

The Messenger

Volume 28 Issue 3 Office 996-7706 e-mail: luther@mitchellfirstlutheran.org Fax 996-7727 March 2025

MARCH FOCUS



CAMP SUNDAY

With **Lutherans Outdoors** in South Dakota

Sunday, March 2nd
@ 9:30 a.m.

Worship with Pastor Dave Zellmer,
LO Interim Executive Director

Carmel Rolls
will be served
after worship!

JOIN US FOR

Ash Wednesday

March 5th

5:15-6:30 pm - **Meal Served**

6:45 pm - **Worship**
with Holy Communion

Sanborn & 5th Ave., Mitchell, SD

www.MitchellFirstLutheran.org

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

COUNCIL MINUTES — February 25, 2025

Please note: these minutes have been edited for the newsletter.

The full minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the office hallway

Pastor's Report:

- ◆ 3 Cottage Meetings have been held
- ◆ Lutherans Outdoors needs help recruiting staff
- ◆ A wireless (headset) microphone is needed for the Family Life Center

Deacon's Report:

- ◆ There will be a table where people can sign up to help volunteer with Church on the Street's Laundry with Love on May 13.
- ◆ Attended the Prairie Rivers Conference meeting on February 23.

Ministry Reports:

- ◆ Worship: Kathie and choir are rehearsing Thursdays at 6:30 for a choral event on Psalm Sunday, April 13th. Bell choir rehearses Wednesdays. Meal 5:15-6:30 before 6:45 Ash Wednesday Service 3/5 and all other Wednesday Lenten services. March 2 is Camp Sunday, Bishop Emeritus Dave Zellmer is our guest preacher, Camp Staff Band is leading music, and Journey with Jesus kids will sing the Hymn of Praise.
- ◆ Fellowship and Caring: Worship at Care Centers the next 4 weeks are 2/25 Wesley Acres, 2/26 at Edgewood South, 3/13 at Firesteel, and 3/18 at Brady. Prayer and Care met 2/4, next meeting of Prayer and Care is 5/6.
- ◆ Faith Formation: 5th grade first communion milestone is coming up, JWW kids are singing in worship on Camp Sunday 3/2; 3 camp weeks are set for kids to sign up (see email blast for more info)— early bird deadline is in April; March 28th is the Sweet 16 party.
- ◆ Stewardship: 91 pledge cards were returned (up from previous 3 years), \$316,640 pledged which was an increase of about \$16,000. We typically do have about 200 giving units. We did get 32 building fund pledges as well.
- ◆ Property: Bell tower bid should be coming in March. Tiles downstairs are stained – from condensation. Retaining wall by the steps is deteriorating due to standing water that causes it to crumble. Scheduling a Spring Clean Up for a Saturday in April. Water heater in the Kitchen downstairs will be replaced by the board of the daycare when it needs to happen. Carpets were cleaned in the church. The organ had a leaky pipe – it was pulled out. It does need to be repaired or replaced – Lonnie suggested this summer would be a good time.
- ◆ Evangelism: Will be sending out mailers again for Easter and maybe Wednesday Lenten services.

Reception of the Treasurer's Report: January income \$41,636; expenses \$43,828. Net ordinary income is -\$2,192. It was a 3 pay period month, so that accounts for some of the difference. Eric motioned to receive the Treasurer's report, Pam second. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Establishing a separate fund for youth camps & national youth gathering: we will vote on a new proposal next meeting

New Business:

Lenten meals---Church Council to serve on April 2nd ---Taco Bar

Cottage meetings: we'd love to have more people join

Prairie Rivers Conference: Jill Munger is a rural ambassador for the synod – helps rural churches fill pastoral positions and thrive; 3 names were lifted up for Bishop – candidates will be voted on at the very end of May

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

JANUARY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| January 5..... | 138/OL:32 | \$12,776.61 |
| January 8..... | 42 | \$170.00 |
| January 12..... | 171/OL:90 | \$5,736.65 |
| January 15..... | 28 | \$200.00 |
| January 19..... | 12/OL:84 | \$14,605.65 |
| January 22..... | 30 | \$220.00 |
| January 26..... | 156/OL: 108 | \$6,712.66 |
| January 29..... | 25 | \$120.00 |

January 2025 Offering **\$40,541.57**

\$34,347.00 is needed per month to meet monthly budget.

