

*First Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*A Member of the*  
*Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod*



# HOLY WEEK

*March 28-April 3*

**March Newsletter**



Serving Christ by proclaiming Christ crucified in the  
Minnesota North District of the LCMS

## *Pastors Corner*

As a boy growing up in southern Minnesota, I enjoyed Easter. Easter was a time marked by several Worship Services (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter). It was also a time in which I enjoyed colored Easter eggs and Easter candy. The Easter egg is an ancient symbol of new life, which for some people has been associated with pagan festivals celebrating spring. For us as Christians the Easter egg is meant to represent Jesus' resurrection. Just as a new life (a small chicken) emerges from the egg so Jesus emerged from the grave to give us "new life".

The week before Easter is known as "Holy Week", including Maundy Thursday, commemorating the Maundy, which means "command", and Last Supper, as well as Good Friday, commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus. This year we are doing something very special at First Lutheran for our Good Friday Worship Service. The Worship Service will help us to get in touch with the importance of the crucifixion and the price Jesus has paid for our sins. Plan now to attend our very special Good Friday worship Service at 6:30 pm on Friday, April 2!

In Western Christianity the Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday and lasts seven weeks, ending with the 50th day, Pentecost Sunday. In Eastern Christianity, the Easter Season ends with the coming of the 40th day, the Feast of the Ascension, when Jesus visibly ascended into heaven. Easter is a religious holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day after his burial following his crucifixion at Calvary c. 30 AD. It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus, preceded by Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.

Janelle and I have been Blessed and continue to be Blessed with the privilege of Worshipping our Lord and Savior here at First Lutheran as our time will soon be coming to a close. We will continue to cherish each moment that we have here at First Lutheran until we go out the door and return to Hibbing.

Enjoy the Blessings of Easter and the "New Life" that we have in Christ Jesus!!!

***Pastor Steve Breitbarth***



## LIBRARY CORNER FOR MARCH 2021

Greetings to our gentle First readers! As always, we encourage that you stop by and find a couple of books, and maybe a DVD, to bring home to while away the quiet cold days of winter. Please let us know if you have any books or authors to suggest we look into

getting for our library. And we'd love to receive your book reviews to add to the Library Corner.

**THE EDGE OF BELONGING** by Amanda Cox, 813.6 Cox. “When Ivy Rose returns to her hometown to oversee her late grandmother’s estate sale, she soon discovers that the woman left behind more than trinkets and photo frames – she provided a path to the truth behind Ivy’s adoption. Shocked, Ivy seeks clues to her past, but a key piece to the mystery is missing...Twenty-four years earlier, Harvey James finds an abandoned newborn who gives him a sense of human connection for the first time in his life. His desire to care for the baby runs up against the stark fact that he is homeless.” This is a dual-timeline story and it kept my interest throughout, though at times I got confused and had to do some rereading! It was well worth the time it took to read and I totally recommend this book! – *Review by Janie Carlson.*

**LEAVING NOVEMBER** by Deborah Raney, 813.54 Ran. “Faith and love triumph in this small-town story of overcoming the past and finding hope for the future. **LEAVING NOVEMBER** gently plays the heartstrings and embraces the spirit in the name of love.”

**THE CAMERA NEVER LIES** by David Rawlings, 813.54 Raw. “When Daniel inherits an old camera from his grandfather, he notices an inscription on the bottom: ‘No matter what you think you might see, the camera never lies.’ Daniel begins using the camera, but every time he develops his photos, they threaten to reveal secrets that could sabotage both his marriage and his career – and destroying the life he has worked so hard to build.” The author says that the theme of the book is about the price of accepting honesty with others and ourselves. This was a really strange and interesting book. Readers - let me know what you think. – *Review by Janie Carlson.*

**A PROMISE KEPT** by Robin Lee Hatcher, 813.54 Hat. Allison felt sure that God’s answer was yes – that He promised to heal and save her marriage to Tony. But as things got worse and Tony finally left and a divorce followed, she knew she had misunderstood what God had told her. She never could have guessed what God’s answer really was. The author adds some surprising facts at the end of the book. *Reviewed by Alice Hill.*

