



The First Messenger



FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

President's Day—Office Closed February 20th
Ash Wednesday February 22nd
Sunday Healing Service February 26nd

Volume 32

February 2023

Issue 2



NOISY OFFERING TOTALS

The December Noisy Offering total is \$1,045.76
and was donated to the FLC AGAPE Fund!

Check back next month for the January Noisy
Offering totals going towards ELCA Seminaries.

In the month of February, Noisy Offering collected will be going to Global Health Ministries. Global Health Ministries (GHM) focuses on strengthening health systems through access to medical equipment and supplies, support for community-based primary health care programs, and expert administrative and leadership consulting.

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2023
LENTEN SERVICES
March 1 — March 29
Noon & 6:00 PM

A free will offering meal will be offered following the noon service and the usual Wednesday night Oasis meal will be served at 5 PM.



February 22, 2023
Services at
12:00 PM & 6:00 PM

A free will offering meal will be offered following the noon service and the usual Wednesday night Oasis meal will be served at 5 PM.

PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo

I was able to spend five days in Arizona in early January for my first intensive continuing education training in quite some time. Pastors are required to take continuing education courses by our synod, and I am thankful for that requirement as it pushes me to stay fresh on current trends in pastoral leadership, and more so, pushes me to keep learning how to become a better theologian, a better administrator, a better pastor, and a better leader.

This recent experience was an 'Executive Skills Training' facilitated by some faculty of California Lutheran University, and it took place at 'Spirit in the Desert' – a Christian retreat center in Carefree, AZ.

Each day's training session was about eight hours long and spent on one particular administrative topic:

- Day One: Church Finance Policy and Administration
- Day Two: Fundraising in Uncertain Times
- Day Three: Human Resources
- Day Four: Contemporary Leadership Challenges
- Day Five: Recap and Reflection

These might not sound like the most appealing subjects for many of you, but I must say, the presenters and teachers were outstanding. I learned so much! For instance, never in my life would I imagine that eight hours on Human Resources would be so impactful and invigorating! I already have some ideas I want to implement ASAP.

Still, I won't bore you by getting into the weeds on all that.

Let me just share these main takeaways from my experience:

TAKEAWAY #1 | I am grateful. I am grateful for a generous congregation that invests in their pastors. This was a critical and formative opportunity for my pastoral development, and it was all because of you, First Lutheran Church, and your commitment to our growth by offering allotted time and resources. I do not take this for granted!

TAKEAWAY #2 | Folks, things are changing. When it comes to the 'way of being' for the church in the United States, things are changing, and probably with increasing rapidity. We are at a place in history – due to a whole host of factors from seismic cultural shifts to the seemingly ceaseless revolution in information technology – where a majority of people are engaging congregational life very differently (if at all! [70% of Americans claimed church membership in the year 2000; twenty years later, that number is 47%])¹. In short, the church is going to continue to look quite different than it ever has, and we are already seeing this right here at FLC.

For instance, we are seeing anywhere from 200 to 300 'views' of our worship services online each week via Facebook and YouTube. How many people is that? That is a notoriously elusive number because of how 'views' are measured on social media, but even if just a quarter of those views are full engagements with the whole worship service, that could mean anywhere from 50 to 75 people are worshipping virtually each week. This could mean that nearly 1 in 5 people who are worshipping with us in any given week are doing so online! Who could have ever imagined this twenty years ago!?—and this dynamic is likely here to stay indefinitely.

Speaking of changing 'ways of being,' did you know that FLC's most well attended worship service is no longer on a Sunday? This has been the case for two straight programmatic years. Wednesday night worship is consistently our most attended service of the week averaging roughly 130 people since September (Sunday @ 8:30 average = +/- 85; 10:45 = +/- 105).

The church is changing. Ways of being a congregation are changing. A large part of my conference was acknowledging these changes and discerning how to navigate them faithfully and effectively.

(Continued on Page 3)

¹Data from: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/341963/church-membership-falls-below-majority-first-time.aspx>

LAURYL'S WORD

Update from Pastor Lauryl Ivers, Associate Pastor

You are the salt of the earth,You are the light of the world.... Let your light shine so others will see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
(Matthew 5:13-14)

Dear First Lutheran Church family,

Jesus' words written above are for us as we begin the month of February. We are observing the **Epiphany** season – seeing Jesus' light revealed to the world in all we say and do – like welcoming new members to our First Lutheran family – and Epiphany goes through **Transfiguration** Sunday on the 19th – when we really see Jesus' brightness revealed!

