



First Lutheran Church

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Pastor Ben Schori

Secretary

Nancy White

Organist

Elaine Sweeney

Yoga Instructor

Angela Schweiberger

Custodial Services

Range Center Job Corps

PARISH COUNCIL

Marcy Berg

Consuelo "Connie" Bryant

William Clymer

Larry Elj

Mazie Englund

Pastor Ben Schori

Lynn Schweiberger

Linda Smith

Paul Tokarczyk

CONGREGATIONAL

TREASURER

Alice White

YOUTH EDUCATION

Sunday School

September – May

Sunday morning

Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 5

Confirmation

September – May

Wednesday evening

7:00 – 8:00 pm

Grades 7–10

ADULT EDUCATION

Bible Study

September - May

Wednesday

10:00 am – 11:00 pm

Yoga Class

Mondays

9:00 am

WORSHIP & MINISTRY

Sunday Morning Service

Sundays at 9:30 am

Nursery provided

Telecast Live HPAT channel 5

Rebroadcast:

9:30 pm Sundays

8:00 pm Wednesdays

2:00 pm Thursdays

Weddings

Make arrangements in advance by contacting the office.

Baptisms

Make arrangements in advance by contacting the office.

Pastoral Care

Contact the office

CONTACT US

PARISH OFFICE

Hours: Mon – Thurs, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm; 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Office closed on Fridays

2201 3rd Avenue East, Hibbing, MN 55746

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Pastor Benjamin Schori

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Website: www.firsthibbing.org

"Like" our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/firsthibbing

Well everyone, it's that time of the year again. We have entered into the liturgical season of Lent. The season, which began on March 1 with Ash Wednesday, is one of intentional and honest reflection, prayer, repentance and growth. One of the most well known Lenten traditions is the act of "giving something up for Lent" where we give up junk food, social media, or some other kind of vice for the forty days of this season. The reason we do this, whether we realize it or not, is so we might better cleanse ourselves of distractions and take a good look at our lives and who we are as Christians. Are we making our identity as a follower of Christ and of Christ's ministry a priority in our lives?

Personally, I love the season of Lent. It's one of my favorite seasons in the liturgical calendar. When I tell that to people, I often get a few strange looks. "Really Pastor? Lent? But Lent is so solemn and gloomy. What about Advent, or Christmas or Easter?" And I do love all of these seasons and each of them brings a different story and feeling to the church year, but there is something uniquely special about Lent for me, because while other liturgical seasons might bring the things I want into my faith life, Lent brings that which I need.

Other holidays and celebrations in the church year like Christmas and Easter bring us to joy, which is a good and needed thing, but our lives and our world aren't always a celebration. There's hatred, greed, violence and injustice in our world and in our own lives; we know this. And God's response to this was Christ, Immanuel: "God with us" who joined with us in our suffering and the world's groaning. This man stood with the outcast, the downtrodden and the forgotten, and shined a light on them and forced others to take notice of them. He encouraged people to take tangible action in caring for and loving one another without reservation; even if we must sacrifice of ourselves in the process.

This is what we are called to honestly reflect, pray and discern during this time of Lent as we join Christ Jesus on his journey toward the cross. The joy of Easter morning is that much more potent when you have journeyed through the real and difficult reality of Lent. I find that at this time each year I need this intentional practice. I need to take an intentional look inward and find the things that I can do without and that which is a hindrance to the ministry of the God I claim to follow. I need to honestly look at my fellow human being and recognize them as my brother and sister through kindness, service and love. Through penance and humility, I need to come before God once again in replenished dedication to the ministry of Jesus, and take up my cross and follow Christ.

First Lutheran will again be joining with Our Savior's Lutheran for Lenten Wednesday night soup suppers and worship, and, with this year marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the preaching on these evenings will be digging into Martin Luther's beloved Small Catechism and exploring our Lutheran theology. More information on Lenten Wednesday nights can be found in this newsletter. I hope to see you there.

This Lenten season I encourage all of you to take on the practice of intentional self reflection, humble penance and recommitting yourselves and your lives to the ministry of Christ; a ministry of service and sacrifice, of generosity and kindness, of grace and love.

