



FIRST LUTHERAN C H U R C H

The Visitor is the monthly newsletter for the members and friends of First Lutheran Church

March 2024

Parish Staff

Pr. John Dietz, pastor
Rian Johnson, secretary
Melissa Peterson, custodian
Elaine Sweeney, musician

Parish Council

Lynn Schweiberger, president
Kay Dague, secretary
Barb Bautch
Connie Bryant
Pr. John Dietz
Greg Barto
Mary Maki
Ann Vucetich
Stephanie Skraba
Sheryl Tokarczyk
Nancy White

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 am- 2:00 pm
After 2:00 pm by appointment

Contact Us

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Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
Call the office: 218-263-8388
Email Rian: rianjohnson@firsthibbing.org
Email Pr. John: pastorjohn@firsthibbing.org



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First Lutheran Church- Hibbing, MN

Join us!

Sundays

9:30 am Eucharist
Service of Holy Communion
10:30 am Fellowship
Conversation and refreshments
10:30 am Sunday School & Confirmation
Age 3 - Grades 6+ Faith Formation

Mondays

1:00 pm Quilting

Wednesdays in Lent beginning February 14

11:00 am Lunch & Learn February 21st and following
5:00 pm Meal
6:00 pm Worship
6:30 Confirmation

Baptisms, Weddings, & Pastoral Care

Please contact the church office to schedule a Baptism or a Wedding in advance. If you are seeking pastoral care for yourself or a loved one, please contact the church office to set up an appointment or call the pastor directly in an emergency. Always leave a message at 218-969-5108.

Hibbing Public Access TV

Watch on channels 805 or 118.5 or on the website:
hpat.org- go to **Educational Access** and scroll down to
First Lutheran Church
Live on Sundays at 9:30 am
Rebroadcast on Sundays at 8:30 am, Wednesdays at
8:00 pm, and Thursdays at 2:00 pm

First Lutheran Church – Hibbing is a parish of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod, one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.3 million members in more than 8,900 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region.



PASTOR

Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:7

The very first wedding I ever attended, I was a young child and my cousin was getting married. It happened in a Lutheran church on a Saturday morning somewhere in farmland Minnesota. After the wedding we all headed into the fellowship hall and had egg salad sandwiches, olives and pickles, and cake. After the cake, the bride and groom got in their car and drove away, and then so did everyone else. Simple.

In the intervening forty years, weddings have become much more complex. Basic marriage liturgies followed by a simple luncheon and cake have been replaced with a much more involved line-up of events leading up to the actual wedding, and each reception seems to be more extravagant and expensive as any I've seen before. People take out loans and max out credit cards to host their perfect wedding event.



Of course, it doesn't have to be this way. It's just what we decide to do – but we can decide to do something different.

The same is true for funerals. I've been telling families as they're planning for funerals that modest is fine, if not preferred. There is no requirement that you or your loved one needs to be buried in an ornately carved walnut casket or a marble urn. Instead of a putting on a smorgasbord for the whole community, a funeral luncheon can be bars and coffee. Simple.

Of course, I'm writing this in Lent when we make a point to live more simply, to focus less on the externals and give greater attention to what really matters. I'm also writing as a pastor who attends more funerals and weddings than the average person, and I do recognize that what is one among many for me is the only one for you. And I should say, if you want to have a big wedding reception or you feel the mahogany casket with gold and ivory in-lay will more fully express your love and honor for your family member, I am not trying to dissuade you or shame you for your choices.

But we do have choices. We don't have to do what everyone else is doing just because everyone else is doing it. We can be different.

In fact, being different was a major theme of the Old Testament. In the book of Leviticus, we see God calling the Hebrew people to be holy just as God is holy. They were to be holy, which really means to be separate or

distinct from the people around them, not just in name, but in their word and actions. What they ate or didn't eat, what kind of clothes they wore, where they worshiped, when they prayed, who they married, how they lived – almost every aspect of life – was done in such a way so that they did not do what everyone else was doing.

Jesus continues in the tradition of calling people to holiness – to living lives that are different from the world

around them so that their lives can make a difference in the world.

In the gospel he warns us against putting too much thought into what we will wear or what we will eat; he doesn't talk much about houses other than to say he doesn't have one of his own; and Jesus seems unconcerned about wedding parties or funeral arrangements. But he does call ordinary people like us to follow him into an extraordinary and unique life of loving our neighbors, forgiving and praying for our enemies, and serving others in need. These are the marks of a life of distinction, a life lived with and for the glory of God, with and for the good of our neighbors.