On February 22nd, we'll observe Ash Wednesday, and we'd love to see you at our noon or our 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship – and please invite your friends and neighbors if they don't have a church to attend on that sacred day! Remember, after all noon services during Lent we'll have a soup and sandwich lunch.

When I recently attended an Ordination service for a friend, the Bishop preached about Jesus' words – “you're the light of the world, and the salt of the earth”, and she encouraged us to not only let our light of Jesus' love and hope shine so others can see it and glorify God..... but, like even a little grain of salt that you can definitely taste on your tongue - we should also “be salty” - so people know we're here – and we're Children of God – like the Bible says – who encourage people to “**taste and see that the Lord is good**”!

God bless you all,

Pastor Lauryl



(Continued from Page 2)

As a community, meeting this myriad of changes won't come without some pain, grief, anxiety, or trial & error – and surviving and thriving through these changes will absolutely require adaptation and grace. I am not really sure what this all will continue to look like for FLC, but I do think a powerful first step is acknowledging that change is happening, and readying ourselves for accepting that some old ways of being are running their course for good – all the while, trusting in our God who is always in the business creating new life.

TAKEWAY #3 | Although things are changing, we do still stand upon constants. One of those constants is love. God's steadfast love will never change. I need to and we need to continue to rest ourselves in the divine love that Christ Jesus has already promised and always will promise. Another constant is our divine call to reflect that love out into the world. Whatever the shape, we are constantly called to lead and exist in ways that are loving – loving to one another and loving to our community near and far.

We can talk worship data, Human Resource strategies, financial gift policies, cultural shift, social media strategies, staff supervision, and capital campaigns all day long, but if we do not do so with a sense of God's love for us and our call to love one another, none of it matters (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:1-2). If we are not proclaiming the gospel, cultivating belonging, and serving our neighbor, our ways of being will be neither faithful nor effective.

I have no idea what the future holds, but we know who holds it: the God of love and new life. And, thank God we're in this together! So, my friends, may we enter it all with a sense of hope and possibility.

Thank you once more for supporting your pastor in continuing education, and thanks for letting me share some takeaways.

God bless you now and forever,
Pastor Joe

PRESIDENT'S POST

Update from Vision Council President Nathan Olson

Although June seems like a long way off, church leadership has already begun planning for the end of our fiscal year. In case you didn't know, the fiscal year for our church runs from July 1 to June 30. The major item that needs to be proposed and discussed is the budget for next year. There are many parts to our budget, so this is no small task. Some examples of the work that needs to be done include the Personnel Committee reviewing salaries and benefits for our staff. The Building and Grounds Committee will be discussing maintenance needs or projects that should be tackled in 2023. And the Stewardship Team will be analyzing giving to help inform the Vision Council about what is an appropriate amount of funds that can be used to achieve our Church's mission.

The end of the Church's fiscal year also signifies that some people's terms on committees are ending. On Vision Council, there will be openings for President-Elect, Secretary, and two at-large members. The Vision Council is responsible for the overall business of the church and provides visionary and strategic leadership for the congregation. Meetings are held once a month.

Other committees/teams that have openings include the Personnel Committee. This committee meets every other month and assists with work such as employee policies, reviews, and compensation. The Building and Grounds Committee will be looking for two members and has been meeting monthly. This committee has the special responsibility of the management and care of all real and physical property owned by the congregation, in collaboration with the Vision Council. The church also has openings for the Stewardship Team. This group meets at least quarterly and reviews patterns in giving from the congregation. This Team may also research and recommend opportunities for funding campaigns. The Foundation Board will be seeking several members and works to serve the mission of the church through financial giving exclusively for charitable, religious, literary, or educational purposes. Meetings are held quarterly.

As you can see, there are many opportunities to get involved in the church. Besides the groups listed above, the church also has ministries such as the hospitality team, visitation team, altar guild, and the child and youth ministry teams. My prayer is if you get contacted to help serve on any of these committees, that you give it careful consideration. If you aren't contacted but would like to get involved in any of these opportunities, please reach out to a Vision Council member or call the church office.

Do I Stay Christian?



