

First Edition

Where the News is Good!

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March 2021

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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, Gail Espinoza, Terry Horner, Brenda Johnson, Michael Laurin, Karen Linn, Martha Paulson, Jim Wahlberg, Sandy Hatfield, Michael Dearman, Paul R. Johnson, 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
Mike Thompson, Sexton

Palm Sunday – Sunday of the Passion

Sunday, March 28th

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship

10:30 AM Traditional Worship

Both Services will include Holy Communion

***Please note the time change for the
Traditional Service**





Lent
Lenten
Lengten
Lengthen

The word “Lent” derives from an Old English word for “lengthen.” Grow longer. The Lenten Season of the Church Year for 2021 begins with Ash Wednesday, February 17th and continues until Holy Week at the end of March. What grows longer over those weeks? Daylight. The days grow longer. The night recedes.

The word “Lent” is derived of a natural phenomenon: the changing position of the earth in relation to the sun. Long before humankind ever had language to describe it, the days have always begun to lengthen in the late winter. Yet long before we had words, we had recognition. The ancients knew the change when it began. It was the answer to their prayers and hopes for life to return to the earth once more.

However, the word “Lent” suggests far more than a natural phenomenon. Growing daylight mirrored growing faith. Lent called early Christians to increase their prayer and fasting so faith might grow or increase or “lengthen.” Lent is one of the oldest seasons of the Church, perhaps second only to Easter itself. Its development as a 40-day devotional period grew out of the scriptural

description of Jesus fasting 40 days in the wilderness following his baptism.

So, do the 40 days of Lent have a purpose all these centuries later? Lenten devotional activity (including giving up meat on Friday, or chocolate or...) can easily devolve into a simple tradition. If so, the traditions may be precious, but they remain static. The metaphor of Lent - the increasing of the light - has ever been to grow us more deeply into Christ. Christ crucified and risen, the “Sun of Righteousness” described by Malachi, rising with healing on the Day of Resurrection. Lent precedes Holy Week to ready us all the more for Easter. The lengthening time, “lengtentide,” in Old English, as the sun increases, prepares us for the revealing of The Son as he comes to us in his glory.

Be prepared, though, for a twist. The Gospel lessons for Lent will darken, not lighten, the closer we come to the cross. The lengthening of our faith is no easy stretch as each day gets brighter. “When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land.” But then, on the third day, the light broke through the darkness, “and the darkness did not overcome it.” Ever. The light shines, fully and forever.

Pastor Dan Rumfelt



March 2021 Library News

Here we are heading into spring and almost a year has passed since the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic. It's hard to remember life without the restrictions we are now faced with. So many things have changed and yet, the love of God remains constant. Our church family, although a little farther apart, remains constant. Inspiration is still to be found in the services and life at First Lutheran Church. Sunday School has continued remotely. As I sit in the library writing this article, the door is constantly "dinging" as customers arrive to shop in the store. We are shouldering on through a very difficult time and we will survive. Thank you to those who have continued to make use of the family library, those who make donations and those who volunteer time.

The January/February edition of "The Lutheran" featured several books in the article entitled A Practical Guide to Bridging Societal Gaps. Two of those books are now available in the library. *The World Is About To Turn – Mending a Nation's Broken Faith* by Rick Rouse and Paul O. Ingram "reads less like an instruction manual than a travel companion on the journey toward healing a broken world. This book pulls out insights, invites exploration and provides inspiration for the weary and eager pilgrim alike." In *Brave Talk: Building Resilient Relationships in the Face of Conflict* by Melody Stanford Martin, the author "focuses on the importance of impasse – understanding it, engaging it and transforming it – so that people can strengthen their relationships, even with those with whom they disagree."

Other new items on the shelf include:

Words of Life – Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today by Adam Hamilton "In this book of scripture and inspiration, Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history."

This Is Your Time by Ruby Bridges "will inspire readers as the struggle for liberty and justice for all continues, and the powerful legacy of Ruby Bridges endures."

