



# FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

## March 2024 Newsletter

### Holy Week

Pastor Adam Guthmiller

The emergence of spring usually provides us with a sign that Easter is near. Before we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord though – there is for us Christians what is known liturgically as Holy Week.

It begins with **Palm Sunday** and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem where shouts of *Hosanna* adorn the air by all those who recognize that now the King of Israel has arrived. We then move to **Maundy Thursday** when Jesus Christ institutes the Lord's Supper. He does this "*on the night in which He was betrayed* [Matthew 26:47-56]," where He gives to His disciples His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins [1 Cor. 11:23-25; Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:14-23; Luther's Small Catechism]. The next day is **Good Friday** and we hear of His crucifixion and death at Calvary upon the Cross. Lastly – before the Resurrection – we recognize Christ's rest in the tomb and harrowing of Hell on **Holy Saturday**.

All of this leads to Easter where we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is as St. Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians the very *foundation of our faith and preaching*.

"Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain [1 Cor. 15:12-14]."

The proclamation and witness of the Christian church lies in the reality that Jesus Christ of Nazareth "has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep [1 Cor. 15:20]." The American novelist John Updike helps to capture the physicalness and miracle of such an event in his "Seven Stanzas on Easter." I'll give to you the first four stanzas:

*Make no mistake: if he rose at all  
It was as His body;  
If the cell's dissolution did not reverse, the  
molecule reknit,  
The amino acids rekindle,  
The Church will fall.*

*It was not as the flowers,  
Each soft spring recurrent;  
It was not as His Spirit in the mouths and  
fuddled eyes of the  
Eleven apostles;  
It was as His flesh; ours.*

*The same hinged thumbs and toes  
The same valved heart  
That—pierced—died, withered, paused,  
and then regathered  
Out of enduring Might  
New strength to enclose.*

*Let us not mock God with metaphor,  
Analogy, sidestepping, transcendence,  
Making of the event a parable, a sign  
painted in the faded  
Credulity of earlier ages:  
Let us walk through the door.*

The peace of Jesus Christ be with *you* as we head towards the end of Lent into Holy Week.

## March Birthdays

3-Justin Burma  
Laurie Wernke  
7-Bill Beach  
Will Kuiper  
Adalynn Nielson  
8-Russ Wendt  
9-Lynn Adler  
10-Darci Swenson  
11-Heidi Plimpton  
12-Ava Gilberts  
13-Dean Rothenberger  
15-Brian McEntee  
Lane Plucker  
16-Joslynn Hanisch  
17-Melinda Stien  
22-Jazlyn Gayle  
Dave Hewitt  
23-Emmersyn Spader  
24-Doug Brown, Jr.  
Sarah Brown  
Ann Plimpton  
25-Wyatt Kraemer  
Machel McVey  
26-David Crichton  
Sherry Oakland  
27-Sophie Smith  
Alice Vietor  
Isabella Weisenbach  
28-Cara Iken  
30-Chase Faulds  
31-Leslie Fillipi  
Jackie Poppenga  
Carter Stroschein

## March Anniversaries

3-Dale & Vickie Munce  
11-Steve & LeAnna Oligmueller  
31-Orville & Corliss Wiebers

## Worship Attendance

February 4 - 92  
February 11 - 81  
February 14 - 82  
February 18 - 79  
February 21 - 68  
February 25 - 103  
February 28 - 53

## Acolyte Schedule

March 3rd - Hannah Bachmann &  
Adalynn Nielson  
March 10th - Alivia Martz &  
Layla Weisenbach  
March 17th - Evan Crichton & Triston Sturm  
March 24th - Noah Hanson & Ethan Munce  
March 31st - Maren Juffer & Bergan Musser

## Study of God's Word at FELC

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. in Luther Hall we have a Bible Study of the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. Join us to hear God's Word! All are welcome!

## NALC Convocation

The Joint Convocation of the Eastern South Dakota and Minkota Mission Districts of the NALC has been scheduled for April 5th - 6th at Sandhill Lake Bible Camp in Fosston, MN. Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson of the newly released book *Pain in the Belly: The Haugean Witness in American Lutheranism* will be the Keynote Speaker. The cost for Registration [including lodging and meals] is \$90 per person or \$155 for married couples – due March 30th. All who attend will be considered delegates of their NALC Congregations. Please talk to Pastor Adam Guthmiller if you are interested in attending for more details.

## Spring Men's Retreat

Plain View Farm near Bryant, SD is hosting a Men's Retreat on May 4th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The speaker for the event will be Lutheran theologian and professor Dr. Steven Paulson who will be presenting three sessions from his soon-to-be released commentary on the Gospel of Mark. The retreat will also have singing, coffee-breaks, farm tours, and excellent food [fruit and rolls, a light lunch, afternoon refreshments, and a farm-to-table smoked meat supper]. Registration is \$35 per person. Please talk to Pr. Adam Guthmiller if you are interested in attending. *All* men are welcome: teens, young adults, and beyond.

