



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH

**March 2019
Newsletter**

Ashes! Ashes! We All Fall Down!

I've been hearing the rhyme "Ring Around the Rosy" quite a bit in my house over the last couple of weeks. Children stand in a circle and dance around reciting those words: "Ring around the rosy, a pocket full of posies. Ashes! Ashes! We all fall down!" The origin and meaning of that rhyme have long been uncertain and subject to speculation. Some modern day thought is that the rhyme dates back to the Black Plague in Europe. A rosy rash was a symptom of the plague. Posies of herbs were carried as protection to ward off the smell of the disease. Sneezing and coughing were final fatal symptoms leading to "all falling down" which is what exactly happened as their bodies were cremated into nothing more than ash. Today those words are just a cute rhyme and dance for children to play together. Yet isn't that the attitude we take toward sin, especially the sins that seem to be minor in our eyes?

Sin is not a little game we can play or a fun little dance we get to do. Sin is serious with deadly consequences. A sin is a sin before God. Whether we tell a little lie or commit the most egregious looking sin in the eyes of the world, every sin leads to the same result - death. God made that clear after Adam and Eve broke the only commandment he had for them when he told Adam, "for dust you are and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19) Certainly that is what happened to Adam and Eve and for every one of us it is, "ashes, ashes, we all fall down" fits our lives. We fall into sin and deserve death.

Our sins are serious and God calls us to repent of them. After God called Job to repent of his sinful lack of trust in God, Job said, "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." It is from those words we get the name for the first day in the season of Lent - Ash Wednesday. The old custom of putting ashes in the form of a cross on the head is a symbol of both our sorrow over sin and our trust in Jesus who endured the cross for us. The ash is placed on the head and the words are spoken, "From dust you are and to dust you shall return." It speaks the truth about us. We are dust and our bodies will decay into dust one day all because of sin.

But let's not forget the ashes are placed in the form of a cross. Even in the sorrow over sin, we have one who endured their punishment of death for us - Jesus. We all fall down in sin, but Jesus was raised up on his cross to have our sins fall on him. When we know what the ashes on the head means, that tradition can become a powerful picture of us. The cross of Jesus on our heads can remind us of our baptism which raised us from the dust and ashes of death to life.

Even though we aren't using ashes on Ash Wednesday in our worship service, the significance of the day is not diminished. We certainly could put ash crosses on our heads. It is a fine Christian tradition and symbol that points us to Jesus. However more importantly we focus on what the day means for our own lives falling down every day into sin. Ash Wednesday is not only the first of walking the solemn journey of Lent with Jesus to his cross, but it also reminds just how much we daily need his cross to be imprinted on us and daily need to return to those baptismal waters. We are washed of our sins in the blood of Jesus through those cleaning waters. Sin is drowned in us and we are raised to live a new life free from sin that the crucified and risen Jesus has given us. When we fall down and sin, it is serious. Yet trusting in Jesus we are certain of our forgiveness and life in heaven is ours even when we fall down in death. May the Lord bless your Lenten season!

O Lord, I daily see my sins and they are always before me burdening my guilty heart. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes trusting in Jesus my Savior. He was raised up on his cross so that the punishment of my sins would fall on him instead of me. Amen

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Information

Worship Services/Classes.

- **Tuesday:** Alive with Christ – 7:30 p.m. (*March 19th & 26th*)
- **Thursday:** Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.
- **Sunday:** Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Bible Classes and Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.
- **Saturday:** Men's Breakfast Bible Study – 2nd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.
Women's Bible Study – 3rd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.

Lenten Season – “Three Words of Truth”

Ash Wednesday, March 6 – 6:30 p.m. service. Grades K-2 sing

Wednesday Lenten Services at 6:30 p.m.: March 13 – Gr. 5-6 sing – Pastor Karl Schultz
March 20 – Sunday school sings – Pastor Vic Prange
March 27 – Choir sings – Pastor Heuer

*Lenten meals will be served by various church groups from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.
All are welcome to join in this fellowship and support the work of our church.*

March 13 – Sparks/Flames serve a Baked Potato Bar

March 20 – Grades 5 – 8 serve something delicious (Mr. G is heading this up!)