**SHADES OF LIGHT** by Sharon Garlough Brown, 813.6 Bro. Taken from the inside cover: “What a consolation this novel will be for those who have known the darkness! Too often

church people approach mental illness with fear, simplistic theology, and useless spiritual bromides. By telling Wren’s story, Sharon Garlough Brown instead gently welcomes us into a companionship of sorrow where we can glimpse the dark beauties of grace. There’s bracing truth here about the stubbornness of mental illness the spiritual and practical implications, the helpless ache of those who love but can’t fix. But there’s also beauty of soul which emerges for readers through Wren’s sensitive dwelling in the paintings and writings of Vincent van Goh. And as we learn to dwell in Wren’s world to enter that circle of sorrow we find at the center of it the compassionate, Gethsemane present of Christ.” Debra Rienstra, professor of English at Calvin College. *(I read this one and strongly recommend it too. – Janie)*

*“I love the way that each book – any book – is its own journey. You open it, and off you go.....” – Sharon Creech*



## **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

### **LCMS Stewardship Ministry**

#### **Newsletter article – March 2021**

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, “God’s work, done in God’s way, will not lack God’s supply.” To know God’s way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God’s Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life giving,

faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.



**MARCH 14, 2021**

## LWML Reaches 2019-2021 Mission Goal!

Sing the Doxology, “Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!” The LWML, by God’s grace, has reached the mission goal of \$2.1 million set for the 2019-2021 biennium.

This means that all mission grants selected for this biennium can be funded! God has great plans for spreading His Gospel story through those ministries. He has great plans for the 2021-2023 mission grants as well. Of the 65 completed mission grant submissions, 34 were selected for the 2021 LWML Convention ballot and approved by the LWML Board of Directors (BOD) and Presidents Assembly in January. The LWML BOD and Presidents Assembly will meet in March to approve the 2021-2023 mission goal – and after the end of the biennium (March 31, 2021) – any surplus mite offerings not given to mission grant recipients in this biennium will be added on top of the allocation for the 2021-2023 mission grants. What a joy and privilege it will be to pray, consider, discuss, and vote for those recipients!

LWML Treasurer Karla Koehler wrote, “We thank God for the many women and men who have generously shared their material blessings so that the LWML can share the love and forgiveness of Christ!” Let the trumpets sound and the cymbals crash, in praise to the Lord!



## Serving The Lord In The Ukraine News From the Beaudoin's



The new year brings so many things with it: excitement, expectations, anxiety and hopes. Some people make resolutions, plans, or changes in their lives. No matter how long or short the duration of change, it makes us grow and refocus our lives. The Ukraine mission takes on these qualities of change in the new year.

We have great excitement for 2021 for our Ukrainian mission. We are excited to announce that Pastor Fedder and his family will be joining the mission. We are anxiously awaiting their arrival as they have been greenlighted. The support we receive from you at home further excites us. We get calls, texts, and notes of support from you. Your support often comes at times when we need a boost. Thank you for this! We are excited to be planning our home service, also. We will be coming home to tour our supporting congregations and presenting to new congregations. Tentatively, this is scheduled for the summer of 2021. Kipp and I enjoy sharing how God works in our lives and for the people of Ukraine. When we got here, we only taught the church workers. Now we teach church workers, church officers, seminary students, and the people of Ukraine. There is outreach online learning with Kherson and soon other cities. We are excited for these opportunities.

In the final week of January Kipp and I were invited to the village of one of our students, to meet her family and teach English. We went to Berezhany, Ternopil and Lviv. Svetlana, our student, arranged the whole trip and showed us around Ternopil, Ukraine first. This city was very different from Odessa as the architecture was more European within the center of the city. As we walked out of the city you could see the Soviet era buildings that are nondescript in their appearance and structure. These areas were bleak and had an air of hopelessness. The people in Ternopil were extremely curious about us and wanted to know why we were in Ukraine. Sveta showed us monuments and told us all about the city. You could see how hard the people work. We have met so many talented and very bright people here. It is evident that when the Soviets left Ukraine, the very structure of the economy was ravaged. There are factories that are shutdown, and the people must go to the neighboring countries to make a good living. Here is the opportunity for mercy aid that could be done to assist people with the essentials. Here in Western Ukraine the people have a strong sense of nationality. They want everyone in Ukraine to only speak Ukrainian. Where in the eastern part of Ukraine (and Odessa) they speak mostly Russian.

