

The Guided Light

Memorial Lutheran & First Presbyterian Churches

March 2019

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Memorial Lutheran & First Presbyterian Churches

**Mission: "Growing the faith, connecting with the lost,
and helping those in need as we share God's Word
through education, sacraments, worship,
praise, and fellowship"**



Happenings...

Every Sunday

Sunday School for All 9:15

Worship Service 10:15

Faithful Metrics 11:15

Every Tuesday

Busy Bunch: 9-12:00

Every Wednesday

Choir Practice 5:30

Youth Group 6:30

Every Thursday

Men/Women Bible Study 10:00

March 3

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Communicants Blessing

Blessing of the TCPD Canines

March 5

Busy Bunch BD Luncheon

Worship Comm. Mtg 11:00

March 6

Ashes to Go 5-6:30

Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00

March 10

Spring Break Potluck Lunch 11:15

March 13, 20, 27

Lenten Meal & Services 6:00 & 7:00

March 15-17

Ladies Retreat – Painted Churches in
Schulenburg

March 18

MLC Council Meeting 6:00

March 19

Faithful Metrics Team 5:00

March 21

Women's Board Meeting 6:00

March 22, 23, 24

Youth Retreat Lutherhill

March 25

Bunko 6:30



When I was a campus pastor, I often took long Sunday afternoon strolls through the quiet community streets near the college. One spring Sunday my stroll extended late into the early evening.

On my way home I passed by an old theater that had been converted into a Pentecostal church. The doors were propped open and someone, accompanied by an electric organ and drums, was singing. I stopped to listen to the music for a while, standing in the shadows outside the building where I thought no one could see me.

But an usher wearing a black suit and a carnation in his lapel stepped outside and invited me into the service. I was wearing sneakers, cut-off jeans, and a T-shirt. I declined the usher's invitation, explaining that I was hardly dressed for church.

He told me God didn't care what I was wearing and that other people shouldn't either and that I was surely welcome to attend the service. To my own surprise, I went inside and took a seat in the rear of the auditorium.

After a few more minutes of music, an old preacher delivered what, to my mind, seemed a rambling, overly long sermon, but I stayed and listened. At the end of the sermon, he first invited the "unsaved" forward to the front of the church and then, when no one had come, he invited forward anyone who wanted prayer. I found myself, in my cut-off jeans and T-shirt, walking forward to kneel at the altar rail.

After I'd been kneeling with a half dozen others at the rail for a few minutes, the old preacher leaned over me and quietly asked if he could pray for me. I nodded yes.

That Sunday evening, in a converted theater not far from the college, the old preacher laid his hands on me. He put his hands on the back of my head near my neck under my ears. He held my head. It felt

like he was cradling my head, holding it upright. "I don't know this young woman," he calmly told God, "but I know she is a child of Thine."

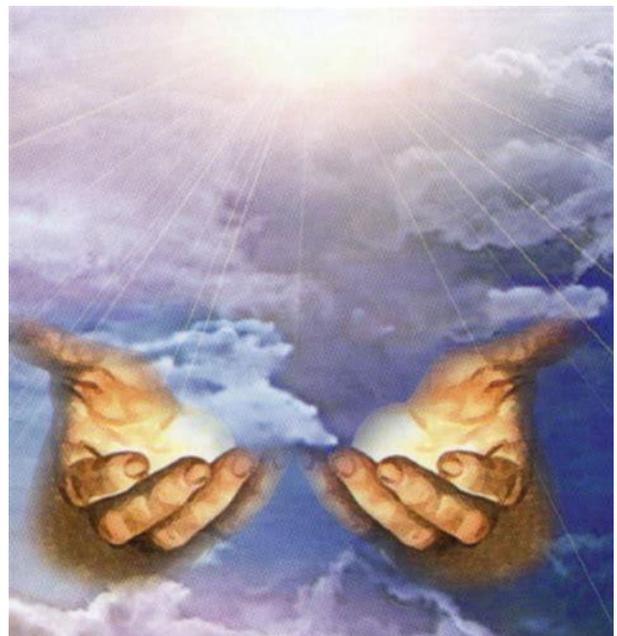
"I don't know the burdens she is carrying," he said, "but I know there's no burden too heavy for you to bear."

