

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

408 Ninth Street NW  
Mandan, ND 58554

Phone: 701-663-3594  
E-mail: jackie@firstlutheranofmandan.org

*Building Faith and  
Transforming Lives  
in Christ.*

**www.firstlutheranofmandan.org**  
We're on the web!

ADDRESS LABEL

**Daylight  
Savings Time  
begins on  
Sunday,  
March 8<sup>th</sup>.**



# First Lutheran Church

## March Newsletter

March 2026

### First Lutheran Staff

**Pastor**  
Rev. Phil Leer  
663-3594  
701-341-7784

**Pastor**  
Rev. Adam Barden  
663-3594

**Parish Administrator**  
Jackie Klein  
663-3594

**Financial Administration**  
Curtis Peterson

**Worship Accompanists**  
8:30  
10:45  
6:30 (Wed.) Kathy Brandvold

**Bell Choir Director**  
Cathy Long

**First Lutheran Is A Mission  
Partner with Camp of the  
Cross Ministries**



Dear friends in Christ and members of First Lutheran, grace and peace to you all! For many places, March marks the beginning of the season of spring. It is a time of growth, new life, and revitalization. The days begin to grow longer, the plants and trees begin to bud with new flowers, and the temperatures begin to rise and melt the snow. For those of us who live in North Dakota, spring is a time where the weather cannot decide on what it wants to do. One day it could be nice and sunny, the next day could bring cold, wind and blizzards.

Change and transition can often feel like a North Dakotan spring or being caught in a storm in the middle of a lake. Rarely have I experienced a major change in my life that has been a smooth ride. I think back to my time working in the activities department of Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center from the summer of 2020 through the summer of 2021. With the pandemic raging, health and safety regulations shifted and changed constantly. Compared to the lighter precautions at the start and end of my time there, a majority of the time, I was wearing a disposable gown, a face shield, gloves, and an N95 mask whenever I walked into the room of one of my residents. Staffing was always shifting, so there were times when the activities staff had to assist with feeding residents and with assisting in transfers. However, my time at Missouri Slope was nothing compared to the long history of change and transition in the scriptures.

Scripture gives us a long history of a people that have undergone continual shifts and changes over the course of years, decades, and centuries. They faced enslavement in Egypt, wandering in the dessert, going to war with neighboring nations, being ruled by a king, the sacking of Jerusalem, occupation and exile in Babylon, and by the time of Jesus's birth, occupation under Rome. Jesus himself, though, acts as a point of transition and change that reverberates throughout all of time and space.

(Continued on page 9)



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour before bed on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>!



Dakota Pro Musica presents

# MUSIC OF AMERICAN FAITH

*A concert of sacred music for choir and organ*

The professional choir of Dakota Pro Musica with guest organist, Christopher Wells

**Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 6:00 pm**

St. George's Episcopal Memorial Church in Bismarck

\$60/ family, \$25/ adult, \$5/ student at the door

*Presale tickets available at a discount before March 18th*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- AWAKENING
- BASKETBALL
- BLOSSOM
- DAFFODIL
- DAYLIGHT SAVING
- EASTER.
- EQUINOX
- FLOWER
- FRESH
- GREEN
- GROWTH
- HOLI
- KITE
- LEPRECHAUN
- LUCK
- MADNESS
- MARCH
- PARADE
- POT OF GOLD
- RAIN
- REBIRTH
- RENEWAL
- SHAMROCK
- SHOWERS
- SPRING
- ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- WINDY



WORD SEARCH DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

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



### Pastoral Acts

Baptisms:

Funerals:

### Memorial Fund

In memory of JoAnn Stork given by Kevin & Kris Nelson (for Quilting), Debra Patterson, Ralph & Naida Feland, Geraldine Swanson & Karla Stevenson, Dave & Kathy MacIver, Greg & Gail Mayer, Leona Keidel (for quilting), Faye Rodgers (for quilting), Norma Lundstrom (for quilting), Doran & Peggy Walth, Wayne & Denise Carlson.

