



THE VOICE

of the First Lutheran Congregation

First Lutheran Church
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LENT: A HOLY TIME

Words from Pastor Lent: A Holy Time	1-2
Build Community in a Church	3-4
Noisy Offering / Food Shelf	5
Offering	6
Church Council minutes	7-9
Annual Meeting minutes	10
Church News & Events ~Funerals ~Weddings	11
~Coffee Fellowship ~Quilts/Rugs, etc. ~2024 Radio Sponsors	12
~Spring AHEAD, Change Your Clocks ~Adult Ed ~Homebound	13
Community Events	14
FLCW News & Activities	15
Shetek Happenings	16-17
F.L.Y. (First Lutheran Youth) ~Confirmation Retreat ~Graduate pics ~LIFT sing dates ~Kids Korner	18 19-20
March Worship Assistants	21
March Birthdays & Anniversaries	22
March Calendar	23

Lent is a church season leading up to Easter Sunday. It lasts about 6 ½ weeks, 40 days (excluding Sundays). The dates for Lent vary year-to-year, because Easter is not a set date (like Christmas is ALWAYS December 25th), but is determined by the phases of the moon! Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. The equinox is March 20/21, and the first full moon after that this year is on March 25th, so the following Sunday is Easter, on March 31, 2024!

Why is Lent 40 days long, when if you count the days on the calendar between Ash Wednesday and the Saturday of Easter weekend (inclusive) there are 46 days? Why are Sundays excluded? Sundays don't "count" as part of Lent, because every Sunday is a "Little Easter," a celebration Christ's resurrection. So the Sundays are numbered IN Lent (First Sunday in Lent, Second Sunday in Lent, etc), not OF Lent (like the First Sunday of Advent), where the Sundays are part of the season, not excluded.

Like Advent, Lent is a season of preparation. Advent's preparation is two-fold: preparing for Jesus's birth, and preparing for Jesus's coming again. Some of the lessons are historical, looking back at God's promise to send a savior; some of them are of the birth narrative (Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah, John, angels, shepherds, etc); and some are apocalyptic (these are the strange things that will signal Jesus' return). Advent is 4 weeks long, but ancient Christians celebrated Advent for 6 or 7 weeks.

Lent's preparations are a little different, though. Some of the lessons are of God's promises (such as to Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, and the Israelites – former slaves of the Egyptians); some lessons are of Jesus's preaching, teaching, and miracles (including healing and raising the dead); and



some are of the last week or so of Jesus' life, as he and the disciples entered Jerusalem, he was arrested, tried, and ultimately crucified on a Roman cross. Easter Sunday we celebrate God's victory, Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Historically, Lent was a period of catechumenate, or teaching/study/learning before baptism. Like today we have confirmation classes (where students learn biblical history, denominational history, and often memorize creeds and foundational documents) before students affirm their faith (making it their own) at a confirmation service, early Christians had to learn about Christianity before they were baptized into the Christian faith. The 40 days of Lent was that time of learning. They were usually converting from another religion, so the period of learning was intense! They were baptized on Easter morning, and took communion for the first time at worship with the whole congregation. They had attended worship during their time of learning, but left the service prior to communion, so being able to participate in the sacrament of Christ's body and blood was a big deal.

(cont. on page 2)



(cont....) One of our traditions in Lent is having a Wednesday evening service. The first Wednesday of Lent is called Ash Wednesday, when ashes are put on foreheads, in the shape of a cross, with the words, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This sets the somber tone for the rest of the season. Last year and this year, I have

chosen stories from the Old Testament as texts to preach on, which don't usually appear in Sunday morning readings. The service aims to be family-friendly, with repetition from week-to-week, and a familiar or fun song that goes with the story of the week. I have invited some congregational members to take some of the preaching opportunities, so the congregation can hear different voices and different interpretations of the old stories. In many ways, this tradition is mirroring the old tradition, of a time of learning, leading up to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in Holy Week, and Easter Sunday.

The last week of Lent is called Holy Week. It starts the Sunday before Easter with Palm Sunday, remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, with crowds shouting

"Hosanna!" (which means "Save us!" and is an expression of joy and praise to God). Jesus, his followers, and many other people were going to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover festival, remembering when Moses had brought the enslaved Israelites out of Egypt, through their 40-year wilderness wandering, and to the edge of the Promised Land of Israel. Jesus continues his ministry in Jerusalem during that week, preaching, teaching, and doing miracles. The religious leaders are looking for a way to arrest him.

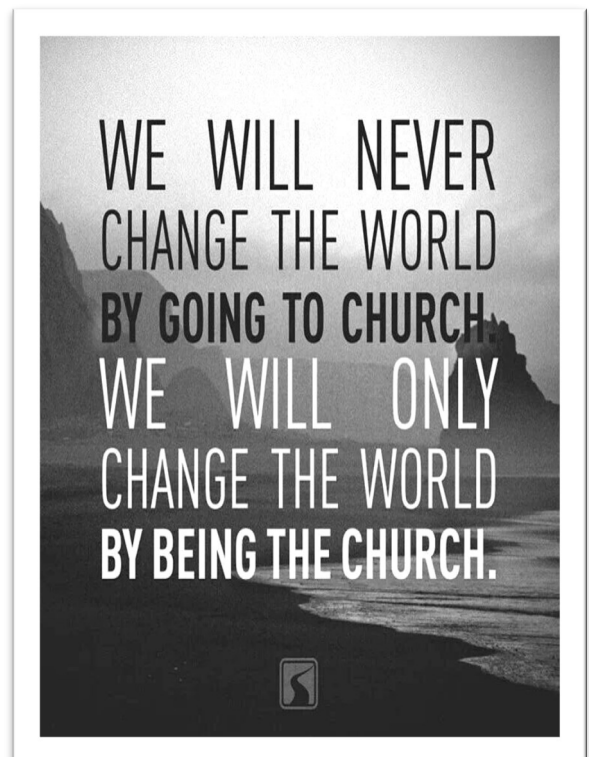
Thursday of Holy Week is called Maundy Thursday (not Monday Thursday!). Maundy comes from the Latin word "mandatum" or "command/mandate" because Jesus commands his disciples to love one another. This is also when Jesus celebrates the Passover with his disciples, and changes the meaning of the traditional Passover bread and wine into what we know as Communion, Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, Eucharist, etc. We remember Jesus' arrest on Thursday night, too, with the Stripping of the Altar, when everything is taken off of the altar and the altar area. This is when our 5th grade students celebrate their First Communion!

