



LAMPLIGHTER

First Evangelical Lutheran Church



Thank you to the choir for your talent and your time that was put into "Near the Cross" to begin our Lenten season.

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In This Issue:

Page 2
Easter Brass Ensemble

Page 3
A Word From Pastor
Jason
Holy Week Schedule

Page 4
Mission of the Month
Scholarships
Camperships

Page 5
National Quilting Day
Church Ladies Lunch

Page 6-8
Council Minutes

Page 9
Script

Page 10
March Calendar

Lenten Meal & A Message

We welcome you to join us for fellowship, food, and worship during the season of Lent!

Ash Wednesday, February 18, signifies the beginning of the season of Lent. We will again be holding our traditional midweek "Meal & A Message" every Wednesday evening during Lent.

The meals will be served at 5 PM and the worship services will begin at 6 PM. Mark your calendars and join us on the following dates:

Date	Host Group
March 4	Confirmation
March 11	Choir
March 18	Men's Bible Study
March 25	Evangelism Team



MARCH 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 March Radio & Flower Sponsors!

KMCH Radio Ministry Sponsors

March 1...children of Richard and Joann Hartman in honor of their 58th Wedding Anniversary.
March 8...Ron & Tirzah Wedewer
March 15...Janis Creveling
March 22...Kurt Kehrli - 66th Birthday
March 29...In memory of Richard Sutton by his family

Altar Flower Sponsors

March 1...grandchildren of Richard and Joann Hartman in honor of their 58th Wedding Anniversary.
March 8...
March 15...
March 22...
March 29...In memory of Richard Sutton by his family

Music Notes

Adult Choir Schedule-March 2026

March 8

Rehearsal @ 10:15 a.m.

March 22

Warm-up @ 8:20 a.m.
Sing @ 9:00 a.m. service
Rehearsal @ 10:15 a.m.

March 29

Palm Sunday

Warm-up @ 8:20 a.m.
Sing @ 9:00 a.m. service
Rehearsal @ 10:15 a.m.

Join Our Easter Brass Ensemble!

Let's make a joyful noise Easter Sunday! We are assembling a special Easter Brass Ensemble to play during our Easter Sunday service on April 5th, and we want you to be a part of it.

Whether you're a high school student looking to play with a group or a seasoned pro who hasn't dusted off the case in a while, there is a spot for you!

The Details:

- Who: Anyone in 9th grade or older (all "vintage" years welcome!).
- Friends Welcome: You don't have to be a member to play—invite your brass-playing friends and neighbors!
- Commitment: There will be just one rehearsal prior to Easter Sunday.

How to Join: To ensure everyone has their sheet music in time to practice, please contact Kathy Moorhouse or the Church Office as soon as possible.

A Word From Pastor Jason

To be a disciple of Jesus is to be a student and follower. The best students are those who continue to learn. Even in the word disciple, we hear the echo of discipline. A student develops disciplines that help them understand and grow in the knowledge their teacher seeks to impart. Jesus, our Lord and Master, desires that we better know God and His love for us, and He provides His Word in the Scriptures for that very purpose.



Over the years, the Church has developed many disciplines to help disciples grow in faith, love, and obedience to God. As we journey through the season of Lent—a season created by the Church to remind us of our sin and our need for a Savior—many disciples practice disciplines such as fasting, increased financial giving, refraining from earthly pleasures (TV, internet, etc.), and more intentional reading of God’s Word. This Lent, my personal discipline is to “pray the Psalms.” What does it mean to “pray the Psalms”? St. Augustine put it this way: in other words, by reading and reflecting on the psalms, we naturally enter into a discipline of prayer.

For example, Psalm 1:1 says:

This reminds me to pray that I do not seek the counsel of the wicked nor place myself above other sinners. I am a sinner in need of a Savior, and by God’s grace in Jesus, when I acknowledge my transgressions, He forgives my wickedness.

Another example comes from Psalm 42:5:

Here I am reminded that when—not if—life brings me to a point of feeling overwhelmed or forsaken, I am to call out to God, my hope and salvation. God has promised never to abandon or forsake me. He is always as close as the words of my prayer.