A GUIDE FOR THE DOUBTERS,
THE DISAPPOINTED,
AND THE DISILLUSIONED

BRIAN D. McLAREN
Author of *Faith After Doubt*

BOOK STUDY DURING LENT

About 47% of Americans today claim to belong to a church, synagogue, or mosque. That percentage declined from 70% in 1999, where it had been since the 1930s. Whether "Traditionalists," "Baby Boomers," "Gen Xers," or "Millennials," church membership for each generation declined by nearly 10% over the past 20 years. What do these declines suggest for the future of the Church in America? For the future of First Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes?

In an age when many are feeling doubt, disappointment, and disillusionment, many may ask, "Is there any reason for me to stay Christian?" How would you respond to someone asking you that question?

We will explore that question by reading and discussing Brian McLaren's new book, *Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned* (2022). This easy-to-read, but hard-hitting book has three multi-chapter sections. Part 1 answers, "Do I stay Christian? NO."; Part 2 answers, "Do I stay Christian? YES."; and Part 3 asks, "How?"

The five-week book discussion will take place in the Church Library at 11:00 AM on Wednesday mornings during Lent: March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5. For more information, contact Gary Goreham at 701-200-6583. Books can be ordered by contacting Paul in the church office. Cost will be \$30 per book. If you would like the church office to order you a book, please contact Paul by February 20th.

Pillars

*Ministries that support our pastors and one another
in faith and growth through worship and fellowship.*

By, Mackenzie Hamm

Shelter Ministry Update Currently: From September 1st to January 10th 2023,

These statistics now include every time someone seeks assistance in our office or over the phone for various social justice needs including emergency shelter.

We have had 143 households (198 individuals) seek help during a crisis. Our office has been of assistance 298 times. Our Shelter Supply room has provided items like clothing & hygiene items 104 times. We have provided 146 nights of motel shelter for 30 households. We have provided 349 warm meals, 7 meal cards, 11 gas cards, 113 bus tokens, and 7 bus tickets. We have helped 47 households with miscellaneous items such as phone cards, utilities, and photo IDs. 50 households who have sought assistance here at First Lutheran Church were homeless. 10 households lived in vehicles, 38 households couch hop/stay outside/building not meant for habitat, and 2 in a treatment/mental health center. We have assisted 9 individuals with deposit/rent. We have used Ministerial vouchers 68 times (47 gas, 6 DLCCC, 5 Central Market & 10 B&G Thrift Store Vouchers) Many other various needs were provided for a Total Financial Support of \$15,968.49 to date.

Detroit Lakes HRA is administering a local Homeowner Rehab Program within the city limits of Detroit Lakes. Eligible improvements would include: roofing, insulation/siding, HVAC, mechanical, plumbing, electrical upgrade, windows or foundation repair. All work must be performed by licensed contractors and a city building permit is required. The loan limit is \$3,000 to \$12,000 and will be a 0% interest deferred loan recorded against the property and will be due when sold, transferred or otherwise conveyed. In order to qualify you must:

- Own & live in the home and be classified as a homestead
- Be located in the city limits of Detroit Lakes
- A single family home on a permanent foundation
- Be current on property taxes, property insurance and mortgage payments
- Contract for deed, rent to own, reverse mortgage or Life Estate are not eligible.
- Gross Annual Income Cannot Exceed:
Family of 1—\$46,700, Family of 2—\$53,530, Family of 3—\$60,000, and Family of 4—\$66,650.

Funds are limited and will be committed in the order they are ready for commitment. For more information or to get an application, please call the Detroit Lakes HRA at 218-847-7859.



APRONS MISSING

The FLC kitchen aprons have gone missing. If you have kindly taken them home to wash, please contact the church office so we know where they are. THANKS!

THANK YOU!

The First Lutheran Church is giving a huge thank you to the United Methodist Church of Detroit Lakes for their generous donation to the FLC Agape fund! See the donation letter below.



Detroit Lakes
United Methodist Church

885 Pembina Trail • Detroit Lakes • MN 56501
218.847.4818 • www.dlumc.org

Friends at First Lutheran,

Every year our Christmas Eve Offering goes towards an organization in the community or abroad that we feel is making a real impact. This year, after hearing more about the work that Mackenzie Hamm and your congregation have been doing to minister to people experiencing homelessness and other crises, we decided to dedicate our Christmas Eve Offering to The Agape Fund. Enclosed in this envelope you will find a check for \$2,566.00 which represents the generosity of those who worshipped with us on Christmas Eve, and our ongoing hope to be missional and extend the care and compassion of Christ and meet people where they are on life's journey. We hope this offering will be useful in your ongoing ministry.

