

First Edition

Where the News is Good!

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Do you have Questions? Or Feedback? A Suggestion?
Contact a Congregation Council Member listed below.

**Eugene Comber, Brenda Ecklund, Gail Espinoza, Sharon Hamilton, Terry Horner, Brenda Johnson,
Michael Laurin, Karen Linn, Pam Marchincin, Martha Paulson, Jim Wahlberg, and Jane Young**

First Lutheran Staff

Daniel S. Rumfelt, Pastoral Leader in Transition

Brian A. Bogey, Minister of Music

Kimberly King, Worship Leader and Coordinator
of Contemporary Worship

Liz Lobb, Office Manager





“We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:22-24.

February brings us into the Season of Lent. In the ancient Church Lent served as a period when adult converts, new to Christianity, spent time in intense learning and prayer, looking forward to baptism on Easter Eve and first communion on Easter Morn. Lent attempts to engage us in the wisdom of the Crucifixion so that, like those early converts, we might be well prepared to celebrate the power of God to forgive sin and the power of God to give new life in Christ.

We acknowledge sin that we might celebrate grace. Ash Wednesday, February 17th, begins that call to understand Christ crucified as the power and wisdom of God. In Biblical Judaism, ashes dashed onto a person’s head signaled grief and calamity. The ashes today signal repentance over our sinful nature, acknowledgment of our mortality. The ashes are not, however, just splashed on our forehead in a woeful blob. We do not simply grieve over our sin. The ashes are shaped as a cross. A cross which heralds the savior who died on a cross that sin may be forgiven and life may abound. Grief gives way to celebration. Christ died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Grief gives way. Death gives way in the light of Christ: by the power and wisdom of God.

This is the promise and new covenant in which we live. Ours through the gift of baptism into

the death and resurrection of Christ. We awake each day as if rising anew from those waters. We rise to the new day with hope. The day itself might be a mess. The continuing battle to stamp down COVID-19. The potential for violent disruptions raised against our democracy. Our own personal struggles with... Yet we enter that mess already washed clean. We enter the mess with Christ. We enter the mess with Christian hope and grace and love. We will bring something good into the day. Because what we bring is our trust in Christ, as foolish as that might seem to the world.

And when the night arrives, we rest. Blanketed under the promise of our baptism. Where we failed in hope and grace and love that day, we trust in forgiveness, lay down our heads and rest. Though the mess continues through the night, we rest. Christ will finally wash away all the mess; wash away death itself. We sleep and wake in him. Finally, we will rise in a resurrection like his.

This was the stumbling, bumbling foolishness those first Jewish and Gentile converts learned. After all these centuries, still foolishness to so many. But to us, and all who would step out of the mess and into new life, such is the power and wisdom of God.

Blessings,

Pastor Dan



February 2021 Library News

As the long winter continues, there is a work project I would like to tackle in the library. As the collection has grown, it has become obvious that more specific labeling of items is required. If you would like to help me with this project I have planned, please contact me. No experience necessary. Any amount of time would be appreciated. COVID restrictions will be strictly adhered to. Many hands make light work!

Has anyone been watching the new PBS version of *All Creatures Great and Small*, the series about English country vet James Herriot? If you are enjoying it (or if you find it lacking), try watching the original 7 season BBC series that is available in the library.

Also if you are a fan of Anne of Green Gables, the recent three season series *Anne With An E* is now available in the library.

As you probably have figured out, I love posting quotes from famous people in the library. Don't forget to stop by the library

and enjoy the "Quote of the Week". A recent quote on the board is from Leo Buscaglia and is particularly meaningful during this time in our country.

"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength."

I usually don't pay much attention to billboards along the highway but recently my attention was grabbed by one on I86.

"Fear is contagious, but so is hope."

So obvious and yet so true! It is certainly a quote to remember and repeat.

The Family Library is open Sunday mornings and by special request. New books and videos are continually being added. Contributions, donations, suggestions and comments are always welcome. I can be reached by email at wendy.j.larson@gmail.com or by phone at 716-397-8819.