Peace & Blessings,
Pastor Ben

Church Council Meeting—February 14, 2016

Members Present – Paul Tokarczyk, Connie Bryant, Lynn Schweiberger, Marcy Berg, Larry Elj, Pastor Ben Schori, Mazie Englund, Bill Clymer, Linda Smith

Members Absent – None

Call to Order – 5:00 PM

Prayer

January meeting minutes approved
January financial statement received

Pastor Ben Schori's report

Retreat update

Property Committee Report

- Gate at Parsonage to be changed to wood with vinyl cover
- Heat Exchanger project is done
- Hook on the wall in ladies' bathroom
- Lights need upgrading
- Painting wall in Sanctuary
- Piano in quilting room to be donated – Council approved

Old Business

- Dinner for Project Care - February 16, 2017

New Business

- Bishop's Convocation Report – Lynn Schweiberger—Culture Shifts in Worship - What was vs. What is
- Lenten Worship and Soup Suppers Ash Wednesday – 6:00 pm March 1, 2017—“With Awe & Love”: Midweek Lenten Series based on Luther's Small Catechism.
- Pulpit Supply on March 5, 2015 - Pastor Gary Terrio
- Office Computers - Will need to be replaced
- Needle disposal in bathroom units - Need to be replaced.

Other Business

Next Council Meeting
March 14, 2017 – 5:00 pm third floor

Lord's Prayer
Meeting Adjourned – 6:05 PM

Submitted by Larry Elj, Council Secretary

Church Finances—Many thanks to all who support First Lutheran Church and its extended ministries. FLC's General Fund contributions fuel this congregation's operational needs and extended ministries. *Currently seven percent of general fund offerings is shared with our NE MN Synod and the ELCA Churchwide office to help ELCA Bible camps, youth ministry, seminaries, global outreach, various endeavors to promote peace and justice, and administrative costs. Individuals also may contribute special gifts to support seminarians, missionaries, hunger & poverty concerns and alleviation of suffering caused by natural disasters. Weekly contributions received:

February 5—\$3,584.50

February 12—\$1,864.00

February 19—\$1,927.00

February 26—\$1,426.24

Submitted by Alice White, FLC Treasurer

Note: In order to meet our operating budget we need to collect approximately \$4,000 in offerings per Sunday.

First Lutheran's 2016 Synod/ELCA Mission Support totaled \$13,820.00. Thank you from the ELCA for your faithful and generous giving!

Alleviating Hunger in our Community

In February we have collected approximately \$255.00. This amount is divided between the Hibbing Food Shelf and the First Lutheran Salvation Army Soup Kitchen Account. The soup kitchen account provides meals for the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen two times a month. If you wish to make a donation, make your check payable to “First Lutheran Church” and note in the memo “Food Shelf/ Soup Kitchen.”

On the second Thursday (Noon) and the third Tuesday (1:00 pm) of the month, First Lutheran members volunteer at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen. Volunteer help is always needed on the days we serve. Please call Rodney Jacobson at 263-8770 or Jean Nelson at 885-1092 if you can help. Thank you to the volunteers who make this ministry happen!

Check out First Lutheran Church's website!

Did you know you can listen to sermons that you may have missed or want to hear again online? Wondering what events are coming up soon in the church or want to read the most recent newsletter? Check the First Lutheran Church website www.firsthibbing.org.

WELCA will meet on Sunday, March 12, at 10:45 am. All women are welcome to attend this meeting. If you have questions, please talk with Barb Tanem, WELCA President.

The **Hobby/Quilt Club** The group meets on Monday from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. At 3:00 pm we have a coffee and snack break. No special talents are needed. If you don't like to sew, there are other ways you can "pitch in" and help. **New participants are welcome** (and needed) to be part of this on-going ministry!

The Christmas Boutique Crafters will meet on Tuesday, March 7, at 1:00 pm in the **quilters' room**. We are in need of all sizes of canning jars for various projects.

