

First Lutheran Church
3601 Dakota Ave
South Sioux City, NE 68776

www.flcssc.org
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First Lutheran Church

March 2025



God's Work. Our Hands.

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402-557-0882



The deadline for the April Newsletter is March 20.

CHURCH COUNCIL (*Executive Council)

*President	Bart Gotch 712/259-2001
*Vice-President	Ellen Prescott 712/333-1503
*Treasurer	Jim Hansen 402/404-4920
*Secretary	Scott Koeppe 712/389-2944
Clint Barrs	712/301-8951
Bob Barto	712/490-1676
Randy Grove	712/203-1365
Carli Lake	Youth Representative
Randy Rahn	928/551-2464
Terry Sorem	712/490-9271
*Pastor Patti Meyer	623/910-7859

PASTOR PATTI'S PONDERINGS

Cultivating Love Through Response

Our Cultivating Love theme for March is “*Cultivating Love through Response*”... No sooner do we enter this month and Ash Wednesday is upon us along with the start of the great forty days of Lent. As we journey with Jesus...we learn and follow. We see all that God has done and promises to do and we are invited to respond.

Our response this particular month flows from the Lenten call to return or turn toward God. As we make that move, we are invited to go deeper, to be intentional, and to focus on growing as disciples and stewards of God's love. That is why this Lent could be a great opportunity for all of us to ponder and commit to a deeper sense of discipleship, generosity and stewardship.

On Ash Wednesday, we are called into practices of prayer, repentance and almsgiving. This year we journey for 40 days, pondering on the ever-so-familiar words of the Lord's Prayer...we

know it by heart...usually at a very young age. It's a prayer that has been around as long as the Bible.

Come on Wednesday evenings, grab a bowl of soup and join in with the conversations around the words that we so freely pray without thinking sometimes. It might change the way you pray, and it might change how you relate to God in prayer.

– Pastor Patti Meyer

LENTEN SCHEDULE

March 5

6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship

March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9

5:30 p.m. Meal

6:00 p.m. Worship/Study

Confirmation students will help lead.

April 13

9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship/Communion

April 17

6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship/Communion

April 18

6:00 p.m. Good Friday Meditations on Facebook Live

April 20

9:30 a.m. Easter Worship/Communion

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME begins on Sunday, March 9. Clocks “spring forward” one hour!

AMERICAN FLAGS

If you have an American flag that needs to be retired, you can place it in the designated box in the entryway. Scouts in our community have projects in which they learn how to dispose of them properly.

“We cannot pray in love and live in hate and still think we are worshipping God.” – A.W. Tozer

First Lutheran Church Council
First Lutheran Church Congregation

When I was elected to the church council, I was planning to bring a business perspective with management expertise along with fiscal/financial responsibility. I was hoping to achieve a positive bottom line which the church council did achieve in 2024 while projecting positive results for 2025.

As I was pondering the “Canoeing the Mountain” book, it became clear to me that I am a “technician” type leader. In the book and videos, an “adaptive leader” is what our church needs as well as many other churches throughout our state and country. While there may be a division within, I felt some progress was being made with our transitional minister but perhaps I was “hopeful or naïve”.

I was saddened by the recent council resignations by Ellen Prescott, Jim Hansen, and Scott Koeppe. This only complicated my decision as I have been prayerfully deliberating my role here at First Lutheran Church. My relationship with Pastor too has come to an impasse and appears that there are irreconcilable differences. I do not wish to be a point of contention for the church or the reason the First Lutheran Church loses their transitional minister. I believe it best that I submit my resignation effective immediately.

I want to thank those who were supportive of our church council’s transparency and our fiscal responsibility. I wish and pray for the best for this congregation.

Sincerely,
Bart Gotch

WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN

- March 2 Transfiguration of Our Lord
First Lesson: Exodus 34:29-35
Second Lesson: 2 Cor. 3:12 – 4:2
Gospel: Luke 9:28-43a
- March 9 First Sunday in Lent
First Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Second Lesson: Romans 10:8b-13
Gospel: Luke 4:1-13
- March 16 Second Sunday in Lent
First Lesson: Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18
Second Lesson: Phil. 3:17 – 4:1
Gospel: Luke 13:31-35
- March 23 Third Sunday in Lent
First Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-9
Second: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Gospel: Luke 13:1-9
- March 30 Fourth Sunday in Lent
First Lesson: Joshua 5:9-12
Second Lesson: 2 Cor. 5:16-21
Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

INDULGE FOR LENT?