Wendy Larson



January, 2021

- Council met January 18 via Zoom. Gail Espinoza gave devotions, using Bible verses from past presidential inaugurations, and a prayer from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Brenda Ecklund and Pam Marchincin are completing their terms on Council. Thanks to them for their service!
- The Nominating Committee has three new candidates who agreed to run for a first Council term this year: Paul R. Johnson, Sandy Hatfield, and Mike Dearman. Mike Laurin and Martha Paulson have also agreed to run for a second term.
- Worship services will continue at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. thru February, with postings online. Masks are required, and use of hand sanitizer and social distancing being maintained.
- Council finished reviewing and adopted a revised version of the Ministry Site Profile, prepared by the Pastoral Call Committee. It has been uploaded to the ELCA website for pastoral candidates to see.
- Pastor Rumfelt continues to lead worship, conduct pastoral acts (funerals) and help prepare the Annual Report with Office Manger Liz Lobb.
- Jim Wahlberg reported no new updates on the drive-thru project. He will provide an overview of the project with financial quotes at the Annual Meeting.
- The sexton position has had a few applicants, but is yet to be filled. Property Committee members and other volunteers continue to fill in as needed.
- Terry Horner gave the Treasurer's report which showed a positive financial picture for the end of 2020. A Budget for 2021 was approved at a special meeting of Council on January 12, for recommendation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- Annual meeting is set for January 31, with plans for one service in the Nave at 10 a.m. with meeting to follow. More information will be forthcoming about online participation, via Zoom, for those not attending in person.

A Note from Esther Gustafson:

Dear Friends at First Lutheran,

My family and I want to express our gratitude for the cards, phone calls and prayers during this time of Pastor Chuck's death. While it is a sad time for us it is also a joyful time as he has now entered into his final home with the Lord.

With the Lord's Blessing and my Love,

Esther Gustafson



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

February 2021

**Brian A. Bogey, Minister of Music
and Organist**

We observe the final Sunday of Epiphany during the month of February concluding with the celebration of the Transfiguration of Our Lord on Sunday, February 14th. Ash Wednesday occurs on February 17th as we enter the forty days of Lent leading us to the triumphant Easter season!

Below is a list of Lector/Liturgists and Hymn Cantors/Soloists for the month of February. Please contact me if there is a conflict and we will find alternate persons to fill-in.

<u>LECTOR/LITURGIST</u>	<u>HYMN CANTOR/SOLOIST</u>
February 7th Fred Larson	Marika Koch
February 14th Peter Larson	Brenda Ecklund
February 21st Brenda Ecklund	Julie Costantini
February 28th Frank Gozdalski	Beth Johnson

This month we also conclude our final installment of the “Musical History of First Lutheran Church” with a perusal of the various musical organizations that have flourished in the church for the past 165 years. “SOLI DEO GLORIA,” (Glory Be to God Alone) for the wonderful gift of music as countless numbers have served First Lutheran Church through the decades in the Ministry of Music.

Musical History of First Lutheran Church

Part 6

The Rev. Billy Banks became the new pastor of First Lutheran, serving from 2007-2010. He had previously served as an Associate Pastor to Pastor May for several years. The Rev. Daniel K. Nagle was appointed as the new pastor in 2011 and served in that position until 2020. Formerly he served as

an Army Chaplain for 28-years. The congregation relished in the recounting of his chaplain experiences and how he connected them to the gospel in such a meaningful way. The congregation grew both spiritually and numerically during his 9½ years of ministry. A significant improvement to the church property is the upcoming building of the handicapped parking and drive-through area near the upper entrance to the educational building, under the guidance of Pastor and the Property Committee. We are so very fortunate to have the Rev. Daniel Rumfelt, Chaplain at LUTHERAN, to serve as our Interim Pastor during our pastoral vacancy.

I would like to add some additional musical facts to this report. A number of other musical organizations have flourished in the church including our First Lutheran Choir, a Boy's Choir, Male Chorus, Girl's Choir, Temple Quartet, First Lutheran Church Band, Juvenile Band, Chautauqua Maenerchor, and the Cecelia Quartet. The Sacred Fire Praise Band, and the Good News Ringers Hand Bell Choir were organized during the Kimberly King years. Some of the ensembles established during Brian Bogey's 36 year tenure include the First Lutheran Festival Hand Bell Choir (prior to Good News Ringers), First Lutheran Chapel Choir, the King Singers Children's Choir, the First Lutheran Brass Ensemble, the Cherub Choir, the Alpha Singers, the Te Deum Singers Ladies Ensemble, the First Lutheran Youth Chorale, and the SONSHINE Singers.