“If the psalm prays”—and they most certainly do, for they are prayers of David and others—“then you pray.” St. Augustine was right: this discipline naturally grows when one reads and reflects on the psalms. Therefore, I encourage you: if you have not taken on a discipline as a disciple of Christ, start today by reading Psalm 1. Ask God to help you hear the prayers of the psalms and to join your own prayers with them.

May the peace of God be with you this Lent and always.

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Pastor Jason

Holy Week Schedule

Mark your calendars for our Holy Week services:

March 29, Palm Sunday: Worship @ 9 AM

April 2, Maundy Thursday: Worship @ 6 PM

April 3, Good Friday: Worship @ 6 PM

April 5, Easter Sunday:

- Sunrise Worship Service @ 7 AM
- Easter Breakfast @ 7:30 AM
- Easter Worship Service @ 9 AM

No Worship Service on Wednesday, April 1.

Valentines for Vets

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Valentines for Vets project! We’d like to give special thanks to Julie Cooper and Luke for delivering cards and rolls to the Legion, Dan Glew for delivering cards to the Good Neighbor Home and Meadows, and Amy Heims and her preschool kids, our Sunday school students, and all of you for making Valentines! It was much appreciated!

Mission of the Month (MOTM)

Our March Mission of the Month for our noisy can offering is Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Charles, MN. Trinity Lutheran Church was established in 2020 as a mission congregation of the NALC. Since their founding, they have grown from 58 to 105 members, all committed to living out the Great Commission through worship, prayer, study, service and hospitality. They are in need of a permanent home. They are currently worshiping and ministering in 2 rented locations-a community hall and a storefront. While these spaces have served them well, they believe that a dedicated church building will deepen their discipleship, strengthen their visibility and invite more souls into the body of Christ.

They are looking for help in securing a downpayment for the construction of a church, with a goal of beginning construction by January 1, 2031.

Some information about Trinity Lutheran:

- In 2020, 59% of their former congregation voted to leave the ELCA and affiliate with the NALC. Unable to retain their original building, they chose to start anew.
- Despite limited resources, they've grown steadily- welcoming several new members.
- They tithe 10% of their general offerings to other community causes, even as a mission church.
- Their discipleship ministries include Grief Share, Divorce Care, Financial Peace, multiple Bible studies and community outreach events.
- They operate with a part time secretary, no musician and a full-time pastor who is deeply engaged in nurturing their member's faith.

Trinity Lutheran is not asking for operational support but rather are asking for help in laying the foundation for a church that will serve generations to come. For more information, please visit www.trinitylutheranst.charles.org.

Please consider contributing to this cause if you are able. We are collecting for them on March 8th and 11th.

Cuthbertson Scholarships

First Lutheran Church Endowment offers scholarships to current high school seniors and college students who wish to further their education. The scholarships may be applied to tuition costs only.

Request an application form by emailing firstlutheranmch@gmail.com or picking one up from the office. **The application submission deadline is April 17th.**

Summer Church Camp Camperships

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

Parents must pay the registration fee, and then the church will pay for 80% of the remaining balance. Please submit a copy of the statement to the church office & the church will mail the check directly to the church camp for you.

National Quilting Day

March 21 is National Quilting Day. First Lutheran is blessed with thirteen talented quilters creating many quilts each year.

In the past year the ladies have sent 109 quilts to Lutheran World Relief and disaster areas. These quilts are distributed to those in need in the following countries: Angola, Djibouti, Georgia, Jordan, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Romania, Serbia, Tanzania, Ukraine, Zimbabwe and areas in the United States.

On April 18 and in October the quilts are packed up and transported to Cedar Rapids.

Not only are the quilters keeping individuals warm around the world they provided 12 quilts to six families during Christmas and quilts are given to individuals when baptized here at First Lutheran Church. There were 12 additional quilts sold. Quilts for sale are displayed in the fellowship hall. These hard-working ladies are Donna Bandy, Ardelle Brooks, Berdina Bell, Merri Bohenkamp, Becky Lawson, Chin Stone, Kerri Linderwell, Karen Hepker, Marilyn Emerson, Sandra Johnson, Sharon Burrack, Sharon Dresler and Ellen Howard.

If you would be interested in joining this fun group, they work on quilts every Tuesday from 9:00-11:00 a.m. (weather permitting) All community members welcome to join.



Church Ladies Lunch

Ladies, mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 4th. We're meeting at Olive That Deli at 11:30 AM.

