



The First Messenger

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Adult Forum: Solar Power	March	10 th
Maundy Thursday Worship	March	28 th
Good Friday Worship	March	29 th
Easter Sunday	March	31 st
Church Office Closed	April	1 st



Volume 33

March 2024

Issue 3



NOISY OFFERING TOTALS

The total from the January Noisy Offering going to Lutheran Social Services of MN totaled \$635.86.

Check back next month for noisy offering total for February going to Patriot Assistance Dogs in DL.

In 2023, the Becker County Food Pantry recorded 5,460 household visits, the largest in its 40-year history. The Pantry opened a new facility in the Fall of 2023 in response to the limitations of the previous site and the growing need for food storage and distribution space. The Pantry has seen a substantial increase in need for emergency food: In January 2024 the Pantry served 1,899 individuals with 587 household visits, nearly 50% more than last January. A team of dedicated volunteers distributed 51,242 pounds of food and supplies to those in need that month, 9,736 pounds of which was rescued from local grocers and restaurants.

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Join us for *Holy Week*



Maundy Thursday *Thursday, March 28*

Services will be offered at
12:05 PM & 6:00 PM

These services will be held in the dining room with a meal served during the service

Good Friday *Friday, March 29*

Services will be offered at
12:05 Pm & 6:00 PM

These services will be held in the sanctuary.

Easter Sunday *Sunday, March 31*

Services will be offered at
8:30 AM
9:30 AM
10:45 AM



Sunday, March 24, 2024
Worship with us at
8:30 AM or 10:45 AM

PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo

Happy March, Everybody!

I'll talk about pastor things here in just a moment, but I've got to confess how much I love March. I love March because I come from a basketball family and March is college basketball's most exciting month. This is one of my favorite times of year! In fact, last year, my sisters got me a t-shirt that simply says:

January
February
BASKETBALL
April



I know. Dorky, but I own it, and I love it. To my fellow March Madness fans out there of FLC, next time you see me, tell me which teams you are looking forward to watching in this year's tournament! *Who've you got!?*

Okay, on to pastor things. As a pastor, March is exciting, too. This time of year, we are almost always finding ourselves in the heart of the Lenten season, liturgically traversing with Jesus' story, and preparing ourselves for the holiest week in the Christian faith: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.



This is a special time of year that I want to give some emphasis, because the church schedule can get sort of overwhelming! In addition to regular Sunday services and regular Wednesday evening services, we continue **noon services on Wednesdays March 6th through March 20th** with the Holden Evening Prayer, Dr. Hammerling's series on *The Lord's Prayer*, and lunch to follow. With that, here is a snapshot of Holy Week:

- **PALM SUNDAY | Sunday, March 24th @ 8:30 AM and 10:45 AM**
 - Jesus enters Jerusalem to shouts of praise and hosanna! This is a dramatic start to a dramatic week. The people under Roman occupation and religious corruption sense that Jesus will be their champion, but not in the way that they might expect.
- **HOLY MONDAY – HOLY WEDNESDAY | *No services on these days. We invite you into solemn reflection on the events of this week, and to attend the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.**
 - From a political-historical perspective, these are the days – I tell my confirmation students – that get Jesus killed. These days are filled with drama and activity. Scripture has more verses that cover Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week than Maundy Thursday through Easter Sunday combined.

During these days Jesus gets into his most memorable debates, tells his most flammable parables, and engages in some of his most rebellious activities. In these days Jesus riots at the Temple and flips over its furniture, he calls out religious corruption with a variety of piercing parables like *The Parable of the Wicked Tenants*, he answers controversial questions, protests in the streets by lamenting the fate of Jerusalem, predicts his own suffering, questions those in power, stands up for the poor and oppressed, and more. These are the thrilling days where Jesus sharply challenging those in religious and political power.

For a Monday through Wednesday Holy Week practice, I invite you to read Matthew 21 through Matthew 26:16 as a lead up to the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services.

- **MAUNDY THURSDAY | Thursday, March 28th @ 12:05 PM and 6:00 PM**
 - In observance of Jesus' Last Supper and the institution of Holy Communion, we will gather around a meal in the dining room for each of these services. Our worship will be intertwined with the meal and conclude in the sanctuary for the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

(Article continues on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S POST

Update from Vision Council President Gail Colby



Happy Easter First Lutheran Church!

I hope everyone gets to spend some time with their family and gets to worship and celebrate this Easter.

I went to my dependable Bible app to find a devotion about Easter to share with you. Because AI (artificial intelligence) is so smart, the first thing that popped up was one about the Super Bowl. I thought, "Well that's not what I'm looking for." But I do actually want to tell you about it. This devotion is written by Bryce Johnson the founder of UNPACKIN' it Ministries and one of his staff writers Matt Osborne. UNPACKIN' it Ministries is a ministry for sports fans. Their vision is to see sports fans everywhere following Jesus, and their mission is to challenge, encourage, and inspire sports fans to follow Jesus and become more like Him.

