

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Who is Jesus? A question that billions of people have asked for over 2,000 years. A question that people spend lifetimes trying to answer through research, writing, and teaching. A question we will reflect on together as we journey through these forty days of Lent.

There is no clear-cut textbook answer to this question because that's not how God operates and that's not what faith looks like. If faith were like studying hard for a test to make sure we had all the right answers, God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit would be limited by our own skills and capacity for imagination. We often hear the phrase that goes something like, "Every time you draw a line in the sand, Jesus is standing on the other side." This phrase is typically used for the purpose of not vilifying another person or group of people—which is very helpful especially in our current divisive climate. It's a phrase that also invites us into deeper reflection and a place where we ultimately foster empathy for the people we encounter in our lives and around the world; it's a phrase that redirects our focus from making Jesus in our own image towards being open to witnessing Jesus in the eyes and lives of others, even the people we may have counted out.

There are so many people who are counted out in our society, both in Jesus' time and now: the poor, the hungry, the sick, the mentally unstable, the immigrant and refugee. This Lenten season, we are invited to reflect on this question, "Who is Jesus?" and what it means for our everyday lives. Where have you witnessed Jesus in the face of another? What moments in your life have taught you something about yourself and God's presence in the world? Where and how might we long for Jesus to show up to make everything right?

We have ample opportunities to dive into these questions over the coming weeks. Join in a Bible Study during Wednesday Night suppers and stick around for a midweek Lenten service that is centered on the ancient practice of visio divina. Come and join in worship on Sunday mornings and see how the Holy Spirit continues to move in and through the generations who gather together. Show up in the community for events like "The Little Mermaid" musical at the high school, VFW meals and gatherings, and our Garage Sale on March 7 to look for Jesus' presence and be a presence of love, care, and support for members of the wider community. And, feel free to drop me a line or email if you'd like to chat more about this or anything happening in your life and faith journey. I continue to be thankful to be your pastor, and I look forward to the month ahead.

May Christ be with us,

Pastor D.J.



# March Madness Food Drive



The Stewardship Committee is hosting a “March Madness” Food Drive for the Kenyon All Seasons Food Shelf. Congregation members that sit on the right/south side will compete with those that sit on the left/northside.

Each item donated equals 2 points. A 3 pointer can be earned for large ticket items like paper towels or toilet paper.

March 1

Soups: tomato, chicken noodle...  
a soup that is a meal in itself; no cream condensed items.

March 8

Toiletries: full size shampoos and conditioners, body washes, toothpaste, toothbrushes.

March 15

Canned Meats/Spam; Boxed meals like macaroni and cheese, etc.

March 22

Peanut butter; canned fruits & applesauce.

Bring each Sunday or all at once. Your choice.  
Email Tanya with questions [tanya.short1988@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.short1988@gmail.com)



Rolled with LOVE by FLC Youth!

Funds raised will help support our youth with VBS, Summer camps, and NYG 2027

Perfect for Easter Brunch!



## FLC Youth Fundraiser

6 rolls \$ 12.00

12 rolls \$ 20.00

Orders due by:  
Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>

*Cash or Checks to  
First Lutheran Youth*

*Ordering sheets & payment  
envelopes found at church*

## First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes - February 18, 2026

**Welcome and Call to Order:** Eric Hoversten @ 7:27 pm

**Devotions:** Lenten service prior to meeting

**Present:** Pastor D.J. Chatelaine, Eric Hoversten, Susan Hoversten, Tammy Fletcher, Peyton Temple, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Bryana Lothert and Sherry Sathrum

**Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda with additions. Eric/Carmen/ pass

### **Consent Agenda Items:**

**Secretary's Report:** Reviewed as printed in the January Newsletter. Welcomed new secretary, Sherry Sathrum and provided input regarding duties.

**Treasurer's Report:** 2025 finished strong with giving at end of year. January giving was \$4,000.00 below this time last year possibly attributed to decreased attendance. Lenten supper donations for February will go to Souper Bowl for Caring. March donations will go to All Seasons Food Shelf as it will be Hunger Awareness month.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor DJ returned from leave this week. Recapped lay led services with input of lower attendance, possibly also weather related. Pastor DJ expressed his thanks for the efforts made by the congregation in his absence, the support of his family during this time and pulpit work of Pastor Marggi. Since return, he has made a few home visits, planned for confirmation and for church service with Annette. Collaborated with Pastor Joe (Gol) and Pastor Dwaine (Grace) to co-lead a virtual prayer vigil on January 23. Important upcoming dates:

- 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.
- Wednesday Lenten Services at 6:30 pm, supper beforehand at 5:30 pm.
- Middle/High School March Madness Watch Party: Thursday, March 19 from 3-5:30 pm
- Good Friday Service: Friday, April 3 at 7 pm at Vang
- Baccalaureate service here: Date TBD
- PTO request: June 15-25 (one Sunday): My childhood friend, Haaken, is getting married in Singapore (where he was born), and I am a part of the wedding party.

Motion to approve consent agenda Carmen/ Tammy/ pass

Eric expressed his thanks for the kitchen organization and cleaning. Adding in discussion items of Rose Fest and Kenyon Farmer's Market with reminder of upcoming garage sale and sign up for Lent suppers.

