

**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 2026**



***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



**MARCH**

The deadline for the April Newsletter is March 19.

CHURCH COUNCIL (\*Executive Council)

- \*President Rita Todd  
712/574-1769
- \*Vice-President Jarrod Knudsen  
712/898-1170
- \*Treasurer Jenni Durant  
712/577-1162
- \*Secretary Amy Groth  
712/490-4127
- Justin Baker Youth Representative
- Clint Barrs 712/301-8951
- Bob Barto 712/490-1676
- Tanner Koepp 712/560-2053
- Terry Sorem 712/490-9271
- \*Pastor Patti Meyer 623/910-7859

PASTOR PATTI'S PONDERINGS

**Romans 15:13:** “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

I am learning about Listening in our Spiritual Direction class materials. This week the reading was focused on listening inward and we reflected on the “filters” that we listen through. And then today I learned just how strong my filters can be and how certain filters can affect the way I listen in different circumstances. I challenge you all in this season of Lent to listen to your own filters as we gather and have discussions around the table to learn and understand His Death and Resurrection. The more we listen inward, the more we can hear God in our midst. This season of Lent that we enter into is a time (40 days) that we can experience the silence of our own wants and the chatter of our everyday lives, to examine our hearts, to repent of those things we wish we hadn't done or said (and even of those things we don't even know we did to hurt someone), and to grow closer to God. This is a season in which we can experi-

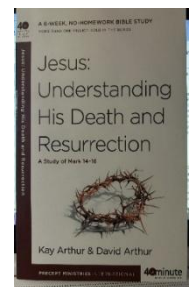
ence the joy of gathering in study and worship, that we can experience the peace of God that remains beyond our understanding and yet is right here in our midst. Lean into this journey with me, and let the Spirit of the Lord help you trust in what God is asking you to become in this journey.

Blessings in this journey,  
Pastor Patti

LENTEN JOURNEY 2026

Lenten Midweek Soup and Study continues through the month of March. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. for soup and desserts and continue with worship at 6:00 p.m. (There is a sign-up sheet for soups and desserts at the welcome table). Our time together will follow the same format as the past couple years. This year our conversations will be around the scriptures surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection. In this “study”, we can consider for ourselves all that Jesus endured to bring forgiveness to sinners and hope to the hopeless, from which we can understand as never before why it's so essential to share with others the good news of His death and resurrection. Why would Jesus, who knew beforehand all that would happen and who held the power of heaven at His command, submit to being humiliated, tortured and ultimately killed?

If you would like to follow along during Lent with a study book, you can purchase this on Amazon. However, I will have handouts with the readings we will share and the questions we will ponder.



FLOWERS FOR EASTER

If you plan to bring a plant/flower to brighten our sanctuary for Easter, please have it here by Palm Sunday. If you would like to make that in honor or in memory of someone, fill out an “Easter Lily” form at the welcome desk and put it in the basket by March 15.

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are moving forward with the flooring project. By the time this is printed, it will be nearly finished. Painting continues with Pastor's office, and the mural is beginning near the coffee station. Easter will be celebrated once again with organ music, played by Rick Darrow. Jennifer Lieber is organizing an Emergency Food supply that can be dispersed to needy individuals who approach the church from time to time. Please help meet this need by bringing in a few nonperishable items or a financial contribution.

Another opportunity to participate is to make a contribution toward the heat pump repairs on the sanctuary furnace. At this time, we do not have an amount, but every bit will help.

Please continue to ask questions and provide new ideas.

Rita Todd  
Council President

## LECTORS

March 1	Open
March 8	Open
March 15	Justin Baker
March 22	Open
March 29	Open

## USHERS

March 1	Justin Baker and Randy Rahn
March 8	Bev Bates and Vicki Lyons
March 15	Mike and Sue Hunter
March 22	Bart and Terri Gotch
March 29	Rick and Jennifer Lieber

## JANUARY ATTENDANCE

January 4	43
January 11	45
January 18	46
January 25	38

## HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY!

Unfortunately, we missed Milissa Reyes' January 27 birthday in the January newsletter, and we missed Madison Koeppel's February 7 birthday in the February newsletter. Our apologies to Milissa and Madison.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 7	Sharon Potter
March 10	Vicki Lyons
March 16	Tom Weekes
March 20	Mark Peterson
March 21	Dennis Derochie
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.

## CIRCLE I

We met on February 16 for fellowship and Bible study. Our next meeting is Monday, March 16 at 2:00 p.m. All women are invited!

## LYDIA

Join us for our next meeting on Thursday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m.

WELCA EXECUTIVE will meet Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 p.m.

LYDIA GROUP is accepting XL or larger used t-shirts to make diapers for Lutheran World Relief. Our quilters are asking for bed sheets, used or new, to use for backing for our quilts.

## FELLOWSHIP

Planned a Maundy Thursday Spaghetti Supper (pasta, sauces, lettuce salad, garlic bread and dessert). Free-will offering.

Cookies/Bars after service on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Pictures will be taken on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. This year we will try to put together a directory of our members.

