



Siblings in Christ,

When you receive this newsletter, Ash Wednesday will be just a few days away. We will begin another Lenten journey, my first as your pastor. We will be reminded of the great circle of life: that we come from the dust and that we will return to the dust. And, we will remember that death never has the final word. That new life always comes. That God provides a way when all other doors may be shut.

The world we live in today is a dusty place; it is heavy with grief, loss, death, and destruction. We are living in a time of uncertainty as what we once held to be constant continues to change—the way information is received and vetted, the way our government operates, the ways we communicate with each other across generations. This change can be unnerving and exhausting, and it can be accompanied by chaos. It is precisely in these moments we may feel overwhelmed or worn out that we can find Hope and comfort in remembering that we are beloved children created in God’s image—called to reflect God’s love for the world.

During these 40 Days of Lent, we are constantly reminded of the words in John 3:16-17: *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. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.* Jesus knows exactly what it is to be human, to live through change and anxiety, to experience joy and sorrow, to hold onto hope that future generations may live in a world more kind and friendly than the one we are in today. Our Savior came not only for us, but also for the whole world! This is incredible news because it means that there is always Hope for things to change for the better. There is Hope that our world may be transformed to reflect God’s love, grace, and abundance for all people. There is Hope that we may one day gather together at the great banquet table and share in a feast of celebration, rejoicing that death and war and hate are no more!

A powerful way we can witness that Hope here and now is by joining together as the people of First Ev. Lutheran Church this Lenten season. Here are some opportunities to lean into our community this month:

- **Sunday morning worship.**
- **Special coffee hours, including a presentation on a potential visit the Lutheran Church in Colombia - March 9, Intergenerational Bingo - March 16, and a conversation around the idea of “Blended Worship”- March 30.**
- **5:30 pm Wednesday night soup suppers, followed by 6:30 pm Lenten services including a special Holden Vespers service - March 19.**
- **March Madness watch party with games and snacks for 7th-12th graders, after school — 6 pm - March 20.**
- **“Get Organ-ized Garage Sale” - March 29.**

May we hold onto the Hope that is given to us through Jesus Christ: our Savior, Lord, and one true King.

With Grace,

Pastor D.J.



# First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – February 19, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

**Welcome and Call to Order:** President Erica Aronson

**Devotions:** Erica Aronson

**Present:** Pastor D.J. Chatelaine, Erica Aronson, Candy Herrlich, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Eric Hoversten, Tammy Fletcher, Amy Lee, Bryana Lothert, Oliver Bauer, Luke Cordes.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda with additions

## **Consent Agenda Items:**

**Secretary's Report:** Reviewed as printed in the January Church Newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** January was a strong month as far as attendance and giving. No out of the ordinary expenses in January. Tammy and Annette are working on the annual congregational report that is due to the ELCA by March 1<sup>st</sup>. \$323 was raised Souper Bowl of caring and will be sent to World Hunger. A new version of Quick books was purchased. Not going as smoothly as was hoped but hoping a new version will come out next month.

**Pastor's Report:** Continuing to make home visits. Have heard many people express gratitude for the ability to join worship online. Please continue to keep our homebound folks in your prayers, especially during these winter months. **Kenyon Community Connections:** Held open prayer time on February 4. Candle lighting, prayer jar, meditative music: 1 participant. Positive response on Facebook; Wondering about shifting the time of this/offering an open invitation for folks to come in and pray in a less structured manner—no set up or candle lighting needed. January KAIC meeting discussed fundraiser on 4/6. Most likely there will be no intern next year; thinking about what to do with the budget line. Continued work on organ fundraising opportunities to connect with the community. Attended girls' basketball game as well as KW bands performance at MMEA. Met with Pr Dustin and Pr Joe to discuss summer collaborations between churches: Summer stretch service/ learning program. In the process of coordinating a service of remembrance for the elementary school in Wanamingo-connected with area pastors & KW superintendent to begin planning. **Confirmation:** Acolytes ongoing. Students also helped with Organ Fundraiser Hymn Sing & Supper. Students learning through the Old Testament. Mentorship program to begin during Lent. **Synod events:** Cannon River Conference Assembly here on Sunday, February 16 from 2-4 pm. Bishop Hassanally will be brought forward for the assembly ballot. Thank you to participants and those who helped with refreshments. Upcoming: Council as Leaders on Saturday, March 8 from 9-3 at Trinity in Owatonna. Plan to attend if you are available. Connect with me to register. Synod assembly registration is open. We need a youth rep from First. **Life Passages:** Baptized Avery Eggert and Marshall Kaufmann. **Other:** I invite families to sign their kids up for summer camp. Bryana has more information on the options. March 2: No communion during worship (Intern Yvonne is preaching and leading worship). March 6: I am away for Continuing Ed opportunity at Augsburg. @ vacation requests for April 21-25 and August 18-23. January 16-February 19. Mileage (\$80.40) + Parking for MMEA concert (\$3.22). Total: \$ 83.62.

