

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Northwood, Iowa

641-324-2984

www.flcnorthwood.org

THAT ALL MAY KNOW THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST



Third Sunday in Lent

March 23rd, 2025

9:00 am

Pastor Becky Sogge

Organist/Pianist: Leila Gangstad

Special Music: Senior Choir

Acolyte: Lily Varner

Lay Reader: Stuart Anderson

Usher: Petznick family, Anderson family

Counters: Russ & Delores Knudson, Steph Perkins

Sound/Video: Camden Trenhaile, Mark Willand

Prelude:

-Leila Gangstad

Welcome – Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's
abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One, you are slow to anger and abounding in
steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love
for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you
have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical
hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though
you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant
gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the
way of the cross. **Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to
welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are
forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters* ELW 445

Greeting

p. 138

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Special Music:

Senior Choir

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

Psalms 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested

beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

The word of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Pastor Becky

Hymn of the Day*Jesus, Still Lead On* ELW 624

Reception of New Members

Prayers of Intercession

God in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Offering – Noisy Offering

Offering is received in the pews, or electronically through Vanco.

Offering Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* ELW 618

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude -Leila Gangstad

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Sunday Attendance and Giving		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Giving</u>
March 16	68	
March 9	61	\$1,106
March 2	84	\$3,740
February 23	86	\$1,335

Electronic Income	
<u>January</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
\$3,167.39	\$3,167.39

Mission Project for March
Lutheran World Relief
&
Lutheran World Hunger

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, we are glad you are here!

Join us for coffee in the Fireside Room after worship.

The beautiful Altar flowers are in memory of Bernie Van Veldhuizen whose funeral was held here at FLC on Friday, March 21st at 10:30am.

First Lutheran is looking for people who are willing to help with counting the offering after church on Sundays. We currently have four teams that rotate weekly, with two people per team. Please let the office know if you are interested or speak with Steph Perkins who is the lead counter.

Lutheran Retirement Home Annual Meeting will be held on March 27th, 6:00pm, in their chapel.

Join Gary Nerlien on Sundays in Lent for conversation about Marks of the Christian: Lenten Journey. This is a discussion based on the Book of Faith unit for the Lenten Journey (books can be ordered for 15.00, sign up in the narthex). This is a forty-day journey exploring Romans 12. Sunday mornings gatherings will be a time for Gary to lead a discussion about the mutual journey.

Troy Bachtle has decided to end his position as building manager at First Lutheran effective March 28. We are beyond grateful for his 13 years of dedication and work beyond the call of duty to First Lutheran. **In place of a fellowship event please join us in a card shower for Troy. You can drop off the cards or mail them to the church.** Thank you, Troy, for all that you have done for First Lutheran and we will see you as soon as you get back from your spring trip. — Pastor Becky

Come early – stay late on our Wednesdays in Lent. Noon worship will be followed by a soup and sandwich lunch with conversation. Evening worship will begin at 6:00pm with Soup and Sandwiches beginning at 5:00pm.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 23	9:00 am	Service with N.O.
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	DCV
	6:30 pm	J.H. Youth
Tuesday March 25	7:00 pm	AA-Al-Anon Mtng.
Wednesday, March 26	Noon	Lenten Service
	4:00 pm	Confirmation
	5:00 pm	Soup Supper
	6:00 pm	Lenten Service
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
	7:00 pm	SH Youth
Thursday, March 27	8:30 am	Quilting
	9:00 am	Prayer Group
	6:30 pm	Taekwondo
Sunday, March 30	9:00 am	Service with N.O.
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	DCV
	6:30 pm	J.H. Youth