He prayed for the Holy Spirit to fill me and for God to keep me safe from the devil's snares. He prayed other things I can't remember. After he had finished, I quietly thanked him, got up from the rail, and left. I walked for a while longer until finally.

Over the next year and a half or two, difficult days came into my life, as they come to all of us from time to time. My life and ministry felt like an awfully heavy burden during that time. But through it all I also felt that old Pentecostal preacher's hands cradling my head, holding my head upright. Through his hands, I felt God's hands supporting me.

When you were baptized the pastor laid hands on your head and said prayers. Have you felt those hands supporting you through the good and the bad? Those are God's hands supporting you!

Blessings,
Pastor Liz



What is this church season called Lent?

Lent is observed for 40 days (not including Sundays) before Jesus' Easter Resurrection. These 40 days correspond to Jesus being tempted for 40 days in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13), the 12 spies exploring the promised land for 40 days (Numbers 13) and the Israelites wondering in the wilderness for 40 years because of their disobedience and distrust of God (Numbers 14). This season is a penitent season when we celebrate our creaturely-ness before the loving, abundant and powerful creator. Too often, like the Israelites, we forget that we are created beings meant to flourish in relationship with our Creator, and instead act as if we are independent creators ourselves, with the power to build up and destroy, sow and reap without an ongoing relationship with the Creator of Heaven and Earth. Of course, when we do so, we make a mess of our lives, our relationships and our world, but that usually doesn't stop us! Lent is a time of the year when we pause to reflect on the places in our lives where we have abandoned the Creator to do things ourselves and repent (or pivot) to turn back toward God. As a child, I often thought of Lent as this dark, abysmal season of repentance. As an adult, I appreciate the time and space of Lent to really focus on breathing in the Goodness of God the creator so that I can release the habits, behaviors and relationships that I developed on my own that are not of God and that are not life-giving for myself, my loved ones, or the world.

Since the Middle Ages, it became a custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. With the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" we are reminded of our creaturely-ness and God's ability to both create good things with dust and heal the brokenness in our lives when we offer that brokenness to God.

Historically, there have been several practices that Christians use during Lent to reflect on the goodness and abundance of God and our own tendency to reject God and do everything

ourselves. These are not works done to earn God's favor but practices that help us reflect on our own lives and turn our attention to God. For more details on each practice, check out this great article: <http://www.pubtheologian.com/lent-for-the-rest-of-us/>

1. **Refraining from sin**
2. **Prayer with tears.**
3. **Holy reading**
4. **Repentance**
5. **Abstinence from food**

How do you intend to reflect on your own creaturely-ness and the amazing, life-giving abundance of God this Lenten season?

Blessings in Christ,
Kari

Faithful Metrics & More

Your Faithful Metrics team continues to equip the congregation to listen for, see, and move toward the surprising movement of God in ourselves, the congregation, the community and the world. This month join us by:

1) Filling out the **congregation assessment**:

- Go to waytolead.org/take-LEAD-assessment from your computer or smartphone

- Click on Take Assessment
- Enter this case-sensitive password:

Assessment-cong

- Enter your name (you will not be put on an email list from LEAD unless you choose to be)
- Complete the 20 questions

If you prefer a paper assessment, there are copies in the narthex.

2) Explore your **spiritual gifts** and share them with the congregation. You can fill the assessment out online (https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Spiritual-Renewal/Assessment-Tools?gclid=CjwKCAiAnsniBRB6EiwATkM1XnodkNs4DTIE4XvwUWvaeHGtg_3ZZzAx8Hgoz-I6SmlGL1dJJS3BoCZ2QQAvD_BwE) or use the paper copies in the narthex. Share your gifts by leaving

the paper copy of your top 5 gifts in the office or email Kari your top 5 gifts,

kniedermaier001@luthersem.edu.

Check out the congregation's spiritual gifts on the poster board in the fellowship hall.

3) Pray for the Listening Team, who will be commissioned on March 10th.

4) Commit to reading *Shalom Church* with the congregation through Lent as together we explore who God calls the church to be. E-books are \$10 through Amazon or sign up for a paperback in the Narthex (also \$10). We will be exploring this book and God's vision for the church at our Wednesday Soup & Sermons and through various weekly small groups.



Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. March 6

If you can't make it to the Memorial-First Presbyterian Ash Wednesday Worship service at 7:00 pm swing by the parking lot between 5-6:30 for a prayer and blessing with ashes. Share with your friends and neighbors!



All are invited to gather in the Sanctuary at **6:00 & 7:00 on March 13, 20, 27** for reflections on the Lenten season and hot soup in the Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex for those who are willing to provide soup and desserts.

thank you

Special Thank You

To Arthur Lowe for his help supervising the baking of communion bread during the First Communion Retreat on February 2nd. Great job everyone and there is bread in the freezer for use during communion in the coming weeks.

To all those who helped with the funeral for Lorraine Stubblefield on February 13th. Your participation in the worship and in the lunch following the interment was greatly appreciated!

To Arthur Lowe and all of his helpers in providing a wonderful and delicious Valentine Brunch on Sunday, February 17th. It was enjoyed by all!

Thank You for Your Help in Tackling Hunger!

Souper Bowl of Caring 2019

Thousands from across the country took part in helping to tackle hunger on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, 2019. We at Memorial/First joined in helping to provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to the needy. How? By contributing on the Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday.

You brought canned goods and you brought monies! There were 320lbs of food collected which was donated to United Faith Alliance. Thank you to Woody Silvertooth for delivering everything.

So far, the count from folks from across the country is over \$8.5 million for local charities with almost \$6 million in Texas alone. What a wonderful witness to Jesus' call to care for our neighbors. Thank you again to everyone who gave!



We want to thank Pastors Kari and Elizabeth, the Pallbearers and the sweet ladies that prepared the food and cakes. It's greatly appreciated. Lorraine would have been so proud. Thanks also to Darleen Bailey for the organ music.

-The Stubblefield Family.



In Our Prayers...

- Donna Allison
- Mike Allison
- Fred & Wanda Applegath
- Joyce Beard
- Catherine Brown
- Bev Churchwell
- Imogene Christian
- Paula Dickson
- Linda Duncan
- Kathryn Franks
- Shirley Gerber
- Mary Guajardo
- Evelyn Jolly
- Dave Palmer
- David Robinson
- Woody Silvertooth
- Lorraine Stubblefield
- Martha Welch
- Kristy Bogus
- Barbara Bradford
- Mary Bradford
- Shirley Cato
- Carolina Diaz
- Beth Eslinger
- Ben Gayle
- Barbara Heckendorn
- Maryem Holt
- Thomas Kaye
- Steven King
- Erica James
- John Lawrence
- Shirley Long
- John Marshall
- Molly Matthewson
- Danny Meyer
- Alice Metcalf
- Noah Morris
- Madeline Pitts
- Merle Stephens
- James Thompson

Military:

- Isaac Christman
- Alexis Copeland
- Marshal Fundling
- Georgie Rodriquez, Jr.
- Peri Schoppe

In the world:

Pray for the future of Memorial Lutheran and for 1st Presbyterian as we both continue to discern God's will for us.



*Deadline for April news submissions is
Tuesday, March 26*



March 1: Blake & Tyler Chollett
 March 10: Kim & Kyle Riggs
 March 22: Danny & Tracey Schoppe



March 1 Wink Chamberlain
 March 3 Floyd Bailey
 Jo Ann Hackbarth
 Joshua Hall
 Kaleb Jacobs
 March 4 Bill Wyly
 March 5 Terry Earl
 March 6 Ashlyn Lewton
 March 11 Evelyn Jolly
 Danny Schoppe
 March 12 Mason Chollett
 March 14 Frances Weber
 March 16 Gloria Dent
 March 17 Sylvia Jewell
 March 21 Romeo Roy
 March 22 Shirley Kirk
 March 25 Debbie Healy
 March 26 Joe Wileman
 March 27 Audrey Earl
 Barbara Silvertooth



Service Reminders for March 2019

Lay Assistant:

March 3: Peggy Dietel
 March 10: Shirley Kirk
 March 17: Audrey Earl
 March 24: Sue Edrozo
 March 31: Larry Edrozo

Communion Assistants:

March 3: Joyce Palmer & Arthur Lowe
 March 10: Terry Earl & Audrey Earl
 March 17: Don Pollock & Billie Hansley
 March 24: Kim Kaiser & Sue Edrozo
 March 31: Joyce Palmer & Arthur Lowe

