

“February is the month of love; just look around and you’ll find it everywhere.” —Unknown



FEBRUARY THOUGHTS



THE LIGHT OF EPIPHANY stretches forward for a few more weeks before Lent begins (February 18th). Epiphany Worship themes continue to link our lives with the light of Jesus, whereupon we might ponder:

- How can each of us and our church be the “light of Christ?”
- In what way(s), small or large, is God calling you & me?
- How many people does it take to shine the light of Christ faithfully?



FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

THE “SOUPER” BOWL OF CARING refers to an organization whereby people collect monetary and/or food donations traditionally during the weeks leading up to and after Super Bowl Sunday. ALL of the money and food is then given directly to local charities of the group’s choice.

The “Souper” Bowl of Caring started in 1990 at a church in Columbia, SC, inspired by a seminary intern’s prayer to help the hungry, as the church youth enjoyed game day Super Bowl party food. This grew from 22 local churches into a national youth-led movement, now managed by Tackle Hunger, raising over \$200 million in food and funds to fight hunger. Donations will be collected in soup pots during the month of February.

“WHAT IF” everyone watching the
Super Bowl Football Game on February 8
were to donate \$5, \$10, or more
TO HELP TACKLE WORLD HUNGER?

GIVE GENEROUSLY!

Taking donations during month of February!

Proceeds will go to: ELCA WORLD HUNGER
Checks Payable to: First Ev Lutheran...for ELCA World Hunger



FOR MORE FEBRUARY EVENTS – SEE CALENDAR

FIRST EV LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – JANUARY 21, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Welcome and Call to Order: President Erica Aronson @ 7:03pm

Devotions: Brad- Matthew 23

Present: Amy Lee, Luke Cordes, Chris Cordes, Tammy Fletcher, Eric Hoversten, Susan Hoversten, Erica Aronson, Pastor D.J. Chatelaine, Brad Nesseth, Carmen Nesseth

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda. Carmen/Chris/pass

Consent Agenda Items:

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

Treasurer's Report: Thank you for the generous giving to end the year. We received a gift from the Dennison Lions. The budget report reflects our insurance payment changes to quarterly payments instead of a one-time upfront payment. We were able to return some to the budget reserve due to the insurance changes. Benevolence & ELCA hunger giving was almost \$2100 outside of our church. Total giving units dropped by 13 units from 2024 to 2025.

Pastor's Report: Thank you for your support while I was on parental leave to start the new year. I especially want to thank the exec team for your help in decision-making when it came to the December 28 service. Thanks to Erica for coordinating pulpit supply, and thanks to her and Bryana for leading Confirmation on Wednesdays I was gone. Thanks to Tammy for your work in putting the Annual Report together. Thanks to Julie Dyr Dahl for her work in figuring out the new paid leave system. And thank you to Annette for her work coordinating changes to lay-led services. In times like these, I believe we are called to lean even more into community, into care and love and kindness towards our neighbors and the world around us. I continue to pray for peace, healing, kindness, freedom for all people, and hope in our state, country, and world. I don't have much to report, other than quality family time with Baby Jack and Asha (lots of smiles, some giggles, and joy that has been brought to my life these past few weeks especially). I am grateful for the opportunity to resume the last part of my leave following the annual meeting, and I'm also looking forward to being back full-time at First. Here are some important events I'd like to share: • **THIS Friday:** Statewide Day of Prayer and Fasting for Truth and Freedom. There are many opportunities to engage on this day - talk to me if you'd like to learn more. We will be collaborating with Gol, Holden, Dale, and Grace in Nerstrand to hold a **prayer vigil at 5 pm**. Location is either at First or virtual, depending on the weather. Come with prayers for peace, hope, love, joy, kindness—whatever you are moved to pray for in these times. • **Council as Leaders is Saturday, March 14 from 9 am-3:30 pm** at St. Olaf Church in Austin. Registration cost is \$20, and it includes lunch along with the workshops. • **Cannon River Conference Assembly: Sunday, February 15** from 1-3 pm at Vasa Lutheran Church in Welch • **Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 pm**

Finally, thank you to each of you on Council for your service over the past year. We continue to carry on in ministry together, and I pray for our continued guidance by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in our life together.

President's Report: From last meeting to this meeting, I have helped with two lay led services, and I taught Confirmation last Wednesday 1/7/2026. I had found pastoral support for January and February and the January support had backed out. I was able to find a pastor for one of the services and the other there was no one available- it ended up working out ok because we had canceled a worship (that was a planned lay led worship) due to weather so we recycled that one - it was a little out of order but it worked in a pinch. Pastor Marggi will be our February Pastoral Support for 2 Sundays and then Pastor DJ will be back. I worked very hard again to fill open positions for the year 2026, I truly worked my best at this.

