



# LAMPLIGHTER

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Check out our newly remodeled Sunday School Bathrooms!

Thanks to Dan Glew, Tom Moorhouse, Marilyn Pilgrim, Mitch Orcutt, Donna Bandy, Don & Walt, and Kluesner Flooring for their contributions to the project.



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# HOLY WEEK

29  
MARCH

**PALM SUNDAY | 9 AM**  
Choir Sings

2  
APR

**MAUNDY THURSDAY | 6 PM**  
First Communion

3  
APR

**GOOD FRIDAY | 6 PM**

5  
APR

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
Sunrise Service | 7 AM  
Breakfast | 7:30-8:30 AM  
Easter Service | 9 AM

First Evangelical Lutheran Church



Reminder: No Worship Service on Wednesday, April 1.

# APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**SUNDAYS**  
at 9:00 A.M.

**WEDNESDAYS**  
at 6:00 P.M.

We also offer a live radio broadcast of our Sunday service on KMCH 94.7 FM and a live video stream on our FaceBook page, First Evangelical Lutheran Church - NALC.

## HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be offered each Sunday and Wednesday worship service.

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday  
8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

## Thank You to our April Radio & Flower Sponsors!

### KMCH Radio Ministry Sponsors

April 5...Cliff & Susan Kehrli

April 12...OPEN

April 19...OPEN

April 26...OPEN

### Altar Flower Sponsors

April 5...Karen Hartman to the Glory of God

April 12...OPEN

April 19...OPEN

April 26...In memory of Craig Wilson by his family.

## Coffee Fellowship:

Thank you to all our bakers, providers and servers for Coffee Fellowship! You are greatly appreciated. Each Sunday we need servers and providers of food. You don't need to do both jobs. Sign up on sheets posted in the back of the church, online or contact Cathy Glew, Social Ministry. If you would like to provide food for coffee hour to have on hand for weeks no one is signed up, feel free to freeze in the upper freezer. Please date anything that is placed in the freezer. Come and join the fellowship after church service Sundays.

Due to breakfast being served on Easter Sunday at 7:30-8:30 a.m. there will not be coffee fellowship following the 9:00 a.m. service.

## Donate to the Del. Co. Food Bank in April

April is First Lutheran's month to stock the shelves at the Delaware County Food Bank. Food donations may be placed in the grocery cart located in the narthex. One item they especially need this month is 64 oz non-refrigerated juice (apple, orange, grape, cranberry). Also peanut butter, raisins, cereal, soups.

Cash donations may be sent directly to Delaware County Food Bank, PO Box 467, Manchester, IA 52057 or given to me. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Corene Messer 563-920-1750.

## Church Ladies Lunch

The Church Ladies will be meeting on Tuesday, April 7th at 11:00 am at the Bread Basket. Please contact Diane Childs to RSVP at 563-608-1137.

## A Word From Pastor Jason

Every year in Lent, I try to take a serious (and in many ways a somber) look at my sin. It is always good to be honest about our need for a Savior. As I reflect on the many ways, I fall short of the glory of God and feel the sorrow of my sin, one thing always interrupts my contemplation with a surprising sense of joy. I wish I could say it is always a devotional reading of the Good News of God's mercy and grace in Christ, but to be honest—it's NCAA March Madness.



On one hand, the basketball fan in me is glued to the screen, watching underdogs rise, favorites fall, and last-second shots decide destinies. On the other, I'm walking the Christian journey through Lent toward the greatest victory in history ... the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Honestly, my mind goes back and forth. This year even more so as I looked at the calendar and discovered Easter is the day before the NCAA Championship.

In many ways, March Madness and Easter share a surprising parallel:

- **An Unexpected Upset** — Just as a low-seeded team can shock the world, the resurrection was the ultimate upset over sin and death. No one saw it coming, yet it changes everything.
- **The Long Game** — Teams/churches train all season for this moment; believers walk through seasons of preparation, prayer, and perseverance, trusting God's timing.
- **The Final Victory** — In basketball, the trophy is the goal. For Christians, the crown of life is promised to those who endure (James 1:12).

