

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Northwood, Iowa

641-324-2984

www.flcnorthwood.org

THAT ALL MAY KNOW THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30th, 2025

9:00 am

Pastor Becky Sogge

Organist/Pianist: Delores Knudson

Special Music: Senior Choir

Acolyte: Amaya Rugland

Lay Reader: Leila Gangstad

Usher: Petznick family, Anderson family

Counters: Mike & Judy Stevens, Steph Perkins

Sound/Video: Camden Trenhaile, Mark Willand

Prelude:

-Delores Knudson

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 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* ELW 807

Greeting

p. 138

Prayer of the Day

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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

JoAnn Lower

Special Music:

Senior Choir

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

Psalm 32

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

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

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe

famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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

Sermon

Pastor Becky

Hymn of the Day.....*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* ELW 608

Apostles’ Creed

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*My Life Flows On in Endless Song* ELW 763

Dismissal

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

Postlude

-Delores Knudson

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Sunday Attendance and Giving		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Giving</u>
March 23	58	\$605
March 16	68	
March 9	61	\$1,106
March 2	84	\$3,740

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, we are glad you are here!

Join us for coffee in the Fireside Room after worship.

A special thank you to JoAnn Lower for leading the Children's Sermon today.

Thank you to Church Council and Staff at First Lutheran for making work so enjoyable. Thank you to the quilters and the congregation for the kind words, cards and gifts. It's has been a blessing to have worked as the Building Manager for many years. -*Troy Bachtle*

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.

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.

Easter Breakfast

**Join us for Easter Breakfast beginning
at 7:30AM on Sunday, April 20th**