One Blood – Parting Words to the Church on Race and Love by John M. Perkins "One Blood looks at everything from lament and forgiveness to racial tensions and mutual fear. You'll learn why racial reconciliation isn't the goal. And most importantly, you'll learn how to walk forward on the path toward oneness in Christ."

Marshall (DVD copyright 2018), shot mostly in Buffalo, New York, is based on the incredible true story of future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and one of the landmark cases of his life.

Reconstruction – America After the Civil War (DVD PBS copyright 2019) The end of slavery. The struggle for equality. The past that still affects us today.

Saving Notre Dame (DVD Nova copyright 2020) "When the Notre Dame cathedral caught fire in April 2019, Paris came very close to losing over 800 years of history. Underneath the charred scaffolding and vaulted ceiling of the cathedral, scientists study the components of Notre Dame's iconic structure to puzzle out how best to repair it."

The Ragged Edge of Night by Olivia Hawker (A donation by Gail Espinoza – Thank you Gail) "In small-town Germany, one man risks his life in defiance of Hitler's regime."

New books and videos for children:

Frozen II (DVD Disney copyright 2020)

Near (Psalm 139) by Sally Lloyd-Jones "Children will be reminded that God is with them no matter where they go."

This I Know – Seeing God In the World He Made
by Clay Anderson “Join a family on an unforgettable road trip. Witness the Wonder of God’s world. And know just how much Jesus loves us.”

Twas the Morning of Easter by Glenys Nellist
“Gather together to read the story of the resurrection of Jesus, following the familiar rhythm and rhyme of the poem *Twas the Night Before Christmas*.”

See you in the library!

**O LORD, SUPPORT US ALL THE
DAY LONG, UNTIL THE SHADOWS
LENGTHEN, AND THE EVENING
COMES, AND THE BUSY WORLD IS
HUSHED, AND THE FEVER OF LIFE
IS OVER, AND OUR WORK IS DONE.
THEN IN YOUR MERCY, GRANT US
A SAFE LODGING, AND A HOLY
REST,
AND PEACE AT THE LAST.
AMEN**

**FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON
PRAYER**



We extend a sincere thank you to the following people:

Memorial Fund – Organ Fund

Donation by:

Sandy & Dan Forsberg



February, 2021

President Jim Wahlberg welcomed new Council members Mike Dearman, Sandy Hatfield, Paul R. Johnson

Committee Reports

Worship & Music – the self-contained gluten free wafer and disposable wine glass “kits” have been received to be used for Palm Sunday (March 28) and Easter (April 4) – Traditional service time will begin at 10:30 on these festive Sundays

Services times to remain the same in February and March, exceptions stated above

Property – the driveway has been approved by the city, 2 tree removals approved and permit will be attained by R. Patti. Council approve the use of the vacated counselling office across from the library to be used by church maintenance.

Call Committee – reviewing paperwork of first candidate.

Personnel – attempting to translate staff’s salaries into hours worked per the Fair Labor Standard Act. Personnel Committee brought a motion to hire Michael Thompson as Sexton, pending Council approval. With unanimous approval, motion was carried. Welcome Michael Thompson to the First Lutheran family! He starts Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Stewardship – we have 54 pledges for 2021 so far.

Pastor's Report

Many funerals between Lutheran and First Lutheran – Rick Willman's will be Saturday, Feb 20.

Wednesday Mid-week Lenten messages will be taped on Tuesdays and put on website beginning Ash Wednesday, shared between the cast of pastors.

Confirmation classes going well

Treasurer's Report

January income is above average with expenses below average

Officers need to go to bank to prepare signing privileges

New Business

Magnetic Doors on "Center St" and "Chapel" are ready for use for security. We are going to try the system on the "Center St" door for the week of Feb 22-26 to work out kinks. The inside glass door will be locked and there is a bell to ring where Liz in the office can buzz you in without coming downstairs as she can see on the screen who it is. This will also help with mail delivery, UPS and FED EX.

Newsletter DEADLINE

The deadline for articles for the April 2021, *First Edition* newsletter is Tuesday, March 16th. 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.