Brock Purdy is a quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers. He played college football before he was chosen by San Francisco. He was the last pick for the NFL draft in 2022. I'm not sure how many of you are familiar with this term but the last person picked in the draft now is referred to as "Mr. Irrelevant." What that means is because he was chosen last he is not really expected to make any big professional accomplishments with his football career. He's "irrelevant." But two years later San Francisco is on their way to the Super Bowl and this young quarterback has worked hard to bring his team this far!

What does this have to do with us Christians? Well, just like some critics thought Brock Purdy didn't have much to contribute to his pro football team, some times we think our own flaws will keep us from being able to contribute any service that is valuable or good enough for our own church. In 2 Corinthians 2:16, Paul asks, "Who is sufficient for these things?" The answer would be that no one is qualified. Brock Purdy's mission was to work hard at his game, despite his rank of being the last chosen.

"Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God who made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant" 2 Corinthians 3:5-6.

How we feel about ourselves is "irrelevant." God will make us sufficient for whatever ministry he has for us not our own strengths or abilities. Our job is to trust in his truth and move forward in obedience to share the good news of Jesus. What mission is God putting before you?

(Continued from Page 2—Pastor Joe's Update)

- **GOOD FRIDAY | Friday, March 29th @ 12:05 PM and 6:00 PM**
 - This service, liturgically and biblically, is one of the most solemn and emotional services of the church year. The liturgy works to draw us into confronting the suffering of Jesus and the suffering of our neighbor, and it is rooted in the staggering story of the crucifixion.
- **EASTER SUNDAY | Sunday, March 31st @ 8:30 AM, 9:30 AM, and 10:45 AM**
 - All for which Jesus fought, taught, lived, and died, all of God's promises of mercy and steadfast love are fully affirmed and sealed in his resurrection over death. God's love wins. Not sin, not suffering, not even death can keep God's love from being ultimately victorious for each one of us. He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!!

I hope you can make as many services as possible as we experience the most epic and climactic moments in Jesus' life, and hear and experience what those moments mean for our lives.

-Pastor Joe



Parish Health

Denise Gaard ♦ 218-847-5656 ♦ denise@firstlutheranchurch.com

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Happy Women's History Month!

*Did you know the life expectancy of women is 80.5 years,
5.4 years longer than men?*

Women's History Month is celebrated throughout March. This time is dedicated to honoring women's contributions to American history. President Jimmy Carter declared National Women's History Week on March 8, 1980, and was later changed to Women's History Month in 1987. Many people around the world recognize this time with educational initiatives and demonstrations such as presenting women with gifts and flowers.

You can celebrate this month by learning more about women's health and ways of keeping yourself and others healthy.

Some Statistics of Women

This survey was done in 2023 by the University of Minnesota

81% of women participated in physical activities in the past month.

47% of women exercise 3+ days a week.

79.3% of women have a routine checkup once a year.

76% of breast cancer mammography found anomalies in women over 40.

4 Tips on Staying Healthy

Consider some helpful activities to stay healthy, recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Exercise: Adults should exercise at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity or 75 minutes of vigorous -intensity activity. Being physically active improves brain health, manages weight, reduces the risk of disease, strengthens bones and muscles and more.

Eat fruits and vegetables: Adults should eat 1.5-2 cups of fruit and 2-3 cups of vegetables daily. Fruits and vegetables are rich in vitamins and minerals and help your body in many ways including lowering blood pressure and preventing cancer.

Limit your sugar intake: Sugar should be less than 10% of your total daily calories. In a 2,000-calorie diet, you should have no more than 200 calories of sugar or about 12 teaspoons.

Water intake: Water is vital in any diet. Every day, adults should drink between half an ounce and an ounce of water for each pound you weigh. For example, if you weigh 150 pounds, you should drink 75-150 ounces of water a day.



Youth & Family Ministry

By Olivia Sauer, Youth & Family Ministry Director

February Highlights

Service Project: Our 5th grade class had the opportunity to learn from Lakes Crisis Center about different resources that people in our community have access to when they are in need of help. Thank you to our 5th graders and parents/guardians who made activity bags for families at Lakes Crisis Center.

UND Hockey Night: Thank you to all who attended this event. I had a blast and cannot wait to do it again!



March News

2nd Grade Service Project: On March 13th our 2nd grade classes will have the opportunity to help animals. Parents/Guardians please consider attending this opportunity with your child.