Speaking personally, it has been exciting to get to hear about the ideas for future expansion of this work. It would be my hope that as plans progress, we at Detroit Lakes United Methodist would be a part of this ministry in some capacity. I'd love to be able to visit more about other ways our church could be useful to you all in your work outside of just a financial component.

Merry (delayed) Christmas and blessing to you all in 2023!

Best,

Pastor Kevin Gregory



WELCOME BABY DAVEY!

Tanner & Emma Duncan
welcomed baby Davey James
Duncan on December 28!
Everyone is healthy & happy!
Congratulations to Tanner, Emma
& big sisters Cece and Dolly!



Youth Pie Auction

Sunday, March 26th



Our High School Youth who are preparing for the 2023 mission trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma this summer are hosting a pie auction fundraiser for our trip! We will be having the auction in between worship services on Sunday, March 26th in the dining room. We will also be having a Youth Breakfast during that time. Come and join us for some delicious food and fun! Outbid your friends on pies to help raise funds for our mission trip!

Donations: We are in need of pie! If you would like to help us by donating some pies for our auction, please stop by the church office or give us a call to sign up. You can bring as many pies as you would like! The sign-up sheet will be on the volunteer table. Thank you in advance for your donations and support!

We hope to see you there!

First Lutheran Church

Ministries and Contact Information

Ministry	Contact Name	Contact Email	Phone
Adult Ed	Terry Kemmer	tkemmer@arvig.net	701-330-3087
Altar Guild	Jean Benson Sue Berg	ieb1@arvig.net sue55berg@yahoo.com	218-847-5489 218-234-3170
AV Tech	Jay Volden Gary Haisley	jayv@loretel.net glhaisley@gmail.com	218-234-9723 218-850-8058
Building & Grounds	Tom Klyve	tomklyve@gmail.com	701-866-8463
Children's, Youth & Family Ministry	Emma Duncan	emma@firstlutheranchurch.com	218-847-5656
Christmas Store	Tanzy Haisley	tanzyvvs1@gmail.com	218-234-5074
Christmas At Our House			
Creation Care	Gary Goreham	garygoreham@outlook.com	701-200-6583
Decorating/Flower Team/ Grounds Beautification	Shan Manke Jeannie Gilbertson Belinda Freeman	rmanke@arvig.net jeannie.gilbertson@gmail.com bfreeman@detlakes.k12.mn.us	218-234-0312 218-841-5780 218-841-2962
Homeless Solutions	Mackenzie Hamm Pastor Lauryl	mackenzie@firstlutheranchurch.com pastorlauryl@firstlutheranchurch.com	218-847-5656 218-847-5656
Leadership	Pastor Joe	pastorjoe@firstlutheranchurch.com	218-847-5656
Library	Patti Cummins	patticummins@live.com	218-234-1451
LSS Respite	Phyllis Neuenfeldt	phylntom@yahoo.com	218-770-4261
Ministries Coordinator	Mackenzie Hamm	mackenzie@firstlutheranchurch.com	218-847-5656
Music Ministry	Karen Bimberg Carla Hansen Kathy Larson	karenbimberg@gmail.com hansencarla62@gmail.com kathrynmyrom@gmail.com	218-849-1374 701-200-8984 218-234-6568
Hospitality Team <i>(Opportunities to Serve: Action Corps, Oasis, Special Events, Kitchen Team)</i>	Cindy Bruflodt	blanch71@arvig.net	218-850-8067
Worship Assistant Volunteers	Mary Waalen Henrietta Malchow	marywaalen@gmail.com rettam@arvig.net	218-850-8067 218-849-5724
Parish Nurse Visitation Team	Denise Gaard Pr. Lauryl	denise@firstluthernchurch.com pastorlauryl@firstlutheranchurch.com	701-793-4700 218-847-5656
Prayer Team	Deb Anderson Pr. Lauryl	dand@live.com pastorlauryl@firstlutheranchurch.com	701-412-4334 218-847-5656
Quilters	Judy Maxwell	judym2049@gmail.com	218-849-8600
Stewardship	Tom Neuenfeldt	phylntom@yahoo.com	218-770-0561
Wedding Coordinator	Madalyn Sukke	maddesign67@icloud.com	218-841-0685
Women's Circles			



Parish Health

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

Heart Health Month

February is heart health month. The following is information of the signs and symptoms of a heart attack or stroke and what to do if you or a loved one have any of these signs and symptoms. This information is taken from the American Heart Association.