Peace and all good.

+ Pastor John Dietz

Worship God

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9:30 am Eucharist – Service of Holy Communion

Mar 3 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Exodus 20:1-17 | Ps. 19 | John 2:13-22

Mar 10 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Num. 21:4-9 | Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22 | Jn. 3:14-21

Mar 17 THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jer. 31:31-34 | Ps. 51:1-12 | John 12:20-33

Mar 24 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Mk 11:1-11 | Phil 2:5-11 | Ps. 31 | Mk 15:1-47

Mar 31 THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Acts 10:34-43 | Ps 118 | Mark 16:1-8

MIDWEEK LENT

Join us for **Mid-morning Lunch & Learn** beginning at 11:00 am [March 6, 13, 20] or plan on coming to the **Midweek Soup Suppers and Worship** [March 6, 13, 20] where the meal is served from 5:00-6:00 pm and worship begins at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary.



Mar 6 + Wednesday in the Third Week of Lent
Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth

Mar 13 + Wednesday in the Fourth Week of Lent
St. Gregory the Great

Mar 20 + Wednesday in the Fifth Week of Lent
St. Patrick

Easter Lilies

Easter lilies are \$15 per plant. Any money we collect over the number of plants we purchase will be used to re-stock our parish Care Cupboard. The last day to order is March 17. Feel free to purchase and bring in your own plant.



Holy Week

March 24 + Palm Sunday of the Passion

Gather in the parish hall at 9:30 am to begin worship with the blessing and procession of palms

March 25 – 26 + Weekdays in Holy Week

The church will be open from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm for silent prayer ending with a brief prayer service each day at noon

March 28 + Holy Thursday

6:00 pm Eucharist with the Laying On of Hands for Individual Absolution and the Stripping of the Altar

March 29 + Good Friday

Service of the Shadows – a 6:00 pm Tenebrae service around the Seven Last Words of Christ

March 31 + The Resurrection of Our Lord

9:30 am Festive Easter Eucharist followed by an Easter Egg Hunt



GROW IN FAITH

Sunday School

Sunday School students (age 3 – Grade 5) are meeting right after worship from 10:30 – 11:30 am for snack, a lesson, and fun activities. Join us on: March 3, 10, 17, 24.

Confirmation

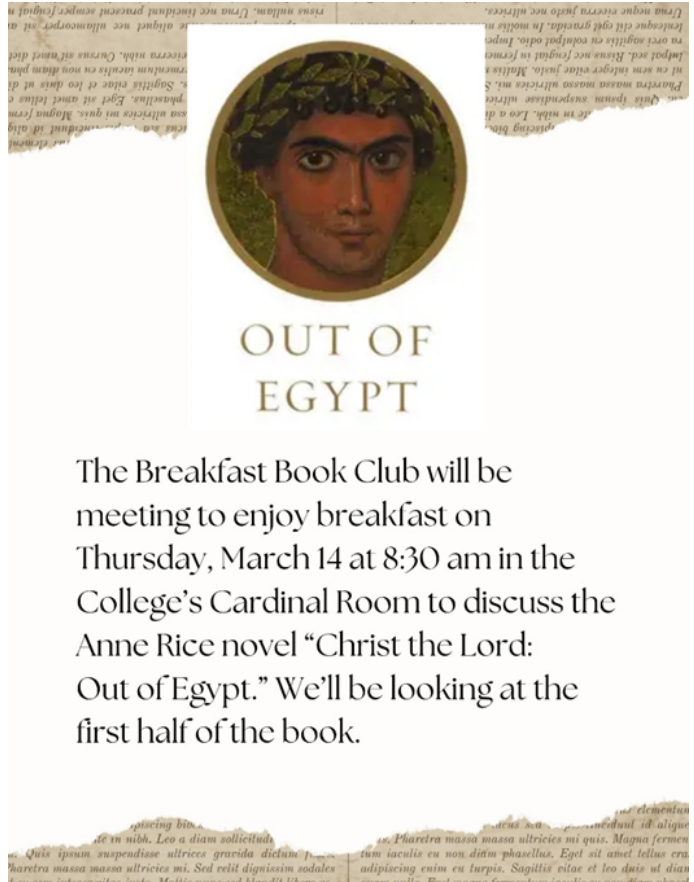
Confirmation students are meeting on Wednesdays throughout Lent for meals, worship, and listening circle. All students (Sunday and Wednesday classes) will gather each week. We eat from 5:00-6:00 pm, worship at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary, and will meet upstairs for listening circle/ peer ministry check-in until 7:00 pm. Check your emails for the server schedules!