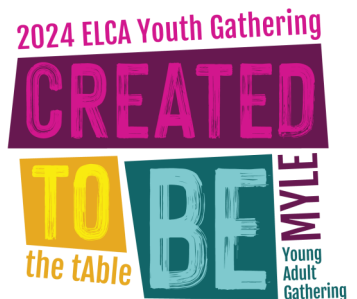
Looking Ahead

Confirmation Sunday: This service will take place May 5th, in the sanctuary. Service will start at 1 PM, with photos and light refreshments to follow. Please consider attending this special service to congratulate our 2024 confirmands on the work and dedication they put into their faith journey.

Senior Recognition: Graduating high school seniors will have a special recognition and blessing on their new journey. This recognition will take place on May 19th at both 8:30 and 10:45 services. More information will be sent to graduating seniors' families at a later date.

Youth Gathering: For those signed up to attend the ELCA youth gathering this July in New Orleans, please be on the watch for an email from Olivia on dates, times, and location of meetings to prepare for our trip.

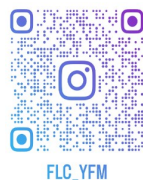
What is the gathering? Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.



FLC Busy Bags

We love that kids are in worship and want to continue to have them present! We understand that sometimes it can be difficult to be engaged with worship when you're a kid. To help stay engaged we are introducing FLC Busy Bags, intended for elementary aged kids. You'll find them on the coat rack just outside of the sanctuary. In these bags you'll find various activities and fidgets to keep you busy and engaged during worship.

Follow First Lutheran Youth and Family Ministry on Instagram!



If you have any questions or concerns, or want more information feel free to contact Olivia
Email: olivia@firstlutheranchurch.com or Cell: 218-325-3953
Typically in Office M-Th 8:30 AM—4:00 PM

**Mark your Calendars!
Vacation Bible School
June 16th - June 20th**

Open to kids entering 1st-5th grade in fall '24

Pie Auction April 7th



Our High School Youth are preparing to go to the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans and will be hosting our annual pie auction. The auction will be in between worship services on Sunday, April 7th in the dining room. Outbid your friends on pies to help raise funds for this once in a life time opportunity for our youth.

Donations: We are in need of pies!

If you would like to help us by donating some pies for our auction, please sign up by stopping by the office, give us a call, or sign up at the volunteer table. You can bring as many pies as you would like!

Thank you in advance for your donations and support!

We hope to see you there!

ASSOCIATE PASTOR ANNOUNCEMENT!

On Sunday, February 25th, 2024, with a unanimous vote, our congregation has agreed to extend a Letter of Call for Associate Pastor at First Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes to the Reverend Matthew Engum!

Here is a brief bio provided by Pr. Matthew:



Hello! My name is Matthew Engum and I am the current Pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Audubon, MN. I live in Audubon currently with my wife Alexis and our Corgi, Big Mac. I am a 2018 graduate of Concordia College - Moorhead with a degree in Business Management and a 2022 graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity.

I am also one of the coaches at CrossFit Detroit Lakes here in town. In my spare time, you can find (and join!) me fishing, mountain biking, reading, hiking, or watching racing. My wife Alexis is a 7th/8th grade math teacher at Lake Park-Audubon School.

Alexis and I are so excited to be coming to FLC!

-Pastor Matthew

In line with usual protocol, Pastor Matthew will serve as pastor at St. Peter's for roughly 30 more days to properly say goodbye and wrap up his ministry there. After his departure from St. Peter's, it is likely that multiple weeks will be needed for relocation and sabbath as he prepares to enter his new call here at FLC. Right now, it looks like May 1st is a likely target date for Pr. Matthew to officially be joining us.

Please keep Pr. Matthew, Alexis, Big Mac, and the people of St. Peter's in your prayers as all the above navigate the changes ahead of them.

Peace,
Pr. Joe

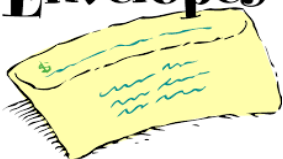


JANUARY 2024 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Actual Revenue*, Year to Date: \$404,745.71
Budget Revenue, Year to Date: \$441,400.00
Favorable/(Unfavorable): \$(36,654.29)

*unaudited

Offering Envelopes



If you have not picked up your 2024 Giving Envelopes, please check with the office. Envelopes will be mailed by request.

Ministry Reports

Annual Ministry Reports

If you lead a ministry at First Lutheran Church, please submit your annual report to Paul by April 15 so that it can be included in the Congregation's Annual Report in May.

Making Connections

The Ask Family



Meet the Asks (pronounced awe•sk or ahhh•sk ;) We're your classic Norwegian Lutherans.

Matt was raised in Morris, MN where he attended and was confirmed at First Lutheran Church. After graduating from high school he attended the University of North Dakota (UND) majoring in Business / Economics and was acting house manager at Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Kelly (Rolland) Ask was born and raised in Grand Forks, ND and attended United Lutheran Church (ULC) from baptism through confirmation. Upon high school graduation, she also attended UND earning her undergraduate degree in 2003 and completing her Masters coursework (in marketing and health communications) along with a Nonprofit Leadership certificate program in 2005.