Heart Attack Symptoms

Don't wait to get help if you experience any heart attack warning signs. Some heart attacks are sudden and intense, but others start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Pay attention to your body and call 911 if you experience:

- **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes – or it may go away and then return. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- **Shortness of breath.** This can occur with or without chest discomfort.
- **Other signs.** Other possible signs include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.
- Symptoms can vary between men and women. The most common sign for women is chest pain or pressure, but they may also have arm, back, neck, or jaw pain, or nausea and lightheadedness.
- If you are not sure if it is a heart attack, call 911. Getting treatment fast is lifesaving!

Stroke Symptoms

F.A.S.T. Warning Signs

Use the letters in F.A.S.T. to spot a Stroke.

- **F = Face Drooping** – Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven?
- **A = Arm Weakness** – Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- **S = Speech Difficulty** – Is speech slurred?
- **T = Time to call 911**
- Also, watch for sudden signs of trouble seeing, trouble walking or severe headache.

Call 911 if any of these symptoms are present!

Walk to Jerusalem

It is not too late to join the imaginary Walk to Jerusalem! All ages can participate. Do it as a family or individually. 20 minutes of any activity counts as a mile. If you vacuum your house for 20 minutes, you just walked a mile. 20 minutes shoveling snow, skiing, running, swimming, etc. counts as a mile. Or if you track your actual miles, that works too! This is a physical and spiritual journey, so **up to 20 minutes per day of devotions counts as a mile.** Track your miles each week. There are 3 ways to enter your miles each week. Drop off the Log Sheet next to the world map in the Narthex, email them to denise@firstlutheranchurch.com, or go to the weekly update email and hit the tab under the Walk to Jerusalem information. Check the world map each week to see how far we make it. This journey ends on Easter Sunday. Have fun!

Giving Quietly

When you help someone out, don't think about how it looks. Just do it - quietly and unobtrusively. That is the way your God, who conceived you in love, working behind the scenes, helps you out. (Matthew 6: 3-4, The Message)

When you stop to think about it, you realize everything we have is a gift from our loving Father. As we go through our daily tasks, we make decisions on how to use resources. Even small decisions add up - buying a cup of coffee, eggs for breakfast, lunch with friends, groceries, things we need and some things we don't.

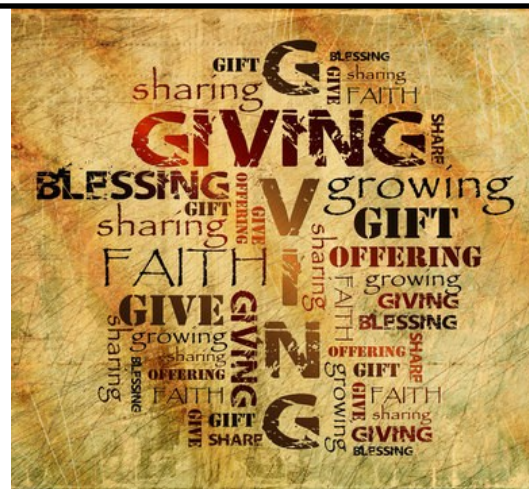
Jesus challenges us to give generously from the gifts that we have received. Not giving to earn the praise of others. Just quietly attending to the needs of our friends, our neighbors, and the strangers around us. Why would he talk about giving this way?

There are many cases when giving time, talent, and treasure to those in need benefit the giver as well as the receiver. Oftentimes, the faith of both individuals is strengthened. God loves all people. He wants us to love and care for each other. He wants us to use our gifts to show His love to those we meet. Think about the number of people in need you encounter daily.

The Shelter Ministry at First Lutheran is a prime opportunity for us to give to those in need without fanfare and without seeking the praise and adulation of others. Consider your gifts. Consider your giving.

God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. (2 Corinthians 9:7, The Message)

FLC – Stewardship Team



More Table-Game Sundays!



February 5
March 12
2-5 p.m.
FLC Dining Room

Come and play Pinocle, Bridge, Whist, Dominoes, Scrabble, Rummikub, Sequence, Farkle . . .
Items related to these particular games will be available on the tables.
However, if you have a favorite table game, bring it with you!
Also, have some fun with Corn Hole (beanbag toss)!