Motion to approve the consent agenda including mileage and expenses: Carmen/Rev. D.J./pass

**President's Report:** Erica welcomed new council members and thanked everyone for their commitment and hard work. Thank you to those who helped with the conference assembly this month. Wants to make sure everyone feels as though they can come to her and do not hesitate to reach out.

## **Ongoing Items:**

1. **Annual Meeting Recap:** Well attended. Thank you to out going committee members and those who have agreed to serve in 2025.
2. **Cannon River Conference Assembly:** First Lutheran hosted on 2/16 from 2-4pm. Bishop Regina Hassanally will be brought forward for the Synod ballot for Bishop election in May.
3. **Council as Leaders:** Registration is now open. Will be held March 8<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Lutheran, Owatonna. Connect with Pr D.J. with questions or to register.
4. **Organ Repairs Fundraising:** The February 2nd **HYMN SING** followed by Lasagna Supper raised over \$1100. 85 attended to sing and 68 stayed for the meal. Our upcoming events include: February 24th - 5pm **PRE-EVENT PULLED PORK MEAL Dinner-** at First Luth. Followed by Copper Street Band at high school 7pm. March 19 - **KW BAND Vespers Service** at First Luth. / Free will offering. March 29 - **Get "Organ"-ized Garage Sale** - Flyers have been and are available with information on how to donate. Summer events include a Progressive Patio Dinner. The committee is ready to begin writing thank you cards in March or as soon as we can receive any information at all regarding who our donors have been so far. Financially we have raised approximately \$61,000 so far and the first payment of \$15,900 was paid in January. The next payment will be due around the end of May.

**New Items:**

1. Potential Trip to Colombia: Bryana and Pr D.J. are exploring a potential mission trip to Colombia in 2026. They will host an informational interest meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>
2. Continued Community Engagement: Please continue to alert Pr D.J. of any committee events that may be happening!
3. Copy Machine: Discussion on the contract First has for copies. Usage in 2024 and potential adjustments. Reducing to a 3000 copies plan will save approximately \$66/month but still cover the average use. Will move forward with this change.

**Youth Rep. Report:** Boys & girls basketball will be starting playoffs. Wrestling team lost to Goodhue at sections, and individual sections take place this weekend. The speech team season is on-going. The high school wraps up semester this week. The KW band performance at the MMEA event in Minneapolis was a great success and the band enjoyed dinner at Bucca following the performance. Snow week will be next week and the students are looking forward to theme dress up days. The fishing club will have a start-up meeting soon. Copper Street Band came to the school and the music students enjoyed their time with them very much. They will perform a free concert for the community on 2/24.

**Committee Reports:**

FLCW- Met on 1/19. Explained Mission Action Committee=looking for more members to serve on this committee. Palm Sunday Brunch April 18<sup>th</sup> = menu: egg bake, cinnamon rolls, and fruit. FLCW served coffee and bars at the Cannon River Conference Assembly hosted at FLC on Sunday 2/16. 2025 FLCW booklet has been completed and sent out by email, let the church office know if you would like a hard copy. Upcoming events: GEV Women's Day will be March 29<sup>th</sup>. Cannon River Conference WELCA on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Vang Lutheran. Upcoming Love Day Dates: 2/27, 3/13, 3/27.