We will be collecting Baby Care Kits. Bringing a baby into the world can be a difficult and scary thing for a mother living in poverty. She worries about her baby's health and well-being when there is a lack of money to buy things every mother wants for her newborn. The items included in a Baby Care Kit provide the things a mother needs to care for her baby the way she hopes to—soft blankets to give warmth and comfort, soap to keep germs away. Lack of something to dress her baby in often keeps a mother isolated from her community, but the clothes in the kit welcome both mother and baby into the world.

Include the following items in each care kit:

- Two lightweight cotton t-shirts
- Two long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- Two receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn up to 52" square
- Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- Two pairs of socks
- One hand towel, dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of gentle soap, in original wrapping
- Two diaper pins or large safety pins

Do not add other items or leave out items listed. Gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new ones. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags. (**Drop off kits** on the counters in the Fireside Room)

The 2017 WELCA Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, March 25, at First Lutheran Church in International Falls. Registration & Coffee An' is at 8:30 am. The gathering starts at 9:30 am and will end at 2:00 pm. This year's theme is "*Caring for Creation—The Monitoring and Sustainability of Natural Resources at Voyageurs National Park.*" Lunch will be served for a donation of \$7.00. **Please RSVP to Barb Tanem no later than March 17.** Car pooling will be available. All women of FLC are encouraged to attend this inspirational meeting. **In-Kind Offer items needed:** Diapers sizes 2,3,4, Baby quilts, Receiving blankets, Snow pants sizes 3T- 5, Black sweatpants sizes 3T - 5, Craft supplies- Elmer's glue, pipe cleaners, blank cards (Blank cards that kids can send to community members-birthday, sympathy, etc.)

In-Kind offering goes to KOOTASCO and Spirit of the Borderland—two agencies in the International Falls area the help families with children.

Offering Focus: 1/2 to Churchwide and 1/2 to Falls Hunger Coalition.

Thank you for the sympathy cards we received from our First Lutheran friends on the death of our brother, Robert Fletcher. Jeanne Albrecht and Janice Rice

Condolences and prayers to the family and friends of **Errol Hietala**. Errol died on February 21. His memorial service was held on Saturday, February 25, at First Lutheran Church.



What's Happening at Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

www.VLMcamps.org • vlm@VLMcamps.org

800-331-5148 • 218-666-5465

Gretchen Bachman, Program Director



Summer Camp registration has begun. If you have questions about registration or availability of summer programs, please call VLM at 800-331-5148. The “early bird” registration deadline is Saturday April 1. Sign-up online or postmark your summer camp registration by this date and save money. Check out www.vlmcamps.org to get detailed information about summer camp. Financial Assistance: Everyone is welcome at Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion regardless of ability to pay. VLM and many congregations have financial assistance available. If you feel you could benefit from such assistance, contact your pastor and/or the VLM office for more information. Camp registration forms are available in the church office.

Sunday Pancake Breakfasts at Camp Vermilion

You are all invited to the new Voyageur Lodge at Camp Vermilion for a filling pancake breakfast and great community, with hot drinks and fellowship continuing into the early afternoon. Bring your family and friends to enjoy some time in the northwoods!

Don't forget to bring your outdoor gear, so you and your family can enjoy the outdoors following your meal! Bring your sleds, build a snowman, or take advantage of our many trails. Be prepared for outdoor fun!

When: 10 am - 1 pm (*meal service*)

March 19th and April 23rd—*Cost:* \$5 per person 13+; free for 12 and under

Midweek Lenten Worship Services

“With Awe & Love”: A midweek Lenten Series based on Luther’s Small Catechism

For the second time in as many years, Pastor Ben, from First Lutheran, and Pastor Kevin, from OSLC - with the blessing of the leadership from both churches – will be preaching and presiding over combined midweek Lenten Worship Services beginning with the first midweek Lenten Service on Wednesday, March 8th.

Our Midweek Lenten Worship Theme is entitled With Awe & Love. The year 2017 marks the international observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In honor of that anniversary, this midweek Lenten series is built around Luther’s Small Catechism. The Small Catechism was designed as a teaching tool of the faith, not just within the church but also in the home. Martin Luther intended for the home to be the place where faith was first shared and taught. To that end he created the Small Catechism: a simple explanation of the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Sacraments.