Holy Week



Breakfast Book Club

Anne Rice's novel: "Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt" Thursday, March 14 at 8:30 am. We'll be meeting and eating at the Hibbing College's Cardinal Room.



The Breakfast Book Club will be meeting to enjoy breakfast on Thursday, March 14 at 8:30 am in the College's Cardinal Room to discuss the Anne Rice novel "Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt." We'll be looking at the first half of the book.

Lunch & Learn

We are gathering for the remaining Wednesdays of Lent for our Lunch & Learn Bible Studies at 11:00 am. Topics in March include: March 6 + Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman – fighting for freedom; March 13 + St. Gregory the Great – reluctant leader; March 20 + St. Patrick – missionary



BUILD COMMUNITY

Summer Trip Planning Meeting

March 3

We would love your input on this year's Faith & Fun Summer Trip. We're looking for ideas on where to go, what to do, and who we can invite to do it with us! Are you a parent, a youth in high school or middle school, or an adult interested in chaperoning? Let's meet after worship on Sunday, March 3 and brainstorm together!

Spaghetti Meal Fundraiser

March 6

On Wednesday, March 6, we will be having a Spaghetti Meal youth fundraiser and we hope you'll all come out for that to support our young people! We'll have spaghetti with meatballs, bread, and salad at both the mid-morning and evening events.



Easter Egg Hunt

March 31

All youth are invited to stay after worship for a fun Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning. If you would like to help out, we are accepting either pre-filled Easter Eggs or candy we can use to fill the Easter Eggs. Donations accepted through March 24.

Birthday Card Signing

Please take some time each Sunday to sign some birthday cards. Whether you know the people or not, if you write a little message or just sign your name – it doesn't matter. We want to be able to send cards off to members and friends of First Lutheran who have upcoming birthdays! The cards and pens will be on a table in the parish hall so you can visit it during fellowship.

QUASQUICENTENNIAL

125th Anniversary Committee

If you are interested in being part of a small group that will help plan the events for the 125th Anniversary Celebration of First Lutheran Church, please talk to Pastor John.

March Birthdays

March 1: Sidney Walters, Toby Inforzato	March 20: Al Weyrauch, Kelsey Greenwood
March 4: Matthew Otto	March 21: Tara Odegaard-Leslie, Michael Kangas
March 6: Art Englund	March 23: Laura Griffiths, Nancy Greenwood
March 7: Mollie Majkich	March 24: Kallie Qualley, Anthony Galatz, Evelyn Renskers
March 10: Mallory Greenwood	March 26: Matt Kolden, Jackson Willard, Ethel Erickson
March 11: Kathy Morgan, Shelby Hughes	March 27: Grayson Moen
March 12: Aiden Barsness	March 28: Dennis Flynn, Larry Elj
March 15: Lucas McCarroll	March 29: Daniel Tiburzi, Amber Bryant
March 17: Steve Jespersen	March 30: Charles Crep
March 18: Derek Bautch Jr.	
March 19: Kaitlyn Schnortz	

First Lutheran Church Monthly offerings

Many thanks to everyone who faithfully supports the mission and ministries of First Lutheran Church with your generous offerings to our general fund for operating costs, and also to the building fund that helps with repairs and maintenance. Together, we make ministry happen here at First Lutheran Church!

General offerings:

March: \$8,487.96

Building fund offerings:

March: \$608.29

***Amounts reflect what was recorded at the time of newsletter print.

Thank You

SERVE THE NEIGHBOR

Spaghetti Meal Service Project/ Fundraiser

On Wednesday, March 6, we will need “all Confirmation hands on deck” to help with the evening Spaghetti Meal — from set-up, cooking and serving, to clean-up. Following the service that evening, we will not hold a Listening Circle. Thank you, Confirmation families, for putting this fundraiser on your calendars. All proceeds will go to our up-coming 2024 Faith & Fun Summer Trip.



ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

March 3 – Sun 9:30 am	Joseph Plese	Landon Tokarczyk
March 6 – Weds 6:00 pm	Aiden Grindle	Max Bautch
March 10 – Sun 9:30 am	Bree Stimac	Ruby Johnson
March 13 – Weds 6:00 pm	Ruby Plese	Joseph Plese
March 17 – Sun 9:30 am	Owen Qualley	Aiden Grindle
March 20 – Weds 6:00 pm	Morgan Schnortz	Bree Stimac
March 24 – Sun 9:30 am	Addy Weyrauch	Ruby Johnson
March 28 – Thurs 6:00 pm	Landon Tokarczyk	Kiah Tokarczyk
March 29 – Fri 6:00 pm	Rocco Sampson	Tommy Sampson
March 31 – Sun 9:30 am	Max Bautch	Gage Rantala

Confirmation Lenten Meal Schedule

The following families are asked to help out on Wednesday nights with serving and cleaning-up after the soup suppers. If you can't help out on the day you've been assigned, please look for a replacement family and then let the office know of the change. You can always recruit other family and friends to help out! Suppers start at 5:00 pm and worship begins at 6:00 pm. If you couldn't be there for your Wednesday, show up on another and offer to help!

Mar 6 ALL Confirmation Students and their families
Mar 13 Tommy and Rocco Sampson and Max Bautch families
Mar 20 Landon and Kiah Tokarczyk and Bree Stimac families

February Council Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 10:48 am by Lynn Schweiberger. Prayer by Pr. John.

Jan minutes reviewed. Steph Skraba moved to approve the minutes. Mary Maki seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report

Financial report reviewed. Discussion concerning payment for benefits for staff. Pastor John will talk to Connor at Fort and Co. Sheryl Tokarczak moved to approve the financials and Connie Bryant seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Property Committee Report:

- Kitchenette need to order sink, faucet, countertop and flooring
- Dishwasher for the kitchen where the old hand washing sink was installed. Also needed is the countertop and cabinet side. Looking for quotes for these items.
- Energy Audit: Dave Rian will continue to investigate rebates.
- Air conditioner on the sanctuary side- service company suggested replacement instead of repair - On hold at this time. Also to investigate the need for air conditioning in the office.
- Looking into steam traps and potential conversion to gas heating.
- Plaster to be repaired in the basement along with repair of the electrical unit.
- Lights to be added over the sign up table.
- Looking into changing the light bulbs in the sanctuary.

Old Business:

Working on a safety policy

New Business:






- Check with the Memorial Committee concerning new chairs, countertops and tables for the fellowship hall.
- 125 Anniversary on 11/30/2025. Will need to get a committee together.
- Picture directory in Oct.
- PO Box for church address. Discussed other options as mail will not be forwarded after 6 months if addressed to the church street address.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Hillcrest to use the church if an emergency at Hillcrest and need for evacuation.

Motion to adjourn by Mary Maki and seconded by Pastor John. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 12:05 pm



MARCH



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Office Hours: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm Mon – Fri Contact us: 218-263-8388						
3 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 9:30 am Eucharist followed by Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Summer Trip Planning 2:00 pm Laurentian Conference Assembly – Cook	4 9:00 am Staff 1:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm AI/Anon	5 	6 WEDNESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT: Harriet Tubman & Sojourner Truth 11:00 am Lunch & Learn Bible Study 5:00 pm Spaghetti Meal Fundraiser 6:00 pm Worship	7 <i>Pastor at Continuing Education/ Lenten Retreat</i>	8 <i>Pastor at Continuing Education/ Lenten Retreat</i>	9 Daylight Savings – Spring Forward! 
10 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9:30 am Eucharist followed by Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School	11 9:00 am Staff 1:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm AI/Anon	12 4:00 pm Property Committee Meeting	13 WEDNESDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT: St. Gregory the Great 11:00 am Lunch & Learn Bible Study 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	14 8:30 am Breakfast Book Club at the Hibbing College Cardinal Room 6:00 pm SAFE Meeting	15	16 Bridal Shower in the Fellowship Hall
17 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9:30 am Eucharist followed by Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Council Meeting	18 9:00 am Staff 1:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm AI/Anon	19 	20 WEDNESDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT: St. Patrick 11:00 am Lunch & Learn Bible Study 5:00 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	21 3:00 pm Lutheran Eucharist at Guardian Angels	22 	23
24 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION 9:30 am Eucharist followed by Fellowship 10:30 am Sunday School	25 MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK 12:00 pm Midday Prayer 1:00 pm Quilt 7:00 pm AI/Anon	26 TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK 12:00 pm Midday Prayer	27 WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK 12:00 pm Midday Prayer	28 HOLY THURSDAY 6:00 pm Eucharist	29 GOOD FRIDAY 6:00 pm Tenebrae Service	30 
31 THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD 9:30 am Eucharist 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Youth Easter Egg Hunt	<h1>EASTER</h1>					

