow up eventually seeing her faith ignite as she got older. She chose to be baptized when she was 12 years old. The church we attended at the time did not have a building yet, so we held baptisms at a variety of places, an area lake, a local hotel and even a public pool.

Jordyn was baptized at Wilson lake. The preacher described her a free spirit. It was an accurate description and has since sort of defined the faith walk of our little family unit. But he also asked me if I wanted to do the honors. I remember the day well and I felt entirely unworthy of doing it, but heck yes, I wanted to.

Years later I got to baptize Alyson in a local hotel pool after she had accepted Christ. She had also been baptized as an infant. Our youngest was not baptized as an infant but was dedicated in a ceremony at our church. He has not been baptized as an adult, although I fully believe that he has an internal audience with Jesus that he cannot proclaim in words. If we tried to baptize him as an adult, it would require sedation.

Reflection Questions:

Do you remember being baptized?

Did that baptism change your heart, your behavior, or both?

Challenge:

Admitting that none of us knows everything about God's view of such matters. In my family alone, we have some submerged as adults, one who hasn't. Some had water poured on them as an infant, some were both. Some were in a sanctuary, one was at Wilson Lake, one at Wilson Pool and one in a hotel pool. The only common theme is faith in Jesus Christ and *"...without faith, it is impossible to please God,"* Hebrews 11:6 (NIV).



Rick Claiborn is a longtime resident of Hays who loves Jesus and attends High Plains Baptist Church.

“INDEED, BAPTISM IS A VOW, A SACRED VOW OF THE BELIEVER TO FOLLOW CHRIST. JUST AS A WEDDING CELEBRATES THE FUSION OF TWO HEARTS, BAPTISM CELEBRATES THE UNION OF SINNER WITH SAVIOR.” - MAX LUCADO

The Story of a Simple Gift and the Impact That It Had

Written by:

Linn Ann Huntington

The little girl waited breathlessly that Christmas Eve as the pastor at her church in central Romania distributed boxes of brightly wrapped shoebox gifts to all the children in the room.

The children were seated in horizontal rows. The first row received boxes and then passed them over their heads to the row behind them. That row did the same, with each row repeating the process, to the back row.

The event was an Operation Christmas Child (OCC) gift distribution. Finally, 6-year-old Lorena Surducan had her box. The pastor asked the children to place their hands on their box as he led them in prayer to bless the person who had prepared their gift.

Then the pastor began his countdown, and all the paper went flying as the children opened their gifts at the same time, amidst squeals of delight.

But Lorena was careful about opening her gift. The paper was so pretty, she wanted to save it, she said.

Surducan told her story of that special night when she spoke in Hays May 28 at North Oak Community Church.

Operation Christmas Child

is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization headquartered in Boone, N.C. Each year thousands of people fill simple shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items.

The boxes are collected during November each year and are shipped to children in need. According to data provided by the ministry, "Since 1993, over 232 million shoebox gifts have been collected for children in over 170 countries and territories."

Rachel Albin of Hays, the Northwest Kansas Area Coordinator for OCC, said for many children this is the first gift they have ever received. Inside each box is a pamphlet in the child's language talking about Jesus and his love for each child. Albin said this is the first time many of these children have heard of Jesus also.

But that was not the case for Surducan. She and her sister grew up in a Christian home, and she had heard about God from an early age.

"My mother taught us how to pray, and she read us a Bible story each night before bed," Surducan said.

Although she didn't know it at the time, she said her father often prayed that God would provide when there was little money for food or bills. And God always did.

A few years before attending the OCC event at her church, Lorena and her sister got hold of a catalog from a U.S. department store. The little girls were mesmerized by the toys they saw. Toys were not sold in Romanian stores, Lorena said.

The toy that captured her attention the most was a Barbie doll, and she told her mother she wanted one. Her mother suggested that she pray and ask God for the doll.

So, Lorena did.

For several years, each night during her bedtime prayers, Lorena would ask God for a Barbie doll. As she opened her OCC shoebox gift that Christmas Eve, she carefully looked through the contents—school supplies, glittery pens, a matching hat, mittens, and scarf set.

Then, at the very bottom of her box was a Barbie doll.

