

"Welcome to Worship"

God is here for you,
In the word and sacraments,
in the love of this community.

Welcome - it's great to have you here!
Thank you for choosing to worship with us at
First Lutheran today.

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 22nd, 2026
GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Ministers:

Members of First Lutheran Church

Pastor: Pastor Ann Zastrow

Organist: Paul Henriksen

Sound: Jason Weber

Reader: Dave Dulas

Acolyte: .

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Pipestone FB & click the FB link on the
webpage.



**Scattering seeds of love,
worship & service**

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship:

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn: ELW #758 – You Are the Way

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son †
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires
known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the
thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your
holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the
truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is
faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **C: Amen.**

Gathering

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

C: And also with you.

Kyrie: pg 184

Hymn of Praise: Glory to God – pg 185-186

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hearing God's Word

Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." So, I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Here ends the Reading. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Time

P: Please stand in honor of the reading of the gospel.

The **Holy Gospel** is taken from **John 11:1-53**

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So, the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly

and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So, the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So, they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out; his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So, the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council and said, "What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation." But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all! You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed." He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. So, from that day on they planned to put him to death.

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #769 – If You But Trust in God to Guide You

Responding to God's Word

Apostle's Creed – pg 127

Prayers of the Church

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Offering Hymn: ELW #294 – In the Bleak Midwinter (vs 3)

Offering Prayer:

P: Let us pray.

C: Living God, thank you for the chance to give in your name. Through these offerings, help us embody the life-giving power of your grace. Let our hearts be shaped by your Spirit, our hands directed by your mercy. May our giving reflect the depth of your sustaining love. Amen.

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Lord's Prayer

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, the Son † and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW #773 – Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. C: Thanks be to God.

Welcome! It is GREAT to have you here! Thank you for choosing to worship with us here today.

The Worship Radio Broadcast is sponsored in memory of Dale Veen by Carol Veen and family.

† Continuing Prayer Concerns:

We send our healing prayers to: Mildred Carstensen, Maverick Burkard, Carole Sommers, Paul Johnson, Meg Petra (Pastor Ann’s sister) & her wife, Lisa Riek, Ed Hansen, Becky Kaffar, Kristy Henriksen, JoAnn Straw and Kay Dubbelde.

***** If you or someone you know has a Prayer Concern, please call the church office 825-5837 to have it listed in the bulletin and church webpage. You can also email the church office@firstlutheranpipestone.org.**

This Week’s Schedule (March 22nd – March 29th, 2026)

Today: 9:30am – Worship, live-streamed; 1pm – Pastor at Good Sam, 2pm – Pastor at Ridgeview. 3:30pm – First Communion orientation for 5th gr students and parents; Radio: 10:30am aired on KLOH (1050 AM)

Wednesday: 8:15am – Pastor’s Prayer; 6:15pm – Lent service; 6:45-7:15pm - LIFT/Confirmation; 12:00pm & 5:00pm - Sunday Service broadcast on Public Access TV (channel 3)

Thursday: 9:30am - Quilting

Sunday (PALM SUNDAY): 9:30am – Worship, w/Palm Parade, LIFT kids sing, live-streamed; Radio: 10:30am aired on KLOH (1050 AM)

March 2026 Offering	
Monthly Offering needed:	\$17,506.00
Weekly Offering – March 1 st	
LENT – March 4 th	
Weekly Offering – March 8 th	
LENT – March 11 th	
Weekly Offering – March 15 th (no service/snow)	
LENT – March 18 th	
Weekly Offering – March 22 nd	
LENT – March 25 th	
Weekly Offering – March 29 th	
MONTH TOTAL:	
Needed per week:	
4-week month = \$4,377/week	5-week month = \$3,502/week

Extra offering books are available on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to take another book if you are running low!!

Simply Giving is also available online by scanning the QR code in the bulletin.

VISITORS – please feel free to scan the QR code (by Offering above) if you wish to give to First Lutheran today.

THANK YOU for giving!!

