

Sunday, February 22, 2026

9:30 AM

First Sunday in Lent

Gathered to Worship!



**To join worship on YouTube, use
the link below:**

<https://www.youtube.com/live/ObgXFHCRS8I>

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
142 North Date Street,
Mesa, AZ 85201
480-969-7221 felc@firstevlutheran.com

Pastor Luis Ochoa
480-969-7221
Pastor@firstevlutheran.com

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of \dagger Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

The assembly stands.



GATHERING SONG

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ELW 338



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

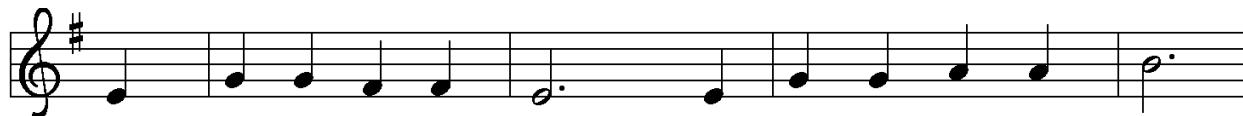
GREETING

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.



KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

God of new life,

As Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, renew and restore us to new life, leaving in the grave all that prevents us from loving you fully.

Amen.

You may be seated.

WORD

Psalm 104:27-30

²⁷ These all look to thee,
 to give them their food in due season.

²⁸ When thou givest to them, they gather it up;
 when thou openest thy hand,
 they are filled with good things.

²⁹ When thou hidest thy face, they are dismayed;
 when thou takest away their breath,
 they die and return to their dust.

³⁰ When thou sendest forth thy Spirit, they are created;
 and thou renewest the face of the ground.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

ELW page 189

Let your steady-faith love come to us, O Lord.

Let your steady-faith love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your steady-faith love come to us, O Lord.

NARRATIVE PREACHING GOSPEL John 11:1-44

The good news according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Laz'arus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Laz'arus was ill.³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it."

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Laz'arus. ⁶ So when he heard that he was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go into Judea again."⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were but now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?"⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any one walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.¹⁰ But if any one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."¹¹ Thus he spoke, and then he said to them, "Our friend Laz'arus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him out of sleep."¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover."¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Laz'arus is dead;¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."¹⁶ Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Laz'arus had already been in the tomb four days.¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house.²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."²⁴ Martha said

to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; ²⁶ he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁷ and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁸ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world.”

²⁹ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying quietly, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ³⁰ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³¹ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³² When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³³ Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was and saw him, fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³⁴ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; ³⁵ and he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁶ Jesus wept. ³⁷ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁸ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

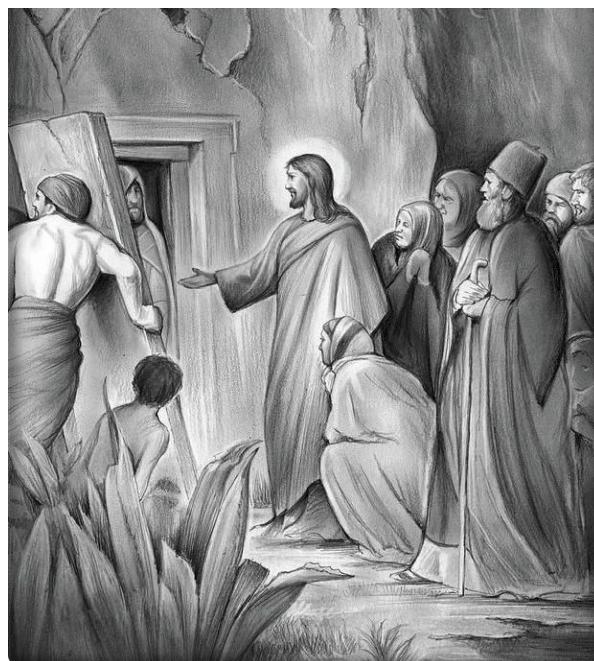
³⁹ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb; it was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. ⁴⁰ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” ⁴¹ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” ⁴² So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. ⁴³ I knew that thou hearest me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me.” ⁴⁴ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Laz’arus, come out.” ⁴⁵ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Luis Ochoa



HYMN OF THE DAY

I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the
4 "I am the res - ur - - rec - tion, . . .
5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not the hun - ger, and who be -
flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .
I . . . am the life. . . . If you be -
you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . . live for -
drink . . . of his blood, drink . . . of his
lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . . though you
Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
come in - to . . . the . . . world. . . .