Rather than sacrificing something for Lent – especially something easy and spiritually insignificant, such as chocolate – Patty Kirk, in *Guideposts* magazine, suggests finding new ways to indulge in God’s presence. Surely one can do this by having extra devotions or attending Lenten worship services. But Kirk offers these ideas:

1. Spend time outdoors, sensing God’s magnificence.
2. Spend time with others, extending generosity and compassion. Remember Jesus’ promise that when you care for others, you care for him (Matthew 25:31-46).
3. Pray for the “little things,” coming before God in childlike trust and feeling peace.
4. Watch attentively for God’s answers to prayer, and receive them as reminders of his presence.
5. Turn anxiety into prayer. As you frame concerns as prayers and entrust them to God, you “sacrifice” the tendency to wallow in worry.

LECTORS

March 2	Pam Knudsen
March 9	Justin Baker
March 16	Brooklyn Sorem
March 23	Mary Wolf
March 30	Tristan Kinnaman

JANUARY ATTENDANCE

January 5	45
January 12	57
January 19	No Worship
January 26	59

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 5	Rob Bianchini
March 7	Sharon Potter
March 10	Vicki Lyons
March 16	Tom Weekes
March 18	Terry Kenny
March 20	Mark Peterson
March 21	Dennis Derochie
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.

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY, MADISON

Unfortunately, we missed Madison Koeppe's February 7 birthday in the February newsletter. We are very sorry, Madison.

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the change of humble and grateful hearts.

– Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers

CIRCLE I did not meet in February due to freezing temperatures. We will meet in March on Monday the 17th at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome.

LYDIA will meet Thursday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. Please join us!

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

THE QUILTING GROUP will meet this month on Saturday, March 22 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

FOOD PANTRY

First Lutheran Church continues to be the gathering place for the Food Bank of Siouxland. We have Food Pantry on the first and third Thursday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Food Pantry served around 60 families in February. No Pantry was held February 20 due to extremely cold weather.

Thank you to the students from Gateway to Learning for the help with unloading the pallets of groceries onto the tables for distribution in the morning. Then, returning in the afternoon to help load groceries into the cars.

We invite anyone who is interested in helping, whether you can only help in the morning to set up or can only help in the afternoon to do the distribution of food, to come and be a part of this ministry.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to ALL who show up to volunteer or has anything to do with supporting this ministry. This ministry would not be possible without all of your support.

Kindness, if you show it to others, will radiate from you like the warmth of the sun over the hilltops.

– Source unknown

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion)	3 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Fellowship/ Worship Planning 6:30 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	4 Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	5 Ash Wednesday Worship 6:00 p.m. (Communion)	6 Food Pantry 1:00-2:30 p.m. Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	7	8
9 Daylight Saving Time Begins! Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m.	10 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	11 Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	12 Soup & Dessert 5:30 p.m. Lent Worship/Study 6:00 p.m.	13 Lydia 6:30 p.m. Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	14	15
16 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion)	17 Circle I 2:00 p.m. Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	18 Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	19 Soup & Dessert 5:30 p.m. Lent Worship/Study 6:00 p.m.	20 Food Pantry 1:00-2:30 p.m. Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	21	22 Quilting Group 9:00 a.m.-Noon
23 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Council Mtg. 10:30 a.m.	24 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	25 WELCA Exec. 7:00 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m. Amateur Radio Club 7:00 p.m.	26 Soup & Dessert 5:30 p.m. Lent Worship/Study 6:00 p.m.	27 Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	28	29
30 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m.	31 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.					

ASH WEDNESDAY

WORD SEARCH

Solve the following puzzle by finding all the hidden words!

A	U	R	S	P	I	R	I	T	U	A	L	I	T	Y	F	E
R	S	O	B	L	I	G	A	T	I	O	N	E	C	M	C	S
R	F	H	R	N	O	A	H	R	E	O	T	Y	L	I	E	I
R	I	R	E	O	S	F	G	H	I	S	I	T	F	C	E	M
E	E	H	Y	S	I	F	T	T	S	E	F	I	A	Y	B	O
P	W	A	A	E	T	H	C	E	M	R	S	Y	A	E	R	
E	E	I	R	T	C	E	N	L	C	L	M	P	S	R	P	
N	T	P	R	L	E	S	U	A	S	E	T	O	W	M	L	
T	I	E	U	F	V	G	F	S	P	I	I	A	E	O	E	R
A	Y	H	E	I	E	H	E	L	S	S	C	E	A	I	E	C
N	C	R	G	I	T	I	O	M	F	A	S	T	I	N	G	
C	F	R	Y	I	G	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	N	I	T	N
E	O	G	A	S	S	E	C	F	O	R	E	H	E	A	D	O
F	Y	F	E	N	C	N	C	E	A	C	P	R	L	R	N	I
W	E	D	N	E	S	D	A	Y	U	I	P	F	T	C	I	R

PRAYER

SACRIFICE

FAITHFUL

LENT

ASHES

SPIRITUALITY

PALMS

REFLECTION

FORGIVENESS

REPENTANCE

FOREHEAD

PROMISE

CHURCH

OBLIGATION

FASTING

WEDNESDAY

WORSHIP

BAPTISM