March 27 – Ladies Aid serves casseroles

What's Next in Worship?

Quest: You're invited to join us on a quest. Walk with Jesus, as he resolutely embarks on a journey to rescue the world from its greatest enemies: Satan, sin, and even death itself. You'll enter the battlefield with Jesus, visit important landmarks along the way, and hear his stories from the past as well as predictions for the future. This quest will prepare you for your own journeys through the battlefields of temptation, rejection, repentance, and loss. Join us on the quest every Sunday this Lenten season.

Three Words of Truth: In the Gospel accounts of Jesus' passion, there are several striking three-word phrases, such as "Love one another," "Watch and pray," and "It is finished." On Wednesday evenings at 6:30 this Lenten season, worship with us and gain understanding of powerful words like these from the lips of our Savior who spoke them.

Treasurer Monthly Update – February 2019

This note briefly discusses the church finances for January. The January 2019 budget income is \$42,670. The church received \$31,205 (offerings plus other income) a difference of -\$11,465. The budget expenses for January were \$50,492. The actual expenses were \$53,036 for a difference of \$2,544. There was one unexpected expense in January, a very large gas heating bill. This cause was likely a malfunctioning furnace blower (gym) that has been repaired.

As of January 31, the church is running a deficit of -\$21,831. This was made up by borrowing \$15,000. There was a January 31 checking account balance of \$7,294. As we head further into 2019, please pray with me that, with our Lord's help, we can improve this financial result.

Our Lord's Peace, Fred Baudais, Treasurer

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

LWMS Spring Rally

The LWMS Spring Rally will be held on Saturday, March 9 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Union Grove. Registration begins at 8:30 AM with opening devotion at 9:00 AM. Pastor Seth Haakenson, Pastor of Hispanic Outreach at Immanuel Lutheran, Waukegan, IL will be the speaker. He will talk about the outreach to Hispanics in their congregation. The mission offering will be directed to Hispanic Training Support and Scholarship. A door offering will be taken on Sunday, February 24 and March 3. *Please note the change of day of the Rally to Saturday and the time to the morning.* Mark your calendars. Carpooling will be available.

Branches Band

Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, March 31st as Branches Band will be here leading us in worship and song. Branches Band is a Milwaukee-based music group with their roots spread all over the country. All of the members met at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) and were involved in a number of different musical groups while in attendance: college choir, Revelation, chapel quartets, and bands to name a few. Their first performance as Branches Band was in 2008 after they had graduated. Andy and Rachel had been playing regularly for worship at a mission church in Chicago, and from there someone asked them to play for a Lutherans for Life charity event in Illinois. They wanted the band to have a name to put in the program aside from 'Andy and Rachel', so after careful consideration, "Branches Band" became official. Following that first concert in the spring of 2008, they decided to pursue Branches Band more fully. That winter they created a Christmas concert program and toured in Wisconsin and Arizona. Within the year, they had two full-length albums recorded. Before long, this ministry grew into full-time work with tours, concerts, and worship services scheduled across the country. Their music ministry began by creating fresh arrangements of familiar hymns and has grown to include an extensive repertoire of original Christian music: children's songs, Psalm settings, and more. They also had the opportunity to present workshops and perform for a number of events including the WELS International Youth Rally and the WELS Worship Conference.

Toddler Open Gym

This program is for children age 0 – 5, along with the parent/caregiver and will take place from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the school gym in the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month now May. The program is open to our members as well as the community. Please invite friends! There is open play in the gym with various toys as well as games, crafts, coloring, an area just for babies, and more! During the hour, we will also have a devotion and snack. *As this outreach program is a non-budgeted expense, monetary donations are appreciated!*

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be added to our prayer chain and pray for members and present their needs, requests and/or praises to God, contact Kelly Stech - 262-728-8020 or Suzanne Manthe - 262-725-6131. If you have a specific prayer request, bright green forms are available in the tract rack - please indicate if you would like the prayer public in church, kept within the prayer chain, or if you only want the pastor to know. Please place prayer requests in the "church" box near the tract rack. *"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."* James 5:16

Christian Assistance Fund

A Christian Assistance Fund has been created for our congregation to follow Christ's directive to "love one another". Contributions to this account are appreciated – please use the Designated Gift Envelopes, available in the rack on the side of the member mailboxes. If a member has need for assistance, application forms are available from pastor. Any requests are kept in the strictest confidence.