We met and began dating during our later years at UND and were married in 2007 at ULC in Grand Forks. Shortly thereafter, we welcomed our first son, Carter, who was baptized at ULC.

In 2008, we relocated and made our home in Fargo, ND. In 2011, we welcomed our second son, Kellan who was also baptized at ULC.

In 2014, Matt took over a financial planning business in Detroit Lakes and we made the move that March (so, this month marks 10 years here in DL).

Upon getting settled, we attended a few different churches looking for a new church home. But, we easily landed at First Lutheran Church. At that time, we lived just down the street and loved having the option to simply walk over during the warmer months and we really enjoyed the outdoor services as well.

In 2017 we welcomed our third son, Camden who was also baptized at ULC even as we continued to attend First Lutheran Church. It was also at that time, that as a family, we started volunteering with the Christmas meal delivery program (and we hope to play a part in the continuation of that service moving forward).

So, although we only recently became official church members we are, and have been, invested in the church for years. And, Carter was confirmed here just 2 years ago :)

Our life in DL:

Matt is a Wealth Advisor with Bremer Bank and Raymond James Financial where he has been named to the executive council for 8 consecutive years. He is also a volunteer member of the Detroit Lakes Fire Department where he has cumulatively served our community for 5 years.

Carter is 16 years old and a sophomore at DLHS. He is on the entrepreneurship pathway and working to determine where his aspirations lay. He enjoys fishing & hunting, plays baseball and is a member of the JV Hockey Team.

Kellan is 12 years old and a 6th grade student at DLMS. He also plays hockey and enjoys his time on the golf course. But, his favorite things to do in his free time include skiing and snowboarding at Detroit Mountain!

Camden is 6 years old and in Kindergarten. He loves ninja class and swimming lessons. And is always looking forward to summer (& the 100 days off of school that come with it) so he can play baseball & soccer and swim some more!

I have been a stay at home mom for the past 6 years which was an adjustment after working as Development Director for the National MS Society and Food Resource & Member Relations Manager for the Great Plains Food Bank (during our time in Fargo). However, with Camden now in school full time, I have been substitute teaching at a preschool and am a regular volunteer at the Becker County Food Pantry as well!

With both boys in hockey our winters can get a little crazy so we always look forward to a post hockey family spring break trip in addition to our annual family road trip each summer! Matt and I also love to travel and do our best to sneak in some adventures of our own!

We are all very happy to have made Detroit Lakes our home and First Lutheran our church home. And, we look forward to becoming more active members of both!

Making Connections

The Anderson Family



We've been members of First Lutheran since 2014, and from the beginning we've felt embraced as family. We enjoy all the friends we've made, the many opportunities to serve, and all we've learned through sermons, adult forums, and study times.

Deb's story: most of my childhood was spent on a farm in Iowa, as a young adult I attended a technical school in Minneapolis. After Kurt and I married we moved a few times for his job: to Missoula Montana and Philadelphia; then settled in Fargo where I worked in dental practices doing bookkeeping, insurance, and scheduling.

We have 2 kids: our son and family in Fargo, and our daughter and family in Cedar falls Iowa.

Over 40 years ago I started playing with watercolors, and I still love to play. When I'm able to imagine a scene and then work to put it together on paper I feel like I get a glimpse into the heart of The Creator.

You can usually find me in my painting studio, baking another loaf of sourdough bread, birdwatching, or biking.

Kurt's story: I was born and raised in Mt. Iron, Minnesota in the heart of the Iron Range. Through high school and a couple years of college I worked at various positions in the Mintac Mine. After 2 years of service in the army, I returned to the Range and eventually enrolled in an Aviation Admin course in the Twin Cities. During that time, I met my future wife Deb and found a job with Northwest Airlines as a customer service agent. The bulk of my Northwest career was spent at the Fargo airport until retiring in 2006. I then worked for the next 6 years at Merit Care/Sanford in Guest Services until Deb and I retired together in 2011. My interests are travel, biking, and working in my shop wood turning.



Men's Daybreak Bible Study

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17)

Are you wanting more interaction with Christian men and Bible study? The Mens's Daybreak Bible Study is an opportunity for you to do just that. You are invited to join a group of men who gather Wednesday mornings from 6:30 to 7:30 AM at the Holiday Inn restaurant and study the bible and pray together. Come and see how Proverbs 27:17 applies to you. Contact Tom Neuenfeldt at 218-770-0561 for more information.



Will Solar Work At My House?

Have you ever wondered if solar is an option for you? How much does it really cost to get solar panels installed? What would be the payback on my investment? How does it really work? If only there were someone I could trust to answer all my questions.

If you have been thinking about these and other questions regarding residential solar power, you have an opportunity to talk with someone about this on **Sunday March 10th at 9:30 AM in the church library.**

Pastor Joe is excited to tell us all how solar power is working for his family. Come and listen in. It might be an option for your family.

