



First Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
305 West 5th Street  
North Platte, Nebraska  
69101

# The Visitor

March 20  
24

Dear Members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Years ago in the classroom portion of Driver's Ed, I was warned to watch out for "Velocitization." Our instructor said, this was the term for the tendency of slowly speeding up when driving long distances, and then also having difficulty slowing down and staying at the speed limit on lower speed roads when you exited a long stretch of highway. "Yeah sure", I thought. That was until the first time I took an interstate road trip at 65 MPH and then exited onto a long straight highway with a 55 MPH limit. On both roads, I kept looking down and seeing the speedometer creeping past 65 on its way to 70.

What I've noticed of late is that it's not only driving where I get velocitized, I do it as well with the pace of life in general. I have observed that I have a tendency to pick up a task here and another task there and then I get used to the pace and something else that feels like an opportunity presents itself and I pick it up as well, and it all works itself into a routine that I tell others, "you get used to." Then a break happens, something gets cancelled, a snowstorm shuts things down, my stressed body tells me I had better set a hobby down for a while, and though you might think a break would be welcome, what I've noticed about myself is how stuck in "go" I am. When suddenly given a different "speed limit," I am antsy, I pace around the house, I feel like something is missing and I need to fill it. What all this is about is, I'm really trying to get back to the pace of life I'm used to, so I can get the rush of adrenaline that I've gotten used to running on.

If this is sounding familiar to you, and from conversations I've been in, I share this confident that I am not alone; I'm going to say this out loud for all of us. This is not healthy, and as I wrote those last couple sentences, I couldn't help but notice, those are withdrawal and addiction behaviors.

As an opportunity to shift your habits, to slow down intentionally, and hopefully pick up a new practice or two that you can use to get out of the fast lane more regularly I present to you: Lent. A time of fasting, which is also an opportunity to fast from a hectic pace of life, which is a better and perhaps more difficult fast than giving up chocolate.

At First Lutheran, on Lenten Wednesdays, Feb 21-March 20 you have an opportunity to slow down for the night. Meals will be provided so you can take the night off from cooking. In our worship service, we will sit with our Mission Statement and reflect on the "Way of Jesus" as seen in the book of Mark. The service itself is being designed to offer time for reflection and to learn songs and prayer practices that you can use in your daily life to help slow down and stay slowed down through the rest of the week. Following the service, Pr. Breen is offering an opportunity to process, converse, and stitch as you are formed into new people by "Stitching Ourselves Together." You can learn more about this deeper in the newsletter.

In addition to these opportunities to learn new expressions of faith and step out of the busy world, The Episcopal Church of our Savior is hosting Stations of the Cross and a soup lunch on Wednesdays. More about this later in the Newsletter as well. First Presbyterian will also be putting out a labyrinth in their social hall which you can walk 9-4 during Holy Week. If you lack time during the week, you could also come a little early for Good Friday Services there. Understanding that these might be new practices for you, I will be offering some online resources on our website to help you know what to expect and how you might use these traditional practices to grow in your walk of faith. I will also be working on online resources to help guide you in continuing to use the prayer practices presented at Wednesday Evening worship. I hope that Lent can be a time for you to find a new speed, one that is more sustainable and leaves you with time to notice the presence of God in your life.

In Christ,  
Pr. Patrick Sipes

**Office Hours**  
Mon - Thurs  
9:00 - 2:00  
Friday  
9:00-12:00  
**Sunday School**  
9:15am  
**Coffee & Donuts**  
Sundays 9:45am  
**Worship**  
Sundays 10:30



**CONTACT NUMBERS:**

**Pastor:**  
Pastor Patrick Sipes  
402-200-0446  
sgtmuddy@gmail.com

**Church Council, President:**  
Linda Lehmann

**Office Manager:**  
Ambur Petersen

**Financial Secretary:**  
Claudette Nelson

**Music Director:**  
Gail Jensen

*Contact Us...*  
Phone: 308-532-0250  
firstlutheran.np@gmail.com  
www.firstlutherannp.org

**Inside The Issue**

Message from Pastor Sipes.....1	WELCA Minutes/Announcements.....4	Announcements.....8
Calendar/Volunteers.....2	Youth Page.....5/6	Lenten Opportunities.....9
Birthday/Anniversary/Financials.....3	Council Minutes/Highlights.....7	Mum order form/Thrivent.....10