Friday of Holy Week is called Good Friday. Worship on Friday can vary. Some places have afternoon worship, traditionally held from noon to 3 pm, to remember the 3 hours that Jesus hung on the cross. We have an evening service, which follows the last 24 hours or so of Jesus' life, his journey from the upper room where he and the disciples celebrated Passover, to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus' arrest and trial by the Chief Priests, his appearance before Pontius Pilate, his crucifixion, and burial.

Saturday of Holy Week is often called Holy Saturday, or Easter Saturday. We don't do anything special on that day, but in the Catholic church (and some Lutheran churches) there is an evening service called the Easter Vigil. Traditionally, this is when baptisms and confirmations happen, and new members join the church. It is traditionally around 3 hours long, but many vigils are shorter than that, but definitely longer than an hour. At the end of the Vigil, Easter is declared (traditionally at midnight), the lights are on, Easter flowers are brought in, and Easter festivities begin. I have been to some Easter Vigils where there is a feast after the service, usually of food and beverages that people have "given up" for Lent, such as chocolate, sweets, champagne, as well as other celebratory food such as shrimp, cheese and crackers, etc.

Easter Sunday worship often starts in a dark or dim sanctuary, remembering that the women came to the tomb in the night, after the Sabbath ended. They were bringing spices and perfume, to finish preparing Jesus's body for a proper burial. They met a man at the tomb, who told them Jesus's body is not there, he has risen! The lights come on, the organ plays, and the word Alleluia! is heard loud and often! (Alleluia means "Praise the Lord!") Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

The Season of Easter lasts 40 days, starting on Easter Sunday (March 31) and ending at Pentecost, which is May 9th this year. It is always on a Thursday, and Sundays are included in the counting of days. Pentecost is the "birthday" of the Church, the day when the Holy Spirit appeared as flame on the heads of the disciples. More on that later!



10 Things You Can Do to Build Community in a Church

Easter...Spring-Time - A time of renewal both outside in nature as well as the perfect time to reflect and renew our faith. What better way to help build on your faith than to build or renew relationships within our church family. The Good Lord knows that I, myself have much work to do in that area. To be honest, it's a daily struggle most days. I found this excerpt that really spoke to me so I wanted to share it with my church family. With Easter just around the corner, may we all work together to renew each other as well as our church. Sending my sincerest and loving blessings to you all this Easter! Lori

By: Grace P Cho (Jan. 9, 2018)

I parked my car in the church parking lot and silently gave myself a pep talk. *You can do it. Smile, act normal, try to connect and make friends. Be friendly.* I knew the drill of being on the other side- of welcoming the newcomer and making them feel connected, but I didn't know how to be the newcomer. I grew up as a pastor's kid, never having had to find a church or build a community as an outsider. I was a grad student in seminary when I had to figure it out for the first time.

I smiled at the greeters, took a bulletin, and slid into the back row hoping to blend in. I pretended to be busy reading the order of worship while my mind raced with conversations and scenarios to prepare myself for potential real ones. I ached for a church to call home, but would this be the one?

We received the final benediction, and even though everything in me wanted to run out and get away from the awkward conversations, I told myself to buck up and make an effort to connect during the after-service fellowship time. I did this week after week, and each effort made on both sides- the church's and mine- created a tiny bond that over time became the foundation for the community I'd build there.

Deciding on a church community is hard when choices abound, but after the church is chosen, building community there may or may not develop smoothly or quickly. Churches are a gathering of imperfect people, so while some things are out of your control, here are 10 things **you** can do to build community where you're at:

1. Commit to the long haul.

Every church has its pros and cons. Every church is broken because it's filled with broken people who are in the process of being redeemed. So no matter where you go, the question is, will you commit and stay? Your commitment to the long haul will keep you grounded when circumstances aren't ideal for you or when you feel drained

from the effort you've been making. And staying for the long haul will be how you can experience the church fully through different seasons in your life and in the church. It takes time to build relationships, to get to know the culture of a church, so even when you feel you're not making any progress, choose to stay. Choose to commit and see the church and its people as the family with whom you've decided to be a part.

2. Don't expect to have what you once had.

During my time as a pastor, I heard so many people tell me they couldn't seem to connect with the church or have the same depth with people as they once did at their old church, in their former city, or in the previous season. The hard truth is that it won't ever be what you expect it to be. The people you grew up with, the church you went to in college, the friends you had since youth group- those aren't the people who are currently at your church. The new relationships you form in your current church can't compare to the ones you had invested years in. Lay down the expectations and the comparison, and start fresh with the people who are present in your church right now.

3. Go deeper with discipleship and membership.

In any relationship, small talk isn't what bonds two people together. Acquaintances become friends who become like family through deeper conversations, time well spent with one another, and sharing life together. The same goes for the church and your relationship with it. If membership classes are offered, take them and get to know the heart and vision of the church. If [discipleship](#) is given, whether formally or informally, by leaders in the church (not just the pastors), take advantage of it. Go deeper, and you will reap the benefits of doing so.

4. Take initiative.

A year ago, we moved across state lines, and I found myself having to start the process again. A new church. Completely new people. The loneliness. The ache for home. But one thing I decided to do this time around was to take the initiative and be proactive in asking people to coffee or a meal so we could get to know one another. I questioned whether I should be so eager, but now that a year has passed, I can say it was worth the awkwardness to have the connections I've made so far.

5. Be vulnerable.

Struggle is humankind's common denominator, and sharing about our struggles helps us stand on even ground. You will need wisdom to know which spaces and relationships are safe. It takes guts to share your story and be vulnerable, but when you take the risk to do it even when you're not 100% sure the other will receive or reject you, you open the door to experience community and love lived out. *(Cont. on pg 4)*



(Cont. ...)

6. Don't put all your community eggs in the church basket.

I often hear people tell me they're lonely in the church, but what I see beyond that is that they're lonely in their lives. They come to church hoping to fulfill all their friendship and community needs, but doing so causes them disappointment because the expectations were too high. Search for community and new friendships inside the church *and* outside of it. Enrich your life with people in different life stages, from different cultures, different ethnicities. You might find them in your church, but you can also find them at your kids' school or in your neighborhood. Invest in relationships in various spaces in your life.