There have been four professional soloists who have come from our congregation including Mrs. Constance Weborg Weisgerber and Miss Lillian Gustafson. Miss Gustafson continued her career in New York City where she was awarded the \$1000.00 Morris Loeb prize and a silver medal for her work with the Institute of Musical Art in 1923. Later on came James Beal, tenor, who sang oratorios in Europe, specifically in Germany and Austria, as well as in the United States. Douglas Alhstedt, tenor operatic soloist, who sang professionally with the New York Metropolitan Opera House as well as in opera houses in Europe. He taught voice at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. and he completed his musical career as professor of voice at the Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburg, PA.

I would like to give credit to J.A. Eckman and the Minnes Album, (50th Anniversary Booklet - 1856-1906); the Diamond Jubilee Book (1856-1931); the Jamestown Evening Journal articles in 1916 & 1934 contributed by Brenda Ecklund and Jane Young; historical articles by the late Daniel L. Carlson; and to our dear Marcia Rupp, church historian, who has kept superb records of our church history in the Historical Room and in her voluminous files located in her church office!

We are so very grateful for the many wonderful musicians who have blessed us with their music here at First Lutheran and who have shared their talents not only in our immediate area but throughout the United States and Europe. May we continue to "Praise the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness" and declare His glory as we proclaim the "Good News" through the vehicle of music!

**Together...Joyfully in His Service,
Brian A. Bogey, Minister of Music and Organist**

February, 2021
First Lutheran Church
Contemporary Worship

Kimberly King
Worship Leader & Coordinator of Contemporary Worship
Sacred Fire – Praise Team

Hello Everyone,

Our “in person” Contemporary Worship Services continue in February each Sunday **at 9:00am** in our Worship Center in the lower level of the church (Parlor area). **The service last 30 minutes.**

REMEMBER: Masks are required and temperatures taken at the door. Please keep 6 feet distance from others and use social distancing inside the church and entrance areas. Please exit the worship area from the back seats first then to the front. Do not linger after worship. If not feeling well, please remain at home.

Sacred Fire members share music and scripture each week, we have digital inspirations, along with a special message from Pastor Rumpfelt. The service is planned with safety and health precautions for you and your family, while keeping a relaxed and friendly environment. Seating is spread out with variations for singles, couples and families.

We WILL continue to video tape the services each week and post on Facebook, Vimeo and on our new church website, for those who would like to remain at home. Everyone can have options to worship at their own comfort level during the Pandemic.

Inspiration: In these difficult and challenging days....Remember that God is ALWAYS with us!! Be intentional to remind yourself this each day!! Especially when you are feeling overwhelmed or you are looking for an answer to a problem.

Remember you have access to our Past Contemporary Services on both our church Facebook page, Sacred Fire’s page and on Vimeo.com. On Vimeo, search First Lutheran Contemporary Service and Sunday’s date. For example, First Lutheran Contemporary Service 1.10.2021. Don’t forget to share these services with your friends and family!! **A GREAT Outreach Ministry!!**

You can continue to listen to contemporary music and inspiring messages everyday on FM radio channel 90.9 Family Life Network Or online at **fln.org**. Also, on **Sirius XM radio**, “The Message” on channel 63.

If you are looking for a devotional type inspiration, check out www.youversion.com
Great site! They have an “App” too.

As God continues to shine Love and Blessings on you! Remember to share God’s Love with others!!

Take Care and Be Safe!!

God’s Blessings to you all

From All of Sacred Fire and

Kimberly King, Worship Leader and Coordinator of Contemporary Worship



Income & Expenses through December 31, 2020

<u>Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	*71,954	28,220	43,734
February	14,125	35,149	-21,024
March	16,082	29,856	-13,774
April	*56,975	16,208	40,767
May	19,295	30,186	-10,891
June	15,241	15,845	-604
July	*53,600	22,710	30,890
August	19,055	16,292	2,763
September	13,846	38,962	-25,116
October	*52,445	11,190	41,255
November	15,621	22,870	-7,249
December	25,548	29,380	-3,832
Total	373,787	296,868	76,919

Mailing Address:

Jeffrey Clauson (Finished his tour in the Air Force)
6444 Starfish Cove (New address)
Bull Creek, FL 32563

LCDR Andy "SMEDIUM" Carlson
VFA 211, Unit 200204, Box 4
FPO AE 09502

MASR Scott D. Johnson
12440 Chickadee Ln., NW
Apt. 102
Silverdale, WA 98383

CAPT Eric Spitzer
850 Ticonderoga St., Ste. 100
JBPHH, HI 96860-5102

Attendance for January

January	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday
2020	121	122
2021	69	67
	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday
2020	93	88
2021	50	71

*** 40,000 from Endowment**
Thank you to all who are mailing their offering!

PARISH RECORD

Funerals:

- Carol S. Phillips on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.
- Carol Ann Linn on Saturday, January 9, 2021.
- Larry K. Ross on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.
- Jayne C. Sauder on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.