Approve Consent Agenda: Motion to approve the consent agenda: Eric/Carmen/pass

Ongoing Items:

1. Sanctuary Screen & Projector Research: Tammy & Ed will work on measuring the space to determine what size screens will fit best. Pastor D.J. will help determine which TV to purchase to meet our needs. Tammy and Ed are willing to go purchase & pick it up.

New Items:

1. Membership Statistics: Would like to form a separate membership review committee to work on an updated, accurate membership list. Tammy, Erica, and Susan willing to participate.
2. Open Committee Spots: VP & Secretary still are open on the ballot. Will ask for volunteers or nominations at the annual meeting; 2 of the 3 audit committee members are currently unavailable.

A motion was made to move the audit until after the annual meeting. Eric/Amy/pass

Youth Rep. Report: End of semester for 1/16/26. Winter sports, including girls and boys basketball and wrestling are on-going. KW theater is participating in 1 act play performances.

Committee Reports:

FLCW- FLCW met on 1/11/26 with review of old business and disbursements have been completed. FLCW booklet discussed and approved and Susan will update with changes. Will attempt to rally congregation members to clean kitchen vs hiring out. Planning kitchen cleaning on 2/7 beginning at 8:30 am. There is a task list available if someone wants to help but is unable to make it on 2/7. Just cross off what you complete. Limited interest in Triennial meeting due to cost. Will have bake sale during garage sale on 3/17. Appreciate supporting Love Day and quilts. Next FLCW meeting is 3/1.

Worship/Evangelism- did not meet. Communicated to brainstorm ideas of incorporating new screens in the sanctuary

Property and Management- did not meet. Snow removal is on-going. New faucet was installed in the women's restroom. The drinking fountain is here and will be installed soon.

Stewardship- Stewardship did not meet in January but plans to promote the "Souper" Bowl of Caring during the month of February. Soup pots will be set out to collect money. Proceeds will go to ELCA World Hunger.

Youth and Education- EdYou committee will be in charge of the lent soup supper on March 11th. We discussed combining a few of December's events for 2026. Also looking into a bigger popcorn machine. We are always accepting Thrivent grants. Upcoming events:

Jeopardy! Intergenerational activity 2/22/26

Caramel Roll Fundraiser begins 3/1/26

March Madness 7th-12th graders 3/19/26

KAIC- Next meeting will be on 1/27. Will try to continue ties with fellow congregations even without an intern.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees- Endowment met and granted 1 scholarship. Also granted funds toward the technology fund to be used for new sanctuary screens.

Next Meeting: February 18th Time: Following Ash Wednesday Service (approx. 7:30 pm)
Devotions: Service

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Tammy/Carmen/pass Time: 8:20 pm

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Amy Lee, secretary

February







Throughout February ...

HELP TACKLE WORLD HUNGER!

Donations are collected in soup pots.
Give Generously! Checks to: First Ev
Lutheran. For: ELCA World Hunger.

SEASON: After Epiphany – Transfiguration – Ash Wed – Lent

1 After Epiphany-4 9 Holy Communion Worship 10 Coffee 10 Sun School-Class	2 GROUNDHOG DAY 	3	4	5	6	7  8:30 Kitchen Cleaning & Fellowship Everyone Welcome!!
8 After Epiphany-5 9 Holy Communion Worship 10 Coffee 10 Sun School-Class	9 *Send a Valentine!	10	11	12 1 pm LOVE DAY	13	14 
15 Transfiguration 9 Worship LAY-LED 10 Coffee NO SUN SCHOOL 1 Cannon River Conference Assembly, Welch	16 PRESIDENT'S DAY	17	18  ASH WEDNESDAY 5:30 Supper 6:30 Worship 7:15 COUNCIL	19	20	21
22 Lent-1 9 Holy Communion Worship 10 Coffee 10 Intergenerational Activity: Jeopardy!	23 2 pm Grief Support	24	25 5:30 Supper 6:30 Worship	26 1 pm LOVE DAY	27	28

PLANNING AHEAD . . .

Consider LENTEN SUPPERS - SIGN-UP PAGE is in the church basement.

Saturday March 7  & 

All Freewill. Need help with garage sale items?
Call Susan 907-854-5959

Youth/Education March Events: 3/1/26 Caramel Roll Fundraiser begins
3/19/26 March Madness 7 - 12th Graders