

**First Lutheran Church**

**3601 Dakota Ave**

**South Sioux City, NE 68776**

**[www.flcssc.org](http://www.flcssc.org)**

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# **First Lutheran Church**

**March 2024**



***God's Work. Our Hands.***

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Sign up for electronic giving at:

<http://giving.flcssc.org>

Download the EasyTithe app from the app stores.

Text give at:

402-557-0882



**The deadline for the April Newsletter is March 21.**

## CHURCH COUNCIL (\*Executive Council)

*President	Bart Gotch 712/259-2001
*Vice-President	Bob Barto 712/490-1676
*Treasurer	Jim Hansen 402/404-4920
*Secretary	Scott Koepp 712/389-2944
Branden Lieber	712/259-4312
Chris Lofgren	402/580-6161
Randy Rahn	928/551-2464
Ray Schleusener	712/898-5464
Terry Sorem	712/490-9271
Pastor Patti Meyer	623/910-7859

## PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR PATTI

Greetings and Grace to you all.

In this season of Lent, we are in a time of transformation...a spiritual transformation...which begins with entry into the wilderness as we are marked with ashes. We *depart* the routines and commonness of our lives and spend some time in the wilderness (40 days actually) as we *encounter* God in ways that we hope can transform our hearts and minds. And then we re-enter (or *return*) to our lives in a new way.

Richard Rohr, an American Franciscan priest and writer on spirituality, posted a daily meditation on “*The Center for Action and Contemplation*.” It describes this time in our lives as a “Hero’s Journey.” Richard says, “forces of good and evil are always in play, leading to tragedies and graces in our lives.”

This journey is about leaving what’s comfortable, what feels like sufficient and enough...to discover a bigger world...bigger than here. That’s called *departure*. In the *Wizard of Oz*,

Dorothy has to leave Kansas – and she’s taken away by a tornado. And, like Dorothy, it will take a circumstance, an accident, a death or suffering of some kind for us to leave the comforts of our lives. But in this journey, we have to lose or walk away from our sense of order and enter some kind of disorder to experience transformation.

Then there’s the *encounter*. After we leave our castle or stable home, we have to experience something bigger, something better, something that is more real and more demanding of our real energies. It’s in our wilderness encounter, like when Jesus went into the desert for 40 days, that we find what’s real in this journey.

Surprisingly, the third stage of our journey is the *return*. We can’t spend the rest of our lives in the wilderness. We have to return to where we started, know it in a new way, and experience life in a new way. We are not somehow “beyond” the order and disorder of our lives; we’ve learned how to integrate both of them.

We *depart*, to experience an *encounter*, which hopefully causes a transformation of our hearts and our minds so we can *return* to our lives in a new way.

Our focus in scripture for midweek worship will be from the Synod’s “Go and ... for Lent” series. We continue to explore stories and have conversations around them on Wednesday evenings.

- March 6: Jesus’ story about the Good Samaritan
- March 13: Observations from the Temple – Turning Over the Tables and/or Giving 2 Coins
- March 20: The Road to Emmaus

Holy Week begins on March 24 with Palm/Passion Sunday.

March 28: Maundy Thursday with Communion

March 29: Good Friday “*Prayer Stations of Peter*”

March 31: Easter Sunday with Communion

– Pastor Patti

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to thank all the volunteers and past leaders for all that they have done and continue to do for the good of First!

I want to thank Pastor Patti for hosting the congregational mapping meetings to get a historical perspective as we begin to map a course forward. A book called "Canoeing the Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger was mentioned at a mapping session which has a Lewis & Clark Expedition perspective on religion and the church. I would encourage you to check out the book or video on the author.

The Council and the Executive Committee have met several times to perform the work for the church. Our first objective was to get the insurance bound for the church. We will continue to discuss council members' duties and the priorities of the church. Again, the Council invites you to attend any or all of the Council meetings.

It's a time to be grateful for what we have at First, especially our pastor and our members/volunteers for the good of the church!

– Bart Gotch

## LECTORS

March 3	Tristan Kinnaman
March 10	Mary Wolf
March 17	Tanner Koepp
March 24	Ellen Prescott
March 31	Terri Gotch

If you would like to lector but haven't been contacted, please call Mary Wolf at 402/494-4697.

## JANUARY ATTENDANCE

January 7	45
January 14	No Worship
January 21	58
January 28	58

The best mathematical equation ever given:  
1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

## WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 3	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</u> First Lesson: Exodus 20:1-17 Second Lesson: 1 Cor. 1:18-25 Gospel: John 2:13-22
March 10	<u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</u> First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9 Second Lesson: Ephesians 2:1-10 Gospel: John 3:14-21
March 17	<u>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</u> First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34 Second Lesson: Hebrews 5:5-10 Gospel: John 12:20-33
March 24	<u>Palm Sunday</u> First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a Second Lesson: Phil. 2:5-11 Gospel: Mark 14:1 – 15:47
March 31	<u>Easter</u> First Lesson: Acts 10:34-43 Second Lesson: 1 Cor. 15:1-11 Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 5	Rob Bianchini
March 7	Sharon Potter
March 10	Vicki Lyons
March 11	Matt McArthur
March 15	Trish Porter
March 20	Mark Peterson
March 23	Pearl Curry
March 24	Brianne Lake
March 31	Kathy Blair

## YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

March 14	Justin Baker
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If we have missed any birthday or anniversary, please let us know.