The craftsmanship of the Ukrainian people is everywhere from buildings to the embroidery work. Each area has different embroidery patterns, colors, woodworking, and architecture. The people here remind us of the people of Kherson and the Midwest in the United States. They are hardworking people who take pride in their work, family, and homes. They are the salt of the earth, very generous and loving!

Andrew, Sveta's brother, picked us up and drove us to their village of Berezhany. In Berezhany we were shown the village and introduced to an Orthodox priest who did outreach to the poor and those in prison. He was willing to share information on how he got started, and how the program grew. This was very helpful as he described the pitfalls of trying to have too large of a focus. So much was done with so little money. One hundred hryvnias, which is roughly four United States dollars, can provide relief to many. He wished us well in our mission.

Andrew and Sveta took us to their grandparents' home to meet Sveta's family. Sveta's family was generous and loving. They were so engaging and excited. We talked and ate for hours! The table was set with such precision and attention to details. There was so much love in that room! Over the next days we were shown the village of Berezhany and the city of Lviv. Each day included Bogdan's (Sveta's grandfather), Anna's (Sveta's grandmother), Sveta's mother, Sveta's, and Andrew's outstanding hospitality! They invited us back for Easter to celebrate with them the Lord's resurrection and glory. We can't wait! This trip showed us the needs and desires of the people for outreach. It helped to refresh our souls and focus our efforts and plans. We are excited for what 2021 has in store for us and the mission to Ukraine.



**MEN & BOY'S FISHING** – As a result of the Covid virus, we had to cancel our trip to the NW Angle of Lake of the Woods in 2020. Young's Bay Resort graciously held our deposits for the same period this year, which is now scheduled for **June 27-30**. Because of virus concerns, the Canadian border closure remains in effect. Consequently, we don't know if it will even be open for this year's June 27-30 reservation. In the meantime, block out these dates. Contact Greg Taylor or Dick Buech if you are unable to come this year or if you would like to attend. When you get your vaccine shot, try to get documentation that you received it in case that becomes a border crossing requirement. **Also, don't buy an Ontario fishing license until it is clear the trip is on! We will hold an organizational meeting when it is clear we can go! Stay tuned!**



# Youth News



## Family News

We were able to finally have a family event at Mount Itasca in January. The weather was wonderful for this outdoor activity! We had 23 youth and 5 adults attend. The board of youth paid for all the youth to make this an affordable event for our families. The children had a great time being outside and hanging out with each other.

Youth group is only on Sunday mornings now that Lent has started. Wednesday evening youth group will start up again on April 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8. We have had children attend in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> on up. We started Wednesday evening youth group last June as a way for the youth to still be able to be with other children and hear God's Word during the pandemic. It started out with only a few kids attending and has grown over the months. The most that have attended was 17. The last series we did was on how we can have the Best Year Ever. We learned how to have the best year ever by looking closely into Joseph's life and everything he went through. The most important lessons we learned were: 1. When in doubt don't say a word. 2. Be confident but not cocky. 3. Sometimes we are put through uncomfortable situations for a better outcome. 4. How we need to lean on God when we are faced with temptation. 5. Patience is hard, but the reward is greater if we can be patient. 6. We learned how to forgive those that have hurt us, how to forgive ourselves when we do something wrong, and also ask others and God to forgive us.

In February Sunday morning youth group we watched a few movies and documentaries. One was "The Social Dilemma". It is about how social media along with big tech companies and how their algorithms work to make us addicted to social media, email, or just our smart phones. I highly recommend you watch it is found on Netflix.



We will continue with Sunday school and youth group Sunday mornings at 9:15. The Sunday School class has been learning the children's bells, they have been having fun learning! If you feel comfortable attending, we would love to have the opportunity to share Jesus' love with your children at Sunday School.