# MARCH

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
The calendar is always changing. If an event is changed/added after the newsletter is sent out there is a calendar on the Church website that will be more current. If you have questions, feel free to contact the office.					1 9 Pickleball	2 8am Spring Gathering
3 9:15 Salt Mine 9:45 Coffee/Donuts 10:30 Worship	4 9 Pickleball	5 9 Pickleball 6:30 CCC 7pm Boy Scouts	6 9 Pickleball 1 Quilts 1 WELCA 5:15 Meal 6:30 Service	7 9 Pickleball 5:30 Bells	8 9 Pickleball	9
10 9:15 Salt Mine 9:45 Coffee/Donuts 10:30 Worship 11:45 W&M 5 Youth Group	11 9 Pickleball	12 9 Pickleball 7pm Boy Scouts	13 9 Pickleball 1 Quilts 5:15 Meal 6:30 Service 7:15 Stitches	14 9 Pickleball 5:30 Bells	15 9 Pickleball	16
17 9:15 Salt Mine 9:45 Coffee/Donuts 10:30 Worship	18 9 Pickleball 5:30 Council Meeting	19 9 Pickleball 9:30 Adah Circle 7pm Boy Scouts	20 9 Pickleball 1 Quilts 5:15 Meal 6:30 Service 7:15 Stitches	21 9 Pickleball 5:30 Bells <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	22 9 Pickleball	23 8am Recital Practice 9am Class 9am-Gym rental
24-Palm Sun 9:15 Salt Mine 9:30 Eve Circle 9:45 Coffee/Donuts 10:30 Worship 1 Piano Recital	25 9 Pickleball	26 9 Pickleball 7pm Boy Scouts	27 9 Pickleball 1 Quilts	28 9 Pickleball 5:30 Bells 7 Maundy Service-FELC	29 9 Pickleball 7pm Good Friday Service-First Pres	30
31-Easter 8:15 Worship 9:15 Breakfast 10:30 Worship						

## March Sunday Volunteers

Date	Reader	Worship Leader	Online W.L.	Coffee/Donuts	Acolyte	Offering Usher	Comm Assist (2)	Comm Setup/Takedown	Fill Candles	Greeters
March 3	Betty H	Keith Kempke	Stacey	Property Committee	Landon	Steve, Mark Ken	Sharon R Betty H	Carla J Liz E	Liz E Carla J	Sharon R
March 10	Heather J		Stacey		Lake		Cass & Kids			
March 17			Stacey		Landon					
March 24			Pat	Ruona/Trevyn	Jill H					
March 31	Sandy S		Pat	Trevyn						
March 31			Stacey	Cauy/Landon	Heather & Emma J					

If you would like to volunteer on one of the empty Sundays, please contact the church office or sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the church.

## Lent Services 2024

Date	Reader	Acolyte	Offering Ushers	Communion Assistants
March 6		Landon		N/A
March 13	Ruona S	Ruona		N/A
March 20	Brooklyn S	Landon		N/A
March 28 Maundy		Landon		

### Do You Know? Amanda Connick

**Service:** Church Council

**Profession:** Operations, Grouptour, and Convention Sales Manager

**Titles:** Mom, Aunt, Wife, Sister, Daughter

**Favorite Bible Verse: Jeremiah 9:23-24**

Thus says the Lord: Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom, do not let the mighty boast in their might, do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth; but let those who boast boast in this, that they understand and know me, that I am the Lord; I act with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the Lord.

Sponsored by Caring Christians Committee

Marlys Jepsen	March 1
Mary Johnson	March 2
Katherine Wingett	March 6
Darrel Davis	March 7
Marion Effenbeck	March 7
Jill Hansen	March 7
Elizabeth Knepke-Hamit	March 7
Avery Falcon	March 8
Darrell Einspahr	March 9
Ken Glass	March 10
Tyler Aden	March 11
Jill Falcon	March 12
D J Lunkwitz Jr	March 12
Hannah Jensen	March 14
J.W. Toole	March 16
Eli Kempke	March 17
Rocky May	March 17
Gene Nelson	March 17
Ellie Nelms	March 20
Josyah Lunzman	March 24
Deborah Gulzow	March 26
Becky Robinson	March 26
Carol Ludemann	March 27
Brian Jensen	March 29
Olene Beck	March 31

*Please advise the church office of any errors/omissions on the Birthday & Anniversary Calendar.*

Thank you for the beautiful flowers, they made my day!