Worship/Evangelism- ongoing discussion of utilizing a more blended style of service and discussed options. Assisted Pastor DJ with Lent, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Easter service planning. Will communicate with Kaia the transition to using bread vs. wafers for communion. There will be adult forum on 3/31. Easter- Discussed option of a 1-time choir to sing, someone would need to coordinate/ lead this.

Property and Management- Committee met on Sunday February 16th. The following topics were discussed: Kenyon Area Farmers Market approved on church property for another year. Will be held 1st & 3rd Thursdays from June thru September 2025. Forward camera used to record Sunday services still on-the-blink. Fette Electronics addressing under warranty. Forest Street due for overlay paving sometime during the 2025 construction season. No assessment will be charged to adjacent landowners. Might say we're on 'borrowed time' in regards to boilers (3) used to provide our buildings with heat. Have secured estimate to replace but only as needed. Organ project going forward with a tentative June 2025 start date. Are considering steps we can take to contribute to the tear-out, improvements needed and temporary set-ups in the front of the church. Discussed the request to install a locked mailbox in place of the current one on west wall of Ed Wing entrance.

Stewardship- Participated in the "Souper" Bowl of Caring to help raise over \$300 for ELCA World Hunger. Thank you to all who contributed! Assisted in the Hymn Sing and Lasagna Supper. Helped EDYOU with delivering the "Birthday Bags" to All Seasons Food Shelf. Working with the Organ Repair Committee on Fundraisers.

Youth and Education- Built 34 Birthday Bags to deliver to the food shelf! Ed you committee met on 2/12/25, we welcomed our new members Susan H and Angie E! We discussed fundraiser options to raise money for future camps, National youth Gathering 2027, and future mission trips. March 16th Intergenerational BINGO. Thursday March 20th- March madness activity for 7th-12th graders 3pm-6 pm snacks provided. Wednesday March 26th First Communion Class will meet at 5 pm (joy room). Noisy offering will be every 4th Sunday of the month, but we would like to collect change throughout the whole month. Collection buckets will be carried around by any kids in worship to collect change every Sunday. Still in need of ONE MORE THRIVENT ACTION GRANT!

KAIC- There has been a change to the Intern supervisor to Pastor Maureen Hagen. Most of the meeting was discussion about the upcoming Soup fundraiser: April 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1:30pm, bakery auction at 12:30. Gol will be open early on Sunday for people to bring items in before service. Midpoint evaluations from the intern are due March 9<sup>th</sup>. Please let Harris or Chris know if there are any questions regarding KAIC.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees- Did not meet.

**Next Meeting:** March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm (following Worship)

**Devotions:** Tammy

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn Carmen/Tammy/pass Time: 7:36 pm

**Closing with the Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted, Amy Lee, secretary

## March Greeting from Yvonne

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Moving into March feels like a time for reflection. During the season of Epiphany, the star of Bethlehem's light has shown us who Christ is. March 2, that light radiates through Jesus and we transition to Lent, the oldest liturgical season of the Church.

Like many of you, I grew up with a certain rhythm to my Lents. Church on Sundays was joined by a soup supper and evening service on Wednesdays. Though I didn't grow up receiving ashes on my forehead, I'm remembering last year, when the pastor not only reminded me, "You are dust and to dust you will return," while making a messy cross on my forehead, but then grabbed my shoulder, looked me in the eyes, and comforted me with, "You will be raised to life!" I'm thankful to have the opportunity this year to participate in worship and reflection with Grace, Gol, and our ecumenical partners for midweek services during Lent.

Many Christians echo Jesus's forty days fasting and praying in the wilderness by "giving up" something for Lent. What would it look like, instead, to take something up? What if you memorized a Lenten hymn instead or said your childhood bedtime prayer each night? How could your outlook change if you came to midweek services or set aside a time for a five-minute devotion? Could you learn something from watching world news and praying for those in need? Whatever you are led to in this season of change and mortality, remember that Sundays aren't for fasting; they are still little Easters and meant for joy and celebration!

