



February

Our Church—This Week
for the week of
February 8, 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FIRST LUTHERAN MONN MOUTH
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Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher

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Secretary

Angela Bradley-Volz

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M, T, Th, F (8 am to noon)

Custodian

Chris Algren

Musicians

Janice Algren

Jamie Reynolds

Preschool and Day Care Director

Bobbie Nees

(309) 734-5350

Congregation Council

President: Rose Sandstrom

Vice President: Doug Cruce

Secretary: Diane Carlson

Warren Dobry

Steve Erlandson

Ted Hanson

Jim Johnson

Linda McGuire

Evelyn Volz

Dear Friends and Family,

Over the weekend, my wife asked my youngest to take out the trash—and this time he had to wear shoes, because on a previous outside chore, he didn't. The 11-year-old son simply quipped, "I am so done with winter," as he trounced off, wearing a pair of basketball shorts, to find his shoes.

Winter woke us up with another 3 inches of fluffy white stuff today, with more forecast later this afternoon. Cold temperatures are here for the week, and if we are lucky a rare peak of the sun may trickle through the ubiquitous winter cloud cover.

What warms our hearts, though, is the love God has for his children, a love no winter frost can bite away. We experience this love of God as we reach out to one another this Valentine's Day and remind each other how important we are in community with one another. Use this week's Living the Creed PDF as a guide, but go beyond that guide—and share a message with a neighbor, friend, or loved one, of how much God loves them.

40 Days of Giving

This year for Lent, we will participate in an ELCA World Hunger 40 Days of Giving study. Resources for this study will be posted on our website, as well as included in our weekly emails. Here is the basic plan:

Wednesday, February 17th Ash Wednesday Worship Video will be available

Wednesdays February 24th to March 24th Zoom Bible Study at 7 PM

Zoom invite links will be available with our weekly emails.

This will begin with a brief Lenten litany and time for prayer, then we will utilize our ELCA World Hunger resource for the Bible study, we will plan to be done by 8 PM

ELCA World Hunger 40 Days of Giving Calendar will be made available for personal study at home, and for a personal challenge to dedicate giving to ELCA World Hunger during Lent

Thursday, April 1, Maundy Thursday worship video will be available

Friday, April 2, Good Friday worship video will be available

Our Stewardship Ministry



Stewardship matters. It is how we give thanks to God who has provided for so much. When we give to the church, we support many ministries beyond our own building and community. A portion of our offerings goes to the Northern Illinois Synod, which then allots a portion to the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center and many other places.

Thank you for your generosity which helps others experience Jesus.



Lutheran Day Care and Preschool

A ministry of First Lutheran Church
Bobbi Nees, director



Our midweek Wednesday Bible study resumes this week at 3 PM on Wednesday. Follow the Zoom Link included

with the email to join in.

We continue our study of the Gospel of Mark and turn to chapter 14 this week.

Ash Wednesday

Pastor Jamie will be mailing to members a black swatch of cloth for everyone to pin onto their clothing on Ash Wednesday. This will take the place of our traditional ashes.

The black cloth will represent the ashes and sack cloth that is symbolic of grieving and repentance. Throughout the Old Testament kings, prophets, and sometimes even the whole people of the nation, rip their clothing, wear sackcloth, or cover their faces with ashes. These signs are an attempt to get God to change plans of destruction or punishment, and to restore the people to right living.

Today, we wear the ashes to remember our own mortality and that Christ has redeemed us, drawing us into an everlasting life.



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Brad and Jodie Haist, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Norman Worthington, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, Donna Larson, Beckie Bean, Joy Johnson, Pat Root, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson, Matthew Council, Rose Youngquist, Kathi Cruce, Craig Jones, Rob Kerschke, Brendan Kerschke

Please let the church office know any updates that are needed to our prayer list.

Please keep Pastor Katie's brother Rob and nephew Brendan in your prayers.

Rob has been hospitalized with Covid and pneumonia, he has been in the ICU, though the doctors are hoping to move him to a regular room soon.

Brendan has experienced a mental health episode and has been hospitalized and will be transferred to a behavioral health center. Brendan is 15.

Rob's wife, Susan, has also been diagnosed with Covid, but her symptoms have been mild and she remains at home.

Becky Terpening has created a new church-design T-shirt and canvas tote bag. From each sale item, she will give \$5 to the church.

This is a great fundraiser for the church, a great opportunity to lift up the Becky's ministry talents, and to promote our church through these items.

The Order Form will be attached to the Email as a PDF. Complete one and send it to Becky at the address on the form.

Once the orders are completed, Becky will deliver to the church for pick-up.

Celebrations for February 1 to 15



Feb 8 Elaine Sander
Feb 9 Jim Slater
Feb 11 Becky Terpening
Feb 15 Ross Beedle

*Please let the church office know any updates that are needed
for our celebrations list.*

Curious about our Ministries?

We have several committees that are continuing to work even during this time of pandemic. For information on how to join a committee, please call the office.

Active Committees

Finance/Stewardship .. Chair Gary Martin

Building and Grounds .. Chair Steve Erlandson

Meets 1st Monday of each month, 7 PM

Worship and Music ... Council Rep Jim Johnson

Specific Elected Committees

Endowment

Memorial

Personnel

Preschool and Day Care Board

Christian Education and Youth — Youth Happens at First

Weekly Devotional



“They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; ... and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Revelation 7:16-17

In the book of Revelation, God casts a vision of what life will look like in the Kingdom of God, when Christ rules as the Lamb of God at the center. This vision is often interpreted as a future event, one we can look forward to when the resurrection happens and the final trumpet blast sounds. But the author of Revelation intended for us to see this vision as a present reality, one with the faithful can make happen. One piece of this vision is here in chapter 7, a vision of the end of hunger and thirst.

Globally 610 million people face chronic hunger, that means they do not have secure meals. These people do not know where their next meal will come from. And when they do find a meal, it does not have enough nutritional value to sustain their health. If we treat the Revelation vision as only a future event, then ignoring the plight of our hungry neighbors is easy. If we treat the Revelation vision as a present day happening that we are called to partner with Christ to make real, then the plight of our hungry neighbors is a call to action.

This Lent, we will hear that call to action. We will discuss the global hunger crisis and ways we as a congregation can actively work toward a day when they will hunger no more. Some actions are easy. Donating to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, supporting other agencies that work toward ending world hunger, or even donating to our local Jamieson Center, which provides a food pantry and meal assistance program, or to Strom Center, which also provides a meal assistance program. We will explore these easy ways we can contribute to the vision of Revelation, as well as let the Spirit move through us as we consider additional ways our congregation can go beyond just the easy donating of money to solve world hunger. What will the Spirit call us to do? Join us this Lent and be part of the conversation discovering that answer. In Peace, Pastor Jamie