Personal Care Kits

The Piecemakers are putting together personal care kits. Lutheran World Relief is requesting these kits for the hurricane victims in North Carolina and the fire victims in California. Needed items:

- ⇒ Bath towels (20" x 40" to 52" x 27") dark color recommended
- ⇒ Bar soap (4 or 6 oz.)

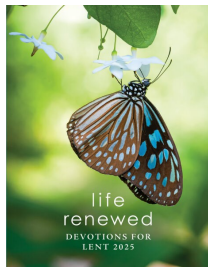
Items can be placed in the tote in the Glass Lobby. Monetary donations can be dropped off at the church office.



Lenten Devotion Books

Available on Sunday,
March 2 and Ash
Wednesday, March 5

God brings new life in unexpected ways and in the most unlikely situations. This devotional reflects on how God does this in the creation of all things, the Israelites' rescue from slavery in Egypt, the dry bones and Ezekiel, the fiery furnace, the big fish and Jonah, and more.



Life Renewed provides devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (March 5 to April 19, 2025). The devotions begin with evocative images and brief scripture readings drawn from traditional Easter Vigil texts. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

Daylight Savings
Time begins
Sunday, March 9 at
2:00 a.m. Don't
forget to set your
clocks ahead!



March's Noisy Offering
is being collected for
Summer Bible Camp.
The money helps 3rd-8th
Grade students attend
Bible Camps.



**UPCOMING
NOISY
OFFERINGS:**

- ⇒ **April:** Lutherans Outdoors
- ⇒ **May:** Heart & Sole Cancer Walk
- ⇒ **June:** Mitchell Habitat for Humanity

March Prayer and Care Worship



Each month First Lutheran leads worship at Mitchell retirement and care centers. All are welcome to attend.

- *7:00 p.m. March 11 Wesley Acres
- *2:00 p.m. March 13 at Firesteel
- *2:00 p.m. March 18 at Brady
- *11:00 a.m. March 26 at Edgewood South

UPCOMING RUMMAGE SALE!

First Lutheran will be hosting another rummage sale June 5-7. Please begin saving items to donate.



New Member Class

Sunday, Mar. 23rd
Sunday, Mar. 30th

@ 10:45 following worship

NOTE: Reception of new members will be Sunday, April 6th



Gather Study Group Dates & Times



- ♦ **Tuesday, March 4**
 - ◇ 12:00 p.m. WELCA/FLCW
Board Meeting, First Lutheran Church Library
- ♦ **Wednesday, March 5**
 - ◇ 9:30 a.m. Lydia Group, Countryside Game Room
- ♦ **Thursday, March 6**
 - ◇ 9:30 a.m. Sarah Group, Family Life Center

Book Club



Here is a list of upcoming titles for book club

- 📖 March 27: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummings
- 📖 April 24: *Never* by Ken Follett
- 📖 May 22: *Belonging* by Michell Miller
- 📖 June 26: *The Paris Architect* by Charles Belfoure
- 📖 August 28: *Darling Girls* by Sally Hepworth

Book Club meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at First Lutheran Church in the Family Life Center



First Lutheran Post-Secondary Scholarship

Scholarship applications were mailed to First

Lutheran high school seniors. College students may pick up an application in the church office. Applications are due March 1. No late submissions will be accepted.

Prairie Rivers Scholarship

The Prairie Rivers Scholarship is for students planning to attend, or presently enrolled in an ELCA college (Augustana, Concordia, St. Olaf, Gustavus, etc.) Applications can be picked up in the church office. Applications are due April 1.

It Took a Congregation to Pull This Off – Literally!

The 2025 Valentine Project hit a new high - \$5,291.17! And every penny goes into the First Lutheran Post-Secondary Scholarship Fund as the expenses were covered by a Thrivent Action Team card. For the first time ever, this was a sell-out. Unfortunately, the last four potential customers had to be sent away empty-handed. Last year's total was \$3,812.

Thank you, First Lutheran members, for helping with this project – the extra involvement was so appreciated. Persons from ages 3 to 83 were involved.