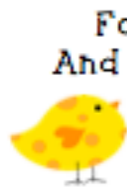
On a personal note, I'm now halfway through my intern year here in the Kenyon area. Getting to know your congregations and community has been such a blessing. Thank you for keeping me in your care!

Easter is on the horizon, beloveds!  
-Vicar Yvonne

## March Greeting for the Young-At-Heart

March

Forward, March  
And welcome Spring,  
When bunnies  
bounce  
And birds all sing!



When March winds blow  
The winter away,  
They get the world  
ready for  
April and May.

By: Helen H. Moore



# 2025 March



SEASON: TRANSFIGURATION  
(End of Epiphany) & LENT

Wednesdays-AM  
Pastor @ Text Study

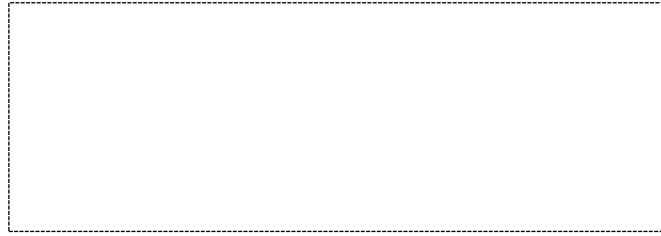
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|  |  |  |  |  |    | 1  |
| <b>2 Transfiguration</b><br>* Intern Yvonne preaching/leading<br><br><b>9 Worship</b><br><b>10 Sun School</b><br><b>10 Coffee</b>  | 3  | <b>4</b><br><br><b>12-1 Open Prayer Time-</b><br><i>In Sanctuary</i>   | <b>5 ASH WED</b><br><br><b>5:30 Soup Supper</b><br><b>6:30 Worship</b>   | <b>6</b><br>Pastor @ Continuing Ed<br><b>7 AA</b>  | 7  | <b>8</b><br>9-3 Synod Event—<br>Council as Ldrs Trinity Owatonna |
| <b>9 Lent 1</b><br><b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS</b><br><b>9 Worship</b><br><b>10 Sun School</b><br><b>10 Coffee</b><br><b>10 Interest Mtg on Visiting Columbia 2026</b> | <b>10</b><br><br><b>5 Worship Evangelism</b> | 11   | <b>12 W Lent 1</b><br><br><b>5:30 Soup Supper</b><br><b>6:30 Worship</b>   | <b>13</b><br><br><b>1 LOVE DAY</b><br><b>7 AA</b>  | 14 | 15   |
| <b>16 Lent 2</b><br><br><b>9 Worship</b><br><b>10 Coffee &amp; S/S</b><br><b>Intergenerational BINGO</b>   | 17   | 18   | <b>19 W Lent 2</b><br><br><b>5:30 Soup Supper</b><br><b>6:30 VESPERS W/KWHS BAND AT FIRST</b><br><b>7:30 Council</b> | <b>20</b><br><b>1st Day of Spring</b><br><b>3-6 March Madness Youth Event</b><br><b>7 AA</b> | 21 | 22   |
| <b>23 Lent 3</b><br><i>Bell Choir</i><br><br><b>9 Worship</b><br><b>10 Sun School</b><br><b>10 Coffee</b>  | 24   | <b>25</b><br><br><b>7 KAIC</b>   | <b>26 W Lent 3</b><br><br><b>5:30 Soup Supper</b><br><b>6:30 Worship</b>   | <b>27</b><br><br><b>1 LOVE DAY</b><br><b>7 AA</b>  | 28 | <b>29</b><br><br><b>GET ORGAN-IZED GARAGE SALE</b>               |
| <b>30 Lent 4</b><br><br><b>9 Worship</b><br><b>10 Sun School</b><br><b>10 Coffee/Adult Forum on 'Blended Worship'</b>  | 31   | <b>APRIL THINGS</b><br>SAT 4/12 <i>Waffle Feed Fundraiser for KWHS Choir</i><br>Sun 4/13 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b><br>THU 4/17 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b><br>FRI 4/18 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b><br>SU 4/20 <b>EASTER DAY</b> |  |  |    |  |



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# MARCH

## Newsletter



IRISH  
You A  
Happy March!

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