We extend a sincere thank you to the following people:

Memorial Fund – Library Fund

Donation by:
Norma Arvidson

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Arthur & Doris Saff by:
Sally & Thomas Neathery

In Memory of Joanne C. & Howard A. Lundgren by:
Janell E. Lundgren

In Memory of Robert F. Costlow by:
Barbara Keefe

In Memory of Pastor Charles Gustafson by:
Marcia Rupp

Memorial Fund – Building Fund

Donation by:
David & Kimberly Bentley

In Memory of Ruby C. & Henry W. Dahlgren by:
Phyllis Robertson

Memorial Fund – Drive Thru

In Memory of Pastor Charles Gustafson by:
Daniel & Donna Nagle

Sunday School News

We are continuing with Remote Sunday School with videos being posted weekly to the First Lutheran Sunday School Jamestown, NY page. We are posting videos for Preschool/Kindergarteners, Grades 1-3 and then Grades 4-6. All the students were given leaflets that go with the lessons. The children and their parents can send pictures on Messenger to Tracy Grey or post to the Sunday School page of completed pages. If your child didn't receive the leaflets, please contact the Church office of Tracy Grey 485-3754. Thank you to all the parents and kids who are working so hard this year!!

Thank You!
Tracy Grey

Confirmation Class Schedule for February via Zoom

Sunday, February 7th
Sunday, February 21st

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



First Lutheran Church has a job opening for a Sexton (Maintenance and building management).

This is a full-time position that requires weekday, Sunday, and holiday availability. A full job description is available at the church office.

Applicants for the Sexton position must have a background in maintenance with skills in electrical and plumbing repair very helpful.

If you are interested in this position, please send your resume or letter of intent to:

Personnel Committee
First Lutheran Church
PO Box 183
Jamestown, NY 14702

If you have questions, please ask a member of the personnel committee or Pastor Dan. The members are: Beth Johnson, Ellen Ditonto, Fred Larson, Mike Laurin, Shelly Wendt.

NewsLetter DEADLINE

The deadline for articles for the March 2021, *First Edition* newsletter is Friday, February 12th. Please have all information into the church office by that date. Thank you.

Community Outreach Store

The Community Outreach Store is now opened. The store will be open M - W - F, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. We are also accepting donations during that same time frame. Face Masks are required.

PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE

The Church Council would like to thank the following individuals who have accepted the Council's invitation to be on the Call Committee for a new pastor:

Hannah Dearman
Brenda Ecklund
Gail Espinoza
Sandy Forsberg
Julie Gable
Tracy Grey
Gregg Guichard
Peter Larson (Chairperson)
Lee Lindeman
Emily Ryberg
Glen Utter

(Jeanine & Mike Dearman – Non-Voting Members)





SCRIPTURE READINGS IN FEBRUARY

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 7th

Isaiah 40:21-31
 Psalm 147:1-11,20c
 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
 Mark 1:29-39

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Last Sunday after Epiphany

February 14th

2 Kings 2:1-12
 Psalm 50:1-6
 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
 Mark 9:2-9

Ash Wednesday

February 17th

Joel 2:1-2,12-17
 Psalm 51:1-17
 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
 Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

First Sunday in Lent

February 21st

Genesis 9:8-17
 Psalm 25:1-10
 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:9-15

Second Sunday in Lent

February 28th

Genesis 17:1-7,15-16
 Psalm 22:23-31
 Romans 4:13-25
 Mark 8:31-38

**Baptismal
 Anniversaries**

We celebrate with you!