As I contemplate the analogy, one glorious difference stands out: in sports, only one team wins. In Christ, everyone who believes shares in His victory. What's more, although we are on Team Jesus, our effort, our shots, our stats, don't determine the outcome. Jesus secured our victory despite the madness of our world. Jesus took the final shot on the cross, sinking through the grave and death. The only stat that matters is the shot Jesus called ... an empty tomb (Matthew 16:21; Mark 9:31; Luke 9:22; John 2:19).

So, as I fill out my brackets (trying to ensure I beat my family and avoid losing our bet), I'm going to keep reflecting on the victory of Jesus. And as you move through this season, whether you're tracking your bracket, juggling a busy schedule, or simply trying to stay faithful in prayer, take a moment to rest in the truth that Christ's victory is already yours. Lent invites us to slow down, to breathe, to remember that grace is not earned but given. The greatest "buzzer-beater" happened that first Easter at an empty tomb, and the scoreboard still reads; Jesus 1 ... Death 0.

Come and celebrate Christ's victory April 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00am or 9:00am. Just like any great victory party, we'll have food to celebrate – Easter Breakfast 7:30-8:45am and Holy Communion at both services. May Christ's victory give you courage, hope, and joy all the days of your life.

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## Church Cleaning Day Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in helping to clean the narthex, sanctuary and office entrance area. Many hands made light work accomplishing this task and bringing brightness to our church.

Please check the Lost and Found table at the top of the Narthex steps for any items that maybe yours. We plan to clean the table off for Easter Sunday services but will be back until Sunday, April 12. After this date the items will be donated to a needy cause.

## Girl's Night Out with a Purpose

Sometimes we all need a reminder that we don't have to "do it all" to be worthy. The Evangelism team invites all women and girls (*7th grade and up*) to a special evening of refreshment and truth on **Friday, May 1st**.

We are excited to host professional Christian speaker **Mandy McCleary** (Nurture Her Soul), who will be speaking on the topic: "**You Are Enough.**" Mandy shares that this will be a very "open and honest conversation, with the hope that every single person that attends will leave feeling stronger, more beautiful, and more empowered to be fully who they are."

### When & Where:

- Location: Fellowship Hall, First Lutheran (Manchester)
- Time: Doors open at 5:30 PM for snacks and fellowship; Mandy begins at 6:15 PM.

**How to RSVP:** Grab a friend (or three!) and let us know you're coming so we can prepare enough treats. You can sign the clipboard in the Narthex after service or contact Leah Beaman or the church office.

Come as you are for an evening of snacks, laughter, and a message that speaks directly to the soul. We can't wait to see you there!

## Music Notes

### Adult Choir Schedule-April 2026

April 3 Good Friday	Warm-up @ 5:15PM Sing @ 6PM
April 12	Rehearsal @ 10:15AM
April 19	Warm-up @ 8:20AM Sing @ 9AM Rehearsal @ 10:15AM

## Summer Church Camp Camperships

First Lutheran Church is once again offering camperships for students who will be attending a summer church camp.

Contact the church office for additional info!

## Graduate Recognition

We are excited to honor our 2026 graduates during the worship service on Sunday, May 10. Please join us as we recognize their achievements, with a special reception to follow the service.

**High School Graduates:** Formal letters will be sent to our high school seniors shortly. To help us prepare our recognition board in the narthex, we ask that parents or students provide a photo along with the following details:

- Parent(s) full names
- High school attended
- Future plans after graduation

Photos can be emailed to the church office or dropped off in person.

**College Graduates:** We would love to celebrate your milestone as well! If you are a 2026 college graduate and would like to participate in the recognition/reception, please contact the church office.

## Cuthbertson Scholarships

First Lutheran Church Endowment offers scholarships to current high school seniors and college students who wish to further their education. Request an application form by emailing [firstlutheranmch@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutheranmch@gmail.com) or picking one up from the office. **The deadline is April 17th.**

## Mission of the Month (MOTM)

Our April Mission of the Month for our noisy can offering is Godspeed Equine.

