



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH

**March 2020
Newsletter**

Pastor's Corner

The season of Lent is upon us. On Ash Wednesday, there will be many who will have palm ash on their head in the shape of a cross. A special cross is placed at the front of the church. Purple is placed on our altar and pulpit. Worship services on Wednesday evenings will take us with Jesus to places like the upper room, Gethesemane, trial before the Sandhedrin and Pontius Pilate, Calvary, and the tomb. Historically the word "alleluia" is not used in our worship services until Easter because our joy is quieted for a time during the season of Lent. Those may be fine traditions people choose to do during Lent. But what is Lent?

The word itself comes from the word "lengten", an Old English word which means "spring" since that is the time of year when the days are being lengthened. For us the Lenten season is a time of repentance, a time to meditate deeply on the meaning of Christ's suffering and death for our salvation, and a time to concentrate on the continuing importance of amending our sinful lives.

In some ways, with eyes looking beyond the suffering and death of Jesus to his glorious resurrection, you might even say that Lent is kind of like a "spiritual spring". John of Damascus wrote in a hymn often sung at Easter time, "All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying." (CW 142 vs. 2) Through Jesus' cross, new life is given to us. The sins that made us spiritually lifeless have been removed and we are made alive in Christ who himself was raised to life in glorious victory. Because we are alive, life in heaven is ours. Spiritual spring has sprung for us and so has our desire to live alive in Christ. May the Lord bless your personal "spiritual spring" with eyes fixed on Jesus.

Growing in Grace Update

In my corner message to the congregation going forward, my plan is also to highlight the various opportunities we have that month to grow in God's grace gathering together around his Word. May it be an encouragement for all of us to regularly gather together to grow together!

Worship Themes - Contrast (Sundays)

- ❖ March 1 - Adam and Christ
- ❖ March 8 - Works and Faith/Two Kinds of Righteousness
- ❖ March 15 - Darkness and Light
- ❖ March 22 - Old Self and New Self/Two Mindsets
- ❖ March 29 - Death and Life

Worship Themes - The Son of God Goes Forth to War (Wednesdays)

- ❖ March 4 - Skirmishes
- ❖ March 11 - Reconnaissance Report: Know Your Enemy
- ❖ March 18 - The Warrior Rejected by Many Followers
- ❖ March 25 - The Warrior Faces Satan's Ally, the World

Family Bible Hour (Sunday School and Adult Bible Study)

- ❖ March 1 - A Mercy-Full Message - The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- ❖ March 8 - A Prayer Lesson - The Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-13)
- ❖ March 15 - A Shepherd Loves - The Good Shepherd (John 10:1-18; Psalm 23)
- ❖ March 22 - A Tree View - Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)
- ❖ March 29 - A Crushing Truth - Jesus is Crucified (Matthew 27:11-66)

March 2020

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Council Hosts:
 8:00 P. Lenke
 10:30 M. Schwark
 8:00 S. Beaver
 10:30 C. Collins
Ushers:
 8:00 S. Beaver
 10:30 C. Collins
 March 1 P. Lenke
 March 8 T. Stech
 March 15 M. Hoyord
 March 22 J. Kuehl
 March 29 P. Lenke
 Lenten Services - Wednesdays at 6:30 pm: March 4 - J. Kuehl & M. Papenfus
 March 11 - P. Lenke & C. Greving
 March 18 - R. Smith & S. Beaver
 March 25 - M. Schwark & C. Collins