- 20 made/baked items to sell
- 5 frosted cookies
- 32 cut ribbon and/or plastic bags
- 11 packaged cookies
- 26 sold cookies
- 1 made price stickers, signs and counted the money
- 1 secured boxes from County Fair
- Many repurposed containers for us
- Many shopped



THANK YOU to the following 39 people who so willingly delivered Meals on Wheels from January 13-February 21, 2025. It is because of this awesome group that we fulfilled 6 weeks of meal deliveries:



Pat Adam, Jim & Joan Anderson, Jo Auch, Joyce Berg, Jeff Clark, Jerolyn Dean-Dubro, Rod & Mardi Deinert, Kevin & Julie Doorn, Marilyn Forst, Kathie Freeman, Mary Fristad, Ella Mae Goehring, Daryl & Janet Heckenliable, Mary Ann Hetland, Cliff & Janene Jager, Larry & Roxy Jensen, Ron & Nancy Kogel, Judy Lofgren, Gail Mueller, Bill & Julie Oakley, Steve & Kathy Otterby, Lynda Price, Barb Selland, Deb Toomey, Barb Vandever, Bruce & Mona Ward, Larry Weisser and Bob & Laura Weisz.

If you are interested in helping with this community project or would like more information, please contact Mona (605-999-8388) leave your name and phone number with Jodi in the church office.



Thrivent members are reminded to direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars by the end of March. Contact your Thrivent agent as to where your Thrivent Choice Dollars can be directed. If they are directed to First Lutheran, please let Jodi know if they are to go to a specific cause within the church.

Bible Camp Fundraiser

**Bracket Madness
Basketball Watch Party****Friday, March 28th, 6 - 9 p.m.**Sweet 16 games will
be shown on our four TV's.

• Childcare provided • Bingo • Silent Auction

On Palm Sunday, April 13, the Chancel
Choir will present a choral event during
worship, *Followers of the Light*.

Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 6:30
-7:30 p.m. through April 10. All singers
are welcome. Contact Kathie Freeman
if you have any questions.

PALM
SUNDAY

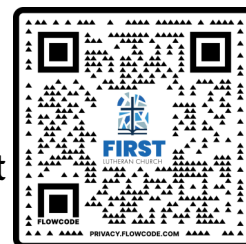
Cottage Meetings

We are continuing to
gather together in small
groups for some discus-
sion and dreaming about
the future direction of
ministry at First

Lutheran. We do this through a series
of cottage meetings. These meetings
will be held here at the church in
groups of no more than 12 people. Each
meeting will have a host and a reporter.

We want participation from as many
people as possible. All ages are
welcome. Scan the QR code to sign up
or on the forms in the Glass Lobby.

There are still 4 upcoming Cottage
Meetings, Sunday, March 2:
4:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m.,
Sunday, March 23: 4:00-5:00 p.m. and
Thursday, March 27: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Attention 5th Graders!**

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Wednesdays during LentMarch 12th, 19th & 26thApril 2nd & 9th*Classes will meet during
our Journey with Jesus time.

Sanborn & 5th Ave., Mitchell, SD

www.MitchellFirstLutheran.org

**Lenten
Worship**

Meal: 5:15 to 6:30 p.m.

**Worship
6:45 p.m.**Featuring the music of
**Holden Evening
Prayer****Wednesdays:
Mar. 12, 19 & 26
April 2 & 9**

Do you have stacks of filled
County Fair United Savings cards?
You can leave them in the marked
drawer in the Glass

Lobby or drop them off in the
church and the church will get
\$0.55 per card! This money can be
used for a variety of reasons, Confirmation
Camp, GIFT, Milestone Ministries, etc.



**You can support the
ministries of
First Lutheran through**

venmo

Children's Good News Time

Sunday, February 9



Sunday, February 16

Sunday, February 23



Faith Fest at Augustana University



Sunday, February 2 worship with
Rev. Chris Matson from Church on
the Street



Special Music during Sunday worship services



Sunday, February 2,
Maria Schwader

Sunday, February 9,
Praise Team:

Eric & Becky Larson, Amanda
Sonne, Jon Nath, Pastor Scott
and Deacon Kris



Sunday, February 9,
Emma Plamp



Sunday, February 23,
Sam Atnip

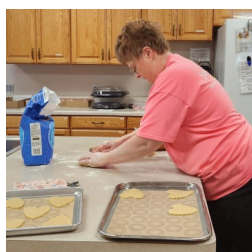
Valentine Bake Sale Volunteers



Laura Weisz and Janet Heckenliable,
two loyal volunteers



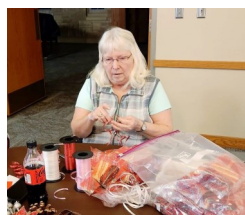
Janene Jager, Mona Ward, Gail Mueller
and Mardi Deinert



Brenda Mayer baked
DOZENS of cookies!



Gary Mayer started taking
preorders the week of
February 3.



Pam Moke