-Sandi Carland



Year 2024	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<b>Income</b>	\$19,747												
<b>Expenses</b>	\$17,232												
<b>Surplus (Shortfall)</b>	Surplus \$2,515												
<b>Average Attendance</b>	82/18												

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Thank you for your *gifts to God through First Evangelical Lutheran Church.*

### AMOUNTS ARE ACTUAL INCOME RECEIVED AND EXPENSES PAID.

- † Higher income levels around Easter/Christmas. Lower income levels typically received in the summer.
- † Income is considered any monetary gifts given to the Church but excludes any donations received for “designated gifts”.
- † The expenses vary month to month, depending on the spending requests by the ministry leaders and committees.
- † Detailed financial reports are available in Narthex and office.

Meeting was called to order with devotions by President, Peggy Fisher

**Attendance:** Adah 2; Miriam 3; Eve 3; Pastor 0; Other 1

**Secretary Report:** Peggy read the January report with Peggy moving to approve, Mary seconded. Approved.

**Treasurer Report:** Marlys presented the income report for January totaling \$2356.63 with expenses \$277.20 with a balance January 31 of \$2079.43. Sharon moved with Heidi seconded. Approved.

**Bills:** Bills were presented and approved for payment. Carla also had a flannel bill for baby blankets and diapers that comes from the quilting account.

**Correspondence:** Peggy read thank you's for January donations to the different organizations we gave to.

**Care Kits:** Carla has turned the Care Kits over to Heather Jensen and the Sunday morning Bible study ladies.

**Quilts:** Carla reported 22 quilts have been completed and 8 for the graduates are being completed.

**Old Business:** Kitchen floor mates will be discussed at next month's meeting. Peggy reported on fire extinguishers for the kitchen. This was tabled following discussion.

### New Business:

\*WELCA pot luck will be tomorrow night at 6:30 with Eve Circle being the hostesses. The men are invited to attend.

\*Since WELCA Board will not be furnishing food for Ash Wednesday it was decided we would furnish food for February 21 Lenten Service.

\*Spring Gathering will be March 2, 2024 at our Church. Everyone is invited and will need to get our reservations in soon. For more information, please contact Carla Jensen or the office. Carla and Liz have the details planned. A brunch will be provided after registering for the gathering.

\*Cleaning the west kitchen was discussed with a tentative clean up date April 2 at 9:00. We also plan to clean both ovens in the main kitchen.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer  
**Next meeting March 6, 2024 at 1:00 PM**  
Sharon Riley, Acting Secretary

First Ev. Lutheran Church served about 75 people at the Salvation Army supper they hosted in February. Thank you for all the donations.

Pictured: Cheryl A, Georgia N, Tom W, Sophia W, Chet B.



### Scouting News

Boy Scout Troop 81 took part in the Klondike Derby and Campout at Lake Maloney in January. The troop won second place in the Penguin Race.

The troop celebrated their 66th Anniversary with a dinner and Court of Honor at the church in February.

The following boys earned awards

New Scout: Eli Durnell

Tenderfoot: Jeremiah Schimek

Lif: Logan Durnell



Scoutmaster  
Bob Britton



**Stitching Ourselves Together:** a stitching and connecting group  
Wednesday nights after worship during Lent  
March 6, 13, 20 in the Library

Let's spend Lent stitching ourselves together! This small group will share highs and lows and discuss what we are taking into our lives of faith from Wednesday worship as we work on stitching projects for charity or for ourselves. Bring your knitting, crocheting, cross stitch, embroidery, or mending projects and supplies.

Contact Breen Sipes at [breenmarie@hotmail.com](mailto:breenmarie@hotmail.com) or 402-200-0664 for more information.

# First Ev. Lutheran Youth

## Sunday School News! Salt Mine and Faith Formation

**March Theme:**  
**No Salt Mine March 31st. Happy Easter!**

Pre-K to 5th graders are welcome.  
Opening starts at 9:15am in the Education Unit.

**If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please contact the office or Pr. Sipes.**



Sunday School Teaching Schedule		
	Workshop 1	Workshop 2
March 3	Amanda C	
March 10	Cassandra L	
March 17		
March 24		

## Youth Group Activities

Youth Group is getting ready for our biggest fundraiser of the year with Lenten meals. This year we are offering pick up at the kitchen door as well as delivery for those of you who like to watch from the comfort of home. Please call Heidi at 530.3752 or the Ambur at the church 532.0250 Tuesday or Wednesday by 5:15 to place an order.

