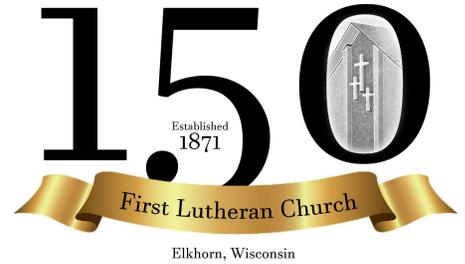




FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

News and Notes March 2021



Connecting People with Word and Sacrament

As you no doubt are aware, worship is now being offered in person and streamed live. Certainly if you are not able to be with us for a weekend service, the streaming ability is a tremendous blessing for you and many others. Ultimately though, whether at this time you are choosing to worship in person or online, physically gathering together should always be our desire if possible. While we understand that everyone is at a different comfort level regarding in person gatherings due to the ongoing pandemic, we encourage you to remember the blessings of gathering together as brothers and sisters in the faith and strive toward joining us in person once again.

Safe practices, like distancing and mask wearing, are being observed. Even with every other pew closed off during a service, there is still plenty of room in the sanctuary and the narthex if needed. As a result we have been able to worship together as safely as possible even when conventional worldly wisdom might say otherwise. We pray that we will be able to continue to do that as the Lord continues to bless us through Word and Sacrament.

Lent Worship Series - The Struggle

- ❖ March 7 - The Struggle Empowered by God's Word (Psalm 19)
- ❖ March 14 - The Struggle with Guilt (Psalm 38)
- ❖ March 21 - The Struggle is Relentless (Psalm 143)
- ❖ March 28 (Palm Sunday) - The Struggle to Understand the King (Psalm 24)

Midweek Lent Worship Series - Hands of the Passion

- ❖ March 3 - The Hands of Misguided Zeal (Peter) - Pastor Meier
- ❖ March 10 - The Hands of Hypocrisy (Caiaphas) - Pastor Bartelt (First, Lake Geneva)
- ❖ March 17 - The Hands of Brutality (Soldiers) - Pastor Heuer
- ❖ March 24 - The Hands of Self-Preservation (Pilate) - Pastor Lahmann (St. John's, Burlington)

Holy Week Worship Times (When there are multiple services, * indicates which will be live streamed.)

- ❖ Maundy Thursday with Communion - 3:30 and *6:30 PM
- ❖ Good Friday - 1:30 and *6:30 PM
- ❖ Easter Sunday with Communion - *8:00 and 10:30 AM

Holy Communion

Even though Holy Communion is being offered during regular worship services, we recognize that not everyone is comfortable with being in those services yet. However, it has also come to Pastor Heuer's attention that there may be some communing at home while watching the live stream. Although not wrong, it has been determined after careful study and thought within our synod that this may not be the best practice for receiving the Lord's Supper. While it is commendable that you desire to receive the Sacrament, we, as a congregation, still want to reflect an orderly practice of what God's Word tells us. If you have any questions or would prefer to receive the Sacrament outside of attending the worship service in person, please contact Pastor Heuer. Something can be arranged with you.

Current Bible Studies

- ❖ Sunday Bible Study will be starting a new topic on March 7 which has yet to be determined.
- ❖ Sing to the Lord: A Study of Lutheran Hymnody - Thursdays at 9:00 AM (Zoom available upon request)
- ❖ Starting Point: Understanding the Basic Truths of God's Word - Tuesdays at 7:00 PM (Zoom only)
- ❖ The Life and Teachings of Jesus (Men's Bible Study) - 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:00 AM

Video Sunday School Lessons

During this pandemic, certain things have been harder to do than others. Sunday School, for one reason or another, has been one of them. For the remainder of this school year, we shifted to making video Sunday School lesson resources available for families each week. YouTube links are emailed to parents to use as they see fit for "Sunday School at home". If you have not received those links and would like to be added to the list, contact Pastor Heuer.

Bible Reading and Online Discussion Group

Pastor has started a Bible reading and discussion group on Facebook linked with our church's podcast - Christ's Love, Ours to Share (<http://firstelkhorn.podbean.com>). The group with the same name is described as follows:

"A group organized by First Lutheran Church in Elkhorn, WI for the purpose of reading and discussing God's Word as we grow together in Christ's love through worship and home Bible readings."

The days when worship services are held will be dedicated to discussion of the message in worship that day. Monday through Friday (except during Lent) a Bible reading and short devotional thought will be shared on the page through the podcast. Saturday will be set aside to reread the readings from the week. Check out the group and ask to join today. Search for "Christ's Love, Ours to Share (First Lutheran Elkhorn, WI)", follow the group link (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/718700429070005>) or find the link posted on our church's Facebook page.

Even if you are not interested in being part of the group, you can still read along with us as the reading plan will be shared each week in worship and in the news bulletin. A printed calendar for the next two months is also available in the back of church on the counter under the steps.

Lutheran Elementary School

We have reached the midpoint of the 3rd quarter in our school year. There are a few highlights to note.

- Our four robotics teams have competed in three tournaments.
- Three of our robotics teams have been invited to the state tournament.
- Our students in grade 5-6 have earned the math championship in the annual contest that MLC conducts among our WELS schools. Our scholars outscored other schools in our size division. Part of the credit goes to their parents and our faculty.
- We will hold our Spirit Week the first week in March. There are special dress-up days and a big pep rally on Friday.
- Our forensics practices start in March. Competition will be May 5.
- Work has begun on our Social Studies Fair. Projects will be on display in the gym Friday, April 16 as well as on that Sunday.

General News and Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendars and Share!

- ❖ Tuesday, March 2 - MOM Meeting
- ❖ Wednesday, March 3 - Toddler Open Gym (Dr. Seuss)
- ❖ Saturday, March 13 - LWMS Spring Rally at Zion, Bristol
- ❖ Wednesday, March 17 - Toddler Open Gym (Noah's Ark and Rainbows)

Drive Thru Easter Egg Hunt

This year, due to lingering COVID concerns, we will not be holding our Easter Egg Hunt in the same way that it has been traditionally done. However, that isn't stopping us from continuing to reach out into our community! On Saturday, March 27 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, we are holding a community Drive Thru Easter Egg Hunt. As families drive through our parking lot, they will not only "find" candy filled eggs, but also encounter people who played an important role in the Easter story. Specific details are still being worked out. Mark your calendars today, watch for more information, and spread the word!

We also will need volunteers to welcome families attending, portray the people in the Easter story at each station, and hand things out (i.e. candy filled eggs, station bags, activity bags, and worship invitations). If you would like to help with this event, please contact Joe Kuehl or Pastor Heuer. Without your help this event like any other Easter Egg Hunt we have hosted in the past would not be possible as we work together to reach out into our community with the joyous certainty Easter gives us.

Worship Tech Team

With the new screens in the sanctuary, Pastor Heuer is looking to organize a new team of volunteers, the Worship Tech Team, who would assist by controlling those presentations for worship services. So far Pastor has been controlling them during every service. However, this is a great and easy volunteer opportunity! All it takes is one touch of the finger. Whoever is helping for a particular service would control the presentation using the church tablet from wherever they are sitting in the sanctuary as they worship. Pastor would organize a schedule and make it available to the team like is done for service musicians and ushers. These people would not, at this time, be responsible for any of the live streamed aspects of worship - only what is on the screen during worship. If you would like to volunteer in this way, please contact Pastor. If you are interested in learning how to run the system for live streaming services, contact Paul Lemke.