Enjoy the camaraderie!
You are Welcome to Bring Game-Time Treats to Share!

Coffee, Lemonade, and Water will be provided.

THANK YOU FLC!

Thank you, First Lutheran Church, for partnering with us to continue the legacy of care and education in your space over the past two years! First Lutheran Church has been one of the community leaders when it comes to offering preschool for students. We look forward to continuing this tradition, as we provide the important work of early childhood development and childcare, now and into the future!

Eric and Mary Rotter
Laker Prep Early Childhood Centers

The Flower and Decorating committee would like to thank everyone who purchased flowers for the advent season. All the proceeds from the flowers or any other donations we get from memorials are used to buy our decorations and to do the outside plantings in the spring. We thank you for your gifts.



Where is your love going, especially this Valentine's Day? Circles will be sending greetings to their honorary members again this year. I will be remembering family and friends who may be lonely or need a boost of love. I'm sure all of you have special people to remember. You again have the opportunity to remember Valentine's for Vets. They are sent to the Veteran's Home in Fergus Falls and the VA in Fargo. The return deadline is February 8. Thank you in advance for participating.

Detroit Lakes Noon Rotary



Tuesday Feb 7th, 2023 | 4:30-7 PM



Polar-ific

Spaghetti!
Dinner
&
Silent Auction

Pick Up/Dine In Room G101 MState DL on HWY 34
Purchase your \$12 Tickets from a Noon Rotarian

All proceeds benefit service projects of the DL Noon Rotary such as Dollars For Scholars, Backpack Program, Boys & Girls Club, DLYSA, Youth Sports & Academic Clubs, Community Building/Park Enhancements & more!



A GriefShare class will be offered at Christian Fellowship Church starting on February 27, 2023 through May 22, 2023 from 6 PM to 7:30 PM. Contact Martha Rocheford at 218-849-9234 for more information.

(First Lutheran's GriefShare continues through February 13 on Mondays at 6:30 PM.)

HEAVEN—Written by Patti Cummins



"Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death, there will no longer be any mourning, crying, or pain; the first things have passed away. And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Revelations 21:3-5

"Grandma, I feel sad that you're alone." That sadness reflected in my almost 5-year-old great-granddaughter's face.

I reassured her by telling her I saw or talked to my kids and my friends often; that I saw people at church and places I volunteer; that I loved having her come and stay with me; and most importantly – God was always with me.

"But why do you live alone?" Always amid lots of family and being very social herself, she couldn't comprehend how someone could enjoy solitude.

So I continued, "My children all grew up and have their own families now. And Jerry used to live with me, but he went to heaven." The word heaven hadn't completely left my lips before I knew I'd opened the proverbial can of worms, and the quizzical look on her face confirmed that.

"Grandma, where's Heaven?"

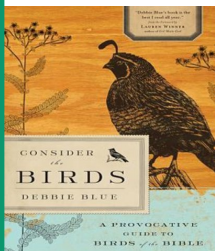
"It's where people no longer get sick or feel pain or are sad," I responded. Again, I should have been able to foretell her next comeback as her face brightened immensely.

"Grandma, I want to go to heaven!"

As I explained that once you were in heaven, you couldn't come back, her little face fell. We talked about all the stages of school and beyond, culminating with my hope that she would one day have a great-granddaughter who would bring her as much joy and love as I had with her. Finally, she seemed content with that answer and was onto the next subject.

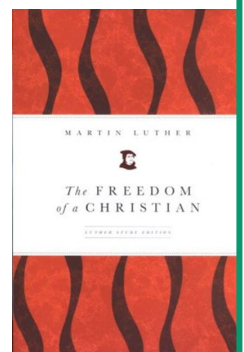
As relieved as I was that we were finished with that conversation for the moment, I also felt a fervent desire for her to experience some heaven in the current time, amidst the turmoil of everyday life. Heaven came down once already when Jesus came to reveal how we can live in peace, harmony, joy, and grace, loving all God's children. He invited us all to be His apostles, sending us out to share those good gifts to be an example of God's kingdom on earth. My capacity to be an example of those things is limited by my all-too-human capability, but I'm going to try my hardest to share God's love and grace, and to give my granddaughter every opportunity to come to know God's presence in her life – a piece of heaven on earth.