## Circle

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 20th at 2:00 p.m. in Luther Hall.

## Youth News

The youth group had a fantastic turnout for Kids Against Hunger in February, where we were able to pack meals that will stay local for kids in the Sioux Falls area. It's a very fun, very rewarding experience for our students to take part in.

Looking ahead to March, we are hoping to take in the movie "Ordinary Angels" at the Viborg movie theater. During Lent, we are changing up our schedule just a bit - our junior high and high school will be meeting at the same time (but still separately) at 7:45. This allows us to accommodate the First English confirmation students that are required to attend their midweek Lenten services. After Easter, we will resume our normal schedule. Meetings are at Second Reformed on March 6 & 13 and at First English Lutheran on March 20 & 27.

We are so grateful for the many generous donations that have been made for our Soup and Pie supper. We are blessed with such a supportive, giving church family!

Marc 605-877-5024 | Nicole 605-533-0788

## Upcoming Dates to Remember:

### March 3rd

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

### March 4th

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Grief Share - Luther Hall

### March 5th

7:00 p.m. Health Cabinet

### March 6th

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study

4:00 p.m. 1st Communion Class - Room 2

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Lenten Supper

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Service

7:45 p.m. All Youth Group - 2nd Reformed

### March 7th

7:00 p.m. Tai Chi - Luther Hall

### March 10th

9:30 a.m. Worship Service of the Word/  
Benediction - 1st Graders

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

### March 12th

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

### March 13th

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study

4:00 p.m. 1st Communion Class - Room 2

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Lenten Supper

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Service

7:45 p.m. All Youth Group - 2nd Reformed

### March 14th

7:00 p.m. Tai Chi - Luther Hall

### March 17th

9:30 a.m. Worship Service of the Word

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

No Sunday School

### March 20th

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study

2:00 p.m. Circle Meeting - Luther Hall

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Lenten Supper

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Service

7:45 p.m. All Youth Group - FELC

### March 21st

7:00 p.m. Tai Chi - Luther Hall

### March 24th

9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

### March 25th

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Grief Share - Luther Hall

### March 27th

1:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study

7:45 p.m. All Youth Group - FELC

### March 28th

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Lenten Supper

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service

### March 29th

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service

## March 31st

7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Worship Service

8:00 a.m. Easter Brunch - Luther Hall

9:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

No Sunday School

## Financial Information

### Finances

February Offerings: \$15,750 was received toward our giving goal of \$18,687. **Thank you for your generous support of First English Lutheran Church and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

First English Lutheran Church has a campaign to raise funds to remodel rooms 2 & 3 in the upstairs hallway, combining the two rooms into one. This room will be used for meetings, adult education, confirmation, etc. Our Lenten offerings will be designated toward this remodel project.

### How to Give

You may contribute through the mail using your pre-addressed offering envelopes or mail to PO Box 562, Lennox, SD 57039.

FELC has the option for you to enroll in a **Direct Deposit offering system**. You choose how much, which accounts (General or Building), and how often! If you would like to sign-up for this giving option or have any questions, please contact Gayle at [office@felclennox.org](mailto:office@felclennox.org).

**Venmo** payments are accepted as well. To utilize **Givebutter** simply scan the QR Code with your mobile device or type in the link below and it will pull up FELC's Givebutter campaign. Use any form of payment option: Venmo, PayPal, credit card, debit card, ACH, Apple Pay, Google Pay, and Microsoft Pay. Givebutter does add a 3% processing fee + .30 cents per transaction so that 100% of your donation goes to FELC-Lennox.

<https://givebutter.com/Lennox-FELC>

## Health Ministry

Please prayerfully consider serving on the Health Cabinet. Notify Laurie Wernke or Gayle Hanisch if you would like to join the Health Ministry team or Chair the Meal Ministry team.

Responsibility of a Health Cabinet member is to pray for the Health Ministry, support and encourage the Health Ministry, help to plan and prepare for events developed by the Health Cabinet team. What is my responsibility as a Meal Ministry Chairperson? You would be responsible to help plan cook dates, e-mail ingredients, communicate with the faith community nurse and members of the team and attend the cook dates and oversee meal assembly. Meals are prepared and delivered. Please feel free to deliver a meal to someone in need. A person suffering from illness, hospital stay, homebound or neighbor with a new baby. Please use the meal sign out sheet attached to the freezer door. The Meal Ministry team will be cooking meals on Monday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m. Please come to help if you are interested in volunteering for this ministry.