7. Serve.

Once you're familiar with the vision and heart of the church, once you're committed for the long haul, the next step would be to serve. Look for the areas of need. It may or may not be voiced by the leadership, but see where you can volunteer your time and energy for the building up of the church. The area of need may coincide with your gifts and talents, but often it won't. Learn to be faithful, learn to serve together on a team, where you might find people with the same passions and visions as you do. Don't underestimate the bond that can be formed when people come together to work toward the same goal.

8. The responsibility is on you.

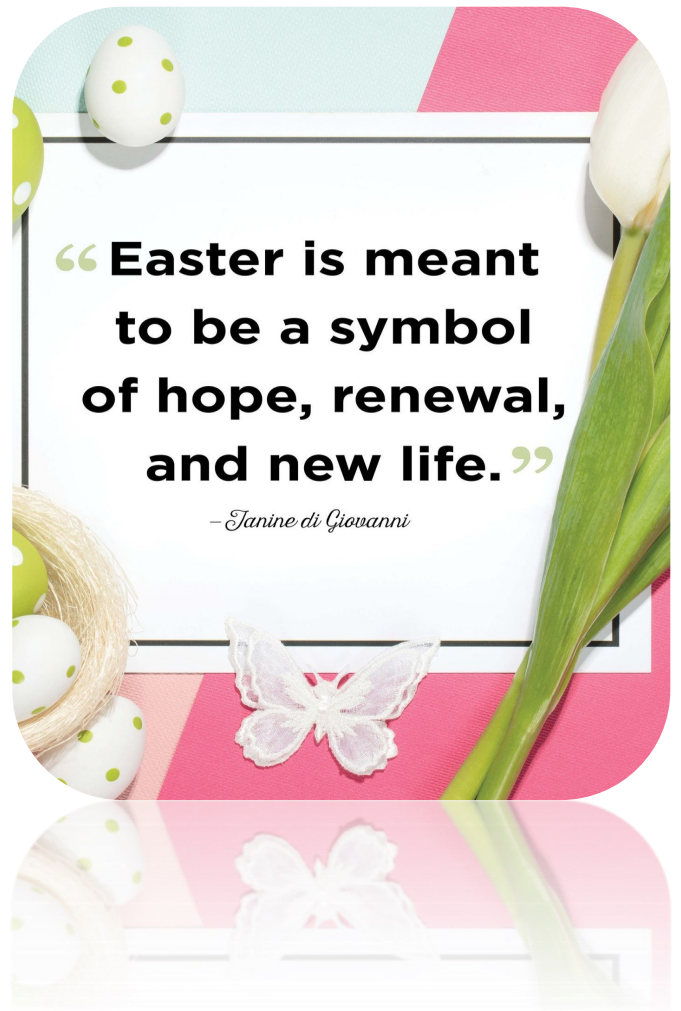
Your church can have all the small groups, programs, and retreats, but building community eventually boils down to you- your commitment, your investment. It's easy to point the finger to the leaders, and in some cases, they may be at fault. Perhaps in your experience, it *has* been their fault. Nonetheless, make sure you've done your part in developing the bonds for community.

9. Know your season.

Some seasons are rich with deep friendships, and some seasons aren't. God might be drawing you into a wilderness where you can't seem to connect deeply with anyone both inside and outside the church so he can develop your intimacy with him. Ask the Lord and evaluate what season you're in. One thing is true in any season of life: he knows you, he sees your needs and aches, and he is with you.

10. Pray and assess.

Assess your heart and see where your loneliness or disconnection is coming from. Pray and ask God to reveal it to you. Assess the church. Perhaps it isn't the one to be at for this season or perhaps it is. Pray and stay or pray and go. Through the wisdom of your trusted loved ones and through prayer, God can show you the answer. He made us for community, and He desires to put us in community, so don't settle for loneliness. Listen to His direction, do the hard work of building relationships, and plant yourself for the long haul where He places you.



And be not conformed to this world:
but be ye transformed
by the renewing of your mind,
that ye may prove what is that good,
and acceptable, and perfect,
will of God.

Romans 12:2





Noisy Offering for February & March will be collected for:
The Pipestone County Food Shelf

The total amount collected thus far is: **\$381.68.**

For the month of March, there will be a match for the funds raised so you can DOUBLE your donation!!! THANK YOU for all you give!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THESE IMPORTANT OUTREACH NEEDS.



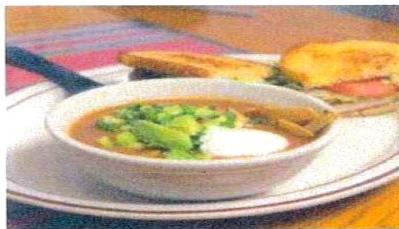
**HELP FEED MINNESOTA
FAMILIES & END FOOD
INSECURITY**

**PLEASE JOIN THE MARCH CAMPAIGN
FEBRUARY 26 THROUGH APRIL 6, 2024**



A FOOD SHELF

CAN TURN YOUR \$1



**INTO
2-3 MEALS**

STRETCH YOUR DONATION

**DID YOU KNOW? IN 2023, THE PIPESTONE
COUNTY FOOD SHELF PROVIDED ENOUGH FOOD
FOR 276,764 MEALS**

**DONATIONS CAN BE MAILED TO:
PIPESTONE COUNTY FOOD SHELF, INC.
223 2ND STREET N.W.
PIPESTONE, MN 56164**

**The Pipestone County Food Shelf, Inc. is a 501(c)3 corporation.
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider"**

February 2024 Offerings

Weekly Offering – February 4th	
Weekly Offering – February 11th	
Ash Wednesday Offering – February 14th	
Weekly Offering – February 18th	
Lent Wednesday Offering – February 21st	
Weekly Offering – February 25th	
Lent Wednesday Offering – February 28th	
TOTAL OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY:	

Now there are THREE METHODS to use Simply Giving:

- 1) Your church offerings can be made weekly, every other week (bi-weekly) or monthly automatically through electronic funds transferred from your checking or savings accounts.
- 2) To the right is a Quick Response (QR) code. When you scan the QR code image with a smartphone's QR decoder, it will instantly connect you to the mobile version of the church's Vanco/Simply Giving offering site. Just follow the directions on your screen.
- 3) Be watching of some other options as they become available.
- 4) Good ol' offering envelopes.



THANK YOU for all you give to First Lutheran and it's ministries!

