

# The Messenger

Volume 29 Issue 3 Office 996-7706 e-mail: [luther@mitchellfirstlutheran.org](mailto:luther@mitchellfirstlutheran.org) Fax 996-7727 March 2026

## MARCH FOCUS.....

MIDWEEK

# Lenten Worship

Featuring the music of

## Holden Evening Prayer



**FIRST**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Wednesdays**

**Meal @ 5:15 - 6:30**

**Worship @ 6:45 pm**

### **First Lutheran Members**

please mark your calendar for a

## **Special Congregational Meeting**

**on Sunday, March 29th**

There will be a special congregational meeting at 10:30 a.m. (after our 9:30 a.m. worship service) for the purpose of voting on whether to move forward with a capital campaign for facility repairs and upgrades as discussed at recent informational meetings.

**Please join us for conversation  
and the vote!**

PROJECTS  
UNDER  
CONSIDERATION

**Sanctuary  
"Refresh"**

• • •

**Parking Lot  
Resurfacing**

• • •

**Bell Tower  
Repairs**

# CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## COUNCIL MINUTES — February 23, 2026

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:

- ◆ 2026 Summer Bible Camp updates were provided, noting rate increases. Six campers currently registered with 28 spots reserved. Approximately \$12,000 needed for congregational support; \$5,000-\$6,000 available in camp funds and \$1,000 included in the 2026 budget
- ◆ Employee reviews are scheduled for March
- ◆ Seniors Pastor's retreat was shortened for pastoral care needs.
- ◆ Two funerals were officiated.

### Deacon's Report:

- ◆ Prairie Rivers Congregational Conference meeting was held at FLC on February 22
- ◆ Prairie Rivers monthly meeting in Parkston
- ◆ Support to Ministries meeting in Sioux Falls
- ◆ Two funerals officiated
- ◆ Gratitude expressed for Ash Wednesday worship and beginning the Lenten season together.

### Ministry Reports:

- ◆ **Worship:** Ash Wednesday Worship was held February 18 with marking of ashes, communion, and music led by the Praise Team. Camp Sunday was February 22, and the first Sunday of Lent began. Camp alumni, JWJ kids, and camp youth participated in worship leadership. NeSoDak Camp Director Marti Knutsen was our guest preacher. Five midweek Lenten worship services featuring Holden Evening Prayer began February 25 at 6:45pm. Bell Choir and Chancel Choir continue rehearsals, with a Palm Sunday Choral Event scheduled for Sunday, March 29. Handbells will ring Sunday, March 1 during worship.
- ◆ **Fellowship and Caring:** Upcoming care center worship services include: February 25 at Edgewood South, March 10 at Wesley Acres, March 12 at Firesteel, and March 17 at Brady, with Edgewood South again on March 25. Prayer and Care team continues visits and delivered Valentine treats to care receivers and those in need of encouragement.
- ◆ **Faith Formation:** 5th graders are meeting during Lent for First Communion instruction (Feb. 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25). Their celebration meal will be April 2 with First Communion celebrated during Maundy Thursday worship. 4 students attended Augustana Faith fest accompanied by Deacon Kris and Jill Munger. Luther Outdoor Camp Registration is open with current 3rd & 4th graders attending NeSoDak (July 14–17) and 5th–7th graders and High School attending Outlaw Ranch (July 19–24). Sisters in Faith Lenten study began February 23. Wednesday Lenten Meals are underway from 5:15–6:30pm with various groups serving.
- ◆ **Stewardship:** The Season of Renewal Stewardship Campaign started in January. Pledges were mailed out in January. Pledges are not yet finalized and will have updated numbers in March. WELCA officers meet March 3. Lydia Circle meets March 4th and Sarah Circle meets March 5th.
- ◆ **Property:** Continue to get bids and second bids for construction projects that we are looking at.
- ◆ **Evangelism:** New Member Classes scheduled for March 8 and 15. Planning for Easter postcard to be mailed out. 2025 attendance averaged 281 weekly (198 in-person). 2024 attendance averaged 282 weekly (194 in-person).

# DOLLAR\$&CENTS

### JANUARY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS:

January 4	148/OL: 84	\$8,047.98
January 11	150/OL: 96	\$4,805.60
January 14	31	\$126.00
January 18	132/OL: 92	\$15,594.12
January 21	21	\$170.00
January 25	163/OL: 68	\$13,680.20
January 28	32	\$100.00

January 2026	Offering	\$42,523.90
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\$34,347.00 is needed per month to meet monthly budget.