No RSVPs are needed—just grab your lunch at the counter and head back to the private room to find the group.

First Lutheran Church Special Congregational Meeting Minutes February 1, 2026

The Special Congregational Meeting of the First Lutheran Church was called to order at 10:11am by President Millie Kehrli.

Millie explained the meeting is to ratify amendments to the NALC Constitution. She provided an overview of each amendment and the proposed changes.

Dan Glew motioned to move forward with voting, seconded by Eric Walker; motion carried.

Ballots were distributed to the members present to vote.

Shelia Tibbott motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vance Knutson; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 am

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Palas

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes – February 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, and David Johnson. **Absent:** Lucas Thomas, Leah Beaman, and Pastor Cooper.

Opening devotions were given by Millie.

Billie requests an addition to the agenda-Updated church directory. Motion by Vance to add it to new business, seconded by Billie, motion carried.

Approval of January Council Minutes: Motion by Billie, seconded by Donna to approve the minutes; motion carried.

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

Total Income YTD (January 2026)	\$90,699.10	Total Income previous YTD	\$127,839.97
Total Income YTD budgeted	\$104,050.00	Total Income YTD vs budget	\$(13,350.90)

Total Expenses YTD (January 2026)	\$23,295.11	Total Expenses Previous YTD	\$10,300.89
Total Expenses YTD Budgeted	\$26,443.72	Total Expenses YTD vs budget	\$(3,148.61)

Operating YTD Loss/Profit	\$(11,602.37)	Operating Previous YTD Profit	\$1,266.16
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Treasurer's Report – David Johnson:

- Income for the month of January was \$7,853.77, which is \$1,841.27 over budget.
- Income YTD was \$90,699.10, which is \$13,350.90 under budget.
- Expenses for the month of January were \$23,295.11, which is \$3,148.61 under budget.
- Expenses YTD were \$102,301.47 which is \$3,473.41 under budget.
- Net Operating Income for the month of January was \$4,558.66 and YTD is \$(11,602.37).

President – Millie Kehrli:

- Outcome of the congregational meeting-48 people stayed for the meeting and the vote was unanimous to ratify the amendments to the NALC Constitution.

President – Elect – Vance Knutson: No report

Christian Education – Lucas Thomas: No report

Evangelism –Leah Beaman: No report

Lay Ministry – Billie Zumbach:

- Gratuity for Sound System Assistant for Funerals \$40
- Lenten Service Theme-Who Do I say Jesus is?
- Ash Wednesday Service-February 18 @ 6:00 PM
- Meal and Message Dates-5 PM
 - February 18th -Heaven Bound
 - February 25th -Freezer Meals
 - March 4th -Confirmation
 - March 11th -Choir
 - March 18th -Men’s Bible Study
 - March 25th -Evangelism
- Easter Sunrise Service @ 7:00AM
- Easter Breakfast @ 7:30AM
- Regular Sunday Service @ 9:00AM
- Discussed and decided to skip announcements at the beginning of service as they are running too long.

Properties – Duane Nieman:

- We can get two additional handicap spots on the street. A letter to the city requesting the spots is needed.
- Discussed whether we need all the bulletin boards around church and council decided we do.
- Discussed having a cleaning day on March 28th or 29th . Need a detailed list of items that need attention.
- Talked to SMI to discuss plan for work on the exterior of church. Chimney will be worked on first and as many lintels as possible with remaining available funds. May take \$145,000 to finish the job. With removal of the chimney, we will have to vent the items that are currently being vented out the chimney. This would be an additional cost above the \$145,000 with some items possibly needing replaced due to age. We have \$150,000 in building fund and \$23,385 in Hansen Fund for a total of \$173,385.

Social Ministry – Cathy Glew:

- Annual “Souper Bowl” Chili and Soup Cook-off was Feb. 8th and had great attendance.
- Ongoing Coffee Fellowship following Sunday church service. Needing volunteers to serve coffee fellowship each week.
- Breakfast will be served on Feb. 15 by Heaven Bound following the church service.
- Continuing visits with homebound and residents of the Meadows and the Good Neighbor Home. Reviewing list of possible individuals who would like a visit.
- Congregation continues to provide food for the community using the outside food box.
- Freezer meal team are available for those in need. This month 8 meals were provided, amounting to 12 servings.