Christian stewardship involves the faithful management of all gifts God has so generously given us including accumulated, inherited and appreciated resources. Creating a new endowment fund or contributing to an existing fund is a diligent way to ensure these gifts continue in perpetuity and the legacy of the giver lives on forever. Gifts of cash; partial or full value of securities, stocks and bonds; personal property or real estate; life insurance policies; trust agreements; or charitable gift annuities are some examples that can be used to fund a new or existing endowment. The principle amount given from any of these assets is always retained with only the earned income used to meet the endowment's stated objectives thereby making the gift perpetual. Please contact your estate or financial planner or First Lutheran Church's endowment committee with questions.



FLC 1-3-24 Council Meeting Minutes

7pm Fireside Room

Members in Attendance: Craig, Thad, Pastor Ann, Ingrid, Lori, Cristy A., Marit, Kristy H. (Mara, Mike Absent)

I. Call To Order at 7:32pm by CT

A. **Devotions** by CT on faith through trials

B. **Treasurer's Report** by Thad: discussion on Crossroads bill for baptismal candles and inserts, attendance is up 25% over 3 years and giving is down 16%, we like the new front page of financial report showing important account activity and fund balances, Lori mentioned that the Stewardship report "other offering" category is now working correctly-noisy offering used to be bulked into monthly offering amount but should be listed separately-could explain why "giving" seems down weekly as it's being pulled out and reported differently now, God's Gifts and God's Barnyard are the same thing-Kinner wasn't aware is will update financials to reflect this, last month question about Pastor's professional development came up and was found out that Kinner's fees were being dropped into this category-Lori suggests yearly meeting with Kinner and church to discuss categorization of expenses so it is more clear-this was never done when we switched from in-house treasurer to Kinner November 2022

1. Motion to approve by Cristy A., 2nd by Nicole unanimously approved by voice vote

C. **Secretary's Report**, no discussion

1. Motion to approve by Cristy A., 2nd by Kristy H., unanimously approved by voice vote

D. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor read highlights from her typed report, mother's hip surgery went very well, still doesn't plan to need to leave to help with her recovery, asked if we should change the date of council meeting from Ash Wednesday..should we meet on Feb 7th instead? Consensus to keep it at current date 2/14 at 7:30pm

E. **President's Report:**

1. Nominating Committee: every committee is working on getting new members and Kristy is the only outgoing member and she is working on finding her replacement, Adult Ed council rep, and a VP
2. Finance Committee: met last week for 2 hours, Craig sent the budget with them and they are going to meet again for new ideas; they make recommendations and those come to the council for approval; Craig feels this committee will be very helpful for the depth of knowledge; council needs a budget approval meeting before the annual meeting

F. **Committee Reports** - Round Table

1. Sunday School: post-Christmas pizza and games part tonight, singing Sundays are scheduled for the rest of this school year, compliments conferred on a great Christmas program and the new costumes; week before Ash Wednesday combined confirmation and preschool-age to review the 10 Commandments together
2. Worship: meeting 1/4/24 to finish un-decorating and plan Ash Wednesday, plus finish decluttering

upstairs room

3. Congregational Life: planning a Bowling Party party for January 28th, 11:30 since it is the annual meeting, 3rd-5th grades are singing, and a baptism that day; planning Great Bear tubing for mid-Feb (TBD, not the 11th) and make it family-oriented
4. Youth: this coming Sunday is the youth Christmas party, Feb. 11 Paint, Pop, and Prayer
5. Mission and Outreach: Good Gifts offering over \$2000 and Confirmation/SS will choose from the catalog what to purchase this month, next month/January is Pipestone Crisis Center for noisy offering, Lent will be personal care kits
6. Property Management: Mike absent and this was their usual meeting night, so no report
7. Adult Ed-Pastor speaking on behalf; Pastor said the Christmas Bible Study went well and they are planning 4 week studies at a time with breaks in between, topics and times TBD

G. Old Business-Bulk Mailings

1. Barely any bulk mailings anymore (The VOICE isn't, Kaffi Ti, Meatball Supper, ?), so not really cost effective; discussion to let permit expire and can change our minds later; would need to purchase scale, printer, labels and ~\$20/month fee for the program subscription, Lori volunteered to watch prices for printer to get best deal; permit has expired as of December and fee is going up; Cristy motioned to get rid of bulk mailing; 2nd Kristy, unanimously approved by voice vote

H. New Business

1. Finances going into 2024

a) Budget Shortage-a sweep is set up to transfer funds from reserve to general to cover expenses; on average we are in a \$3000 deficit; amount needed monthly is \$19,829 (amount in bulletin hasn't been updated since 2018...out of bulletin until new budget approved at annual meeting; will be a COVID employee retention check coming sometime this year for \$11,000.00...no specific date; the fairstand insurance checks were deposited in general and was used to cover deficit-should have been put into reserve but would have been swept anyway; discussion on band-aid vs fixing; can't cry wolf when funds are sitting in other groups...but that is reserve; discussed "appropriate" balance groups should have....spit-balled

\$13,000 specifically for SS through discussion as an example; didn't see the October or December giving spikes for tax purposes this year

(1) Cristy motioned to put the COVID check when it comes into the reserve; 2nd Nicole; unanimously approved by voice vote

b) Dalin Trust Check-\$17,738.51 in the safe in the office; get the check yearly @ end of December for 10 years...started in 2022; this is undesignated so up to council to spend; Cristy motioned for the Dalin Trust check to go into the general fund; discussion to put it into reserve instead as it is a savings account; Cristy withdrew motion; Kristy H. motioned to put it in reserve; 2nd Cristy A. unanimously approved by voice vote

c) Fairstand profits-discussion that since the fairstand is now more of a congregational effort vs. youth, put the profits into the reserve; what if it's split between reserve and youth as we still encourage the youth to work? **Tabled for later**

d) Youth and Sunday School Money: Youth has \$10,000 and SS has \$9,600, - \$3,320.42 to Youth, SS, Men, and Women was received today from Olga Fund money; possibly asking these groups to give to the reserve; will bring to their committees about giving now or holding until absolutely needed as

these accounts are a 2nd reserve/emergency fund of sorts; general consensus to hold for now, but be ready

e) How do we increase giving?