### **Ongoing items:**

1. Membership statistics: Susan, Tammy and Erica continue to work on the process and plan to "reset" this year to clarify. Synod does not provide guidance.
2. Sanctuary Screens: Tammy reports TVs for sanctuary have been purchased and will need to be mounted and a connection to a laptop. Will also need an electrician. Will mount screens first. Total cost of TVs and brackets: \$1,360.00

**New items:**

1. Farmer's Market: City of Kenyon has requested to use First Lutheran's parking lot for Farmer's Market starting 6/4- 10/1 on the first and third Thursday of month. Council approved.  
Motion: Tammy/ Carmen/ pass
2. Rose Fest: Rose Fest Committee has requested to use First Lutheran's parking lot for parking overflow for the car show. Council approved. Motion Sherry/ Bryana/ pass

**Youth Report:** Girls' basketball won playoff game on 2/17 and will play on 2/19. Boy's basketball's last season game is on 2/20. Wrestling team will compete at State on 2/25 with individuals competing in Sections this weekend. The High School is presenting Little Mermaid. March 14 is the Ed Foundation carnival. Youth gathering registration will be open September, 2026 for 2027 gathering which will be in Minneapolis.

**Committee Reports:**

**FLCW:** Cleaning crew of about 10 helpers cleaned/ organized kitchen. Collaborating with Ed You for a Help in Small Ways with a flyer - match book style - to raise funds & provide kitchen needs. March 7 (at garage sale) will have bake sale with items packaged individually- free will donation. Looking forward to Palm Sunday Brunch with next meeting 3/1.

**Worship/ Evangelism:** Did not meet.

**Property and Management:** No report.

**Stewardship:** Next meeting is on Sunday 3/15. Continue to support Souper Bowl of Caring.

**Youth and Ed:** Did not meet. Bryana shared that there will be multi-generational activity of Jeopardy 2/22. In March: will have cinnamon and caramel roll fundraiser with pick up on Palm Sunday; and will have Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday. Will participate in the March Madness event with Pastor DJ and youth. April- ditch cleaning. Rose Fest- will host movie. Committee will purchase new popcorn machine and sell old one as the old one is not big enough to meet the needs.

**KAIC:** Officers will remain the same. Will continue with fundraising.

**Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees-**Endowment has April meeting

**Decisions made:** Support Rose Fest and Farmer's Market with use of parking lot.

**Next meeting:** March 18 at 7:00 pm (following Wed Lenten service)

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn Carmen/Susan/pass Time: 8:33 pm

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Sherry Sathrum, secretary



OLD GAELIC PROVERB:  
A light heart lives longest



# March



SEASON: Lent & Palm Sunday

COLOR: Purple

<p>1 <i>Lent-2</i></p> <p>9 HC Worship 10 Coffee 10 Sun School 19 FLCW Mtg</p>	2	3	<p>4 <i>Wed Lenten</i></p> <p>5:30 Supper &amp; Bible Study 6:30 <b>Worship</b></p>	5	6	<p>7</p> <p><b>GARAGE &amp; BAKE SALE 8-12 NOON</b></p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Begins </p>
<p>8 <i>Lent-3</i></p> <p>9 HC Worship 10 Coffee 10 Sun School</p>	<p>9</p> <p>2 pm Grief Support</p>	10	<p>11 <i>Wed Lenten</i></p> <p>5:30 Supper &amp; Bible Study 6:30 <b>Worship</b></p>	<p>12</p> <p>1 pm LOVE DAY</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p>9 am –3:30 Council as Ldrs - St. Olaf In Austin</p>
<p>15 <i>Lent-4</i></p> <p>9 HC Worship 10 Coffee 10 Sun School 10 Stewardship Mtg</p>	16	<p>17 <i>St Patrick Day</i></p> 	<p>18 <i>Wed Lenten</i></p> <p>5:30 Supper &amp; Bible Study 6:30 <b>Worship</b> 7:00 COUNCIL</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>March Madness</b> 7-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE 3 - 5:30 pm</p>	<p>20 <i>First Day of Spring</i></p>	21
<p>22 <i>Lent-5</i></p> <p>9 HC Worship 10 Coffee 10 Sun School</p>	23	24	<p>25 <i>Wed Lenten</i></p> <p>5:30 Supper &amp; Bible Study 6:30 <b>Worship</b></p>	<p>26</p> <p>1 pm LOVE DAY</p>	27	28
<p>29 <i>Palm Sunday</i></p> <p>9 HC Worship 10 Palm Sun BRUNCH  Easter Egg Hunt</p>	30	31	APR 1	<p>APR 2 <i>Maundy Thurs</i> Worship 6:30 pm/First</p>	<p>APR 3 <i>Good Fri</i> Worship 7 pm /Vang</p>	<p>APR 4 <i>Easter Eve</i></p>
<p>H O L Y W E E K</p>						

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# MARCH

## Newsletter



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### IRISH BLESSINGS

*May your neighbors respect you,  
troubles neglect you,  
the angels protect you,  
and heaven accept you.*

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