During Lent, we will have soup and dessert and Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Bible study will begin at 6:00 p.m., and we can eat during Bible Study.

## FOOD PANTRY

First Lutheran Church continues to be the gathering place for the Food Bank of Siouxland as a Mobile Food Pantry. We serve our neighbors on the first and third Thursday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Food Pantry served a total of 170 families at our two February pantries.

The students from Gateway to Learning (GTL) helped to put groceries on the tables. Thank you so much for your help and returning in the afternoon to help load groceries.

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.

## A PEEK INTO HOLY WEEK

On April 2, we will be having a spaghetti dinner/Maundy Thursday worship in the fellowship hall. You will have the opportunity to give a free-will offering that evening. Meal/worship will begin at 6:30 p.m. More info to come. Watch for announcements.

## 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.

## 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.

*“Seek a relationship when you pray, not answers. You won’t always find answers, but you will always find Jesus.”* –Father Mike Schmitz

## WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN

- March 1     Second Sunday in Lent  
First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a  
Second Lesson: Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17  
Gospel: John 3:1-17
- March 8     Third Sunday in Lent  
First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7  
Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11  
Gospel: John 4:5-42
- March 15    Fourth Sunday in Lent  
First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14  
Gospel: John 9:1-41
- March 22    Fifth Sunday in Lent  
First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Second Lesson: Romans 8:6-11  
Gospel: John 11:1-45
- March 29    Palm Sunday  
First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Second Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11  
Gospel: Matthew 26:14–27:66

## SCRIP

Scrip is a way of purchasing gift cards for common items like gasoline, restaurants and shopping. It is not limited to just those. First Lutheran will get a percentage of what is purchased. There is a white binder in the entryway with order forms that list all the vendors available. Just turn in your completed order form along with your check to Sue Hunter. Scrip orders are due the third Sunday of each month and gift cards will normally be available the following Sunday. Contact Sue Hunter with any questions.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME begins on Sunday, March 8. Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead one hour!

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

### ALTAR CARE RESPONSIBILITIES AND REWARDS

Altar Care is a big honor and responsibility at the church. There are many duties associated with Altar Care. Many hands are appreciated and used to carry out these responsibilities. We are blessed to have the guidance of Carol Zastrow, Sandy Larson and Patty Matz in fulfilling the necessary duties. These three ladies volunteered for Altar Care for many years. Thank you to Ruthie Ailts, Ranelle De Jong and Clint Barrs for volunteering and assisting in the many duties associated with Altar Care. Clint changes the paraments as the church seasons change. Ruthie, Ranelle and myself set up communion and do the clean up after service. Pastor Patti has been baking the bread and crackers used for the host. Thank Pastor for assisting us. Ruthie and Ranelle have laundered and ironed the linens. I have been making sure the supplies needed are stocked such as the wine, grape juice and communion cups. I have been filling the candles and changing the banners for the various seasons. Caring for flowers ordered and during holidays is a part of Altar Care.

Anyone who would like to learn more about serving communion and the different seasons of the church are encouraged to volunteer for Altar Care. The experience teaches a lot about the church and its traditions. I encourage and challenge all congregational members to give a few hours of your time this year to caring for the altar. You will be amazed at what you take away from the experience. Volunteering is a great way to get to know others in the congregation. First Lutheran Church has a lot of opportunities to volunteer, to have spiritual growth, and be a part of the church family.

Submitted by  
Shelly O'Brien  
Altar Care Volunteer

## FLAP - FIRST LUTHERAN (FOOD) ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This is the name of our new mission to help feed those in need of Emergency Assistance to feed their family. After our February Council meeting, this program is well on its way to being ready to serve requests that come in.

Jennifer Lieber has volunteered to lead this program into success, but we need your help as well. There are currently three boxes, each with a three-day supply of nonperishable items available for families. And due to some matching dollars from the congregation at the Annual Meeting and a generous anonymous donor, we have some cash available to purchase some \$20 vouchers to get perishable items to go with their box.

What we need your help with is filling the FLAP cabinet with nonperishables so that when we serve a family in need, we will be able to fill another box right away. And because some of the Lenten journey is about Alms giving, we are asking that you increase your giving for the next 40 days by including nonperishable items for our FLAP cabinet along with your regular giving. The food will be kept in the cabinets in Classroom 101 and the boxes ready to give to families will be on the shelf next to the cabinet, along with a sign-in sheet so we can keep track of the need and of the times they are coming around. If you happen to be at the church when someone comes with a need, feel free to give them a box and voucher, get their information for the sheet, and sign off on it when you give them a box.

If you have any questions, you can call any of the Council members or Jennifer Lieber for clarification or direction.

We will collect the food on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday evenings as well. There will be a wagon/cart to put your food in.

Thank you all for your support of this program.

# March 2026

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

# PALM SUNDAY

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

JERUSALEM

PASSOVER

HOSANNA

MESSIAH

DONKEY

PRAISE

SAVIOR

PALMS

JESUS

LORD