The Youth Gathering may seem so far away, but there is a lot of planning that goes into it. There is a page on our website dedicated to The Gathering. If you are unable to find the answer to your questions, be sure to reach out to me directly. We are estimating that it will cost around \$1500 per person to attend, please watch for upcoming fundraisers to help work or support the youth in this trip.



March 10<sup>th</sup> and possibly March 24<sup>th</sup> will be a soup supper fundraiser. To abide by COVID rules, the soup will be in to-go containers and served cold. This is a free will offering after the Lenten service. Youth are encouraged to help work from 6:15-8:00.

Donations of soup are needed. You may bring them in cold, but they need to be thoroughly cooked.

Please watch the announcements Sunday morning or check the website if we decide to do March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Looking ahead into the Summer we have picked a date for VBS. We enjoyed the one-day option last year and are going to do it again this year. Our prayer is to have it out at Gunn

Park on August 11<sup>th</sup>. This is on a Wednesday. The space has been reserved, but it will be up to COVID if we can make it work or not. We will need lots of adult help this year. The last three years the youth have been the primary leaders, and they need your help this year! We want this to be a

positive experience for the youth. Please start praying how your time and talents could help share the Love of Jesus with the children in our community.

The website is a place where you can go to stay updated on current events at the church. It is maintained weekly. If you have an announcement you would like on the website, reach out to me directly.

*Jessica Pellinen*

Family Ministry Program Director





## PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

Caring for Women, Men and Families

Date 17, 2021

Greetings! We trust you have found the Lord's hand at work in your lives as we surely have at



New Beginnings! We give praise to the Lord that He has been providing volunteers for the reconstruction project at our second location in Deer River and bringing things together at just the right time. If you have construction skills and would like to help, please give us a call at 218-326-0404.

We are ever so thankful for your support as we see your contributions impact our clients. You have helped us to provide 129 services to 21 clients in January. Some of those services included 11 boutique visits, 85 BrightCourse/Earn While You Learn classes and 3 ultrasounds. We want to say a big THANK YOU to anyone who contributed to the Northlands Largest Baby Shower that was promoted by Life 97.3! We were so touched by your generosity!!! We are low on Size 4 diapers and baby wipes.

The staff has a great opportunity to attend an amazing training in March. Please keep us in your prayers that we will learn all that the Lord has for us during this training. We want to be more prepared to shine God's love to each client and to teach them skills that can greatly help them in their parenting journey but also give them a hope and a future.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jigsaw Competition was virtual this year as competitors put their puzzles together at their homes. Total man hours were added up to decide winners. Visit our Facebook and Website at [www.newbeginningspregnancy.com](http://www.newbeginningspregnancy.com) for pictures. It looks like everyone had a ton of fun!

Please consider New Beginnings Pregnancy Care Center for your Thrivent Choice Dollars. "And may the Lord our God show us his approval and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful!" Psalms 90:17 NLT

Amanda Jo Grovenburg and Kathy Metzger 218-326-0404

[www.newbeginningspregnancy.com](http://www.newbeginningspregnancy.com)



To All Of Our Youth Born In



# **MARCH**

## **March 7**

### **Mite Sunday**

**8:00 a.m. Traditional Service**

**9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study**

**10:30 a.m. Non-Traditional Service**

## **March 14/ Communion**

### **Dimes For Missions**

**8:00 a.m. Traditional Service**

**9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study**

**10:30 a.m. Non-Traditional Service**

## **March 21**

### **Youth Sunday**

**8:00 a.m. Traditional Service**

**9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study**

**10:30 a.m. Non-Traditional Service**

## **March 28/ Communion**

### **Food Shelf Sunday**

**8:00 a.m. Traditional Service**

**9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study**

**10:30 a.m. Non-Traditional Service**

## **Special Lenten Services**

**March 3, 10, 17, 24**



## **Pastor Breitbarth Office Hours**

### **Tuesdays**

**March 2 - 10:00-7:00**

**March 9 - 9:00-2:00**

**March 16 - 9:00-2:00**

**March 23 - 9:00-2:00**

**March 30 - 9:00-2:00**

### **Wednesdays**

**March 3 - 11:00-8:00**

**March 10 - 10:00-8:00**

**March 17 - 10:00-8:00**

**March 24 - 10:00-8:00**

**March 31 - 9:00-4:00**

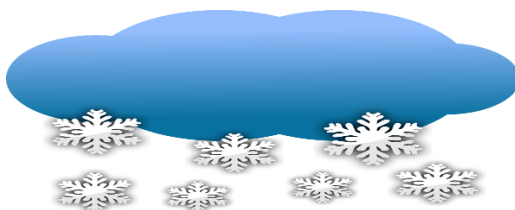




## WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

**In the event of a winter storm and worship services get cancelled, please see the policy and procedure so you can find out how to be notified.**