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Services-8&10:30 am Family Bible Hour - 9:15 a.m. <i>Twila Night-6:30 pm</i>	2	3 MOM - 9:30 a.m. Choir - 6:30 p.m.	4 Toddler Open Gym - 9-10:30 a.m. Ladies Aid - 1:30 p.m. Lenten Meal - 5:15 pm Lenten Service - 6:30 -	5 Bible Class - 9:00 am	6	7 Foundations - 9:30-10:30 a.m.
8 Spring Forward! Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. Family Bible Hour - 9:15 a.m.	9 Board of Elders - 6:30 p.m.	10 Choir - 6:30 p.m.	11 Lenten Meal - 5:15 pm Lenten Service - 6:30 ~Gr. K-4 sing	12 Bible Class - 9:00 am	13	14 Men's Breakfast Bible Study - 8-9 a.m. Foundations - 9:30-10:30 a.m.
15 Communion Services-8&10:30 am Family Bible Hour - 9:15 a.m.	16 Board of Ed. - 6 p.m. Bd. Meetings - 6:30 Council - 7 p.m.	17 Choir - 6:30 p.m.	18 Toddler Open Gym - 9-10:30 a.m. Lenten Meal - 5:15 pm Lenten Service - 6:30	19 Bible Class - 9:00 am	20	21 Women's Bible Study - 8-9 a.m. Foundations - 9:30-10:30 a.m.
22 Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. Family Bible Hour - 9:15 a.m.	23	24 Choir - 6:30 p.m.	25 Lenten Meal - 5:15 pm Lenten Service - 6:30	26 Bible Class - 9:00 am	27	28 Foundations - 9:30-10:30 a.m.
29 Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. Family Bible Hour - 9:15 a.m.	30	31 Choir - 6:30 p.m.				

No School - Spring Break



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Information

Worship Services/Classes.

- **Thursday:** Bible Class – 9:00 a.m.
- **Sunday:** Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Family Bible Hour – 9:15 a.m.
 - **Saturday:** “Foundations” Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.
Men’s Breakfast Bible Study – 2nd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.
Women’s Bible Study – 4th Saturday – 8-9 a.m.

Lenten Season

Light suppers will be served before the Wednesday evening Lenten serves from 5:15 - 6 pm:

- March 4 – Sparks/Flames serve Baked Potato Bar
- March 11 – Grades 7-8 serve Spaghetti
- March 18 – Choir serves Tacos
- March 25 – Altar serves BBQ/Hot Dogs

“The Son of God Goes Forth to War” - Lenten Services – 6:30 p.m.:

- March 4 – Pastor Heuer
- March 11 – Pastor Kirk Lahmann, St. John’s, Burlington
- March 18 – Pastor Dan Waldschmidt, St. John’s, Burlington
- March 25 – Pastor Meier

Lent Worship – Contrast: Ash Wednesday is February 26, which begins the season of Lent. We will hold a special service that evening at 6:30 p.m. Lent is a season of contrasts. It begins with the godly sorrow of repentance of Ash Wednesday and ends with the exultant joy of Easter victory. This year during the Sundays and Holy Week on our Lenten journey we will see sharp contrasts. We will see how God reveals the stark contrast between sinful humans and the redeeming God-man, between doing it yourself and trusting in God, between being darkness or being light in the Lord. Get a glimpse of the “old self” and “new self” to see and appreciate the transformation that God has accomplished through Christ. The contrasts are as opposite as death and life. The only one who could accomplish these transformations is the one who humbled himself, so that we could be changed, exalted. We pray that through our worship together, these contrasts highlight who we were on our own and who we are now through Christ.

Midweek Lent Worship - The Son of God Goes Forth to War (6:30): Scripture is filled with imagery and descriptions of our Savior Jesus as the warrior who fights and defeats sin, death, and Satan. Our midweek Wednesday Lent services this year will focus on an aspect of our Savior-warrior as he is promised to us, fights our enemies for us, and triumphs over them for us.

LWMS Spring Rally

The LWMS Spring Rally will be held on Saturday, March 21 at Zion Lutheran Church, Bristol. Registration begins at 8:30 AM with opening devotion at 9:00 AM. Mr. Shannon Bohme, coordinator of Mission Journeys, will be the speaker. Mission Journeys, the newest mission initiative, is a WELS program for short term mission trips for WELS congregations and their members to help home mission churches, world mission fields and existing congregations with outreach events. The mission offering will be directed to this Mission Journeys program. A door offering will be taken Sundays, March 1 and 8. Mark your calendars. Carpooling will be available.

Toddler Open Gym

This program is intended for children age 0 – 5, along with their parent/caregiver and will take place from 9 – 10:30 in the school gym on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from September through May. March's TOG dates are March 4th & 18th. This 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, and area just for babies, and more! We will also have a devotion and snack during the playtime. Please contact Trista Heuer with any questions- 1-920-222-1510.