Godspeed Equine is a faith-based mission dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus through equine learning activities that provide hope and healing to at-risk youth, veterans, and first responders at no cost. Rooted in the belief that the Bible is the ultimate source of truth and that healing comes through God's grace, the program utilizes the natural sensitivity and honesty of horses to help participants address the root of their heart's struggles. By teaching self-awareness, emotional management, and healthy boundaries, the program envisions a community where individuals are empowered to be authentic and present, fostering open communication and mutual respect through the unique gift of the horse.



A representative from Godspeed Equine will be coming to speak with the congregation on April 19<sup>th</sup>. We will collect for them on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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## Operation Christmas Child – The Greatest Journey

The Greatest Journey is a 12-lesson discipleship course designed for Operation Christmas Child shoebox recipients. Children who participate in the program learn how to follow Christ and share Him with others. As they do, entire families and communities are transformed by the power of the Gospel, and churches are started.



Every child has an opportunity to learn about God's love for them as they study the Bible and are taught by a trained local teacher. Upon completion of the course, they receive a graduation certificate and a New Testament in their own language.

### Personal Reflections:

In visiting with other volunteers, they have recommended Lion Wholesale and WOW Wholesale web sites in addition to Western Star Wholesale. These sites are businesses that specifically cater to Operation Christmas Child gifts. Take a look!

With money already donated to our church for OCC, I have purchased 10 harmonicas, 5 recorders, 20 solar calculators, 10 My Bible Story coloring books, and 20 plain notebooks that are each shoebox-size (Western Star Wholesale). I have found that by purchasing items throughout the year, there are sales that are very beneficial.

If you wish to wait until fall to "fill your own" shoebox(es), that is great! If you wish to buy items to add to our "stash", that is wonderful! Just drop them off at the office with Susi. If you wish to contribute through cash donations, that is perfect! There are lots of ways to give!

Thanks again for supporting this worthy cause.  
Mary Maurer | marycurtmaurer@gmail.com

## First Lutheran Church Council Minutes –March 9, 2026

**The regular meeting** of the First Lutheran Church was called to order at 6:01pm by President Millie Kehrli. Meeting was held in the Church Friendship Room.

**Members present:** Millie Kehrli, Donna Millenkamp, Billie Zumbach, Cathy Glew, Brenda Palas, Duane Nieman, Vance Knutson, Lucas Thomas, and David Johnson. Absent: Leah Beaman, and Pastor Cooper. Visitors present: Dan Glew and Kevin Maloney

**Opening devotions** were given by Millie.

Dan Glew gave a presentation on the 80% Rule as it pertains to church seating capacity and his assessment of our current seating.

Kevin Maloney reported Denise Bishop has stepped down from the Endowment Committee leaving an open spot. He recommends Tirzah Wedewer for the opening.

Motion by Duane, seconded by Vance to approve Tirzah Wedewer to fill the open spot on the Endowment Committee; motion carried.

Approval of February Council Minutes: Motion by Billie, seconded by Donna to approve the February 1st minutes; motion carried. Motion by Billie, seconded by Dave to approve the February 9th minutes; motion carried.

Approval of January Treasurer's Report: Motion by Duane, seconded by Billie to approve treasures report with potential revisions; motion carried.

<b>Total Income YTD (February 2026)</b>	\$104,284.00	Total Income previous YTD	\$96,477.67
Total Income YTD budgeted	\$130,062.50	Total Income YTD vs budget	\$(25,778.50)
<b>Total Expenses YTD (February 2026)</b>	\$132,998.83	Total Expenses Previous YTD	\$80,200.87
Total Expenses YTD Budgeted	\$132,218.60	Total Expenses YTD vs budget	\$780.23
<b>Operating YTD Loss/Profit</b>	\$(28,714.83)	Operating Previous YTD Profit	\$16,276.80

### Treasurer's Report – David Johnson:

- Income for the month of February was \$13,584.90, which is \$12,427.60 under budget.
- Income YTD was \$104,284.00, which is \$25,778.50 under budget.
- Expenses for the month of February were \$25,024.99, which is \$1,418.73 under budget.
- Expenses YTD were \$132,998.83 which is \$780.23 over budget.
- Net Operating Income for the month of February was \$(11,440.09) and YTD is \$(25,714.83).