Surducan said, "The impact of this on my life was just fantastic. If God cares so much about this one prayer, don't you think he cares about other prayers? If he cared so much for this one little girl, wouldn't he care about other children?"

That faith has sustained Surducan throughout her life. In 2015 she moved to the United States to attend college at Mississippi University for Women in Columbia, Miss. Her

The Story of a Simple Gift (Continued)

church there was a drop-off location for OCC shoebox gifts.

Surducan casually mentioned to one of the church volunteers that she had received such a gift when she was a child. The volunteer took note and contacted people at Samaritan's Purse's headquarters.

Soon Surducan was sharing her story across the South. At one point she moved to Florida where she met and married her husband, Bryson. Then two years ago, they moved to Lawrence, Kan., so Lorena could continue her education in Music Therapy at the University of Kansas.

A year ago, 29-year-old Bryson suffered a stroke. On the ride to the hospital, Surducan said she realized she had two choices: "I could give in to panic, or I could trust God and his faithfulness."

She began to pray, releasing her husband to God, no matter the outcome. She said she immediately experienced peace.

"The faith that began years ago resulted in my ability to pray this biggest prayer of my life," she said.

The doctors placed Bryson in ICU and ran many tests, but they were never able to figure out what caused the stroke, Lorena said. A few days later



Lorena Surducan, (center) spoke about her experience receiving an OCC shoebox gift as a child in Romania. Rachel Albin (left) is the Northwest Kansas Area Coordinator for OCC. LuAnn Walters (right) is North Oak's OCC Coordinator.

Bryson walked out of the hospital and has experienced no after-effects of his stroke, she said.

Albin, who oversees the shoebox collections in 15 Northwest Kansas counties, including Ellis County, said last year those residents packed 13,602 boxes, and she is hoping for more this year.

Only God could have orchestrated the journey that one box took in reaching Lorena, Albin said.

"Each child who receives a box is praying for something special," Albin said. "As we pack shoeboxes, may we pray that God will lead us in selecting what we put in our boxes."

Those wishing to know more about Operation Christmas Child may visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.

This year's shoebox National Collection Week is Nov. 17-24. North Oak Community Church, where

Surducan spoke, packed 768 boxes last year, said LuAnn Walters of Hays, North Oak's OCC coordinator. Naturally, she is hoping for more this year also.

Walters said many area churches, including North Oak, have special events throughout the year, where members paint blocks for younger children's boxes, sew simple dresses, and prepare pencil packs and hygiene kits. North Oak's adults and children also participate in "packing parties" prior to collection week.

Individuals, groups, and churches wanting to learn more about organizing such events are encouraged to contact Albin at (785) 639-1325 or ralbinmk@yahoo.com



Linn Ann Huntington of Hays is a professional writer and retired professor. She attends North Oak Community Church.

Public Service Announcement

Beware of Clergy Donation Scams

Written by:

Sheriff Scott Braun

Scammers exploit trust and goodwill, and sadly, one of their tactics involve impersonating clergy members to solicit fraudulent donations. These deceptive schemes prey on people's generosity and faith, making it critical to recognize the warning signs and protect yourself from becoming a victim.

Scammers may claim to be a pastor, priest, rabbi, or other religious leaders contacting individuals through phone calls, emails, or even social media messages. With AI on the rise, a call can actually sound like the clergy member and even include their picture. So don't commit to anything over the phone without verification that it is legitimate.

Scammers create a sense of urgency stating that the church or religious institution needs immediate financial assistance. Sometimes they may ask you to do a favor for them and to keep it a secret. They often request donations in unconventional forms such as gift cards, wire transfers, or even cryptocurrency payments. These payment methods are favored by scammers because they are difficult to trace and nearly impossible to recover once sent.

It is essential to recognize that legitimate clergy members will not call individuals personally to ask for donations, send emails requesting money or gift cards or

instruct you not to call them. Most religious institutions have formal donation processes, such as secure online portals, official church websites, or collection during services.