Lenten Meals  
5:15pm-6:15pm

**March 6th** Soup'n Sliders

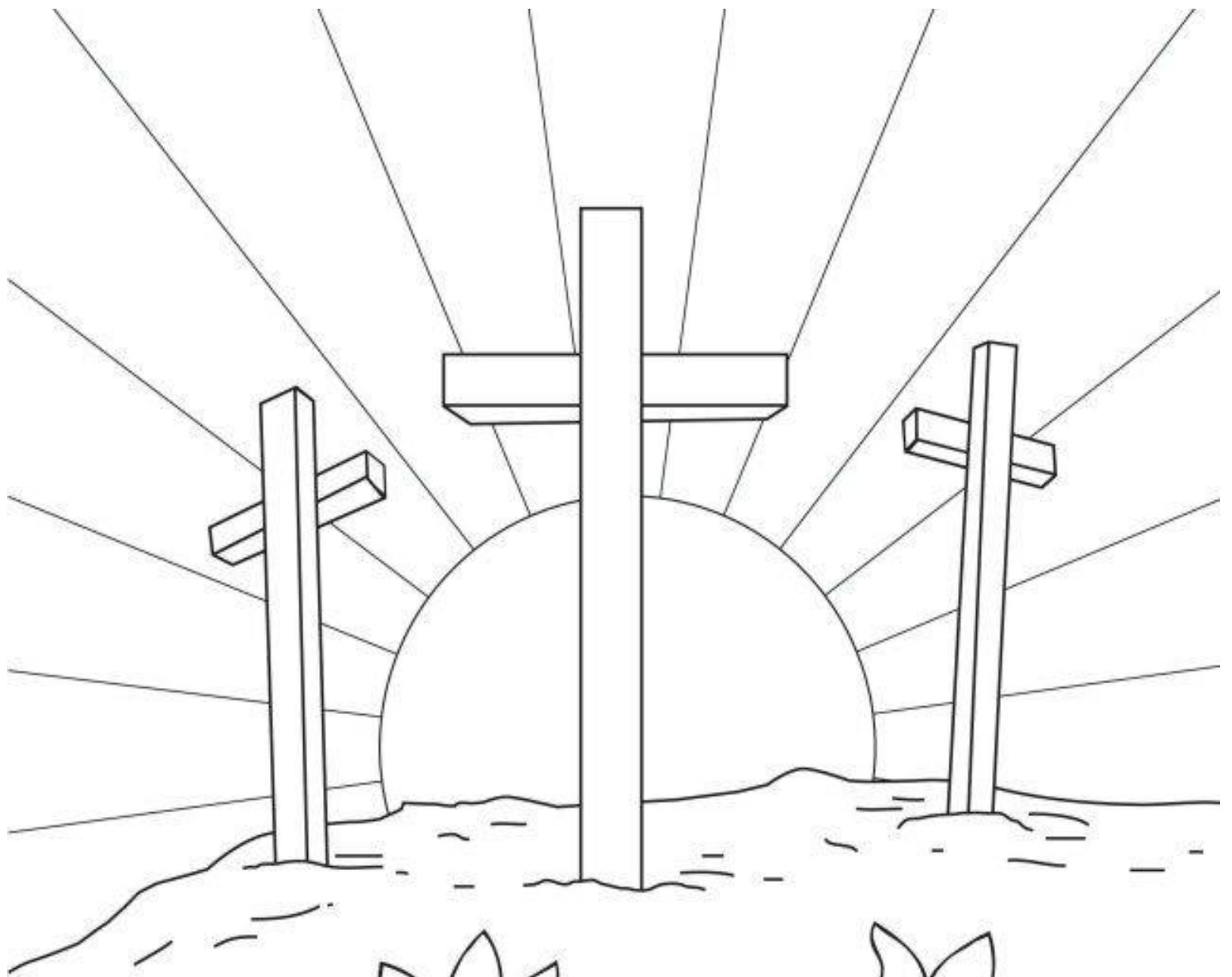
**March 13th** Lasagna

**March 20th** Marry Me Chicken

**March 31st** Easter Breakfast 9:00am-10:00am  
French Toast Bake, Sausage, Eggs, Fruit

**NEXT MEETING** March 10th at 5:00 in the gym Bring your \$3 towards supper. 6th-12th graders are invited to bring a friend

Youth group activities are for all kids 6th-12th grade. If you are not already on the youth group email list and would like to be, please contact Heidi 530-3756 or email [flipgotsick@yahoo.com](mailto:flipgotsick@yahoo.com)



Jesus  
Is Risen

A black and white line drawing of a cluster of lilies. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The leaves are long and pointed.