### President – Millie Kehrli:

- NALC Ratification Results- unanimous to ratify the amendments to the NALC Constitution.
- Updated Constitution based on ratifications.

**President – Elect – Vance Knutson:** No report

### Christian Education – Lucas Thomas:

- Looking at dates for VBS

**Evangelism –Leah Beaman:**

- We had about 20 women at our Galentine's party at Mixteca, where we created vision boards.
- Valentines and cinnamon rolls were delivered to the Legion by Julie Cooper and Luke and to the Good Neighbor Home/Meadows by Dan Glew. We ended up with lots of Valentines, so thank you to all who contributed.
- We are planning a women/girls' event for Friday, May 1st with a speaker (Mandy McCleary), food and a craft. More details to follow.

**Lay Ministry – Billie Zumbach:**

- Meal and Message Dates-5 PM
  - March 11th -Choir
  - March 18th -Men's Bible Study
  - March 25th -Evangelism
- Palm Sunday 3-29-26 Service @ 9:00AM
- Maundy Thursday 4-2-26 Service @ 6:00PM, 1st Communion
- Good Friday 4-3-26 Service @ 6:00PM
- Easter Sunrise Service @ 7:00AM
- Easter Breakfast @ 7:30AM
- Easter Regular Sunday Service @ 9:00AM (with brass)
- Susi-Vacation March 16th -19th
- Sunday, May 10th Service @ 9:00AM-Honor the Graduates
- Sunday, May 24th Service @ 9:00AM-Confirmation
- Billie reported Doran gave an update to the congregation regarding the fires in Kansas. They would like to put together a care package with enough funds to buy two cows. The goal would be to raise \$10,000 and donations would be from various churches and organizations. Donation checks would be made payable to First Lutheran Church with a memo of "Kansas Fire". Motion by Duane, seconded by Vance to approve creating a fund for the Krier care package; motion carried.

**Properties – Duane Nieman:**

- Boiler didn't pass inspection. Committee discussed venting boiler and water heater or replacing boiler.
- Smoke detectors need new batteries.
- SMI put our name on list for spring back log.
- Handrail on east side of stairs going up to balcony.
- Sunday School restrooms are almost done. Flooring will be installed this week. Office and restrooms by quilting room are also being updated due to having extra materials.
- Handicap parking-Letter has been sent to the city requesting two extra handicap parking spaces on E. Fayette Street. We have decided to do one space for now and not two.
- New sump pump.

**Social Ministry – Cathy Glew:**

- Ongoing Coffee Fellowship following Sunday church service. Looking for more volunteers.
- Continued visits by five volunteers meeting with homebound, residents of the Meadows and the Good Neighbor Home.
- Congregation continues to provide food for the community using the outside food box. Many donations. New cupboard for extra donations.

- Freezer meal team are available for those in need. This month 8 meals were provided, amounting to 10 servings.

**Stewardship – Donna Millenkamp: MOTM update:**

- We raised \$168.28 for EWALU Cedar Lodge in February.
- We will be collecting for Trinity Lutheran on March 11th and 15th.
- We will be collecting for God Speed Equine on April 12th and 15th.

**Secretary of the Council –Brenda Palas: No report**

**Pastor Jason Cooper: No report**

**Old Business:**

- We need substitute money counters. Dave will make an announcement.
- Cleaning day at the church on Saturday, March 21st and March 28<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed.

Motion by Dave, seconded by Lucas to approve replacing the boiler and finishing the building work funded by money approved at the November 9, 2025 annual meeting of the church; motion carried.

**New Business: None**

**Next meeting** will be held on April 13, 2026 @ 6:00pm.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:19 pm

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Brenda Palas**

**Monthly Offering Comparison**

Year	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	\$18,937.13	\$21,906.87	\$13,353.69	\$19,063.72
February	\$28,414.39	\$17,120.64	\$16,450.02	\$12,840.42
March	\$33,049.82	\$18,216.41	\$18,306.05	
April	\$20,542.21	\$20,210.51	\$17,359.59	
May	\$25,993.18	\$18,624.85	\$13,893.45	
June	\$22,744.81	\$13,614.20	\$15,796.30	
July	\$28,784.78	\$15,272.71	\$13,557.29	
August	\$22,196.56	\$15,206.24	\$13,397.73	
September	\$23,810.07	\$12,636.67	\$13,114.42	
October	\$29,430.84	\$16,694.94	\$16,919.28	
November	\$20,937.08	\$11,898.12	\$19,161.69	
December	\$32,662.87	\$8,854.54	\$22,911.47	
Yearly Totals	\$307,503.74	\$190,256.70	\$180,823.25	\$31,904.14