In memory of Derris Stafslie given by Katherine Brandvold.

### March ~ Mission of the Month

#### Weekend Meals for Mandan Kids

Items needed are Chap Stick, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Fruit Cups, Canned Fruit, Granola Bars, Cereal, Pudding Cups, Applesauce, Chef Boyardee', Mac & Cheese, Soups, Hamburger Helper, Spaghetti Noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Pop Tarts, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Rice A Roni, Pasta Roni, Pork and Beans, Baked Beans, Pancake Mix-no eggs required such as Krusteaz Brand, Syrup, Canned Tuna, Chicken, Ham.

**NO GLASS JARS PLEASE!**

You may put your items in the boxes in the Narthex. Thank you!

### Special Thanks

*Thank you to all the greeters, ushers, communion servers, readers, communion set-up, coffee hour workers, and to all who have supplied goodies for the last month. Your help is greatly appreciated!*



Deadline for  
articles for the  
April Newsletter  
will be March 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Worship Schedule

**Sunday ~**

8:30 am ~ Traditional Worship

9:45 am ~ Church School

10:45 am ~ Contemporary Worship

**Wednesday ~**

5:45 pm ~ Church School

6:30 pm ~ Worship

7:30 pm ~ Confirmation

**Ash Wednesday ~ (March 5<sup>th</sup>)**

4:00 pm & 6:30 pm ~ Worship

**Lent Worship ~**

6:30 pm

Christ's ministry, death and resurrection serve as a point of change not only for the people of Israel, but us as well. Christ's teachings throughout the course of his three years of ministry gave us a way to understand what was at the heart of the laws that Jesus himself fulfilled. As stated in Mathew's gospel, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." In his death on the cross, he saves us all from sin and death, we are graciously given the gift of life everlasting, and that we get to join in the family of God. Above all, we have been promised that God is always with us, and he accompanies us through all the changes and transitions we face in life. He promises that no matter what comes of those changes, be it good or bad, he will be there with us.

Amen

Pastor Adam

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

Have you directed your Thrivent Choice Dollars to a charitable organization?

Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Your WND Synod and all three synod endowment funds are participating organizations (Ministry Endowment, Mission Endowment, Accompaniment Endowment). It's an easy way to support the ministries of our church. Members have until March 31, 2026 to direct choice dollars from 2025. Thank you!



The Endowment Committee is once again making two \$500 scholarships available to area seniors. As the committee works toward ensuring a vibrant financial future for the church, it is also working to ensure a vibrant future for the church by encouraging youth in their life of faith. Scholarship applications are available in the Church office or on our webpage and must be submitted by March 31, 2026.



Thank you to everyone that gave to “Souper Bowl of Caring”. We raised \$479.50 for the Mandan Public Schools!



Wednesday Night Lenten services will be at 6:30 p.m.

The dates are:  
March 4<sup>th</sup>  
March 11<sup>th</sup>  
March 18<sup>th</sup>  
March 25<sup>th</sup>



First Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
Date: February 19th, 2026

**Members Present:** President Kenton Holle, Vice President Tim Faller, Veronica Barnick, Kristy Mindt, Travis Schmidt, Greg Grube, Lori Meyers, Sue Ziemann, Cara Mitzel, Pastor Phil, Pastor Adam

**Members Absent:**

**Additional Present:** Jackie Klein, Curtis Peterson

**Meeting was called to order** by President Kenton Holle

- Motion to approve the agenda was made by Tim. Sue seconded. None opposed. Approved.
- Motion to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes, January minutes and New member orientation meeting minutes was made by Lori. Cara seconded. No one opposed. Approved.