Toddler Open Gym's current wish list is:

Individually packaged snacks (nut free)

MOM (Moms of Might)

All moms with preschool age or younger are welcome to join our mom's group. Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of every month through May. If school is not in session on a first Tuesday, the meeting will be held the second Tuesday. Other activities are also planned during the year.

Volunteers are needed to help with childcare during the meetings. A sign-up sheet is on the brown door. We would like to have at least 2 volunteers to help for each meeting, with a 3rd signed up as a backup if needed. Please contact Trista Heuer - tsheuer@gmail.com or call/text 1-920-222-1510 if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your time and support!

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, Linda Zahn – 262-723-5321, 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, applications are available from pastor. 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 then distributes fund based on the application and need. If you would care to contribute to this fund or need a tuition assistance application, please contact the office.

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. Feel free to 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.

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.*

Meals on Wheels

Our church helps with the Walworth County Meals on Wheels program. If you would be willing and able to help, or have questions on what meals on wheels is about, please contact Doris Salem.

Thrivent Members

A benefit available to Thrivent members is designating Thrivent Choice Dollars to an organization. There is no additional cost to you to participate. Both First Lutheran Church and First Lutheran School are options for designation, along with a list of other organizations. 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 with this member benefit.

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 with any questions.

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Schedule of Events

Thursday, March 5	Grades 5 – 8 to LPS Musical
Sunday, March 8	Science Fair project viewing in gym
Sunday, March 8 – Sunday, March 15	“Elephants, Tigers and Books - Oh My!” Book Fair
Wednesday, March 11	4K – 4 th grade sing in 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service
Friday, March 13	K – 8 Field Trip to Milwaukee
Friday, March 20	End of 3 rd Quarter
Monday, March 23 – Friday, March 27	NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
Saturday, March 28	Robotics Tournament at St. Mark’s, Watertown

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

Our Girls B-team and Boys’ B-team played hard in the year end tournament. The girls worked very hard all season and made great improvements, but lost in the tournament. The boys also worked hard all season and took home the consolation trophy!

Thank you to our coaches – Girls’ B – Steve Adamson and Rachel Nolte. Boys’ B was coached by Chad Greving and Bob Babiak. Their sharing of their time and talents is much appreciated.

Book Fair

We are hosting a Scholastic Book Fair “Jungle – Elephants, Tigers and Books – Oh My!” Sunday, March 8th through Sunday, March 15th. The Book Fair will be open after services on Sunday and after school all week. If those times do not work, please call the office to set up a time to view/purchase books. Thank you in advance for supporting our classroom libraries and reference materials!

Save for your School

First Lutheran School participates in a variety of promotions to help fund our school’s non-budgeted expenses; Spanish class, classroom learning aids like TIME for Kids, special programming, and more:

- § Please save and turn in **Frank’s Piggly Wiggly receipts** (*look for the quarter listed on the bottom of the receipt and please turn them in on a timely basis!* We are currently in 1st quarter 2020 and they are due in the office by Monday, April 6th. We have to toss all late receipts received after the due date. No late receipts are accepted by Frank’s.)
- § The **BoxTops** program is changing – a few products will still have the BoxTops attached (which you turn in), but most items have the new blue box top - where you must scan your receipt where the item(s) were purchased and upload it for BoxTops credit – the blue box top cannot be turned in for funds. If you have a receipt you would like scanned, the office can help you with that. The receipt cannot be more than 14 days old.
- § **SCRIP** – purchasing and/or ordering gift cards to use as gift or like cash for your every day purchases. An information sheet is located under the stairs near the green SCRIP order sheets.
- § **Amazon**, use AmazonSmile and designate First Lutheran Church for a percentage of your purchase to go back to the school.
- § **NEW! - Shutterfly** – go to our “store” site – FirstLutheran.ShutterflyStorefront.com – log in as you would. First Lutheran get 8% back on purchases!

If you have questions regarding any of the programs, please contact the office. *Thank you for helping your school!*