LIBRARY UPDATE—Written by Patti Cummins



CONSIDER THE BIRDS—From biblical times to today, humans have found meaning and significance in the actions and symbolism of birds. We admire their mystery and manners, their strength and fragility, their beauty and their ugliness and perhaps compare these very characteristics to their own lives in the process. Though admired today, the birds of Scripture are largely unseen and underappreciated. From the well-known image of the dove to the birds that gorge on the flesh of the defeated beast in Revelation, birds play a dynamic part in Scripture. They bring bread to the prophets. They are food for the wanderers. As sacrifices, they are the currency of mercy.

Highlighting 10 birds throughout Scripture, author Debbie Blue explores their significance in both familiar and unfamiliar biblical stories and illustrates how and why they have represented humanity across culture, Christian tradition, art, and contemporary psyche. With these (usually) minor characters at the forefront of human imaginations, poignant life lessons illuminate such qualities as desire and gratitude, power and vulnerability, insignificance and importance even as readers gain a better understanding that God's mysterious grace is sometimes most evident in His simplest of creatures.



THE FREEDOM OF A CHRISTIAN—Perhaps no other work so captures the revolutionary zeal and theological boldness of the great Reformer as The Freedom of a Christian. Here he defends that key doctrine of justification by faith.



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

AGAPE FUND

In Memory of: Lyle C. Johnston
Given by: Nancy Noben-Trauth

In Memory of: Richard Chapman
Given by: Nancy Noben-Trauth

In Memory of: Beverly Elletson
Given by: Jean Benson
Given by: Ardys Horner
Given by: Jim Elletson

In Memory of: Judy Robertson
Given by: Jean Benson
Given by: Ardys Horner

In Memory of: Leroy Mathison
Given by: Ruth Tovson

In Memory of: Mary Nordmark
Given by: Ruth Tovson

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FUND

In Memory of: Vonnie Bausman
Given by: Janice & Tallack Johnson

CREATION CARE FUND

In Memory of: Judy Robertson
Given by: Mike & Dianne Fillmore

FLOWER FUND

In Memory of: Beverly Elletson
Given by: Janice & Tallack Johnson

FOUNDATION FUND

In Memory of: Beverly Elletson
Given by: Rod Boyer

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of: Beverly Elletson
Given by: Ted & Holly Heisserer

In Memory of: Marlys Klyve
Given by: Ted & Holly Heisserer

In Memory of: Jeffrey Meyer
Given by: Dennis & Sharon Meyer

In Memory of: Stanley Egenes
Given by: Dennis & Sharon Meyer

In Memory of: Jan Engen
Given by: Ted & Holly Heisserer

KITCHEN FUND

In Memory of: Beverly Elletson
Given by: Claudia Arne
Given by: Adrienne & Larry Buboltz

In Memory of: Jim Jacobson
Given by: Adrienne & Larry Buboltz

MISSIONARY FUND

In Memory of: Jan Engen
Given by: Ardys Horner

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of: Kathleen Hemness
Given by: Mike & Dianne Fillmore

SOUND & TECH FUND

In Memory of: Mary Nordmark
Given by: Stephen & Michelle Nordmark
Given by: David Noah
Given by: Darren & Kimberley Wolf
Given by: Marilyn & Matt Hedstrom
Given by: Patti Cummins
Given by: Lynn & Beverly Hummel
Given by: Robert & Marilyn Jernberg
Given by: Edna Mae Pearson
Given by: Judie Cherry

UNDESIGNATED FUND

In Memory of: Beverly Elletson
Given by: Viggo Thomsen
Given by: Anonymous
Given by: David & Jeannine Eiesland
Given by: Ardys Horner

QUILTERS FUND

In Memory of: Mary Nordmark
Given by: Ruth Olson

RADIO FUND

In Memory of: Anonymous
Given by: Elyda Handegard

In Memory of: Marlys Klyve
Given by: Janice & Tallack Johnson

In Memory of: Lyle C. Johnston
Given by: Elisabeth Johnston

In Memory of: Richard Chapman
Given by: Elisabeth Johnston

In Memory of: Beverly Elletson
Given by: Fern Brown
Given by: Rodger & Marilyn Tinjum