- (1) Simply Giving-Lori sees in office if a scheduled payment isn't made/rejected; if it happens twice, she contacts them to inform them...have people set end dates for their auto payments? Make people aware? Encourage people to re-evaluate the amount given as circumstances change; have a council rep sitting outside meeting with paper enrollment forms--can be one time or recurring; church is covering CC fees...maybe encourage upping amounts
- (2) Should we send out financial statements more than yearly, as is done currently?
- (3) Craig has a letter typed to send out explaining deficit
- (4) Kristy suggested matching from Kaffi Ti funds what congregation gives
- (5) Need to revamp the Simply Giving as it's been 7-8 years since this started
- (6) Starting 1/7/24 council members who are able will be in the narthex with Simply Giving forms during Coffee
- (7) Start Temple Talks about why we give to church and how (electronic, in-person, split, noisy); Craig planning to 1/7 during church
- (8) Goal to get double or triple current electronic giving as it is very low....that would cover the bills and anything in the offering plate is "gravy"
- (9) Green sparkly bucket in front that kids put into every offering time to get them excited and teach giving?
- (10) Have kids pass buckets similar to noisy offering but for general offering
- (11) Tell the story of making this a place for the children to have a future spiritual home; this is their home and it needs to be here when you need it years in the future
- (12) Even small amounts like \$5-10 monthly from the people currently not giving would be monumental
- (13) Texting vs. email/mailings? Lori can do SMS from MailChimp
- (14) Neighborhood groups talk about church
- (15) Ask individuals point blank for donations (reference to 90s, \$30,000 loan that was paid off speedily when individuals were flattered to be asked)
- (16) In-kind donations; non-monetary gifts to offset expenses
- (17) Gifts of time/assistance/help
- (18) If you don't give or attend, why are you still a member? This is your church...how to reach them. Not a ton of members transferred out in the last year...some have gone to another church and that church won't ask for their papers. SUMMARY: focus right now on simply giving after church every Sunday in January, get info out to congregation about situation (Pastor and Craig), council members get ready for a Temple Talk about why we give monetarily and of our time and find one more person willing to do so; could be recorded and not live if people are more comfortable

II. Conclusion

1. Next meeting regular meeting will 2/14/24 same place, same time
2. Devotions for February will be Cristy A.; will need to plan rest of the year devotions calendar at next regular meeting
3. Adjourned at 9:22 pm by Craig



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

January 28th, 2024

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 10:35am by council president, Craig Thies. Pastor Ann led the devotion and hymn.

Quorum Verification: 48 members were present.

Minutes from the 2023 Annual meeting were reviewed.

Craig talked about the formation of a Finance Committee to help with setting up a budget and help with church finances. This committee will consist of past council presidents and include Nancy Johnson, Bob Douty, Mike Straw and Chuck Sendelbach (from the Endowment committee). There may be some additional people added.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Liaison, Thad Reinert, was not present. Craig gave a summation of the current financial situation and the drop in giving/offering. He has people looking in to adding more options for giving – i.e.: Venmo, PayPal as well as encouraging Simply Giving through Vanco or by going through a direct deposit from individual bank accounts to the church. Encouraged young families to give what they could. Also working on sending out Giving statements on a more regular basis so members can monitor their giving throughout the year.

The council is also working with the church accountant, Kinner & Co to make sure all bills have a category assigned to them rather than getting lumped into a Miscellaneous category. Helps with seeing where money is being spent. The council will also be requesting more detailed financial reports as well.

Budget for 2024:

A budget summary was listed in the Annual Report. A detailed budget was available for members if requested.

A motion was made for budget approval, motion seconded and approved by verbal vote from present members.

Election Ballot:

Craig asked for any additional nominations from the floor – none were given. Motion made to accept the ballot as presented, motion seconded.

Adjournment: Motion made for adjournment; meeting adjourned at 11:05am

Lori Ilse – fill-in secretary

Church News & Events

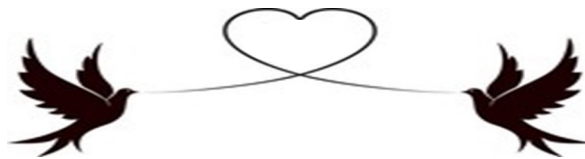


† In loving memory of Carol Foss, who passed away on February 5th, 2024. Carol's visitation & funeral were held at First Lutheran on Friday, February 9th. We keep her husband, Darrell and their family in our prayers.

† In loving memory of William 'Bill' Sorenson who passed away Saturday, February 24th, 2024. Bill's visitation & funeral will be held at Hartquist Funeral home on March 15th. Visitation begins at 10am with the memorial service beginning at 11:00am.

† We also send condolences to the family of Creighton & Tanya Schroyer on the passing of Creighton's dad, Richard 'Chuck' Schroyer. Chuck's parents were Mark & Hazel Schroyer who were members here at First Lutheran.

Sending all of these families our deepest sympathy and prayers of comfort.



Congratulations

To Brittney Reinert & Jaydon Gorter who were married February 23rd.

Thad & Debbie Reinert are Brittney's parents.

God's blessings to you all!





Make sure to join us for Fellowship in the Narthex after worship every Sunday!! It's a great time to visit with visitors to our church as well as other members. If you would like to bring goodies to pass or help serve, there are sign-up sheets in the Narthex or you can contact Lori in the office!!



Are you looking for a great gift idea for a wedding or a shower gift?

We have beautiful quilts and sturdy jean rugs for sale here at the church. The rugs and quilts are displayed in the Fellowship Hall so stop in and take a look! Quilts are \$50 and rugs are priced on their individual tags.

DON'T FORGET: We also have our church cookbooks available for \$5.00!

Payments can be made to FLCW and put in the office mailbox.

Open Radio Slots for 2024

April 7th
April 28th
May 12th
May 19th

June 30th
September 1st
September 15th
October 13th

October 20th
December 15th



If you would like to sign up for any of the open radio sponsorship slots, please contact Lori in the office or go to our website for the link to get signed up. Radio sponsorships are \$58.00 each and are a tax-deductible donation on your yearly contribution statements.

THANK YOU for your support of this important ministry here at First Lutheran!!!!



Don't forget to set your clocks AHEAD 1 hour on Saturday night (March 9th)!

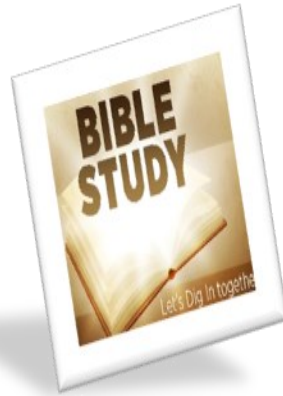
Spring will be here before you know it!!