FLC Creation Care Team

The Apple—Submitted by Patti Cummins

“For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will eat food without scarcity in which you will not lack anything;” Deuteronomy 8:7-9a

Her coat sloughed off her shoulders as she breezed through the door, “Grandma, I’m hungry. Can I have an apple?”

I was stationed at the stove, preparing our dinner. Oaklyn knew apples were the one snack almost never denied her. I reached into the fridge with my free hand, grabbed an apple from the bowl, and handed it to her, “Here Hon.” But she didn’t take it.

I extended the apple to her again, “Here’s the apple you wanted.” Still no taker. A quick glance at her tilted head, crossed arms, and pursed lips told me something was awry. My eyes scanned the apple quickly, checking for any imperfections, and found none on the beautiful apple.

“Grandma,” her voice informed me, “that is a sharing apple.”

Another glance at the apple and Grandma finally caught on. The apple was too big for her to eat herself, and she didn’t want to waste any of it. “Do you want to share it with Grandma?”

“Yes, I do.” She responded. So, dinner went on hold for a few minutes while we split and enjoyed the apple. It was a dessert first day. I’m glad she does care about wasting food. In this world where 828 million people go to bed hungry every night (258,000,000 in crisis mostly due to conflicts and climate change), while 2.5 billion tons of food go to waste, we need to find solutions.

The numbers are so daunting I feel overwhelmed. We are lucky to live in a geographic area that is conducive to food growth and easy access to good food. Even here, some people don’t have enough nourishing food. But I’m trying to find how I can do my part. I raised my family on the farm, but no longer need to fill freezers and canning shelves with the bounty of my garden. The large economy packages of food that my growing family quickly devoured now outdate in my household of one. Smaller containers fill my needs easily now.

March is the month where food programs prorate each community’s donations to determine what share of the coming year’s commodities each community food shelf will get. Food shelves can purchase needed food for ten cents on the dollar, so our financial donations go a long way. Food donations also count in the March calculations, and they diversify the product offerings at local pantries. *“He who is generous will be blessed, For he gave some of his food to the poor.” Proverbs 22:9*

I’ll probably continue to freeze some in-season produce (especially those I can pack into a pie or cake), and I intend to use the farmer’s market more. My cupboards won’t be as packed, but they will be “enough.” *“Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, That I not be full and deny You and say ‘Who is the Lord.’” Proverbs 30: 8-9a*

My great-granddaughter has shown me we can all do our part, both with our voices and actions, to be God’s hands carrying out justice for the hungry.



(Noisy Offering Article Continued from Page 1)

Community donations are the largest source of funding for the Pantry. The month of March is Minnesota's FoodShare Campaign. Financial and food donations collected between February 26 and April 6 will help the Pantry collect an incentive award from the FoodShare Food Fund. The more pounds and dollars donated, the greater the incentive award. Donations may be made online through GiveMN.org (search for Becker County Food Pantry), or mailed to 610 Terry Street, Detroit Lakes MN 56501.

The Pantry is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon-3 PM, and households may visit once per month. Volunteers are needed daily, and the Pantry welcomes anyone interested in volunteering to email bcfoodpantry@gmail.com or call 218-846-0142.



Generosity Reflection

(Courtesy of NWMN Synod)

Submitted by the FLC Stewardship Team

In his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul included generosity as one of the “fruits of the Spirit”—an outward manifestation of our inner life. The more connected we become with the generous love of Jesus, the more generosity becomes our way of life.

In that way, generosity is not about a dollar amount. We become generous in all aspects of our lives as we reflect on the generosity of God’s love and grace—generous in

giving love, offering forgiveness, extending encouragement, and sharing financial gifts.

[Jesus] *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”*

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:25-34)

Make a list of the simple gifts of life you have been given (ex. family, friends, work, health, etc.). Give thanks to God for these gifts.

What were some of the messages your parents gave you concerning money? Did you talk about money? What did you observe about their use of money?

Have you ever received a gift from someone unexpectedly? How did you respond? How did the giver respond?

Start paying attention to your use of money. What does it say about priorities?