## CHURCH OFFICE

Phone: 402/494-5462

Email: [office@flcssc.org](mailto:office@flcssc.org)

Pastor Patti's phone: 623/910-7859

Pastor Patti's email: [prdpmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:prdpmeyer@gmail.com)

### CIRCLE I

Circle I met on February 19 for coffee and dessert with fellowship. We discussed delivery of Easter plants for shut-ins as well as had a Bible study. Feel free to join us on the third Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

### LYDIA GROUP

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 14 at 6:30 p.m. Please join us!

WELCA EXECUTIVE BOARD will meet March 25 at 7:00 p.m.

### FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Fellowship has planned an outing to Palermo Italian Cuisine in Jackson, Nebraska for Sunday, April 14 at 4:30 p.m. We will meet there. Dutch treat. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center so we can let them know how many to expect. Sign up by April 7, please!

### EASTER LILIES

Once again, we will order lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. If you would like to purchase a lily, order forms are available at the Welcome Center. The last day to order is March 16. Contact Anne Lofgren at 402/312-2540 with any questions.

### NOISY OFFERING

Are you aware that the noisy offering that is taken each Sunday morning by the youth will be used to purchase gifts for names on the Giving Tree at Christmas? So clear out that extra change in your purse or pocket and give generously all year long.

### THANK YOU

Dear First Lutheran Family,  
I would like to thank you all for the wonderful gifts that you gave to me at Christmastime. It was so wonderful so thank all of you.

– Dona Shook

### THANK YOU

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Haven House would like to thank you for your generosity during this holiday season. We wouldn't be able to give our clients and their children a Christmas without your support. It's always so fun to see their faces light up and even tear up when they are given the gifts. They are all so grateful and appreciate your kindness. This year we were able to serve a total of 23 families, which included 23 adults and 40 children. Again, thank you for your support and your help with making their holiday a little brighter. Thank you again and we hope to partner with you next year!

Sincerely,  
Esmeralda Castro  
Enhanced Advocate Services

### THANK YOU

Congregation of First Lutheran,

Thank you so very much for your generosity in providing children with Christmas gifts this holiday season. With your kindness, 30 children from 15 families were able to enjoy some really amazing, thoughtful gifts.

We would like to share some feedback from parents and children on how they were impacted by your generosity this holiday season:

“Mom wasn't expecting to get everything on the wish list for her child, so she was pleasantly surprised and so appreciative for the gifts.”

“Mom was very thankful and got visibly emotional when I brought in the gifts. I wished her a Merry Christmas. She said ‘Thank you’ many, many times and ‘Bless You’. So, I am now passing on the blessing to you, congregation of First Lutheran. Thank you so very much!”

Your friends,  
The Lutheran Services In Iowa Early Childhood Team in Sioux City, Iowa:

Mallory Berkenpas, Alyssa Silver,  
Kellie Collins, Jennier Paulsen,  
Gretchen O'Brien and Angie Scott

# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 SS 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship Planning 10:30 a.m.	4 Fellowship Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	5	6 Soup/Rolls 5:00 p.m.  Lenten Worship 5:30 p.m.	7 Food Bank 1:00-2:00 p.m.	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  Worship 9:30 a.m.	11	12	13 Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 a.m. 5:00-7:00 p.m. Soup/Rolls 5:00 p.m. Lenten Worship 5:30 p.m.	14 Lydia 6:30 p.m.	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion) Council Mtg. 10:30 a.m.	18 Circle I 2:00 p.m.	19	20 Soup/Rolls 5:00 p.m.  Lenten Worship 5:30 p.m.	21 Food Bank 1:00-2:00 p.m.	22	23
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b> SS 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.	25 WELCA Executive Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	26	27 Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 a.m. 5:00-7:00 p.m.	28 <b>Maundy Thursday</b>  Worship (Communion) 5:30 p.m.	29 <b>Good Friday</b>  Prayer Stations of Peter 5:30 p.m.	30 Bill McLarty Birthday Party 2:00-4:00 p.m.
31 <b>Easter Celebration</b> SS 9:00 a.m.  Worship (Communion) 9:30 a.m.						

# Easter Word Search

K	Z	O	U	K	H	J	R	C	Y	J	F	I	N	E	H	Y	K	R	I	E	K	A	U	Q	H	T	R	A	E
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- ANGELS
- APOSTLES
- BETRAYAL
- BLOOD
- CALVARY
- CROSS
- CROWN OF THORNS
- CRUCIFIXION
- DARKNESS
- DEATH
- EARTHQUAKE
- EASTER
- GOLGOTHA
- HIGH PRIEST
- JESUS CHRIST
- JOSEPH
- JUDAS ISCARIOT
- KING
- LAMB

- MARY
- NAILS
- PASSOVER
- PIECES OF SILVER
- PIERCED
- PILATE
- RESURRECTION
- ROBE
- ROMANS
- SACRIFICE
- SIMON OF CYRENE
- SOLDIERS
- SON OF GOD
- SPEAR
- STONE
- TEMPLE
- THIEVES
- THREE DAYS
- TOMB