*indicates birthday when baptism is not known

February Baptisms:

- 2/4 Deborah Castiglione
- 2/5 Eugene Comber
JoAnn Nelson
- 2/7 Beth A. Lindstrom
Brian Lindstrom
Shelley Wendt
- *2/11 Christopher Butts
- 2/11 Marian Soderberg
- *2/12 Omer Jones
- 2/13 Linnea Anderson
Zachary Ryberg
- *2/15 Sandra Hatfield
- 2/15 Nathaniel Laurin
- 2/16 Mackenzie Wright
- 2/21 Norma Arvidson
Peter Larson
- 2/23 Michael Laurin
- 2/24 Patricia Lindstrom
- 2/25 Timothy Pearson
- 2/27 Joyce Tedquist
- 2/28 Pamela Marchincin

Synod Mission Message



Prayer Ventures February 2021

DROUGHT IN CAMBODIA

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response helped La Phat stay in her home. She is a community leader in a village in Cambodia which is experiencing drought. The rice paddies have dried up, and there is not enough rain to support the corn, green bean, and sesame seed crops. Many left the village for cities to find work to support their families, but she had a better idea.

Working with longtime ELCA partner Life With Dignity, La Phat and members of the community designed training programs in risk mitigation, advocacy, alternative livelihood opportunities, and more. They dug ponds and obtained 20 plastic tanks to capture the little rain they do get. Five new wells are being constructed, and two old ones repaired. “We now have hope in this new venture.”

Lutheran Disaster Response works all over the world to assist people after hurricanes and earthquakes, and during chronic problems such as drought and health crises. 100% of donations go to the response effort, because overhead is paid for by the ELCA. **Thank you!**

We are church together for the sake of the world.
God’s Work. Our Hands.

1 Pray that the Spirit will guide, inspire and shape the Future Church structure being implemented in the churchwide organization to renew our sense of purpose and activate the entire church so that more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.

2 *Black History Month* Give thanks for the gifts, accomplishments, influence and witness of our African-descent neighbors who stand together with us as partners in the gospel, doing God’s work in the world. Though unified as siblings in Christ, we ask God to guide and help our church in its commitment to socioeconomic equity and racial justice and reconciliation.

3 Give thanks for our freedom in Jesus Christ and pray that we might use that freedom to proclaim the glory of God and serve our neighbor in obedience to God’s word, will and ways.

4 Pray for the children, youth and family ministry leaders of our church participating in the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza, “Holding Loosely.” Pray that they will grow and be strengthened for ministry through this time of spiritual renewal, continuing education, networking and mutual support.

5 Pray for ELCA Global Mission and for our ministry of accompaniment with churches,

leaders, institutions and companion agencies in Asia and the Pacific region as we work together to grow the church, share the gospel, equip leaders, serve the needs of communities, address issues of development and justice, and assist with disaster preparedness and relief.

6 Ask God to help us listen to each other with respect and to address and heal the political and ideological divisions that discourage us from treating one another with love and concern as neighbors and siblings in Christ. Pray that the Spirit will unite us and lead us in the work we must do together for the well-being of our communities, nation and neighbors in need.

7 Illness, oppression, desperation and spiritual darkness are no match for the healing and redemptive power of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and our Savior. Praise God!

8 Pray for all those who experience food insecurity across our nation and around the world. Ask God to help us envision how we can work together to bring relief and hope and to address the root causes of hunger and poverty.

9 Give thanks to God for people of all ages, cultures, races, life experiences and perspectives who are new to the ELCA. Pray that, as siblings in Christ, we will nurture and equip one another for participating in God's work in the world.

10 Give thanks and praise to God for God's abundant love, which "heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds."

11 Pray for our outdoor ministry organizations and their leaders as they continue to discern and plan for adapting their ministries during the pandemic — especially as they envision what this summer might bring.

12 Thank God for our special relationship with The Episcopal Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, and pray that together we will find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these uncertain and challenging times.

13 When have you felt proud, boastful or self-congratulatory for your ministry, witness or service to others? Ask God to forgive you and to refocus your attention on the good news and blessings of grace given to us through Jesus Christ, which we are called to share without bias, hesitation or expectation of recognition or reward.

14 We are not much different from Peter, James or John, who were unsure what they were witnessing when God's glory shined brightly in Jesus during his transfiguration. Pray for patience and for faith in God's promise, that we, too, will someday experience glory and joy in the kingdom of heaven.

15 Pray for our new U.S. president, vice president and members of Congress, that they will find strength, support and unity for their difficult work of serving a diverse nation. Ask the Spirit to help us guide, shape and embolden our culture and nation so that we practice justice, care for our neighbors in need, strive for truth and support our global neighbors.