Here are some best practices to protect yourself:

- Verify requests if you receive an unexpected donation request. Contact your religious institution directly through trusted contact information rather than relying on links or phone numbers provided in an unsolicited message. Talk to the church office or the clergy directly.
- Never share sensitive information and avoid providing personal or financial details unless you're certain of the legitimacy of the request. Legitimate organizations will not ask for your bank details, Social Security number, or passwords through emails or phone calls.
- Look for suspicious emails and messages and be cautious of emails that contain spelling errors, unfamiliar sender addresses, or generic greetings like "Dear patron." These can be signs of phishing attempts.
- Use secure websites before entering payment details. Check that a website address starts with "https://" and

includes a legitimate domain name.

- Avoid clicking on pop up ads or links sent via unsolicited messages.
- Be skeptical of urgency. Scammers often create a sense of emergency to pressure you into acting quickly.
- Take time to investigate before making any payments. Never send gift cards as no reputable organization requests donation in the form of gift cards.
- Report suspicious activity if you suspect a scam, Contact local law enforcement or the Attorney General's Office.

Faith and generosity are noble traits but they should never be exploited. Stay informed, be cautious and remember that legitimate clergy will not ask for personal donations through informal communication or request gift cards for charitable causes. Trust your instinct, verify any unusual request and ensure that your goodwill is directed toward genuine efforts to support your community.



Scott Braun is the Sheriff of Ellis County

Ecumenical Events

July 1: Text Study, 10:30am at Trinity Lutheran Church (2703 Fort).

July 2: Old Testament Bible Study, 12:50 pm at Epworth Towers Community Room (2800 Augusta Lane).

July 3: Feeding Hays, 6:30-7:00pm-to go spaghetti dinner at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (2900 Canal Blvd). To volunteer to help, contact Ben at 785-259-2851.

July 6: Summer of Love Sunday VBS & Blessing Box Food Drive, 11 am at Hays Christian Church (1318 E. 22nd). See below for additional information.

July 8, 9,10: Community Vocational Bible School (VBS), at First United Methodist Church (305 W. 7th). Call church office for details at 785-625-3408.

July 8: Text Study, 10:30am at Trinity Lutheran Church (2703 Fort).

July 9: Old Testament Bible Study, 12:50 pm at Epworth Towers Community Room (2800 Augusta Lane).

July 10: Feeding Hays, 6:30-7:00pm-to go spaghetti dinner at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (2900 Canal Blvd). To volunteer to help, contact Ben at 785-259-2851.

July 12: 6th Annual Tour Die Kapellan, a tour of chapels via bicycles or bus. Starting point is Municipal Park. Lunch included. See below for additional information.

July 13: Summer of Love Sunday VBS & Blessing Box Food Drive, 11 am at Hays Christian Church (1318 E. 22nd). See below for additional information.

July 13: David Vogel Concert, 3:30pm-5pm at Hays First United Methodist Church (305 W. 7th). See below for additional information. Free will offering.

July 15-17: Presence Worship Camp, at Family Worship Center (1651 Yocemento Ave, Hays.) Presence Worship is a three day worship equipping camp open to 6-12 grade students for musically inclined students wanting to deepen their faith in God and grow both spiritually and musically. See below for additional information and registration.

July 15: Text Study, 10:30am at Trinity Lutheran Church (2703 Fort).

July 16: Backpacks for Kids school supply drive, 9am to 4pm at Walmart. Individuals will be handing out lists of needed supplies to shoppers and collecting those supplies when shoppers leave the store. To register, go to www.firstcallelliscounty.com or call (785) 623-2800.

July 16: Old Testament Bible Study, 12:50 pm at Epworth Towers Community Room (2800 Augusta Lane).

July 17: Laundry Love by First Call for Help, 4 -6pm at 27th and Hall St. as Laundromat. Up to 5 free loads of laundry per household per month

July 17: Feeding Hays, 6:30-7:00pm-to go spaghetti dinner at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (2900 Canal Blvd). To volunteer to help, contact Ben at 785-259-2851.

July 20: Summer of Love Sunday VBS & Blessing Box Food Drive, 11 am at Hays Christian Church (1318 E. 22nd). See below for additional information.

July 20: Pilgrimage to Angelus, 8:45am at St. Nicholas of Myra parking lot. Cars will caravan to St. Paul's in Angelus (about 1 ½ hours west on I-70). See additional details below.