# SCRIP ORDER FORM

BUSINESS	%	DENOMINATIONS
Amazon.com	2%	10____ 25____ 100____
American Eagle	10%	25____
Applebee's	8%	25____
Arby's	8%	10____
Aunt Emmy's (L)	4%	10____ 25____ 50____
Barnes & Noble	9%	5____ 10____ 25____
Bath & Body	13%	10____ 25____
Best Buy	4%	25____
Boubin Tires (L)	5%	See Brenda
BP Gas	2%	50____ 100____
Buckle	8%	25____
Bushel & A Peck	3%	10____
Burger King	4%	10____
Cabela's	8%	25____
Casey's	3%	25____ 50____ 100____
Castle Theatre (L)	10%	5____
Cenex	3%	25____
Chili's	11%	25____
Chuong Garden (L)	10%	10____ 25____
Culvers Restaurant	5%	10____
Dairy Queen (L)	10%	5____ 10____
Darden/Olive Garden/Cheddars	8%	10____ 25____
Dick's Sporting Goods	8%	25____ 100____

BUSINESS	%	DENOMINATIONS
Exxon/Mobile <*>	2%	50____
Fareway	3%	25____ 100____
Gap/Old Navy	14%	25____
Gift Holder	10%	2____
JCPenney(CC)<*>	5%	25____
Maurices	7%	20____
Menards <*>	3%	25____ 100____
Michaels	4%	25____
Outback Steakhouse	8%	50____
Palmer Hdwe. (L)	5%	See Brenda
Pizza Ranch (L)	8%	5____ 25____
Posy Place (L)	5%	10____
Red Lobster	8%	10____ 25____
Red Robin	9%	25____
Staples	5%	25____
Starbucks	7%	10____ 25____
Subway	6%	10____
Sunset (L)	10%	10____ 20____
Target	3%	10____ 25____ 100____
Texas Roadhouse	8%	25____ 100____ <*>__
TJ Maxx	7%	25____
Ulta Salons	4%	25____
Visa/Discover pp (CC)	1%	<*> 50____ 100____
Walmart	3%	10____ 25____ 100____

## KEY TO SYMBOLS

- <\*> Not stocked, can be ordered
- \*\*\* See Brenda for special details
- (L) Local participating businesses
- (CC) Can be used to pay on credit card

Contact Brenda Saunders with questions: 563-920-3191.

If you need scrip mid-week, see Susi DuBois during office hours.



**For a full list of what can be offered go to:  
raiserright.com**



# APRIL 2026

## First Evangelical Lutheran Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <i>No worship service or activities</i>	2 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 6:00 p.m. Worship First Communion	3 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 5:15 p.m. Choir Warm-up 6:00 p.m. Worship Choir Sings	4
5 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service 7:30-8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Easter Service Easter Brass Ensemble 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	6	7 9:00 a.m. Quilting 11:00 a.m. Church Ladies Lunch 6:00 p.m. Lay Ministry Meeting	8 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Heaven Bound Confirmation	9	10	11
12 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Choir Rehearsal	13 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	14 9:00 a.m. Quilting	15 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Heaven Bound Confirmation	16	17 <b>Cuthbertson Scholarship Applications due</b>	18
19 8:20 a.m. Choir Warm-up 9:00 a.m. Worship Choir Sings MOTM Noisy Can Offering 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship Choir Rehearsal	20	21 9:00 a.m. Quilting	22 6:00 p.m. Worship MOTM Noisy Can Offering 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Heaven Bound Confirmation	23	24 <b>April Lamplighter Deadline</b>	25
26 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship	27	28 9:00 a.m. Quilting	29 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Heaven Bound Confirmation	30		