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



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

March 2021

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

We continue to observe the penitential season of Lent with Lent 3 being on Sunday, March 7th going through Lent 5 on March 21st. Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion will be observed on March 28th and Easter Day on Sunday, April 4th. We will be observing communion on both Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion and Easter Sunday. Little communion packets are to be picked up as you enter worship and they will contain the host with the wine and the gluten-free wafer. Each parishioner will open his/her own packet during the service at the time of commemorating the Lord's Supper. It will be wonderful to once again observe communion in our worship services! We also anticipate having a Select Choral Ensemble and soloists for our festive Easter Sunday Traditional Worship Service!

LECTOR/LITURGIST

March 7th Beth Johnson

March 14th Fred Larson

March 21st Peter Larson

March 28th Brenda Ecklund

HYMN CANTOR/SOLOIST

Peter Larson

Marika Koch

Brenda Ecklund

Julie Costantini

Now that we have concluded our series on **THE MUSICAL HISTORY OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**, I plan on starting a new series on **THE SYMBOLS (AND THEIR MEANINGS), OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR** including Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent and Christmas Seasons. We will begin with the Lenten Season.

LENT is an important period in the Church calendar consisting of a forty-day period that is in preparation for the greatest feast of the liturgical year, Easter. It is also a penitential period of fasting, intense prayer, and alms-giving to the poor. These aspects are geared towards following Christ's path of his suffering culminating to his crucifixion on the cross on Good Friday. Some of the liturgical symbols of Lent include:

ASHES: They remind us of the creation story (Genesis 2:7), that we are made from dust. They are a reminder of our human mortality and the need for forgiveness, humility, purification and sorrow for our sins. Ashes also reminds us that "we are dust and unto dust we shall return."

VIOLET/PURPLE COLOR: This somber color of the Lenten season signifies humility, mourning for the sins and suffering with Jesus, and a willingness to repent.

STONES: They remind us of Jesus' experience of being tempted by the devil in the desert for forty days. You might remember that the devil tempted Jesus to change stones into bread. Jesus remained steadfast and overcame these temptations. The stones represent resolute determination, desolation, misery and sadness.

FISH: It is the symbol of Lent in many Christian denominations that calls us to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In the Catholic denomination it reminds them also to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

INCENSE: It is a symbol of prayer taken from Psalm 141:2 that "Let my prayer come like incense before you.

A MONEY BAG: It symbolizes the penitential practice of alms-giving to the poor. When you donate to our First Lutheran Community Outreach Store you are practicing alms-giving.

THORNS: It reminds us of Christ's suffering on the cross and also of the physical suffering, loneliness and injustices in the world.

CROSS: It symbolizes victory over death and salvation for our sins.

May these symbols help us to prepare spiritually during our Lenten journey as we encounter God through these symbols of a renewed life in Christ and eternal salvation.

Together in His Service, Brian

March, 2021
First Lutheran Church
Contemporary Worship

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

Hello Everyone,

"Welcome Lent" As we journey through the Lenten season, I wanted to share a song that can be used as a personal reflection. The following song text is a song we sing frequently with Sacred Fire.

"Everlasting God"

Verse

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord

Pre-Chorus
Our God You reign forever
Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

Chorus
You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles

CCLI Song # 4556538
Brenton Brown | Ken Riley
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Our "in person" Contemporary Worship Services continue in March each Sunday **at 9:00am** in our Worship Center in the lower level of the church. The service last 30 minutes.

REMEMBER: Masks are required and temperatures are 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.

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.

You have access to our current and 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 2.7.2021. 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.

Remember that God is ALWAYS with us!!

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 January 31, 2021

<u>Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	*66,770	40,226	26,544
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
Total	66,770	40,226	26,544

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
 11688 Breckenridge Lane NW
 Silverdale, WA 98383

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

Attendance for February

February	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday
2020	124	107
2021	71	75
	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday
2020	125	141
2021	64	

On-Line Views of Traditional Worship Video

1/10/21	43	2/7/21	40
1/17/21	33	2/14/21	23
1/24/21	29	2/21/21	29
1/31/21	37		

PARISH RECORD

Funerals:

Richard L. Willman on Saturday, February 20, 2021

 Charles R. Dillingham on Wednesday, February 24, 2021



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
March via Zoom**

Sunday, March 7th
Sunday, March 21st



Please fill in the form below if you would like to donate lilies for Easter Sunday. As in the past, the lilies will decorate the nave for our Festival Easter Worship, and then be given to members who are in the hospital, nursing homes, or are homebound. The cost is again \$8.00 per plant. You may send your payment with this form. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church and note that the check is for Easter flowers.