July 22: Text Study, 10:30am at Trinity Lutheran Church (2703 Fort).



Ecumenical Events (Continued)

July 23: Old Testament Bible Study, 12:50 pm at Epworth Towers Community Room (2800 Augusta Lane).

July 24: Feeding Hays, 6:30-7:00pm-to go spaghetti dinner at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (2900 Canal Blvd). To volunteer to help, contact Ben at 785-259-2851.

July 27: Summer of Love Sunday VBS & Blessing Box Food Drive, 11 am at Hays Christian Church (1318 E. 22nd). See below for additional information.

July 29: Text Study, 10:30am at Trinity Lutheran Church (2703 Fort).

July 29: Deadline for parents to register their child for Backpack for Kids. Kids receive a free backpack stuffed with school supplies and hygiene kit. To register, go to www.firstcallelliscounty.com or call (785) 623-2800.

July 30: Old Testament Bible Study, 12:50 pm at Epworth Towers Community Room (2800 Augusta Lane).

July 31: Feeding Hays, 6:30-7:00pm-to go spaghetti dinner at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (2900 Canal Blvd). To volunteer to help, contact Ben at 785-259-2851.

August 3: Summer of Love Sunday VBS & Blessing Box Food Drive, 11 am at Hays Christian Church (1318 E. 22nd). See below for additional information.

August 7: Backpack for Kids distribution for registered kids, 7am-6pm at Hays Recreation Commission (1105 Canterbury). To register, go to www.firstcallelliscounty.com or call (785) 623-2800.

August 8: Backpack for Kids distribution for non-registered kids, 8am-1pm at Hays Recreation Commission, (1105 Canterbury). To register, go to www.firstcallelliscounty.com or call (785) 623-2800.

Ecumenical Events: Additional Details

Summer of Love

Join Hays Christian Church for the Summer of Love! Pastor Cana Moore's 6-part sermon series in the book of Acts begins June 29th. Hand-in-hand with the theme, Vacation Bible School for children 4-13 will take place during Sunday's 11 am service Children's Church on July 6, 13, 20, 27, and August 3.

Help love our neighbors by filling the Blessings Box. On Sundays during the Summer of Love, bring unopened, non-perishable items to the shelf in the church lobby.

Donations can be anything or in theme: June 29 (anything), July 6 (canned goods), July 13 (pasta and sauce), July 20 (hot and cold cereal), July 27 (rice and beans), and Aug 3 (anything). Those preferring to contribute financially may visit hayschristianchurch.org/contact-us/online-giving and designate the donation "SSVBS 25".



Ecumenical Events: Additional Details (Continued)



Tour Die Kapellen

The Sixth Annual Tour Die Kapellen—Tour of the Chapels—leaves the morning of July 12 from Municipal Park. Bicycle tours, of varying distances, cost \$60 per person. The bus tour is \$85 per person. Lunch is included. All participants will visit four historic Catholic churches in Ellis County. Local musicians will be performing live music at each site. Go to www.tourdiekapellen.com for more information and to register. The event is sponsored by Hays Area Bicyclists, a non-profit group.

David Vogel Concert

David Vogel will be in concert at Hays First United Methodist Church (305 W. 7th) on July 13th at 3:30pm. It is a free concert with a free willing offering at the doors. “With a heart of worship and a passion to inspire people into a more meaningful relationship with Jesus, David Vogel has spent a lifetime living his voice in churches large and small to praise his Creator and bring glory to God.

David is a versatile tenor... and his concerts mingle songs from contemporary worship, traditional hymnody, and high-energy gospel into one incredible evening of praise, worship, and inspiration.” (quote from David Vogel Facebook page)



Presence Worship Camp

Join us in Hays, Kansas, for Presence Worship Camp!

“Presence Worship is a three day worship equipping camp for the next generation of singers, musicians, prayer leaders and worship leaders 6th -12th grade who have a desire and hunger to grow both spiritually and musically.”

You will experience God’s presence through worship, sharpen your musical abilities, learn the theology of worship, and explore opportunities to lead worship in your school, community, and the local church!