Noisy Offering for February & March 2026 is being collected for:

Pipestone County Food Shelf



The total amount collected thus far is: **\$230.10**

THANK YOU for your support of these important Outreach needs.

February & March (match-month) Noisy Offering will go to the Pipestone County Food Shelf

A little more about the Pipestone County Food Shelf: Located @ 223 2nd St NW in Pipestone

Website for more information: www.pipestonefoodshelf.com

Thrivent clients with membership:
Don't forget to direct 2025 Choice
Dollars® by March 31st at:
thrivent.com/thriventchoice

Your 2025 Choice Dollars® expire March
31st, 2026.



BELL TOWER REPAIR ASSISTANCE

The Property and Management Committee is looking for donations to help with fixing the bell tower water leakage problem. Donations can be made to First Lutheran Church by designating BELL TOWER in the memo line. Cost is estimated to cost \$23,000+.

Repairs expected to begin in the Spring.

Bell Tower Fund balance as of
3/15/2026: \$

THANK YOU to all who have
donated!!! We are getting close!!

We are still in need of the following items for the care kits:

- Soap (3-4oz bars)
- Large tooth combs
- Towels (preferably dark colors)

Please bring in any of the listed items and place them in the blue tote in the Narthex!!



Communion Assistants, Lesson Readers and Acolytes are needed!!!

If you are able to help us out, **please** sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex OR you can sign up online by using the QR code to the left <<<.

You can also look to see the schedule for ushers as well – just by scanning the QR code with your phone!



We are looking for a few volunteer drivers to take fellow members to appointments in and out of town.

If interested or if you have questions, contact Cristy Appel.

THANK YOU in advance!



Radio Sponsorships for 2026 are posted on the bulletin board by the office. If you have a recurring yearly sponsorship, please let the office know if you would like to change the date as listed on the schedule. There are **2 open slots (listed below)** so if you would like to get signed up for one, please add your name to one of the open slots on the sheet. If you would like to check your recurring sponsorship, OR signup online, scan the QR code>>.



THANK YOU all who give to the radio sponsorship – it is a GREAT way to share the ministry here at First Lutheran!!

June 28th

September 20th



First Lutheran has 3 areas of social media for you to get information from. We will do our best to keep things posted and updated as much as possible:

1. Website: www.firstlutheranpipestone.org
2. Facebook: First Lutheran Church ELCA
3. Instagram: flcoff.pipe



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*25th Annual
Hospice Benefit Fundraiser*

March 28th, 2026
Pipestone Country Club

Dinner includes

- Our signature Cupcake Sweet Red Wine
- Charcuterie table-Prepared by Staci's Bar & Grill
- Salad
- Ribeye-Prepared by Pipestone County Cattlemen's Association
- Cupcakes-Goodies 4 U
- Lingen Dairy Ice Cream

Early bird tickets are \$55. After March 13th they will go to \$60

Social hour begins at 4 pm
Dinner at 6 pm
Live auction at 7:30 pm

The evening will also include a diamond give away sponsored by First Bank & Trust of Pipestone and the grand finale drawing for the iPad and the quilt.

Scan the code to purchase tickets or bid on our silent auction items.

Avera@Home
Pipestone

Pipestone County Medical Center & Family Clinic
Avera



Do you wish to contribute to the Easter Flower fund this Easter? Donations can be given in memory or in honor of your loved ones. These donations will be used to purchase an appropriate number of Easter flowers to decorate the church, with the remainder of the funds to go towards other church projects. You may also bring in flowers from your own home – just please make sure to put your name on it so you can take it home after Easter.

If you would like to order or make a donation, please complete the following information & return this portion to the church office or the offering plates.

NO LATER than Sunday, March 29th, 2026 (Palm Sunday)

I will bring my own from home (**please bring to the church by Thursday, April 2nd, 2026**)

Here is a contribution to the Easter Flower Fund. Amount: \$ _____
(include payment with this form.)

Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Contribution is: **in memory of** **in honor of**
(Please print clearly)

Pay to: First Lutheran Church, 401 7th Av SW, Pipestone MN 56164
(Please put "Easter Fund" in the memo line)