In memory of:

How many lilies _____

Your Name:

I am willing to deliver plants to homebound members on Easter Sunday

Yes _____ No _____

Thank you so much for your participation!

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)

Adam Hamilton's The Walk

This slim, 174 page, easy read by prolific Christian writer and United Methodist minister, Adam Hamilton, is a down-to-earth guide to a Christian life.

Hamilton identifies 5 essential practices for a Christian: Worship, Prayer, Study, Serve, Give and Share.

Written in late 2019, just before the Pandemic, Hamilton addresses those who "rely solely on online worship or television worship." He points out that those folks "will miss the community of people with whom you build relationships...who will notice when you look discouraged...or will sit with you after your spouse has passed."

As an added benefit of physically coming to First Lutheran Church to worship, Hamilton observes, in general, "A host of studies have shown that people who are actively engaged in church...have better physical and mental health and live longer."

Do yourself a favor and borrow this gem of a book from our wonderful Church library. Many other Adam Hamilton books are also available.

Fred Larson



SCRIPTURE READINGS IN MARCH

Third Sunday in Lent **March 7th**

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

Fourth Sunday in Lent **March 14th**

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3,17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Fifth Sunday in Lent **March 21st**

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Sunday of the Passion

Palm Sunday **March 28th**

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47



Baptismal Anniversaries

We celebrate with you!

*indicates birthday when baptism is not known

March Baptisms:

- 3/1 Lisa Heath
- 3/4 Sally Stohl
- *3/4 Wyatt Perry
- 3/6 Debra Basile
- Beth Johnson
- Janell Lundgren
- 3/8 George Johnson
- *3/8 Barbara Keefe
- 3/9 James Wahlberg
- *3/9 John Olson
- 3/10 Joy Clauson
- *3/10 Craig Garaas-Johnson
- *3/11 Aimee Olson
- 3/12 Jamie Bloomquist
- Cole Main
- 3/13 Drew Bloomquist
- Isla Seekings
- *3/14 Tracy Grey
- 3/15 Andrea Jodko
- 3/16 Gail Espinoza
- Elizabeth Gruber
- 3/18 Carrie Brown
- Kevin Brown
- 3/21 Carol Winterburn
- Jennifer Wozniak
- 3/22 Robert Henke
- Mila Olson
- 3/24 Karin Johnson
- Donald Puder
- 3/25 Karen Digirolamo
- Stacey Dixon

- 3/25 Kathy Horner
- Leslie King
- 3/26 Aric Bloomquist
- Walker Perry
- 3/28 James H. Sweetheimer
- 3/29 Ellen Ditonto
- Gerald Nagle
- Margaret Nelson
- *3/29 Marjorie Switala
- 3/31 Emily Harkness
- *3/31 Krista Leone

Synod Mission Message



ELCA PRIORITIES

The ELCA is actively engaged in national policy. As Christians in the world, our engagement is consistently shaped by our love of one another as God loves us. Civic participation is not simply voluntary, altruistic, or idealistic, but grows from the Biblical idea that God calls His people to be active citizens and to be sure everyone benefits from the good of government. Together we endeavor to live into our baptismal covenant to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Here are the priorities the ELCA has set for 2021. Surely (at least) one of them will pique your interest, and you can follow its progress, become involved, or perhaps donate to the cause.