**Reception of the Treasurer's Report:** Income \$42,590.23; expenses \$54,591.31; Net Ordinary Income for January was -\$12,001.08. Expenses were higher in January due to an extra pay period, insurance, and maintenance checks. Steve made a motion to receive the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Pam Wells. Motion carried.



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

**venmo**




### 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 10 at Wesley Acres (DIFFERENT DATE!)

\*2:00 p.m. March 12 at Firesteel

\*2:00 p.m. March 17 at Brady

\*11:00 a.m. March 25 at Edgewood South



*Esther Meinen* passed away Monday, January 26, 2026. Funeral services were Friday, January 30, 2026 at Will Funeral Chapel with interment at South Spencer Cemetery, Spencer, SD

*Christopher Scott* passed away Thursday, January 29, 2026. Funeral services were Saturday, February 7, 2026 at First Lutheran Church with interment at Graceland Cemetery, Mitchell, SD

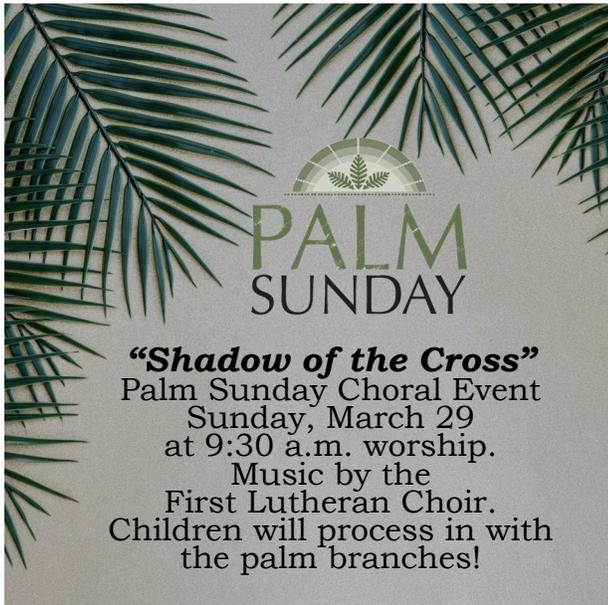
*Patricia "Pat" Burnham* passed away Saturday, February 7, 2026. Funeral services were Saturday, February 14 at Will Funeral Chapel with interment at Graceland Cemetery, Mitchell, SD

### Easter Flowers

It's time to order potted plants for Easter! If you would like to order a plant in memory or honor of a loved one, Easter Lilies & Daisies/Mums will be available for purchase for \$17.00 each, price includes tax. Orders are due on March 16



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



**PALM SUNDAY**

**"Shadow of the Cross"**  
Palm Sunday Choral Event  
Sunday, March 29  
at 9:30 a.m. worship.  
Music by the  
First Lutheran Choir.  
Children will process in with  
the palm branches!



**UPCOMING NOISY OFFERINGS:**

- ⇒ **April:** Habitat for Humanity
- ⇒ **May:** Heart & Sole Cancer Walk
- ⇒ **June:** St. Dysmas Prison Ministry



First Lutheran's 5th grade students will continue preparation for their First Communion on Wednesdays, March 4-25.

They will receive communion instruction, paint their chalices, and have a celebration supper on Maundy Thursday, April 2 before worship where they will receive their First Holy Communion.

*Campbell Rae Gross* was baptized on Sunday, February 1.   
Austin & Tayler are the parents of Campbell and sponsors are Michael Doorn, Amber Koss and Tonya Arneson.



**HERE IS A LIST OF UPCOMING TITLES FOR BOOK CLUB**



📖 March 26: *A Witness: The Haiti Earthquake, a Song, Death and Resurrection* by Renee Splichal Larson

📖 April 23: *Love Thy Neighbor* by Ayaz Virji and Alan Eisenstock

Book Club meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Library

**First Lutheran Post-Secondary Scholarship**



Scholarship forms have been mailed to First Lutheran high school seniors. College students may get an application from the church office. The applications must be returned to the church office by March 1.

No late applications will be accepted!