Ushers for the Month:

Danny Schoppe
 Joe King
 Audrey Earl
 Terry Earl

Sound System for the Month:

John Hackbarth,
 Larry Edrozo,
 OR Lloyd Jewell

Computer Tech:

March 3: Shirley Kirk
 March 10: Paula Smith
 March 17: Janine Luke
 March 24: Kaleb Jacobs
 March 31: Shirley Kirk

Altar Guild for the Month:

Debbie Guthier/Violet Lowe

Children's Talk:

March 3: Kari Niedermaier
 March 10: Kari Niedermaier
 March 17: Kari Niedermaier
 March 24: Kari Niedermaier
 March 31: Kari Niedermaier

Tellers for the Month:

Paula Smith, Janine Luke, Audrey Earl,
 Kim Kaiser/Melissa Holland

Cookies & Cleanup:

March 3: Debbie Healy & Adrietta King
 March 10: Kim Hall & Billie Hansley
 March 17: Mary Kees & Mary Snarr
 March 24: Cindy Totty & Amy Roberts
 March 31: Melissa Holland & Carol Wylly

Helping Hands: Sylvia Jewell & Cindy Totty

Good Cheer Committee: Violet Lowe

Coffee Cup Outreach Ministry: Elaine Lewton

Bunko for February: There were 10 present. The winners were: Most Wins – Audrey Earl with 20; Most Losses – Eloise Lawrence with 7; Most Bunko's – Tilli Herrera with 5; the Bunko Bunny winner was Frances Fundling. What a good time we had! The next bunko night is on March 25.



Daylight Savings Begins!

Sunday, March 10

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on Saturday, March 9th before you go to sleep!!!



UFA Monthly Collection Items: Since food stamps can't be used to buy non-food items, the United Faith Alliance is asking churches to collect non-food items on a rotating basis. **Laundry Soaps have been designated for the March collection.** Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the church narthex.



POTLUCK DINNER Spring Break Pot Luck

On March 10 we will have a Spring Break Pot Luck after worship. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for food and fun. Check the Narthex for sign-up sheets. All are welcome.



Want to Know

February 2019 Pastor's Report to Council

1. A letter to inactive members was sent and will be followed by a phone call.
2. I would like to put together a group of four people (2 Memorial and 2 First) to look at the two budgets and consolidate items that are joint expenses.
3. I am continuing to look at Job Descriptions and updating them as appropriate.
4. I am looking at dates and times for a council retreat.
5. I will be on vacation March 1-14

Question: Why aren't we having communion at the altar?

As worship is planned consideration is given to how people will gather for communion. Options include gathering at the communion rail or forming stations where the congregation forms a line/s.

Gathering at the rail may create a sense of community, especially if all are dismissed at once. This can be done standing or kneeling. Standing is the more ancient practice and is especially suitable for the Easter season.

Continuous communion, either at the rail or by station, creates community in a different sense. We have a greater sense of the communion of saints that extends before us and follows after us. The communion continues and we are simply part of this open-handed cloud of witnesses receiving the bread of life and the wine of grace.

Logistics is always a concern when planning worship. The celebration of Holy Communion is the time when all of God's people are invited to receive the Lord's body and blood. The worship leaders want to assure that everyone can participate easily.

At certain times the altar rails are more difficult to access than at others, and so stations are more suitable. At times some of the lay communion servers as well as worshipers have mobility issues that require the use of stations.

The worship planners take many things into consideration when planning worship. We hope and pray that worship is always a blessing to members and visitors alike.



Team Trivia Challenge Update:

The Team Trivia Challenge brought 88 adults and 3 children to our campus and added \$950 to our account! Thanks to all who entered, supported, volunteered and donated to make this a successful event. You guys are great! Larry Edrozo



APRIL 12-13 – SPRING GARAGE SALE.

Have you been busy cleaning out your house, garage, storage areas? The church will be glad to take your "usable" items for our upcoming garage sale on April 12 & 13. Please wait until April 8th to bring in your garage sale items. Your help will be needed each morning at 9:00 am from April 8 - 11 setting up for the sale and on April 12 & 13 helping with the sale. If you have questions or need help with larger items, contact Don Pruns at 409-945-8846.