Domestic Policy:

- Hunger and poverty
- Criminal Justice reform
- Civil and Human rights
- Healthcare
- Budget concerns
- Infrastructure

Fair Housing and civil rights
 Disaster Response
 Environment Policy:
 Climate and environmental justice
 Sustainability
 International Policy:
 Foreign assistance
 Conflict prevention/peacebuilding
 Gender justice and human rights protection
 Immigration Policy:
 Rights of migrants and refugees
 Enforcement and detention
 Asylum and refugee systems
 Foreign policy and climate threats
 Civic Engagement:
 Dialogue in the public Sphere
 Election security and voter access reforms

...And this is not even a complete list. Sign up at ELCA.org/advocacy/signup! to receive monthly updates on policy activity and be invited to take action when your voice and experience will have an impact. Find resources at ELCA.org/resources/advocacy. All of this happens with the help of your mission support. **Thank you!**

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



Prayer Ventures March 2021

1 *Women's History Month* Give thanks for women throughout history and in our lives who have shared their gifts and leadership in the church and society,

raised and cared for us, taught us and nurtured our faith, and fought for justice, equality and healing. Pray for women everywhere who suffer injustice, demeaning stereotypes, violence and poverty, that they will not lose hope but will be delivered from their suffering and persecution to live freely and boldly.

2 Give thanks that we can trust completely God's promises, love and forgiveness, especially when we feel unlovable, unfaithful or uncertain.

3 The Spanish word *amparo* means protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. Pray for the ELCA's Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) strategy, and pray that we will join in serving the most vulnerable children and their families as they seek safety and the opportunity to live in welcoming, humane communities and congregations.

4 Pray for our synod bishops, the presiding bishop and the secretary, who are meeting online for the Conference of Bishops. Ask that the Spirit guide and inspire their discussions, prayerful deliberations and decisions, which impact the ELCA, the work we do together and the Future Church goals and structure being implemented in the churchwide organization.

5 During our Lenten journey, pray that God will help us reflect on aspects of our life and faith that we find difficult to examine and confess, and that we will remember we are always loved and made new through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — our Savior, redeemer and source of hope.

6 Ask God to bless and guide our efforts to worship, commune, study Scriptures, socialize and care for each other online, and to find safe ways of gathering in person. Give thanks for the inspiration of the Spirit and the creativity of our siblings in Christ, who help us envision and practice new ways of being church together.

7 Pray that the theology, values, traditions and practices of our church and congregations will be centered in the good news of Jesus Christ and the

ways of God, and that God will guide us back to this center when we are distracted or drawn away from our purpose and identity as the body of Christ.

8 *International Women's Day* Pray for women everywhere, for gender equality and equity, for the elimination of gender bias and stereotypes, and for opportunities for women to develop and use their gifts, skills, insights and passions without barrier or discouragement.

9 Pray that in the sign and symbol of the cross we will see the power of God at work for our salvation through Jesus Christ — a gift of love and mercy for all people and nations.

10 Lift up prayers of joy for, and find ways to reach out to, those celebrating birthdays, marriages, anniversaries and other special occasions without being able to share those moments with others in person.

11 Give praise and glory to our wonderful God, whose ways and commands are revealed to us with clarity and who is merciful and gracious with us when we stray from them.

12 Pray that we will continue to gain ground on vaccinating people against COVID-19, especially those who are most vulnerable and those who provide essential services for the sake of our health, well-being and daily needs, here and globally.

13 We are a publicly engaged church that participates in God's work of pursuing justice and peace and of restoring and reconciling communities. Give thanks for ELCA Advocacy, ELCAvotes, the Lutheran Office for World Community and the teachings of our church, which help us to understand the needs of our neighbors, equip us for social concerns and encourage us to respond as God calls us to serve and act.

14 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." This is welcome news for everyone! Give thanks and praise to God!

15 Give thanks that God has created us to do good in the world and that, even in complex and difficult circumstances, the Spirit is always at work teaching and emboldening us to love and serve our neighbor.

16 Give thanks that God loves us, hears our pleas — spoken and silent — and grants us hope, comfort and relief amid our troubles. Ask that the Spirit will show us how to respond with wisdom, compassion and hope when our neighbors experience difficulties.

17 Pray for our ELCA missionaries serving alongside companion churches and organizations in Africa, including the Rev. Elisabeth Johnson (Cameroon), Anne and Willie Langdji (Madagascar, West Africa and Central Africa), the Rev. Alex Lachapelle (Kenya), the Rev. Brian Palmer and the Rev. Linda Johnson Seyenkulo (Liberia), the Rev. Lancelot Themba and Kwena Mkhabela (Madagascar, West Africa and Central Africa), and the Rev. Amanda and the Rev. Grant Applehans (Madagascar).