Thrivent members are reminded to direct their Choice Dollars before March 31. Contact your agent if you have questions. The process can be done online. If directing them to First Lutheran, and you wish for them to go to a specific cause, be sure to let Jodi in the office know.



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

*Daylight Savings Time begins*

*Sunday, March 8 at Spring Forward 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!*



**Gather Study Group Dates & Times**



◆ **Tuesday, March 3**

◇ 12:00 p.m. WELCA/FLCW

January Board Meeting, First Lutheran Library

◆ **Wednesday, March 4**

◇ 9:30 a.m. Lydia Group, Countryside Game Room

◆ **Thursday, March 5**

◇ 9:30 a.m. Sarah Group, Family Life Center

**PRAIRIE RIVERS SCHOLARSHIP**



The Prairie Rivers Scholarship is for students planning to attend or currently attending an ELCA college/university. The application is to be mailed to Joan Anderson, 1201 W Ash Ave, Mitchell, SD 57301 and must be postmarked by April 1.

**UPCOMING RUMMAGE SALE!**

First Lutheran will be hosting another rummage sale June 4-6. Please begin saving items to donate.



*New Members CLASS*

Sundays, March 8 and April 12 at 10:45 a.m. following worship.

NOTE: Reception of our new members will be Sunday, April 19.



The Prairie Rivers Spring Gathering will be held April 18, 9:00 a.m. at Salem Lutheran in Parkston. The registration is \$10 includes the noon lunch. Attendees will plan to meet in First Lutheran parking lot and carpool. The speaker will be former Parkston resident and teacher Coleen Albrecht-Globke-Brasch founder of All About U Adoptions.

Love Offering requests include:

- \*Bathroom Tissue
- \*Paper Towels
- \*Dish and laundry soap
- \*Dryer sheets
- \*Body wash
- \*Shampoo/conditioner
- \*Razors
- \*Deodorant
- \*Wash cloth/dish cloth
- \*Kitchen and bath towels
- \*Pillows
- \*Sheets
- \*Blankets/comforters



*faith fest at Augustana University*



Bible Camp Fundraiser

**Bracket Madness  
Basketball Watch Party**

**Friday, March 27th, 6 - 9 p.m.**

Enjoy a night of Food, Fellowship, and Fun! Two Sweet 16 games will be shown on our four TV's. Proceeds will go towards **SENDING OUR YOUTH TO BIBLE CAMP.**



- Childcare provided
- Bingo during commercials
- Silent Auction



RSVP via email: [jodi@MitchellFirstLutheran.org](mailto:jodi@MitchellFirstLutheran.org)  
or call the church office, 605-996-7706

Join our team at . . .

**First Lutheran  
Child Learning Center**

We are currently looking for a FT or PT

**PRESCHOOL  
TEACHER AIDE**

Contact us at 605-996-9742 for an application or for additional information.

Thank you to all those who shared their Thrivent Action Team Cards with First Lutheran in 2025. The \$250 cards helped cover many projects and therefore did not take money out of the church funds. The following is a partial list of users and represents thousands of dollars.

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| *Amy Christopherson | *Jim Anderson        |
| *Barb Vandever      | *Joan Anderson       |
| *Bill Mulder        | *Judy Lofgren        |
| *Brenda Mayer       | *Keith Thompson      |
| *Bob Scott          | *Marty Eilts         |
| *Carrie Mutziger    | *Matt Christopherson |
| *Daryl Heckenlaible | *Michelle White      |
| *David Mutziger     | *Mindi Smith         |
| *Gary Mayer         | *Nancy Kogel         |
| *Gladys Bassett     | *Rocky Smith         |
| *Gloria Thompson    | *Ruby Pattison       |
| *Janet Heckenlaible | *Scott Munger        |
| *Jeff Clark         | *Sharon Scott        |
| *Jill Munger        |                      |

♥ THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

HOW CAN WE  
*Thank*  
God  
ENOUGH FOR YOU?

- 1 Thessalonians 3:9, NIV -

### CAMP SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> WITH GUEST PREACHER, MARTI KNUDSEN, DIRECTOR OF NESODAK



### Sunday, February 8 Children's Good News Time



### Special Music



Sunday, February 1, pianist Jessica Haigh and her daughter Haley playing the Hymn of Praise.

Sunday, February 8, trumpet solo by Sonja Kollasch for the Hymn of Praise.

### Ash Wednesday, February 18 Meal and Worship