Refrain
All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.....

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

..... Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

A: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us share a sign of God's peace.



ANTHEM

"Down by the Riverside"

Choir

OFFERING

THE DOXOLOGY

ELW 884

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you:

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts:

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Give thanks to the Lord our God:

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.



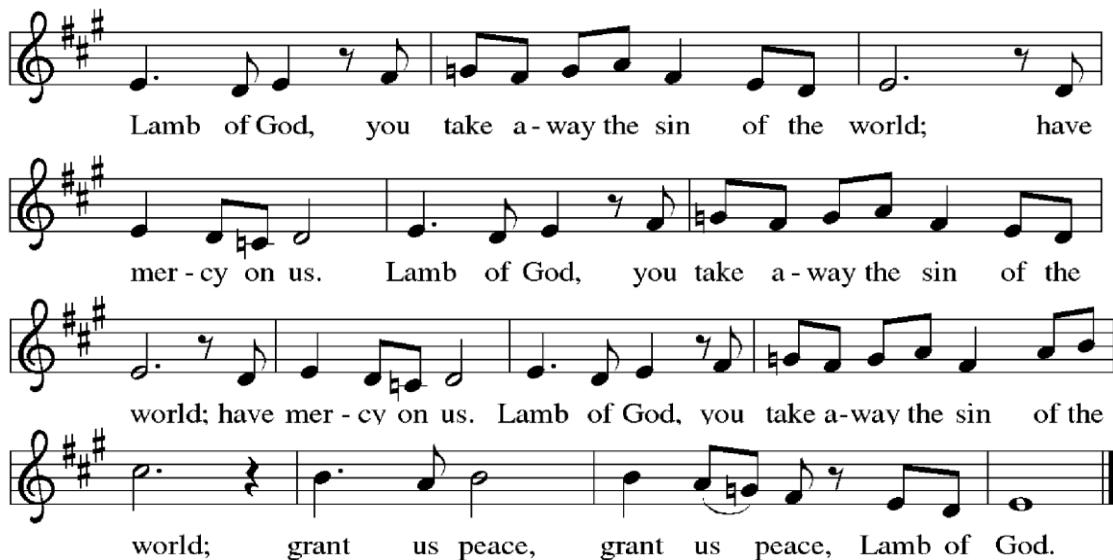
Our Father who art in heaven hallow be thy name - King - dom come - Thy will be done - on earth as it is - in heaven - thy Give us this day - our dai - ly bread and for - give us - ven our tres - pas - ses as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst - us - And lead us not in - to - temp ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from all - e - vil for Thine is the king - dom and the po - wer and the glo - ry for - ever - A - men men A - men men A - men men

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The Gifts of God for the people of God. C: **Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD

The assembly sits. We receive communion by kneeling at the altar; after receiving communion you may return to your seat.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

P: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION SONG

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all; one cup of blessing which we bless, and we, though many through-out the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

1 Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or free,
2 Man-y the gifts, man-y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,

wom-an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath-ered to one for all.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

The assembly is seated. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world. You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as officers / council members of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and may the blessing and peace of God be with you and the whole world.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