**Call to Order:** Dr. Todd Jensen called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Sipes

**Approve Agenda:** Motion made by Bob and seconded by Sharon to approve the agenda. Agenda approved.

**Members Present:** Dr. Todd Jensen, Keith Kempke, Alee Stout, Greg Lower, Sharon Riley, Jody Hill, Linda Lehmann, Neal Criddle, Bob Hinrichs, Pr. Sipes

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Motion made by Sharon and Second by Greg to approve the minutes for the December 18, 2023 meeting. Minutes approved.

**Standing Committee Reports/Committee request and motions:**

**Finance/Foundation:** Moved some accounts to the General Fund and Youth Savings to streamline the budget.

**Christian Ed/Youth & Family:** Made plans for Sunday School and lining up teachers.

**Care Committee:** No meeting

**Mutual Ministry:** No meeting

**Personnel:** In the process of being formed

**Property:** Accomplishments and projected projects listed on page 10 of Annual Report. Will be working on drywall and painting in the basement.

**Worship & Music:** Will be holding a meeting on January 21st.

**Pastor's Report:** Reviewed Pastor's written report.

**Ongoing Items:**

\*Cross and Preschool sign- Cross is down and being worked on.

\*Sound System -ECC to give a presentation in on February 19 at Council Meeting and the Congregation will be invited to view this presentation.

\*Boiler Bid/HVAC-asbestos complete 9-8, Snell started 10-9.

\*Visioning- The congregation will vote on either keeping the "old" Mission Statement or adopting the "new" one at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

**New Actions:**

**Lenten Offering:** Linda moved and Sharon seconded to give the Lenten Offering this year to Foster Care Closet. It was approved.

**Annual meeting online voting:** There will be online voting during Annual Meeting.

**Annual Report Review.** The Council reviewed the proposed 2024 Annual Report for any changes and/or additions.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Alee and Second by Bob to adjourn meeting. It was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

**Next Meetings: Annual Meeting January 28th and February 19th**

Minutes prepared by Linda and presented on behalf of the Congregational Church Council

**February Council Meeting Highlights**

- Pastor is working with 5th grade and older student to have a First Communion Class
- It was approved to get the bell tower Cross fixed
- The council would like to give a shout out to all the Coffee Guys who are putting a lot of time and energy into revitalizing the basement. They are appreciated very much.



Installation of council members was held in February.

Pictured: Keith K, Amanda C, Greg L, Neal C, Pastor, Sharon R, Linda L, Jody H.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS.

Glenn Johnson  
 Dick Curry  
 Mark Grubbs-Jody Hill's friend  
 Kraig Keeter-Heidi Criddle's cousin  
 Taylor Fecht-Friend of Alee Stout  
 Sharen Andre- Jody Hill's Aunt



*Friend and Family of*  
 Patricia Rosenquist

*Please let the office (308-532-0250) know if you have anyone you would like to include in our prayers. We will continue to pray for four weeks. If more time is needed, please inform Pastor Sipes (402)200-0446*



Check out the Learner's corner on our webpage [www.firstlutherannp.org/learners-corner](http://www.firstlutherannp.org/learners-corner)

# Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for a "special occasion", "Glory to God", "in honor of" "in memory of" please pick up a form in the office.

The cost is **\$40.00** for one pair of bouquets.

## 2024 Available Sundays

March	X	10	X	24	31
April	X	14	21	28	
May	X	X	19	X	

### February Flowers were given by:

Feb 11- In Honor of Brynn Dawson's 8th Birthday.  
 By: Lowell and Frankie Moore



Weather related CANCELLATIONS will be broadcasted on KNOP TV and Facebook.



Join members of FELC in making "God's Work, Our Hands" an outreach mission all year. You are invited to volunteer in the following activities:

- Prepare and serve a meal at The Connection March 2024.  
 Contact Jill Falcon 308-520-5131
- Help with Blood Drive, April 18, 2024 (Watch for details)
- Donate soft-cover Bibles to the Lincoln County Jail Ministry.  
 Contact Cassandra Lubash 308-520-8420
- Provide food products or monetary donations for Grace Food Pantry
- Help prepare or serve meals at the Episcopal Church on third Wednesday of each month.  
 Contact Sandy Stoll 308-539-0098