**Correspondence:**

- Mandan Golden Age Club Thank You for home delivered meals

**Devotion:** Pastor Adam – Matthew 13. Each of us plants seeds of faith and we are all gardeners in God’s garden.

**Follow-up from the Annual meeting:** Kenton, Tim and Travis did a temple talk on Feb 1st and Feb 10th in regard to questions with the Youth budget. They shared that although it appears that there was less money budgeted there, it was because items were removed that hadn’t been used in years like the Confirmation banquet and the Confirmation retreat. All current activities and programming still budgeted. This was to reflect a budget that was closer to the actual spending amount for the year. They also mentioned that if anyone was interested in being on the Youth Task Force to let one either Pastor Phil or Pastor Adam know.

**Pastor Phil’s Report:** 2 funerals, one baptism. There will be a service on July 2nd for one of our members that passed last week. Sunset Nursing home worship service with Pastor Adam on Feb 9. Weekly (almost daily) hospital calls and some care center/nursing home calls. Funeral planning meeting. Occasional Tuesday text study meeting with pastors. Sr. Choir practices most Wednesdays and Confirmation weekly with Pastor Adam. Executive Team meeting this past Monday and LAF gatherings almost every week. Meet with Pastor Adam every Monday. Attended MHS musical Willy Wonka with Dad on 1/18. Helped with Bible Study at Missouri Slope Hillview on 1/20. Attended meeting with youth on 2/8 and attended New Council member orientation on 2/10. Went to Howard and Sharon Moldenhauer’s 60th anniversary open house here at the church 2/8. Coming up: Men’s breakfast at Fried’s on Thursday. Will participate in Ecumenical Easter Vigil Service on 4/4 at Bismarck United Church of Christ. “Palm Sunday Path” at 3pm on Mar 29th. This is a march from Trinity Lutheran in Bismarck to the State Capitol with worship to follow on the Capitol steps. See [wndpalmsundaypath.com](http://wndpalmsundaypath.com) for more information. Will lead memorial service Mar 15th in Harvey.

**Pastor Adam’s Report:** Hosted a Mock-in on Jan 30th. It was well received with total of 15 kids with 6 of our kids in attendance. Pastor Phil, Greg, Cara, Lori and I met with the mission trip group on Feb 8th. It was an open forum discussing the mission trip and youth programming at church overall. No School Fun Day was held at the church Feb 16th. Nine kids came. It seemed to be well received but had 2 confirmation students come and then leave after a couple of minutes. Led worship for Mapleview memory care on Feb 17th. The residents really enjoyed the service. Also played a couple of songs for them on guitar. Ash Wednesday service yesterday. Coming up- Youth Task Force. Working on a youth group and mission trip survey to send out to families to get some input on what interests are for youth activities. First Call retreat Apr 20-22nd. Youth/Mission trip: Selling bundt cakes, kuchen, Easter flowers, and Caramel rolls this month. All supplies are covered for caramel rolls this time with Family Fare donation and Thrivent Dollars so all sales will go to the kids. World’s Finest Chocolate and Caramel rolls in March. Easter breakfast, Kidnap the pastor and the Rummage Sale in April. The kids got their updated account balances for fundraising. Cara volunteered to help and be the main contact person for the kids and to help stay on top of everything. In the process of looking at flights right now.

**Financial Report:** Financial Report by Curtis Peterson.

- A motion was to approve the January financial report as presented was made by Greg. It was seconded by Kristy. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- Pay increases of 5% for 2026 for Kyra, Jackie, Curtis and both pastors were factored into the 2026 budget. A discussion was held. Curtis needs to know before March 1st so he can reflect that with payroll. Tim made a motion to reflect the 5% increase backdated to Jan 1st for Kyra, Jackie, Curtis, Pastor Phil and Pastor Adam. Travis seconded. No one opposed. Approved.
- The CD will mature in April so we will need to decide if we are going to renew it. Curtis should have the rates next month so we can make a decision.