## Faith Community Nurse News

Grief Share will be offered on Monday, March 4th and Monday, March 25th from 4:30pm - 6:30pm. You may sign up at [Griefshare.org](http://Griefshare.org) or call the church office at 605-647-5140.

Laurie Wernke RN, Faith Community Nurse, will again be teaching Tai Chi at First English Lutheran Church. Class will be on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the church social hall at 120 E 2nd Ave Lennox. You may ask "What is Tai Chi?" Tai Chi is best described as a meditative exercise. It is easy enough for most all abilities and ages. Tai Chi has been proven to help with relaxation, stress, feelings of well being, improves balance and the physical benefits of exercise. If you have made a resolution to exercise more, here is a chance to learn a new, easy exercise. The class is 30 minutes long.

## March is ColoRectal Cancer Awareness month and Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness

The recommendation has changed to age 45. You should have your first colonoscopy at age 45.

Your insurance company should pay for your colonoscopy but always check first. Why did the age change happen? The age change is because there have been more cancer and cancerous polyps found in younger people than ever before. Cancer prevention is what it is about. A screening Colonoscopy can prevent cancer by removing pre-cancerous polyps and early detection is the second best result. Get scheduled and get screened.

A TBI may lead to short- or long-term health problems (TBI is Traumatic Brain Injury) Depending on the severity of the injury, those who get a TBI may face health

problems that last a few days or the rest of their lives. For example, a person with a mild TBI or concussion may experience short-term symptoms and feel better within a couple of weeks or months. A person with a moderate or severe TBI may have long-term or life-long effects from the injury. A person with a possible TBI should be seen by a healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may have treatment to help speed your recovery. Most people with a mild TBI or concussion can recover safely at home following a medical check-up. People with a moderate or severe TBI may need ongoing care to help with their recovery.

## **Synopsis of January Council Meeting - February 20, 2024**

1. Call to order - Mollie VanMeeteren, also present: Rhiannon Nothdurft, Erin Heibult, Jan Ray, Ashley Munce, Chris Juffer, Byron Youngquist, Pastor Guthmiller. Absent: Matt Hanson, Mike Bosma, Paul McVey
2. Personal Agendas
3. Devotions: Chris Juffer
4. Visioning: Pastor Guthmiller
5. Prayer for God's Guidance
6. Secretary's report: Motion to approve; Rhiannon, second Erin - approved
7. Old Business
  - A. New safe is on order.
8. New Business
  - A. New custodian hired - Eric Rops
  - B. Raise to youth directors? Stay at budgeted \$638.
  - C. Helping Hands Fund - discussed
  - D. Remodel Campaign - Lenten offerings & meal donations towards campaign.
  - E. Double check when counting offerings! There have been lots of discrepancies.
  - F. Lenten offerings counted with Sunday, but labeled as such under "Ministries."
  - G. Sunday school offering entered under "Education" and circle "Sunday School."
  - H. Easter Services at 7:00am and 9:30am. Motion to approve; Ashley, second Erin - approved.
  - I. Youth group during lent will be at 7:45 p.m.
9. Reports
  - A. Treasurer - Motion to approve; Chris, second by Jan - approved.
10. Next Council Meeting: March 12th at 7:00pm
11. Devotions at Next Meeting: Jan
12. Communion Helpers: Feb 25th - Rhiannon ; Mar 3rd - Chris
13. Money counters: Feb 25th-Ashley & Mollie; Mar 3rd-Chris & Erin; Mar 10th-Rhiannon &
14. Adjourn
15. Prayer

# March Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1	2
3 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School	4 4:30pm-6:30pm Grief Share-Luther Hall	5 7:00pm Health Cabinet	6 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 4:00pm 1st Communion Class 5:00pm-6:30pm Lenten Supper 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Youth Group - 2nd Reformed	7 7:00pm Tai Chi-Luther Hall	8	9
10 9:30am Worship of the Word/Benediction-1st Graders 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School	11	12 7:00pm Council Meeting	13 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 4:00pm 1st Communion Class 5:00pm-6:30pm Lenten Supper 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Youth Group - 2nd Reformed	14 7:00pm Tai Chi-Luther Hall	15	16
17 9:30am Worship Service of the Word 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship No Sunday School	18	19	20 1:00pm Wed Bible Study - Library 2:00pm Circle - Luther Hall 5:00pm-6:30pm Lenten Supper 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Youth Group - FELC	21 7:00pm Tai Chi-Luther Hall	22	23
24 9:30am Worship Service of the Word 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School	25 4:30pm-6:30pm Grief Share-Luther Hall	26	27 1:00pm Wed Bible Study 7:45pm Youth Group - FELC	28 5:00pm-6:30pm Lenten Supper 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	29 7:00pm Good Friday Worship	30
31 7:00am Sunrise Service 8:00am Easter Brunch 9:30am Easter Worship 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship No Sunday School						