WELCA SPRING CONFERENCE EVENT

April 18th, 2024

Faith Lutheran Church
430 12th Street NE, Staples, MN

Program

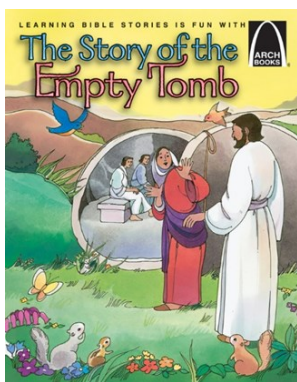
“Bind Us Together”

Cost: \$15

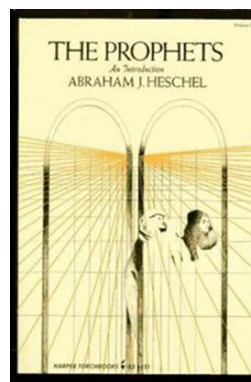
Registration: 8:30 AM

Program Begins: 9:30 AM

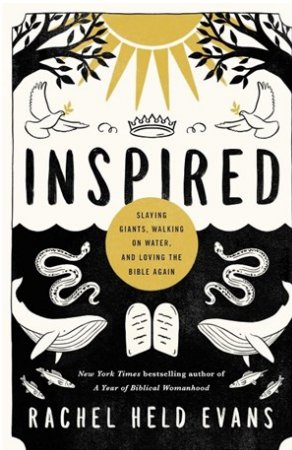
Library Update—Submitted by Patti Cummins



The Story of the Empty Tomb
Based on John 20, this illustrated book tells the story of Mary discovering the empty tomb when Jesus rose from the dead. The gardener Mary speaks with when she finds Jesus' empty tomb is no gardener—it is Jesus! He tells her not to be afraid and Mary rejoices that He is alive.



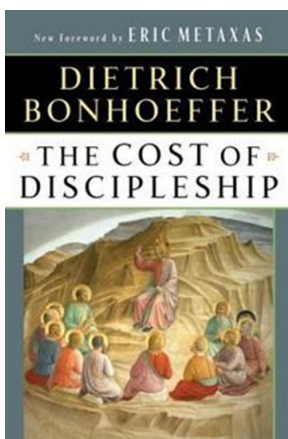
The Prophets provides a unique opportunity for readers of the Old Testament, both Christian and Jewish, to gain fresh and deep knowledge of Israel's prophetic movement. The author's profound understanding of the prophets also opens the door to new insight into the philosophy of religion.



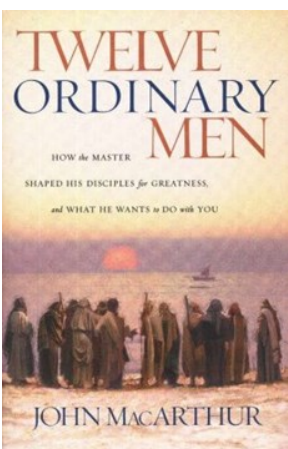
Inspired—If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When *New York Times* bestselling author Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she embarked on a journey to better understand what the Bible is and how it's meant to be read. What she discovered changed her—and it can change you, too.

Evans knows firsthand how a relationship with the Bible can be as real and as complicated as a relationship with a family member or close friend. In *Inspired*, Evans explores contradictions and questions from her own experiences with the Bible, including:

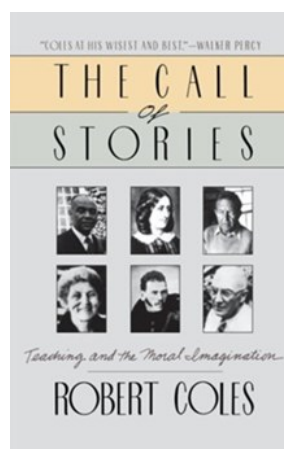
- If the Bible was supposed to explain the mysteries of life, why does it leave the reader with so many questions?
- What does it mean to be chosen by God?
- To what degree did the Holy Spirit guide the preservation of these narratives



The Cost of Discipleship—What can the call to discipleship, the adherence to the word of Jesus, mean today to the businessman, the soldier, the laborer, or the government worker? What did Jesus mean to say to us? What is his will for us today? Drawing on the Sermon on the Mount, Dietrich Bonhoeffer answers these timeless questions by providing a seminal reading of the dichotomy between "cheap grace" and "costly grace." "Cheap grace," Bonhoeffer wrote, "is the grace we bestow on ourselves...grace without discipleship....Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must know....It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life."



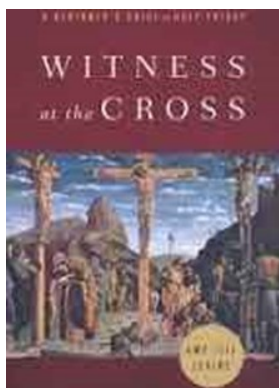
In John MacArthur's **Twelve Ordinary Men**, you'll discover that contrary to popular belief, we do not have to be perfect to do God's work. Look no further than the twelve disciples whose many weaknesses are forever preserved throughout the pages of the New Testament. Jesus chose ordinary men - fisherman, tax collectors, political zealots - and turned their weakness into strength, producing greatness from utter uselessness. Join MacArthur as he draws principles from Christ's careful, hands-on training of the original twelve disciples for today's modern disciple - you!



The Call of Stories presents a study of how listening to stories promotes learning and self-discovery.