Are you looking for a Bible Study or even some resources that you could use from our Church

Library? The Adult Education Committee has shared a link for some good religious resources below. More links and resources will be added as we look down the road.

www.VisionVideo.com

If you are interested in a specific topic that you would like to see for a Bible Study, contact Pastor Ann, Robert Baerenwald or Diane Leslie and give



them some ideas on what you would be interested in.

Bible Studies are a such a great way to explore the Bible and how to use it to understand the meaning behind the Scriptures and writings not to mention how you can apply the writings and preachings to your daily life.

We hope you can join us for some wonderful fellowship and discussion in the near future at a First Lutheran Bible Study!

VISITATIONS

If someone is ill or in need of a Pastoral visit, please call Pastor Ann or contact the Church office @ 825-5837. Please remember the following First Lutheran Church members in your prayers, send them a card, or stop to visit them.



Remember Our Homebound Members

Kay Buranen & Joyce Kunz	Good Samaritan Communities, Pipestone
Darrell Foss	Good Samaritan, Sioux Falls
Janice Harkema	Pipestone Hospice Care

Community Events

◀ March 2024 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 HPI Used Book Sale Pipestone Ambulance Association DRIVE- THRU Annual Chili & Soup Feed
3	4 Museum Spring Rummage	5 Museum Spring Rummage	6 Chamber Ribbon Cutting & Coffee	7	8	9
10 Omelet Breakfast	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Chamber Ribbon Cutting, Ambassador Visit, & Open House	19	20	21	22 Children's Theater	23 Children's Theater
24 Children's Theater	25 Pheasants Forever 39th Annual Banquet	26	27	28	29	30
31 Easter						

Be sure to check the Pipestone Area Chamber website for any updates to their calendar!

<https://business.pipestoneminnesota.com/events>



F.L.C.W News & Activities

March 2024

Dear FLCW,

Waiting for winter to remind us that it is winter but enjoying the spring-like weather now!



We had a good meeting on Thursday, Feb. 29th - celebrating Leap Day 2024. Our next meeting is tentatively set for Thursday, March 21st at 9:30am for morning coffee. Bring something if you wish. The lesson will be "Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith-Rivers" in the March/April Gather magazine. You should have already received it!

During the Lenten season, we are collecting items for the Personal Care Kits. Items needed are:

- ◆ 1 bath towel
- ◆ 2 4-5oz bars of soap
- ◆ 1 adult-sized toothbrush
- ◆ 1 sturdy comb (wide-toothed preferred)
- ◆ 1 metal nail clipper

There is a purple tote in the Narthex for collecting these items. Completed kits will be assembled and given to Lutheran world Relief. The need is great for these kits.

On April 20th, we will be serving coffee at the Jasper ELC for the Shetek Conference Gathering for Women of the ELCA. The speaker is sharing information on Human Trafficking. Yes, it is here in our area! The poster about it will be arriving soon. We need 4 coffeecakes for the event. Someone will be able to deliver them on the 20th. We need 3 people to help serve also. Let me know if you can help.

The Shetek Quilt Auction will be Friday & Saturday, June 21st and 22nd, 2024. We will be donating denim rugs and possibly other items. If you have something to donate, please let me know. May 1st is the deadline if you want them included on the Shetek website for preview.

Quilting will be held on Thursday, March 14th & 28th beginning at 9:30am. The 28th date may be changed due to that falling in Holy Week (Maundy Thursday). We are busy getting quilts ready for graduates and buyers.

I celebrated the 20th anniversary of my cancer surgery on Feb. 19th!! THANK YOU for accompanying me on this journey. I remember many kindnesses you did for me and my family. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!! I am thankful every day!

See You in Church!!

Kristy

Shetek Happenings

14 Keeley Island Drive
Slayton, MN 56172
507-763-3567
camp@shetek.org
www.shetek.org

March 2024



Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Happy Easter!

Tapping Trees for Sugar Bush

Wish List

- Glue and Glue Sticks
- Extension Cords
- Volunteers
- **Summer Staff** -
<https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

Mark your Calendar

- March 15-16 Confirmation Retreat
- March 24 Sugar Bush Pancake Breakfast & Square Dance
- April 19-20 Confirmation Retreat
- April 22-25 Quilt & Craft Retreat
- Register at shetek.org or

Call 507-763-3567 for more information

We met our Phase 1 goal! \$1,627,000 in gifts and pledges! Our challenge goal is \$2,000,000 and with increased costs, our budget has changed for our different phases. More info on our website. <https://shetek.org/slm-master-plan/>



Help send kids to Camp...Become a Pelican Club or Timber Society member today. Pelican Club members support the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a year and Timber Society members give \$500 or more a year. Thanks for your support!



SUGARBUSH SUNDAY

Pancake Breakfast & Square Dance!

CELEBRATE SPRING WITH US!

Sunday, March 24th, 2024
Breakfast: 9:00am-12:30pm
Square Dance: 1:00-2:30pm

Come and join us for a day of pioneer fun at Lake Shetek! Free-will donation pancake breakfast followed by a traditional square dance - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Proceeds benefit our maple syruping programs here at camp!

www.shetek.org/go/maplesyruping/

 507-763-3567

 14 Keeley Island Dr. Slayton, MN 56172

 katie@shetek.org

March is here and it's Time for our
CONFIRMATION RETREAT!!!

The Confirmation Retreat at Lake Shetek is
planned for

Friday, March 15th to Saturday, March 16th.

Tentative depart time on the 15th will be at
5:00pm and we should be back by 7:00pm on the
16th. Pastor Ann will be sending out more in-
formation as the date gets closer!!!



Parents of graduating 2024 Seniors - as May gets closer, we will be looking for some photos of your graduate for our Graduation Sunday service. We would like to get a baby/baptism picture as well as a Senior picture for sure. If you have a pic of one of their favorite activities or a family pic, that would be GREAT!!!! No more than 4 pics per graduate please! Be watching for more information to be on our Facebook page or under the Youth activities tab on our website & here in The Voice.

REMAINING SINGING DATES FOR **L.I.F.T. KIDS AND LITTLES**

Just a quick date reminder for parents of our little members.

~**Sunday, March 24th** - LIFT Kids (gr 3-5) will be singing for Palm Sunday. We will also have a PALM PARADE for all the kids (big & little) as Shetek will be leading us through worship for Camp Sunday that day as well!