**Jackie's Report:**

- City meeting with be Feb 24th in the fellowship Hall from 6-8pm and will have a presentation about the plans for this area's road project. March 12th there will be another meeting as well.
- Church was egged last afternoon. We don't have cameras that catch the north side. The east camera did see the kids that did it. Should we consider getting another camera to catch the dead zone that isn't covered by our current cameras for extra security. Jackie will check with New Vision to see how much it would cost to add more cameras and let us know.
- Concerned how dark it is in some areas around the church, which could be a hazard. Asked about the possibility of adding extra lighting outside. Travis will take a look and see what would be needed. He will replace the bulbs with LED to see if it makes it bright enough.
- Feb 26th, Disabled American Veterans will come and serve LAF. They love coming. They will be here a total of 4 times this year. They usually bring a \$500 donation with them. There have been about 120-140 kids coming to LAF.

**Team Delegations:**

- Property Management: Greg Grube, Tim Faller, Travis Schmidt
- Worship: Veronica Barnick, Sue Ziemann, Kenton Holle
- Evangelism & Outreach: Tim Faller, Kristy Mindt, Greg Grube
- Stewardship: Travis Schmidt, Kenton Holle, Lori Meyers
- Youth & Parish Education: Lori Meyers, Cara Mitzel, Kristy Mindt

**Team Reports:**

- Executive Team: All items covered in the agenda
- Worship Team: Lenten services theme is Making Sense of the Cross.
- Evangelism & Outreach: Team will meet Mar 19th
- Property Management: Final report was received from Braun. See Old Business.
- Stewardship: Team will meet Mar 10th
- Youth & Parish Education: See old business for task force update. See Pastor Adam's report for other youth updates.

**Old Business:**

- Property Project – Final Report was received from Braun Intertec. The property committee will meet Mar 2nd and discuss this report.
- West sidewalk – broken pieces were removed and replaced with crushed concrete and gravel as a temporary fix until the city does their construction project.
- Church School/Youth task force – the first step is to meet all together. The main objective is to structure what our needs are in addition to both pastors' roles in Youth & Parish Education. Lois Mongeon and Sandy Kohler are interested, Kama Hoovestol and Berta Hambrick were interested last fall and Pastor Phil will check with them to make sure they still would like to. Pastor Phil, Cara, Lori and Kristy will serve on this task force as well.

**New Business:**

- 4th of July parade – registration is open. Are we still wanting to participate? It is getting quite expensive. It is \$350 to register, and \$1000 was spent on candy last year. It is also hard to get volunteers to make the float and walk in the parade. Part of this could be that our youth are busy with other activities and are already in other floats in the parade. A motion was made by Tim to discontinue our participation in the 4th of July parade. Seconded by Lori. No one opposed. Motion carries. Parade participation can always be revisited in the future.
- Fellowship Hall Chairs - 250 chairs are needed. Tim went to a few places in town to look at chairs. The average rate was \$200 each for high end chairs. There are some \$80 and \$40 versions available as well. We discussed that at least a middle of the road version would most likely last longer than the cheapest. Our current chairs are around 18 years old so we have gotten great use out of them. House of Color recommended felt tip glides to preserve the flooring that they installed. Felt tips fit on most standard style chairs. These felt tips will need to be purchased as well. There are already some donations that have come in specifically for the chairs. Kristy will take the lead to find the best option and the rest of the council will help as needed. A motion was made by Travis for the council to choose a chair and start the fundraising for them. Kristy seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- A discussion was held on how we should get back to meeting separately with our different teams. This was a routine in the past. We talked about possibly getting people from the congregation to join each separate team if there is interest. Each team will figure out a time to meet monthly or every other month depending on the needs of each team. The stewardship team will meet Mar 10th. The Property Team will meet Mar 2nd at 7pm. Evangelism & Outreach will meet Mar 19 at 6:30 pm. Parish/Youth education team will also meet March 2nd. Worship team will meet Feb 23rd at 5:30 at the church.

**Next Meeting:**

- March 19th, 2026

**Lord's Prayer**

**Meeting Adjournment** - A motion was made to adjourn by Kristy. Seconded by Greg. Meeting Adjourned.