(Library Update continued on page 13)

Library Update Continued—Submitted by Patti Cummins



Witness at the Cross—Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing.

The story of Jesus’s death is not something we just read: we think about it, and we experience it; we hear the taunts of the soldiers, the priests, and the passersby even as we hear the famous “seven last words” from the cross.

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47 DAYS WITH JESUS

Just ahead of Easter, “47 Days with Jesus”, an inspirational film retelling the story of Jesus’ final days on earth is slated to hit theaters.

The producers of this film are planning a limited three-night theatrical showing in over 800 theaters across the United States, Monday and Tuesday, March 11 and 12 as well as Thursday, March 14. Will it be shown in Detroit Lakes? The answer to that question will not be available until Monday, March 4, as per information secured from personnel at the Detroit Lakes movie theater.

But in hopes that the movie will be shown, the First Lutheran Church Adult Faith Formation team is extending an invitation to attend the movie and then join in the discussion of “47 Days with Jesus” on Thursday evening, March 14, at 6:30 in the FLC library.

Stay alert to updates regarding confirmation of the showing at the Detroit Lakes Theater.

As per press releases, the movie radiates hope . . . “it is about a modern-day family that is very relatable: they are dealing with health challenges, putting work first, and disconnecting from one another. The movie extends a gentle, non-judgmental reminder to step back and reevaluate what really matters.”

It appears to be a movie that offers something for everyone . . . and viewers should leave the theater feeling inspired.

“47 Days with Jesus” marks the latest offering in a recent surge in TV series and movies that draw inspiration from biblical stories. Some of the cast members from the four seasons of “The Chosen” are cast in this movie. The producers do remind the audience that some artistic liberties have been taken.

So mark your calendar and stay alert to updates regarding the showing of “47 Days with Jesus” . . . Also remember to join in the discussion at the FLC library at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14.

SAVE
THE
DATE

WELCA BRUNCH AND PROGRAM

Saturday, April 20— 9:30 AM

More details to come.

Watch the bulletin and future newsletters for more information!



MEMORIAL GIFTS

FLC acknowledges with grateful appreciation these memorials which have been received this past month.

AGAPE FUND

In Memory of: Olaf Flaaten
Given by: Tanzy & Gary Haisley

ALTAR GUILD FUND

In Memory of: Bev Skogen
Given by: Dean & Sue Berg

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of: Fern Brown
Given by: Ardys Horner

UNDESIGNATED FUND

In Memory of: Fern Brown
Given by: Barbara Haugen

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of: Eilene Lanzendork
Given by: LaVerne & Judy Maxwell

In Memory of: LaVaun Groth
Given by: Cliff & Karen Bimberg

QUILTERS FUND

In Memory of: Fern Brown
Given by: Henrietta Malchow
Given by: Cliff & Jan Adkins
Given by: Ann Newgard Larson & Robert Larson

Friendly reminder: when giving memorials to the FLC Foundation or FLC Quilters, please make separate checks.



CHECK IT OUT!

The FLC Beautification Team recently added decorative flags to the poles in the FLC Parking Lot. If you haven't noticed them already, you should check them out. They really look great out there!



2024 Easter Flowers

Easter is made more beautiful with a lovely garden of flowers in our sanctuary. If you would like to share flowers, fill out this form and leave it at the church office.

Type of Flower: **\$8.50 each** Azaleas Asiatic Lily Mums

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

- Attached is \$ _____ for the total order above. Return Slip into Office before Sunday, March 24.
- Please make checks payable to: First Lutheran Flower Fund.
- Flowers can be picked up after the 10:45 service on Easter Sunday and before Sunday, April 7.

'Action Corp' Monthly Hospitality Teams

March

Leader: **NEEDED**

Hope & Darin Adams
Brian & Kristin Bausman
Nathan Bausman
Gary & Ruth Bendewald
Kathleen Blacknik
Chris & Kari Borgmann
Terrence Jay & Karen Buboltz
Casey & Lisa Christensen
Patricia Dahlin-Rouse
John & Mary Erickson
LeAnn Erickson

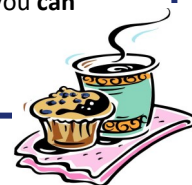
Bernard & Joyce Gilbertson
Donald & Cheri Haderly
Bradley & Linda Hanson
Ardys Horner
Jason & Megan Huus
Robert Jernberg
Charlene Jernberg
Wayne & Joan Lee
Amber & Dave Lerud
Gregory & Glenice Marxen
Gary Myers & Pam Bergeson

Sandra & Patrick Onstad
Jim & Laurie Ostrom
Karla Peterick
Robert & Sandra Roel
Marjorie Schroeder
James & Paula Schulz
Ruth Seal
Donald & Norma Smith
Marlys Smith
Timothy & Mary Sundby
Bradley & Jennifer Wentz
Sharron Wolf

Action Corps serves the Coffee Fellowship time on Sunday mornings, provides desserts for funerals and serves other congregational events.