~**April 14th** - the LIFT Littles (PK-2nd gr) sing at 9:30am worship

~**May** - all LIFT students will be singing for the LIFT Finale plus a party following worship, time TBD.

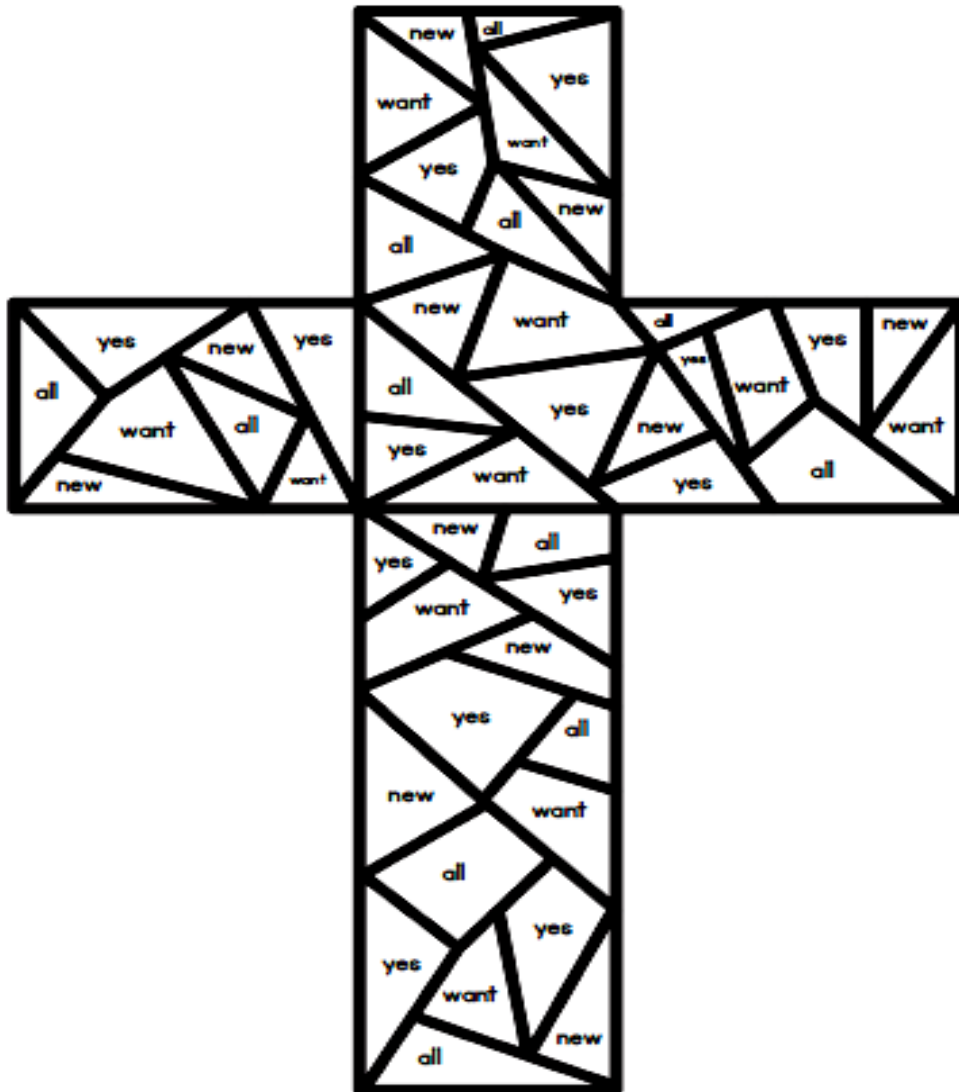




Every Child is designed by
God to be a leader!!

Color By Sight Word

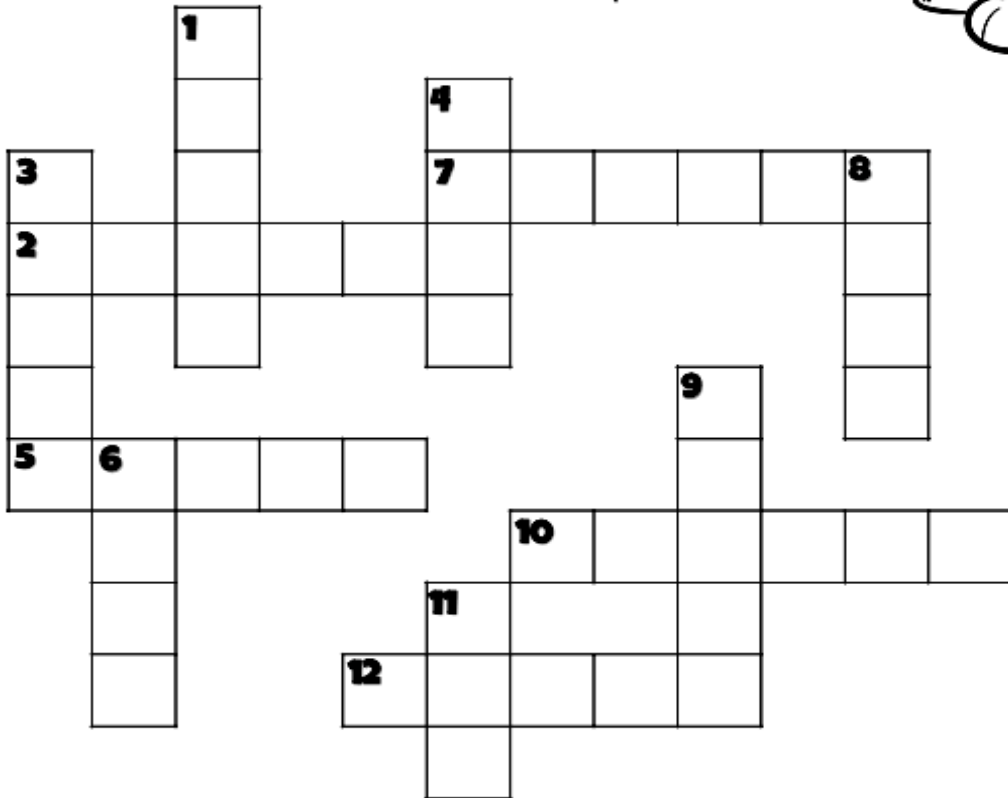
Use the code to color the cross.



new = purple	all = red
want = blue	yes = yellow

EASTER BIBLE CROSSWORD

Use the clues below to complete the crossword



DOWN

1. Jesus died on the...
3. Who rose from the dead after 3 days?
4. She looked in the tomb to find it empty.
6. Another name for grave is ...
8. Jesus died for our ...
9. With what was Jesus' side pierced?
11. Another word for weep is ...