16 Pray that when people witness our actions and hear our words, they will see the light of the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ in us and will be moved to believe in God's love, forgiveness and actions in the world today.

17 *Ash Wednesday* Someone tracing the sign of the cross on our forehead with ash speaks to our need for physical reassurance that God has done something special and mysterious in the world through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Speak to God about what this

smudge of ash — the cross — means to you and says to people who notice it on your forehead.

18 Ask the Spirit to teach us humility and to remind us that God made us to care for one another, love one another, be generous with what we have and participate in God's good, reconciling work in the world.

19 Pray for families, caregivers and friends who cannot be physically present with hospitalized loved ones. Pray that we will support and comfort them through their time of separation and worry and reassure them of God's very real presence and love.

20 God knows our complexities, vulnerabilities and shortcomings yet still considers us with the wisdom of a fair and merciful judge. With a deep sigh of relief, lift up thanks and praise to God!

21 Renewed, claimed and sent forth through the word and the waters of baptism, we pray that our life in the Spirit will help us resist temptations that draw us away from God and God's ways and will keep us focused on our baptismal journey of faith, learning, service and sharing the good news.

22 Give thanks for everyone involved in the extensive effort to vaccinate people against COVID- 19 even as we work to prevent its spread and treat those who are ill. Pray that the hope and the emotional, spiritual and physical stamina of these workers will be sustained for the long haul.

23 Let our prayers and yearnings echo those of the psalmist who wrote, "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation."

24 Pray that throughout Lent we will reflect on our faith, lives and endeavors with honesty and humility while trusting in God's grace to restore our spirit and to

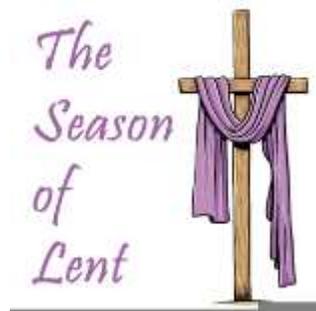
reassure us that we will always be disciples of Christ and loved children of God.

25 Remember in prayer the Deaconess Community of the ELCA. Give thanks and pray for women who respond to God's call to serve as deaconesses and who use their passions, spiritual gifts and education to serve in a wide variety of roles and ministry settings worldwide.

26 Praise God for being patient and loving toward us and for saving us in our desperation and darkness through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

27 Pray for the ELCA Young Adult Ministry's work with young adults ages 18 to 30 and for leaders who facilitate young adult ministry in their communities of faith. Pray that young adults will find places in our communities of faith where they belong and ministries both at home and abroad where they can grow in faith, discern and use their unique gifts and passions, and engage in acts of service, justice and peace in the world.

28 We cannot fully comprehend God's ways or what Jesus has accomplished for our sake and salvation. Pray daily to be alert and receptive to what God is revealing to us and to how the Spirit stirs in us faith, wisdom and understanding.



Lenten Remote Devotions:

Starting with Ash Wednesday, February 17th, Lenten Midweek Devotions will be posted online. They will be available to view on First Lutheran's Facebook and Website pages. As in past years, local Lutheran clergy will join Pastor Rumfelt in offering the devotional messages each week. No in-person services will be conducted this year out of precaution during the pandemic.

Please also note that the Upstate NY Synod also offers remote ZOOM devotional opportunities:

Walking Together Through Lent: *Praying Our Way Through the Psalms*

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:15PM

February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Together, we will move through the Psalms, noticing the space for mourning to dancing and everything in between. At 7 we will gather as a large group to pray and set the intention for the time together. Then, we will have small group sharing and conversation. At the end of the evening we will join together again as a large group for prayer as we depart the sacred space.

All are welcome, but please register in order to receive the Zoom access link.

SIGN UP HERE:

<https://link.zixcentral.com/u/30c9a583/Vqb4RHRB6xG2waIJNC1kxg?u=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FrWdrdPdGNwNkz1Qu8>

Once registered you will be sent the Zoom link along with the other necessary information from the leader. There is no cost to participate. Questions? contact Pastor Lori Kochanski (lkochanski@upstatenysynod.org)

Art and Spirituality: *Earth Our Original Monastery: Cultivating Wonder and Gratitude through Intimacy with Nature*

February 19, 26 March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2
9:30-10:15 AM

With intention, we will move through Christine Valters Paintner's book *Earth Our Original Monastery: Cultivating Wonder and Gratitude through Intimacy with Nature*. Each chapter of the book focuses on the different ways creation informs our faith and understanding of the nature of God and includes spiritual practices to accompany the learning. When we come together on Fridays we will share our experience of the book and learn from one another. The leader will guide the conversation and use supplemental materials for the class to stay connected in our journey. Participants will need to purchase the book prior to the beginning of the course.