Stewardship – Donna Millenkamp: MOTM update:

- We raised \$213.07 for NALC Disaster Response in January.
- We are collecting for EWALU Cedar Lodge renovation on February 8th and 11th .

Secretary of the Council –Brenda Palas: No report

Pastor Jason Cooper:

- Discussed if we should continue to offer Camperships
- Susi on vacation March 16-19. Discussed if we should still cover office with volunteers and council felt that we should if possible.
- Motion by Duane, seconded by Donna to continue with camperships-parents pay registration deposit and church will pay 80% of the remaining balance; motion carried.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- Updated Church Directory-will look for possible volunteer to head project.
- Property committee met and identified a number of projects to do:
 - Keypad with buzz in system for office doors-Contacted Liberty Door for quote;
 - Move sound booth to get more seating-Discussed whether moving sound booth was practical option for gaining more seating and decided it might not be best option at this time;
 - Sunday School bathrooms-cost for flooring, vanity & faucets and paint-\$3744;
 - Window replacement in restrooms by fellowship hall are single paned with little glaze holding glass in.
- Motion by Vance, seconded by Cathy to move forward with the Sunday School bathrooms project; motion carried.

Next meeting will be held on March 9, 2026 @ 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 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	
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	\$19,063.72

SCRIP ORDER FORM

Contact Brenda with questions: 563-920-3191

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 ___
Barnes & Noble	9%	5 ___ 10 ___ 25 ___
Bath & Body	13%	10 ___ 25 ___
Bed,Bath & Beyond	7%	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 (5-L) 10 & 3%		5 ___ 10 ___
Darden/Olive Garden/Cheddars	8%	10 ___ 25 ___
Dick's Sporting Goods	8%	25 ___ 100 ___
Dollar Fresh	3%	25 ___ 100 ___
Express	10%	25 ___
Exxon/Mobile <*>	2%	50 ___
Fareway	3%	25 ___ 100 ___
Gap/Old Navy	14%	25 ___
Gift Holder	10%	2 ___
Hardee's	5%	10 ___
Home Depot	4%	25 ___ 100 ___ <*> ___
Honey Creek Furn. (L)	3%	See Brenda
iTunes	5%	15 ___

BUSINESS	%	DENOMINATIONS
JCPenney(CC)<*>	5%	25 ___
Joanne's Fabrics	6%	25 ___
Kohl's (CC)	4%	25 ___ 100 ___
Kwik Trip	4%	25 ___ 50 ___ 100 ___
Kwik Trip Grocery	15%	25 ___
Lowe's <*>	4%	25 ___ 100 ___
Maurices	7%	20 ___
Menard's	3%	25 ___ 100 ___
Michaels	4%	25 ___
Old Navy/Gap	14%	25 ___
Outback Steakhouse	8%	50 ___
Palmer Hdwe. (L)	5%	See Brenda
Panera Bread	8%	10 ___ 25 ___
Pizza Hut	8%	10 ___
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 ___
Wendy's Carwash(L)	20%	25 ___

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

For a full list of participating businesses, go to: <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>



MARCH 2026

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship	2	3 9:00 a.m. Quilting 6:00 p.m. Lay Ministry Meeting	4 11:30 a.m. Church Ladies Lunch 5:00 p.m. Lenten Meal 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Heaven Bound	5	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Worship MOTM- <i>Noisy Can Offering</i> 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Choir Rehearsal	9 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	10 9:00 a.m. Quilting	11 5:00 p.m. Lenten Meal 6:00 p.m. Worship MOTM- <i>Noisy Can Offering</i> 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Heaven Bound	12	13	14
15 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship	16	17 9:00 a.m. Quilting	18 5:00 p.m. Lenten Meal 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Heaven Bound	19	20 April Lamplighter Deadline	21 National Quilting Day
22 8:20 a.m. Choir Warm-up 9:00 a.m. Worship Choir Sings 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship Choir Rehearsal	23	24 9:00 a.m. Quilting	25 5:00 p.m. Lenten Meal 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Heaven Bound	26	27	28
29 PALM SUNDAY 8:20 a.m. Choir Warm-Up 9:00 a.m. Worship Choir Sings 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship Choir Rehearsal	30	31				