ACROSS

2. The holiday we celebrate for Jesus rising.
5. What covered the entrance of the tomb?
7. Messengers from heaven?
10. What did they place on Jesus' head at the crucifixion?
A crown of ...
12. What symbolized Jesus' body during the last supper?



March 2024

Worship Assistants

Date	Worship Time	Reader	Acolytes	Communion Assistant(s)	Ushers *(captain)	Sound
3-3-2024 *Holy Communion	9:30 a.m.	Dave Dulas	Tommie Chaulsett	Dave Dulas	*Steve Werner (cpt) ~Neil Johnson -Jim Hartke -Mastbergen family	Mark Zinnel
3-6-2024 Lent	5:30 p.m.	Acolytes: Aubrey Brockberg Ushers: Troy & Tommie Chaulsett Greeters: Josie Danks & Zack Sneller				Mark Zinnel
3-10-2024 *Holy Communion	9:30 a.m.	Debbie Reinert	Tommie Chaulsett	Tami Taubert	*Steve Werner (cpt) ~Neil Johnson -Jim Hartke -Mastbergen family	Jason Weber
3-13-2024 Lent	5:30 p.m.	Acolytes: Kendyl Houselog Ushers: Bryer Evans & Oliver Sterud Greeters: Coral Dengler & Kale Mastbergen				Mark Zinnel
3-17-2024	9:30 a.m.	Lori Ilse	Oliver Sterud	—	*Steve Werner (cpt) ~Neil Johnson -Jim Hartke -Mastbergen family	Mike Straw
3-20-2024 Lent	5:30 p.m.	Acolytes: Coral Dengler Ushers: Zack Sneller & Josie Danks Greeters: Aubrey Brockberg & Bryer Evans				Mark Zinnel
3-24-2024	9:30 a.m.	Gen Velde	Kale Mastbergen	—	*Steve Werner (cpt) ~Neil Johnson -Jim Hartke -Mastbergen family	Mark Zinnel
3-28-2024 Maund. Thurs	7:00pm	Acolytes: Kale Mastbergen Ushers: Oliver Sterud & Kendyl Houselog Greeters: Zack Sneller & Troy Chaulsett Communion Assistants (adults):				Mark Zinnel
3-29-2024 Good Friday	7:00pm	Acolyte: Usher: Greeter: Lights:				Mark Zinnel
3-31-24 Easter	9:30 a.m.	Lori Ilse	Kale Mastbergen		*Steve Werner (cpt) ~Neil Johnson -Jim Hartke -Mastbergen family	Mark Zinnel



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



March 4th - Kevin & Erin Musch	March 22nd - Matt & Naomi Gunnink
March 10th - Tom & Tish Abrahamson	March 23rd - Andrew & Kayla Royer
March 18th - Mark & Shannen Muller	March 29th - Steve & Lisa Sneller
March 31st - Craig & Pam Thies	

Wishing you a day of special moments for thankful remembering of all that has made your adventure of love a blessing and a joy.



March Birthdays

On your special day, you are wished all the very best, all the joy you can ever have and may you also be blessed abundantly today, tomorrow and the days to come!

March 1st	Remi Wade	March 16th	Madison Gunnink Jennifer Thode
March 3rd	McCaden Bieber Tom Newgard	March 17th	Grayson Weber
March 4th	Nancy Johnson	March 20th	Joyce Colvin Tom Willey
March 6th	Shannon Bouman Otto Johnson	March 21st	Tom Erickson
March 7th	Alex Abrahamson Ellianna Derby Max Taubert	March 23rd	Brenley Kendall Megan Watts
March 8th	Michelle Maschino	March 25th	Jordan Houselog
March 9th	Kay Dubbelde Lance Oye	March 26th	Melissa Burnett Leah Ference Matt Griebel
March 10th	Mikaia Alfson Maverick Burkard Darrick Baartman Janice Harkema	March 27th	Naomi Gunnink
March 11th	Carly Erickson Dylan Oye Jake Velde	March 29th	Diane Dunn Katie Johnson
March 12th	Kristy Henriksen Marvin Hilgemann	March 30th	Aaron Burnett
March 13th	Gaile Brockberg Sean Roelfsema-Hummel Mari Wagner	March 31st	Kendyl Houselog Lon Legler Teresa Staatz
March 14th	Brittany Heidebrink Lori Ilse		



First Lutheran Church - ELCA

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Phone: 507-825-5837

Email: office@firstlutheranpipestone.org

The VOICE is produced monthly by First Lutheran Church - ELCA

*We are all one body, one spirit,
compelled by Christ to share His
Word and the promise of salvation.
~Matthew 28*

Worship schedule:

- ◆ 9:30am Sundays at Church & live-streamed on Facebook
- ◆ Radio Worship Broadcast: 10:30am Sundays on KLOH 1050AM
- ◆ TV Public Access: Wednesdays @12pm & 5pm on Channel 3

Our Church Staff

Ministers

Members of First Lutheran

Pastor Rev. Ann Zastrow

Email: pastor@firstlutheranpipestone.org

Admin. Asst/Office Mgr

Lori Ilse Office: 825-5837

Email: office@firstlutheranpipestone.org

Custodians: Mark Zinnel Cell :820-2676
Home 825-2953

Melissa Burnett Cell : 215-0166

Church Office Phone: (507) 825-5837

Website: www.firstlutheranpipestone.org

Facebook:

Google First Lutheran Church - Pipestone
FB & hit the FB link on the webpage

Congregational Contacts:

****President**

Craig Thies Ph: 605-413-7247

***Vice President**

Kristy Henriksen Ph: 507-825-3122

Secretary

Karen Boehm

Treasurer Liaison

Thad Reinert

Financial Secretary

Melissa Burnett

First Lutheran Church Women:

President Kristy Henriksen 825-3122

Treasurer Carol Johnson

Secretary Darlene Muller

**First Lutheran Church Council meets on the
second Wednesday of each month
@ 7:30 p.m.**