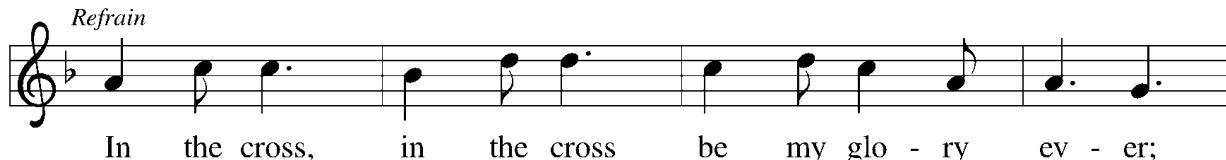
ELW 335



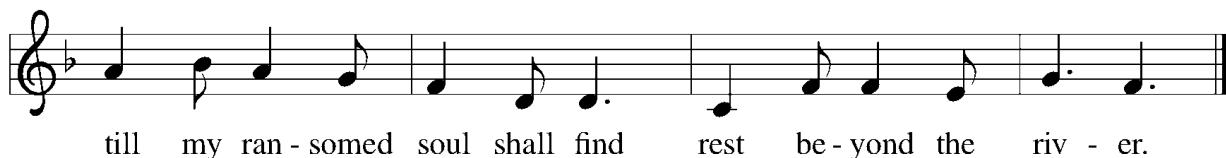
1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God!

**TODAY**

Opening Prayer: Corinne Cursi

Assisting Minister: Laura O'Connell

Lector: Evan Rogers

Communion Asst: Rick & Barbie Luxem

Altar Guild: Susan Potter

Sunday School: Susan Potter

March 1

Opening Prayer: Evan Rogers

Assisting Minister: Elizabeth Orozco

Lector: Susan Potter

Communion Asst: Traci Laasch

Altar Guild: Sharon Shields

Sunday School: Sharon Shields

Lent Season 2026



This Lent, I invite you to step out of the chaos and into a sanctuary of intentional listening. **"Frequency: Tuning the Heart Through the Noise"** is more than just a sermon series—it is a five-week sensory experience designed to help you recalibrate your spirit.

In a world that refuses to be quiet, we often lose the "still, small voice" of God beneath the static of anxiety, digital clutter, and busyness. Throughout this series, we will move through a curated **soundscape**—ranging from the jarring strike of a drum to the deep resonance of a cello—to help us name our distractions and find our way back to the Shepherd.

It Will Be A Participatory Experience

Each week, you won't just listen; you will engage. Our services will feature:

- **Physical Prayer Actions:** We will gather at the Cross to physically lay down our "noise" and vocalize our commitment to peace.
- **The Light of the Candle:** As we navigate the "hardship of silence," we will use the flame of a candle as a visual anchor to remind us that God's light reclaims the spaces where noise once lived.

The Power of Stillness: We will practice the discipline of silence together, learning that God is often waiting to speak precisely when the world stops shouting.

Join us as we transform our internal groans into a **new song** of victory. Whether you are feeling overwhelmed by the world's volume or simply seeking a deeper connection to the Divine, there is a frequency waiting for you here.

"Frequency: Tuning the Heart Through the Noise"

February 25-Week 1: Naming the Static

March 4-Week 2: The Hardship of Silence

March 11-Week 3: Tuning to the Whisper

March 18- Week 4: The Voice of the Shepherd

March 25-Week 5: From Noise to a New Song



K - 6th grade

Children will be dismissed from the worship service after the Opening Prayer

Choir Rehearsals

For all who love to sing,
please join us Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
in the Sanctuary



Change for Change through March:

This quarter, we are collecting change
for
ELCA Disaster Relief



First Evangelical
accepts contributions via
the Zelle app.

Search for "felc@firstevlutheran.com"



New Alarm Panel Procedure:

In addition to signing the log when **disarming**, we now ask that **anyone who arms the alarm also sign the log** located by the control panel. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

The Property Committee is in need of a 7 1/2 grinder or a walk behind concrete grinder to level the concrete in the courtyard. Donation of used tools, loans, or funds to purchase one are being requested.

Please reach out to Louie with any questions.