Sponsored by Caring Christians Committee

# First Lutheran Craft Show



**Sat April 20th,**  
 9:00 to 3:00  
 For more info contact  
 Alee Stout 530-6174 or  
 Jill Falcon 520-5131



# Lenten Opportunities

## Schedule for Lent Services



February 21 to March 20-6:30pm First Ev. Lutheran Church w/Pr. Sipes  
Lenten meal will be from 5:15-6:15pm-Youth Fundraiser

### **Palm Sunday**

March 24- 10:30am First Ev. Lutheran Church w/Pr. Sipes



### **Maundy Thursday**

March 28-7pm First Ev. Lutheran Church w/Pr. Durboraw



### **Good Friday**

March 29-7pm First Presbyterian Church w/Pr. Sipes



### **Easter Sunday**

March 30-8:15am and 10:30am First Ev. Lutheran Church w/Pr. Sipes  
Easter Breakfast (Youth Fundraiser) from 9:15am-10:15am

Please contact the office if you have any questions about any of these services.



This Lent, you're invited to a weekly walk with Jesus, to reflect on our Lord's life being poured out for us. With a printed reflection guide, join the crowd walking (indoors) the Stations of the Cross. Most stations are based on Bible accounts of Jesus' last day; a few stations are based on Christian tradition. Each station includes a spoken reflection on Jesus' journey, silence, and a prayer. You can stand or sit at each station.

Stations will be on Wednesdays, Feb. 21 through March 27 at Noon, at Church of Our Savior, 203 West 4th Street. Soup and conversation follow. Silent prayer time in the church will be at 11:30 am and after Stations until 1:30 pm. If you have questions, please contact Fr. Steve Meysing at 532-0515, ext. 202.

## **Indoor labyrinth**

First Presbyterian Church will be hosting an indoor labyrinth to walk during Holy Week (March 25-29) 9-4 Daily.



<i>Weekly Scripture</i>	<b>First Lesson</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second Lesson</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>March 3</b>	Exodus 20:1-17	19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
<b>March 10</b>	Numbers 21:4-9	107:1-3,17-22	Walking on Water	John 3:14-21
<b>March 17</b>	Jeremiah 31:31-34	51:1-12	Matthew 14:22-33	John 12:20-33
<b>March 24</b>	Experience the Word			Mark 14:1-15:47
<b>March 31</b>	Acts 10:34-43	118:1-2,14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Mark 16:1-8

# FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

First Evangelical Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the ELCA.

**Mission Statement: Under construction**

## **Worship Services**

**Sundays: 10:30 AM**

Both online and in person

## **Sunday School**

Sundays: 9:15am

## **Wednesday Confirmation**

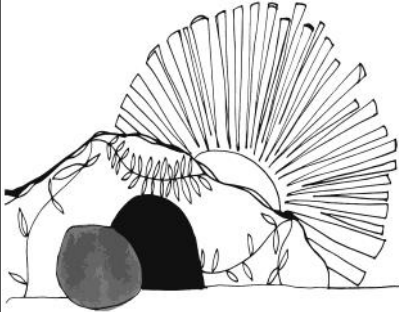
6:30-7th,8th,9th grades  
(No Class during Lent)

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

305 WEST 5TH STREET

NORTH PLATTE NE 69101-3830

*Address Service Requested*



March 2024

## Thrivent Members

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial who is eligible to direct Choice Dollars?

Thrivent members, be sure to allocate your Choice Dollars by March 31, 2024. Choice Dollars designated to you in 2023 may be directed until March 31, 2024. Thrivent Choice Dollars must be directed every calendar year prior to March 31 or every time you receive notification that Choice Dollars are available. Choice Dollars charitable grant funds can be effective to our faith community as we strive to love God, love one another, and serve the world. When directing Choice Dollars, eligible members recommend where they feel Thrivent should distribute a portion of its charitable grant funds. Your Choice Dollars can be directed to First Ev. Lutheran Church. Directing Choice Dollars is easy. Simply go to:

Thrivent.com/thriventchoice and follow the prompt. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. If you have questions, please contact Betty Knepke-Hamit 308-660-2709.



### **Mums for EASTER, March 31, 2024**

If you would like to purchase an Easter mum to help decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please fill out the form below and drop it off at the office or mail it back the church with payment by **March 21st**.

#### **PowerPoint information as follows:**

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Glory of God.  
\_\_\_\_\_ in loving Memory of ...  
\_\_\_\_\_ in Honor of...

Message: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information, Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_ Paid\$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **After Easter Services:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my Mum.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Deliver to a shut-in.

**\*Cost \$15 each**

**DEADLINE  
March 21st**