In Memory of: Janet Engen
Given by: Fern Brown

YOUTH FUND

In Honor of: Sue Berg's Baptismal Anniversary
Given by: Dean & Sue Berg

'Action Corp' Monthly Hospitality Teams

February Leader: Sandi Kemmer

Trent Bartells
Wayne & Jean Benson
Melissa & Ryan Brodsho
James & Cynthia Bruflodt
James & Catherine Buchholz
Charlie Cooper
Ronnie Dahlsad
Jeffrey Ehnert & Jessica Leu
Michael & Dianne Fillmore
Eugene & Eloyce Gaffney
Jaime & Steve Gunderson
Dan & Irene Hagen
James & LeeAnn Hagle
Howard & Carla Hansen

Lynne Hanson
Bruce & Jean Hein
Louise Heino
Judith Hoeglund
Lynn & Beverly Hummel
Anne Jorgenson
Terry & Sandra Kemmer
Corrine Leu
Jared & Jessi Lotzer
Jeremiah & Kelsey McBroom
Sylvia McCurdy
Daniel & Erica McDougall
Jeff & Collette Murphy
Stanley & Jodi Ouren

Gene & Margaret Prechel
Bob & Patricia Rheault
Arlene Rishovd
Lynnae Salveson
Darcy & Jennifer Savig
David & Janine Schneider
Sandra Smith
Shanda Smith
Adam Steward
Melissa Halverson
Steven & Emma Swenson
Paul & Lisa Weber
Sharon Wesbrook
Ryan & Cheryl Weum

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!!



March Leader: NEEDED

Sara & Jared Aelony
Paul & Joleen Backlund
Andrew & Meagan Barker
Claire Beardsley
Dean & Susan Berg
Alan & Brenda Bergum
Mitchell & Jaquelyn Buboltz
Brian & Jessica Burhans
Daniel & Janelle Disrud
Brad & Erin Erickson
Daniel & Angela Erickson
Troy & Skye Fingalson
Stephen & Jennifer Frank

John & Kim Green
Holly & Daniel Gustner
James & Sandra Hedstrom
Steven & Elizabeth Hedstrom
Eric & Jennifer Hellekson
John & Lori Hinrichs
Timothy Hunnel
Gladys Johnson
Larry & Kimberly Kjono
Robert & Jill Larson
David & Kathryn Larson
LaVon Loerzel

Christopher & Miranda Mahlum
Jessica Moench
David & Melissa Opsahl
Jeremy & Jessica Peterson
Judy Peterson
Bonnie Price
Steven & Courtney Schantzen
Diane Schjervheim
Vonnie Stenger
Christopher & DeAnne Udby
Brian & Coleen Voeltz
Ryan & Carolyn Zunich

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.

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Sunday Schedule <i>New Member Sunday</i> <i>Baptism: Andrist Smith</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 12:30p Lakes Area Chorale Reh	30 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:30p GriefShare, Library	31 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Tai Ji QUAN 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	1 Wednesday Schedule <i>New Member Wednesday</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Study, Hol. In. 10:00a Oak Crossing Wsrshp Svc 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	2 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 2:00p Tai Ji Quan	3 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	4
5 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 12:30p Lakes Area Chorale Reh.	6 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:30p GriefShare Group, Library	7 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Rachel Circle, Lounge 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	8 Wednesday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Study, Hol. In. 10:30a Pelican Landing Dev. 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	9 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 1:30p Ruth Circle, Din Rm	10 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	11
12 Sunday Schedule 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 12:30p Lakes Area Chorale Reh	13 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:30p GriefShare Group, Library	14 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a Rebekah Cir, Conf. Rm 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Lincoln Park/Winchester 4:00p Sons of Norway Din Rm 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	15 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Study, Hol. In. 10:00a Ecumen Worship 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	16 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	17 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	18
19 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 12:30p Lakes Area Chorale Reh	20 President's Day Church Office Closed 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:30p GriefShare Group, Library	21 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library 7:00p Creation Care Mtg, DR	22 Wednesday Schedule <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Communion</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Study, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 12:00p Ash Wednesday Service 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Ash Wednesday Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	23 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	24 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	25
26 Sunday Schedule <i>Healing Service</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 12:30p Lakes Area Chorale Reh	27 5:00p AI Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	28 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 5:30p Vision Council, Din Rm 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	1 Wednesday Schedule <i>Healing Service</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Study, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 12:00p Lenten Service 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Lenten Worship Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	2 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	3 10:00a Oak Crossing Worship 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	4



The First Messenger

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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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**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.**