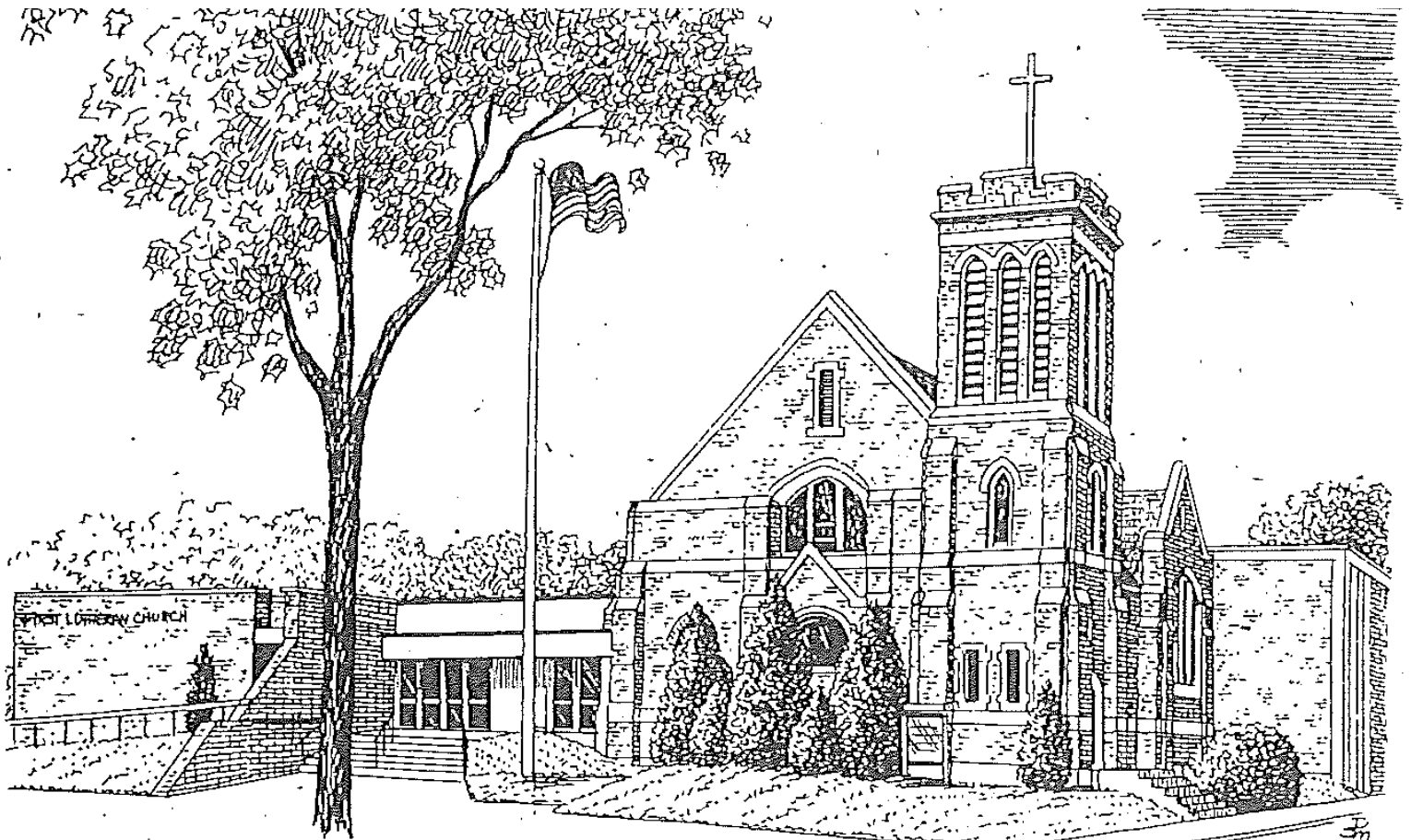


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