- 1. Call the church office to listen to the recorded message at 218-326-5453.**
- 2. Visit the website at [www.flcgr.org](http://www.flcgr.org) the announcement will be on the homepage.**
- 3. Check the Facebook page at “First Evangelical Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Grand Rapids Mn”**
- 4. Watch KBJR 6 TV- Duluth/Superior for an announcement**
- 5. An email will be sent out. If you are currently not receiving emails from the church, please contact Shirley to be added.**
- 6. A text message will be sent out if you join the “Remind” class code. “Remind” is an app found in the Apple Store or the Play Store. Once you have it downloaded you can join a class by entering in the code [@ha94hf](https://www.remind.com/join/h7ab86). If you wish not to have the app on your mobile device, you can still sign up to receive text messages by going to <https://www.remind.com/join/h7ab86>**



*“Sharing the Love of Jesus”*  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - UNAPPROVED**  
**February 9, 2021**

**Present:** Dwight Kessler, Greg Taylor, Greg Robertson, Jessica Pellinen, Les Flem, Mary Buech, Doug Carlson, Jennifer Flem, Linda Urevig

**Call to order:** Dwight K. called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

**Opening devotion and prayer:** Dwight K. read a devotion from “The Book of Mysteries” – Good will prevail over evil.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes

\*\*\*Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Consent Agenda with additions made to the Agenda (Unfinished Business (1) Strategic Planning Update; New Business (1) Needs List)

Oral Reports of Boards and Committees

1. Boards of Christian Education & Youth: Report in Packet/Greg R.
2. Board of Elders: No Meeting/ Les F.
3. Boards of Human Care & Missions: Report in Packet/ Mary B.
4. Board of Stewardship: Report in Packet/ Doug C.
5. Board of Trustees: Report in Packet/ Greg T.
6. AV Committee: Jessica P./Training Youth to do the Power Point is going well.
7. Revolving Trust Fund Committee: No Meeting/Greg T.
8. Wiebe Grant Committee: No Requests/Greg T.
9. Direction and Planning Committee: Greg T./February 7<sup>th</sup> was the first Strategic Planning Meeting.

**Family Ministry Program Director’s Report:** Report in Packet. Jessica P. stated that she is watching some State Legislative issues regarding a comprehensive sex education program in schools and legalizing abortion up to the time of birth.

**Pastor’s Report:** No Report

**Financial Secretary’s Report:** Report in Packet

YTD income 2021: \$20,473.33      YTD income 2020: \$24,087.21

**Treasurer’s Report:** Report in Packet/Jennifer F.

As of: January 31, 2021

General Fund Chkg: \$52,932.43

Building Fund Chkg: \$2,190.15

Mortgage loan balance: \$64,648.08

Revolving trust fund Chkg: \$82,235.21

\*\*\*Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept oral and written Board and Committee Reports.

**Correspondence – None**

**Unfinished Business**

1. Strategic Planning Update – Greg T. stated that there were fifteen in attendance. Very good discussion. The next meeting will be February 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30PM.

**New Business**

1. Needs List – Greg T. stated that because of an individual’s request to buy something for the church, the trustees discussed the need to compile a list of “Church Needs or Wants” as a reference for anyone wishing to give a donation or memorial gift.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03PM

The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Linda Urevig, Recording Secretary

COMING EVENTS

March 2nd – Board Meetings 6:30PM or as decided by each Board

March 9th – Council Meeting 5:30PM



# Newsletter

***Please Have April 2021 Newsletter  
Articles to Shirley  
By March 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Newsletter will be published and  
Sent out on March 21<sup>th</sup>.***