The Schedule for our Midweek Lenten Worship Schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, March 8th The Ten Commandments Service at First Lutheran

Wednesday, March 15th The Creed Service at OSLC

Wednesday, March 22nd The Lord’s Prayer Service at First Lutheran

Wednesday, March 29th Baptism Service at OSLC

Wednesday, April 5th Holy Communion at First Lutheran

The long-standing, favorite liturgy of Marty Haugen’s Holden Evening Prayer will be used at BOTH churches; whichever church is hosting for the evening, the other church’s Pastor will be preaching (Pastor Ben will preach at OSLC, Pastor Kevin will preach at First Lutheran). The church hosting worship for the evening ALSO hosts the soup supper (beginning at 5:30 p.m.).

ALL MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES BEGIN AT 6:30 P.M. with a SOUP SUPPER EACH EVENING BEGINNING AT 5:30 P.M.

Lenten worship and soup suppers will begin on March 8. First Lutheran and Our Savior’s Lutheran churches will continue to join together in our weekly soup suppers and worship services. FLC will host three suppers and worship services on March 8, March 22 and April 5. OSLC will host on March 15 and March 29. The suppers will be at 5:30 pm with worship following at 6:30 pm. We are in need of people to help with the FLC soup suppers. Sign up on the sheets available in the fellowship hall, or call the church office if you can assist.



First Lutheran Church is blessed with many volunteers who with dedication and commitment serve the church, the Hibbing community, and the world. During February these people helped Sunday worship services happen:

- **Assisting Ministers:** Lynn Schweiberger, Paul Tokarczyk, Dennis Flynn, and Tom Arnold
- **Acolyte:** Ava Weyrauch, Cole Hughes, Stella Schweiberger, and Carly Kolden
- **Greeters:** The Stimac Family, The Rue Family, Dennis & Sharon Estey, and The Skraba Family
- **Readers:** Cheryl Forstrom, Forrest Koland, Jean Nelson, and Bobbi Nyland
- **Ushers:** Barb & Loyal Tanem, Bill Clymer, Dennis Flynn, Ken & Connie Bryant, and Bob & Sheryl Tokarczyk
- **Videographers:** William Clymer, Larry Elj, Cathy & Forrest Koland, Dave Rian, and Marty Vadis
- **Offering Counters:** Steve & Sandy Carlson, Galen & Ethel Erickson, Paul & Darlene Stavnes, Karyl Giombetti and Kay Dague
- **Fellowship Hosts:** Lynn Schweiberger, Alice White, Bob & Sheryl Tokarczyk, Nancy Greenwood, Mal-lory Greenwood, Kelsey Greenwood, and Cassie Otto
- **Altar Guild:** Barb Bautch, Connie Bryant, Kay Dague, Karyl Giombetti, Deno Kubena, Gen Lervik, Mary Maki
- **Sunday School Teachers:** Patty Barsness, Nancy Greenwood, Melissa Peterson, Amy Fearing, and Linda Smith

Helping Worship Happen! If you would like to participate in ushering, reading, greeting, hosting fellow-ship or any of the other “Sunday Morning Helpers” categories please contact the church office.

Memorial Fund Report

Thank you to those who underwrite the cost of altar flowers and/or telecasting of FLC’s Sunday morning worship service. During the month of February **telecasts** were given in memory of Marlene DeGrazia, John Gustafson, and John and Bertha Gustafson by Ward Gustafson, in memory of Judie Arnold and Cheryl Seykora by Tom Arnold, in honor of Bernice Tate’s 99th birthday by Marvin and Lone Pearson, and in honor of Gen Lervik’s birthday by her Prayer Partner.

A memorial gift was given in memory of Hilda Starcevich.

To underwrite the telecast of FLC's Sunday morning worship service, to contribute Altar flowers, or to do-nate a memorial gift for other designated purposes, please call the church office. The weekly telecast cost is \$30 which includes the live-feed on Sunday morning plus re-telecasts on Sunday, 9:30 pm, Wednesday, 8:00 pm and Thursday, 2:00 pm, all on the local cable television, channel 5.

The First Lutheran Campership Fund is used to assist youth with their camp fees. Let’s continue to support the camping experience by donating to the fund. If you choose to donate make your checks payable to the FLC Campership Fund. Thank you.