Christian Education Assistance Fund

No member of First Lutheran will be denied a Christian education in our school because of need. First Lutheran School has a Christian Education Assistance Fund to assist families with tuition costs. The Board of Education distributes fund based on the application and need. If you would care to contribute to this fund or need a tuition assistance application, please see Mr. Schramm.

Church Library News

The church/school library has been updated. Feel free to check out items you'd like to read. On the clipboard sheet that is on top of the card catalog, write your name, the date, and book title. When you return the books just put them in the crate provided for returned books, and someone will re-shelve the books in their proper place. Parents – feel free to take books from the specially marked bookshelves to use with your children during church services. Please put them back on that same shelf after the church service. Please enjoy the materials that are in that room!

WELS Radio and TV Ministry

Music for The Master followed by **Message from The Master** radio program can be heard each Sunday morning on AM "JOY 1340" WJYI at 7:00 a.m. The Milwaukee television stations that air **Time of Grace** are: WBME (ME Tv) – Sunday at 7:00 a.m.; WDJT (CBS 58) – Sunday at 10:30 a.m.; WWRS – Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and WTMJ (4) – Friday at 12:05 a.m. The cable channels that air the program are Freeform on Thursdays at 5:30 a.m. and TBN (Trinity Broadcast Network) on Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Please check your local provider's channel listing for more information.

Meals on Wheels

We help with the Walworth County Meals on Wheels program. If you would be willing and able to deliver Meals on Wheels, or have any questions, please contact Doris Salem at 723-2537.

Helping Institutional Ministries

WELS Institutional Ministries is in need of hotel/travel size shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes. These hygiene supplies are given out to returning citizens after incarceration. Please place these donated items in the box marked "Institutional Ministries" in the narthex.

ACH Offerings

First Lutheran Church has set up an automatic payments option through VANCO Payment Solutions for member giving. Authorization forms for your gifts to the church are available in the office. If this form of giving is an option for you, please return completed forms to the office. Please contact the office or Mike Schwark with any questions.

Thrivent Members

A benefit available to Thrivent members is being able to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to an organization. There is no additional cost to you for this program. Both First Lutheran Church and First Lutheran School are options for designation, along with a list of other organizations. You may go online, log into your account, and designate funds to your choice of organization(s), call your Thrivent representative, OR call Thrivent directly at 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say, "Thrivent Choice". We encourage you to help an organization using this benefit.

Food Pantry

Our church collects non-perishable food for the Elkhorn Food Pantry. The collection bin for donations is located in the narthex. Please note that the Elkhorn Food Pantry serves Elkhorn Area School District residents and is located at 14 W. Geneva Street.

Representatives of Elkhorn area churches run the pantry. Our members Bill Holtz and Fred Baudais are on the Board of Directors. Our members - Bill Holtz, Carla Baudais, Jim and Vickie Mueller, Doris Salem, and Bonnie Nommensen share their time at the pantry. The Walworth County Food Pantry, which serves the rest of Walworth County and is located at 205 E. Commerce Court, is a *separate* entity from the Elkhorn Food Pantry. Your generosity in helping the less fortunate is appreciated! *The Food Pantry always welcomes new volunteers. If you are interested in helping one morning a week (Monday, Wednesday, or Friday) each month, please contact Carla Baudais.*

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Schedule of Events

Wed., March 6 Grades K-2 sing in 6:30 p.m. Lenten service
Sun., March 10 – Sunday, March 17 “Dino-Mite” Scholastic Book Fair
Tues., March 12 Grades 5-8 visit JA BizTown
Wed., March 13 Grades 5-6 sing in 6:30 p.m. Lenten service
Thurs., March 14 FLS Open House – 1 – 6 p.m. (*weather permitting!*)
Mon., March 18 Board of Education – 6:00 p.m.
Monday, March 25 – Friday, March 29 NO SCHOOL – Spring Break

Be sure to check out our website - www.firstelkhorn.com/school – and access the most up to date calendar for school events! You can also sync the calendar to your Google calendar.