18 Ask God to prepare and equip congregations and communities — physically, emotionally and spiritually — to respond to the severe weather that often comes in spring, and to help one another endure.

19 Give thanks that God, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, rescues us from darkness, sin, death and all that separates us from our loving and merciful Creator. Pray that we will take to heart Paul's reminder that "by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

20 Thank God for our special relationship with the Reformed Church in America, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. 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.

21 We grieve the suffering and death of Jesus, yet we also rejoice in his resurrection and the promise of salvation that comes with it. Pray that we will

follow Jesus wherever he leads us — through challenges and joys — and that our lives will glorify God throughout the journey.

22 Pray for the lay leaders of our church, who respond to God’s call to serve, accept invitations to share their gifts and skills, and give of themselves to grow the church, serve neighbors in need, nurture the faith of others and equip disciples of all ages.

23 Pray for God’s mercy and love every day. Ask that God will instill in us joy and hope, create in us a faithful spirit, teach us truth and wisdom, and stir gratitude in our hearts for all that God has done and continues to do for us and all humanity.

24 Due to the lasting impact of COVID-19 and the uncertainty surrounding vaccine rollout, the ELCA has decided not to send Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers for its 2021-22 program year. Pray for young adult applicants who are eager to serve and share their faith, and for the enduring relationships we have with our companion churches and partner organizations around the world.

25 Pray for all those who grieve and suffer the loss of a loved one, friend, co-worker or neighbor, especially those impacted by the death of someone from COVID-19.

26 We see humility, sacrifice and unconditional love in the suffering Jesus endured for our redemption. Pray that the Spirit will make us humble, loving servants willing to sacrifice convenience, reward and emotional comfort for the sake of sharing the gospel and caring for our neighbors in need.

27 Pray for our ELCA missionaries serving alongside companion churches and organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Albert (Gustavo) Driau and the Rev. Rachel Ringlaben (Argentina and Uruguay), Karen Anderson (Chile), Linda Gawthorne (Colombia) and the Rev. Claudia Lopez Ortega (Nicaragua).

28 Palm Sunday Jesus endured persecution, inner conflict, betrayal by his closest followers, arrest and an unfair trial leading to his death — all for our salvation and the fulfillment of God’s promises and love. Give praise and thanks to the Son of God!

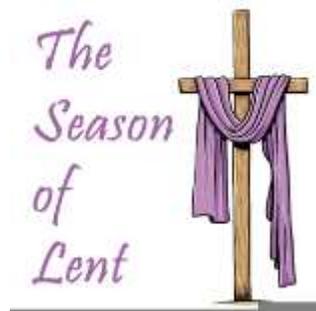
29 Pray that we might reconcile our differences and embrace, teach and act on our values, appreciating the diversity of humanity and our communities, attending to our neighbors in need, practicing mutual respect and care, and pooling our diverse gifts, skills and perspectives to change our society, church and world.

30 Prayerfully reflect on who Jesus is and what we profess to believe about Jesus as Savior, teacher, servant, example, source of truth, man and Son of God.

31 Give thanks to God that “we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses” who support and encourage our faith and accompany us in our baptismal journey of service and witness.



Remember to turn you clocks **AHEAD** one hour on March 14th! Spring is coming!!



Lenten Remote Devotions:

Lenten Midweek online Devotions continue on Wednesdays through the month of March. 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

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%2FrWdrPdGNwNkz1Qu8>

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*

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%2FrWdrPdGNwNkz1Qu8> 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)

Congregational Council 2021



Front Row – Michael Laurin - Vice President, James Wahlberg - President, Jane Young - Secretary, Terry Horner - Treasurer

Middle Row – Martha Paulson, Brenda Johnson, Gail Espinoza, Sandy Hatfield

Back Row – Karen Linn, Eugene Comber, Michael Dearman, Paul R. Johnson

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