More about the instructor: Pastor Lori Kochanski is an artist, spiritual director and serves as Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation.

SIGN UP HERE:

<https://link.zixcentral.com/u/30c9a583/Vqb4RHRB6xG2waIJNC1kxg?u=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FrWdrdPdGNwNkz1Qu8> Once registered you will be sent the Zoom link for the session along with the other necessary information from the leaders. There is no cost to participate. Questions? contact Pastor Lori Kochanski (lkochanski@upstatenysynod.org)

Name: _____

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH

H	F	D	J	Z	A	S	H	W	E	D	N	E	S	D	A	Y	H	R	R
N	O	A	G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	J	E	S	B	O	E	E
G	O	L	P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R	P	A	S	F	O	R	L	S	S
T	T	M	Y	B	M	F	J	E	S	U	A	J	A	C	K	A	Y	U	U
N	W	S	P	S	G	O	L	O	V	E	L	E	C	E	D	N	T	R	R
N	A	G	R	F	A	R	L	P	A	L	M	B	R	A	N	C	H	E	R
J	S	I	A	A	F	T	P	L	Y	E	S	E	I	S	O	J	U	S	E
C	H	V	Y	S	O	Y	U	J	Y	N	U	A	F	T	A	E	R	U	C
J	I	I	E	T	R	D	R	R	M	T	N	S	I	E	H	S	S	S	T
A	N	N	R	I	H	A	P	W	D	J	D	T	C	R	X	U	D	W	I
N	G	G	C	N	O	Y	L	W	E	A	A	E	E	Y	G	S	A	Z	O
W	E	D	N	G	L	S	E	H	O	L	Y	W	E	E	K	H	Y	C	N

Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love



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CHRIST IN OUR HOME

Devotional Booklets
January, February, and March
Now Available in the “**Little Library**” (*in box on stand between Center St. & Chapel*)

Call ahead to the church office to make sure a copy is available.
716-664-4601

A HUGE THANK YOU

To my friends at First: I want to thank you for my beautiful poinsettia and thinking of me. A special thank you to Martha Paulson for bringing it to me. Blessings in the New Year!

Love, Barb Keefe



Your Donation is Greatly Appreciated

Our Community Outreach Store is in need of donations of new or gently used clothing, toys, and household items (no old TV's, refrigerators, etc.). Please make sure items are clean and in working order.

Donations can be brought to the church store Monday-Friday, 10:00AM – 2:30 PM. There is an elevator for your convenience.

WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service
Contemporary Worship Center**

**10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
Main Sanctuary**

What's new?

- If you are ill, we ask that you remain at home out of concern for the health and wellbeing of others
- We will wear masks – Bring yours from home
- Temperatures will be taken when entering the building
- Hand sanitizer stations will be in place at entrances to the church and worship areas
- Everyone will be asked to fill out attendance cards
 - These cards will be used to contact individuals if someone tests positive for COVID19 at a later date
 - Please place the cards on the chair/pew where you are seated
- Social distancing will be practiced
 - Chairs will be spaced six feet apart
 - Two of every three pews will be blocked
- Offerings will be placed in a box at the entrance to the worship area
- The liturgy will be spoken, music will be sung by musicians
- We will not celebrate Holy Communion at this time
- We will video record both worship services and post the recordings online through: Vimeo, YouTube, Facebook and the First Lutheran website: flcjny.org
- Worship services will be approximately 30 minutes in length

We will adjust our practices as health concerns evolve.

We will celebrate Jesus Christ, risen from the grave!

We understand that some of our church family will refrain from attending worship due to health concerns. This is a personal choice and we support all our family in this decision-making process.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO Box 183
Jamestown, NY 14702

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

If you would like your name removed from our mailing list, please contact the church office at 664-4601 or by e-mailing us at:
firstlutheran@flcjny.org

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First Edition

Living the Good News at First Lutheran Church