Click on School - News+Events to see/print copies of the Wednesday News and/or monthly calendar.

Winter Sports Season

Our Basketball teams played hard in the tournaments. The girls' B-team worked hard and improved all season, but lost both games in the tournament. The Boys' A-team played hard, but lost two games in the tournament.

Thank you to our coaches: Girls' B – Steve Adamson, Jess Newlin and Ben Schramm. The Boys' A-team was coached by Chad Greving and Jarod Sulik. The cheerleaders were coached by Kristi Stueber. Thank you to them for sharing their time and talents this season.

Book Fair

We are hosting a “Dino-Mite” Scholastic Book Fair Sunday, March 10 through Sunday, March 17th in the narthex. The Book fair will be open after services both Sundays as well as after school all week. If those times do not work for you, please contact the office and we would be happy to accommodate a time for you to look and/or purchase. Thank you in advance for supporting our classroom libraries and reference materials!

Open House

First Lutheran School hosting an open house on **Thursday, March 14th from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Feel free to stop in and see a little of the school day in action. Please spread the word and encourage others to come and learn more about our school! We are looking forward to our 2019-2020 school year!

Student Teachers

Miss Jennifer Adickes is serving with Miss Stueber and Mr. Connor Ragner is serving with Mr. Schramm until spring break at the end of March. Thank you to Mark and Pam Hoyord and Tom and Kelly Stech for hosting the students.

Save for your School

First Lutheran School participates in a variety of promotions to help fund our school's non-budgeted expenses; classroom learning aids like TIME for Kids, Spanish, special programming, and more. Please save and turn in Kwik Trip milk caps and bag tops (*this program is coming to an end – please turn in all caps and bag tops by March 15th*), General Mills Boxtops, and Frank's Piggly Wiggly receipts. Note our enrollment number when checking out at Office Max for us to gain credit for supplies. We also participate in SCRIP – purchasing and/or ordering gift cards to use as gift or your everyday purchases. An information sheet is located under the stairs near the green SCRIP order sheets. If you order from Amazon, use AmazonSmile and designate First Lutheran Church for a percentage of your purchase to go back to the school. If you have questions regarding any of the programs, please contact Mr. Schramm or the office. *Thank you for helping your school!*

415 S. Devendorf Street
Elkhorn, WI 53121
Phone: 262-723-4191-church
262-723-1091-school
E-mail:

pastorheuer@firststathecross.com
principal@firststathecross.com
secretary@firststathecross.com

March 2019

First Ev. Lutheran Church

www.firstelkhorn.com

Council Hosts:	Ushers:
8:00	10:30
Mar. 3 M. Schwark	J. Sulik
Mar. 10 T. Stech	B. Holtz
Mar. 17 _____	P. Rote
Mar. 24 _____	P. Rote
Mar. 31 M. Schwark	J. Sulik
Ash Wednesday, March 6 - Service 7:00 p.m.: T. Stech & C. Greving	D. Mangold
Lenten Services, Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - March 13 - P. Rote & D. Hintz	D. Mangold
March 20 - _____ & C. Collins - March 27 - _____ & R. Smith	S. Beaver