FLC Memorial and Campership Fund Committee: Sandy Carlson, Jean Crep, Liz Kolden, Gen Lervik

First Lutheran Luncheon for “Retirees and Solos.” We will not have a luncheon during the month of March. However, we will gather at the Community College Dining Room on April 19 at 11:30 am. More information will follow. Our first gathering on February 15 was very successful with 18 in attendance.

Join your friends from First Lutheran Church to see *The Church Basement Ladies “Rise Up, O Men”* at the Plymouth Playhouse on Wednesday, May 3, 2017. The price is \$124 and includes Motor Coach transportation, reserved seats for the 1:00 PM matinee, lunch at the Plymouth Playhouse, and all tips and taxes and fully guided with a Happy Trail Tours Representative. **Registration forms are available in the church office with all the details.** You will be responsible for your own registration and deposits through Happy Trails. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is due when you register. Final payment is due on April 1. Remember—men, women, couples, singles are all invited to attend. In order to make this trip possible, we need a minimum of 40 to attend but no more than 50. Barb Tanem is available to answer any questions you have about this event. FYI: The buffet lunch will include tater-tot hot dish, macaroni and cheese, garden salad, jell-o, assorted bars and coffee/tea.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>First Lutheran Church</i> 2201 Third Avenue East Hibbing, MN 55746 218-263-8388 Pr. Ben Schori Office Email: office@firsthibbing.org</p>					<p>MARCH 2017 AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH</p> 	
					<p>March 3 – 5 Cardia Deo Event – Grades 9 – 12 at Big Sandy Camp, McGregor, MN</p>	
					<p>1 <i>George Herbert, hymnwriter</i> 10:00 am Bible Study Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm Worship Service and Imposition of Ashes</p>	<p>2 <i>John Wesley & Charles Wesley, renewers of the church</i></p>
<p>5 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 am Worship Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship</p>	<p>6 8:30 am Yoga Class 1:00 pm Hobby Quilt Group 7:00 pm Alanon, Gamanon</p>	<p>7 <i>Perpetua & Felicity and their companions, martyrs at Carthage</i> 1:00 pm Boutique Crafters meet in Quilters' Room</p>	<p>8 10:00 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Soup Supper at First Lutheran 6:30 pm Worship at First Lutheran</p>	<p>9 12:00 pm FLC serves meal at Salvation Army 3:00 pm ELCA service at Guardian Angels</p>	<p>10 <i>Harriet Tubman & Sojourner Truth, renewers of society</i> Office closed</p>	<p>11 Turn your clocks ahead tonight - daylight saving time begins tomorrow</p>
<p>12 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 am Worship Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am WELCA Meeting</p>	<p>13 8:30 am Yoga Class 1:00 pm Hobby Quilt Group 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Alanon, Gamanon</p>	<p>14 4:00 pm Property Committee Meeting 5:00 pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>15 10:00 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Soup Supper at Our Savior's 6:30 pm Worship at Our Savior's</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 <i>Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland</i> Office closed</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 am Worship Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship</p>	<p>20 <i>Spring Begins</i> 8:30 am Yoga Class 1:00 pm Hobby Quilt Group 7:00 pm Alanon, Gamanon</p>	<p>21 <i>Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr</i> 1:00 pm FLC serves meal at Salvation Army</p>	<p>22 <i>Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians</i> 10:00 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Soup Supper at First Lutheran 6:30 pm Worship at First Lutheran</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 <i>Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr</i> Office closed</p>	<p>25 <i>The Annunciation of our Lord</i> WELCA Spring Gathering in International Falls</p>
<p>26 <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 am Worship Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship</p>	<p>27 8:30 am Yoga Class 1:00 pm Hobby Quilt Group 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Alanon, Gamanon</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 <i>Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church</i> 10:00 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Soup Supper at Our Savior's 6:30 pm Worship at Our Savior's</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 <i>John Donne, poet</i></p>	<p>April events: April 5 – final soup supper and Lenten worship April 13 – Maundy Thursday April 14 – Good Friday April 16 – Easter Sunday</p>