The month you are on Action Corps, you will be called by your Action Corps leader to see when and how you would like to participate. For Sunday mornings: You **can serve** (set-up, serving and/or clean up). You **can donate food** items or you **can donate money** to purchase food items. You will only be called as the need arises for funerals & other events.

We accomplish big things when everybody does a little bit! Thank You!!



April

Leader: **NEEDED**


Keith Arneson & Rebecca Rudel
Scott Berseth
Eric & Melissa Christianson
Connie Cleveland
Chris Collins
Patti Cummins
Nick & Paula Disse
Wayne & Jodi Disse
Marvella Epema
Herb Floan
Tyler & Kelsey Fode
Joe & Melissa Glass
Paul Haarstick
Alyssa & Alex Hagedorn
Russell & LeAnn Hanson
Paul Heisler

Kelsey & Cole Helbling
William & Nancy Henke
Garnet Hultgren
Justin & Tessa Hunter
David & Carrie Johnston
Hudson Kalina
Nathan & Eliza Kieselhorst
Kayla Klatt & Tyler Hilde
Linda Kohler
Chris & Joanie Malecka
Kari & Jed Melbostad
Scott Neil
Damitru Neisen
Shawn & Sarah Nygaard
Thomas & Nancy Olson

Gregory Overland
Ben & Carly Pedersen
Susie Reitmeier
Paul & Mary Rydquist
David & Lois Samuelson
Kevin & Carol Shipley
Jeff & Marlys Skogmo
Joe & Margaret Skogmo
Joe & Kari Stattelmann
Alexa & Eric Stelzer
Kris Tovson
Gregory & Jill Unruh
Patty Walter
Michelle & Wade Weets
Delyle & Sandra Willprecht

Each family/person has a 3-month quarter in which they will be called upon for serving. If you know which Sunday you would prefer to help serve during Sunday Coffee Fellowship time, please contact your leader and let them know!
Call the office, 847-5656, if you would like to change the season in which you serve.

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 Sunday Schedule <i>Healing Service</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale	26 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	27 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 11:00a Bev Skogen Funeral	28 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 12:05p Lenten Wed. Service 12:30p Lenten Wed. Meal 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	29 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg	1 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	2
3 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale	4 11:30a FLY Meeting 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	5 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Rachel Circle, CR 7:00p Theology on Tap	6 Wednesday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 12:05p Lenten Wed. Service 12:30p Lenten Wed. Meal 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 5:30p Building & Grounds Mtg 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	7 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.	8 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 5:30p Personnel Tm Mtg, DR	9
10 Sunday Schedule <i>No Sunday School</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Solar Adult Forum, Lib. 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale 	11 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	12 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a Rebekah Cir, CR 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Adult Faith Formation, CR 4:00p Sons of Norway	13 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 12:05p Lenten Wed. Service 12:30p Lenten Wed. Meal 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	14 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 9:30a Ruth Circle, Holiday Inn 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.	15 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	16 8:00a Altar Guild Cleanup
17 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale 5:30p Youth Gathering Mtg	18 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	19 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:30p Vision Council, Din Rm 7:00p Creation Care Tm Mtg 7:00p Theology on Tap	20 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 12:05p Lenten Wed. Service 12:30p Lenten Wed. Meal 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	21 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.	22 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	23
24 Sunday Schedule <i>Healing Service</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Lakes Area Chorale	25 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	26 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib	27 No Wednesday Night Activities 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	28 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg. 12:05p Maundy Thu Wor, DR 6:00p Maundy Thu Wor, DR	29 12:00p AA, Library 12:05p Good Fri. Wor, Sanc 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:00p Good Fri. Wor, Sanc	30
31 Sunday Schedule <i>Easter Sunday</i> <i>Communion</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Traditional Worship 10:45a Contemporary Worship	1 Church Office Closed 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm					



The First Messenger

First Lutheran Church
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Office Hours:

Winter Hours

(Labor Day to Memorial Day)
Monday—Friday
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Summer Hours

(Memorial Day to Labor Day)
Monday—Thursday
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Fridays
8:30 AM to Noon

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President-Elect: Carla Solem
Secretary: Paula Schulz
Treasurer: Tom Neuenfeldt

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Catharine Weisenburger, & Tanner Duncan

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President-Elect: Les Perry
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Shar Arvig, Lynn Schulberg,
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Missionary Pastor:

Rev. Chandran Paul Martin

**Worship is broadcast on KDLM-1340 AM and on
93.1 FM Radio each
Sunday Morning at 10:00 AM.**

**Worship is also webcasted on the church website
www.firstlutheranchurch.com.**

**Worship is also broadcast on T.V. on Saturdays at 9:00 AM
on Arvig Cable channel 14.**