“WORSHIP CAMP was a beautiful time for hungry teenagers to grasp an understanding of what true worship is. We learned that worship isn’t into about our image or lifting ourselves higher, but rather it’s about going as low as we can to experience God’s glory and lift his holy name on high! My favorite part about the summaries is that we don’t just talk about worship, but that we actually take part in the experience.” - Clay Shively

You can register for camp at presenceworship.org/hays. Register early before July 4th to get in for \$65! Registration after July 4th costs \$125 for meals, activities, staff, supplies, and a camp T-shirt. Presence Worship camp will be hosted at Family Worship Center: 1651 Yocemento Avenue, Hays, Kansas, 67601

Ecumenical Events: Additional Details (Continued)

Pilgrimage to Angelus

There will be a local pilgrimage on west I-70 to Angelus. Gather in the St. Nicholas of Myra Parking Lot (2901 E. 13th) at 8:45am on Sunday July 20th. After a short prayer and song, cars will caravan to St Paul's in Angelus, a designated diocesan pilgrimage site. There will be a Mass along with learning the history of St Paul and reflective prayer. Bring a sack lunch. Prior to departing, a rosary will be said glorifying God.

(Angelus is west on I-70 and takes 1 1/2 hours to get there)



(Angelus is a small unincorporated town about 8 miles northwest of Grinnell)

Opportunities to Serve

Feeding Hays Ministry Seeks Volunteer Groups to Help Out

Feeding Hays, a ministry of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2900 Canal Blvd., has been providing free drive-thru meals on Thursday nights for four years. No paperwork is required; the meals are available to anyone each week as long as the food lasts.

Now the ministry is launching a "Summer Challenge Volunteer Drive." A recent news release stated, "We challenge local businesses, clubs, civic groups, or even a group of friends to volunteer for a night of meal service and then nominate a fellow business to accept the challenge!"

Feeding Hays runs from 6:30 to 7 p.m. each Thursday night as cars pull through the church's circle drive. Traditionally, the meal has been spaghetti with meat sauce, a salad, and desert. The ministry is looking at adding Tuesday night meal service, but no start-up date has been announced yet.

The Volunteer Challenge seeks groups of 10 individuals to work from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday or Thursday evenings, the news release said. "Volunteers prepare meals and help serve them, and then help with clean up," Houchen said. "We are also developing teams to plan out new menus, but at this time that's not a standard volunteer role." The most common involvement is simply to show up on those evenings around 5 and start packing bags with food, he said.

Volunteer groups may contact Houchen at (785) 259-2851 to sign up to help. Accommodations may be made for arrival and departure times, the news release said.



"The mission of Feeding Hays is to make a direct impact to address food insecurity through weekly, free, hot meals, resources, and education," the news release said. "We need volunteers and donations to continue our mission."



An ecumenical panel discussion on Christ, faith, witness, and unity was held on May 21st at 7:00pm in the Dreiling Theater at TMP. It was hosted by the Hays Catholic Young Adults (HCYA) group. Melissa Pfeifer was the facilitator and the panel consisted of Rev. Chris Prater of the First Baptist Church, Rev. Cana Moore of the Hays Christ Church and Fr. Brian McCaffrey of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

These three local men were ordained into the priesthood the weekend of May 31/June 1 and have answered God's call to serve His people with faith, humility, and love. Let us support them with our prayers as they begin their ministry—may the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them every step of the way. Pictured are Fr. Adam Urban, Fr. Kade Megaffin, and Fr. Jesse Ochs



There was a check presentation to First Call For Help of Ellis County for \$4,842.86. It was generously donated by Trinity Lutheran Church from an April 6th Benefit BBQ. Thank you all for giving to this wonderful organization!

A special thank you to Ron Nelson for donating the meat and supplies, and to the Hays VFW post 9076 for hosting and helping with the meal.

Pictured: Back row: Pastor Brenda Rodger (TLC), Dean Stramel (TLC), Dale "Schmi y" Schmidt (VFW), Joe Leiker (VFW). Front row: Noalee McDonald-Augustine (TLC), Laura Shoaff (FCfH), Ron Nelson (TLC)