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Communion Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. BC/SS - 9:15 a.m.	4 MOM - 9:30 a.m.	5 Choir - 6:30 p.m.	6 Ash Wednesday Ladies Aid - 1:30 pm Service - 6:30 p.m. ~grades K-2 sing	7 Bible Class - 9 a.m. Toddler Open Gym - 9:30 a.m.	8	9 Men's Breakfast Bible Study - 8-9 a.m. LWMS Spring Rally Trinity, UG - 8:30am WLC Concert, First, Lake Geneva-2:30pm
10 Daylight Saving - Spring Forward! Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. BC/SS - 9:15 a.m.	11	12 Choir - 6:30 p.m.	13 Lenten Meal - 5:00 ~Sparks/Flames - Baked Potato Bar Service - 6:30 p.m. ~Rev. Schultz/ gr. 5-6 sing	14 Bible Class - 9 a.m. FLS Open House 1- 6 p.m.	15	16 Women's Bible Study - 8-9 a.m. Vision Development Event - 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
17 Communion Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. BC/SS - 9:15 a.m.	18 Board of Ed. - 6 pm Board Mtgs.-6:30 pm Church Council- 7pm	19 Choir - 6:30 p.m. Alive with Christ - 7:30 p.m.	20 Lenten Meal - 5:00 ~gr 5-8 - Service - 6:30 p.m. ~Rev. V. Prange/ Sunday school sings	21 Bible Class - 9 a.m. Toddler Open Gym - 9:30 a.m.	22	23
24 Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. BC/SS - 9:15 a.m.	25	26 NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK Choir - 6:30 p.m. Alive with Christ - 7:30 p.m.	27	28	29	30
31 Branches Band leads our Services at 8 & 10:30 am BC/SS - 9:15 a.m.	6:00-11:00 PM FLS Scholastic Book Fair - March 10 - 12					



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2019

Council Hosts:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Mar. 3	M. Schwark	J. Sulik
Mar. 10	T. Stech	B. Holtz
Mar. 17	_____	P. Rote
Mar. 24	_____	P. Rote
Mar. 31	M. Schwark	J. Sulik

Ushers:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
D. Mangold	S. Beaver
R. Smith	C. Collins
D. Hintz	M. Papenfus
C. Greving	M. Yunker
D. Mangold	S. Beaver

Ash Wednesday, March 6 - Service 7:00 p.m.: T. Stech & C. Greving

Lenten Services, Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. - March 13 - P. Rote & D. Hintz

March 20 - _____ & C. Collins

March 27 - _____ & R. Smith

Greeters:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Mar. 3	Doris Salem	Steve & Linda Godfrey
Mar. 10	Jim & Vickie Mueller	Gordon & Nancy Haak
Mar. 17	Aaron & Anna Mertes	Doreen Grams
Mar. 24	Marlene Schoenbeck	Bill Holtz
Mar. 31	Glenda Schellin	Bill & Mary Schomburg

Birthdays: shut in members are in **bold** print

1- Darlene Erickson	18- Renee Mangold	27- Mark Papenfus
Michael Yunker	19- Mark Schweinler	Bradley Freitag
Stephanie Jacobi	20- Linda Godfrey	28- Joseph Garcia
2- Graham Hintz	Karen Schoenbeck	Megan Lambert
5- Richard Gilkey	William Schomburg	29- Allison Lauderdale
Chandler Kayser	Paul Lemke	Elizabeth Golly
6- Cynthia Klewin	Madison Bedard	30- Kaaren Nelson
John Bartelt	Carley Bedard	Luke Cucchi
7- Dorothy Klein	22- Brett Sharp	31- Trinity Dement
8- Jessica Drake	Mason Beaver	
Isaac Bongard	23- Marsha Schwark	
11- Joyce Hammel	24- Helen Abbe	
Landon Yunker	James Lembach	
14- Linda Kreft	Sarah Papenfus	
15- Ashley Nolte	Lily Behling	
Kayden Young	Eden Schramm	
16- Stacey Stelzer	25- David Hintz	
17- Kent Meyer	26- Kara Hohlstein	
Sandra Walter	Hannah Miller	

Anniversaries:

Thomas & Karen Schoenbeck, March 2, 1968

Paul & Carolyn Schafer, March 4, 2000

Larry & Kathy Du Bois, March 14, 1981

Barney & Nancy Brugger, March 19, 1983

Todd & Denise Fink, March 26, 1994