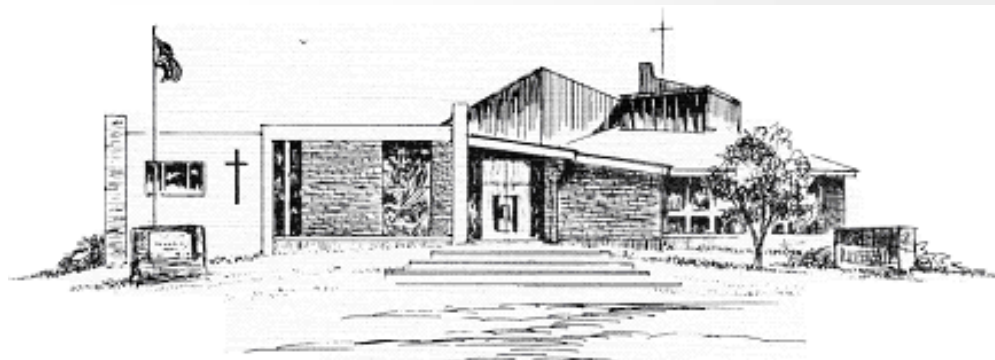


First Lutheran Church March 2024



Ambassadors of Christ

Tenebrae—Good Friday Service of Light and Darkness

Tenebrae (Latin for “darkness”) was the name given to the medieval predawn morning prayer celebrated by monks during the last three days in Holy Week. In recent centuries, this monastic liturgy—despite its early morning light imagery—was transferred to Wednesday evening in Holy Week. In monastic practice, it was a service of prayers and readings from scripture. As the light began to dawn, the candles used for reading were gradually extinguished, so that at the end of the service, the rising sun provided the necessary light for reading and singing.

In the service here, the extinguishing of candles has been placed within the reading of the Passion according to John, the ancient gospel narrative for the day. With this form, seven candles will be used. Following each section, a candle is extinguished.

The Johannine passion account is appointed for Good Friday because the synoptic passion accounts are read in successive years of the Sunday of the Passion. John’s passion account sees Jesus’ death as his glorification. Rather than “mourning” the dying or dead Jesus on Good Friday, the cross is acclaimed as the sign of the world’s redemption. The procession of the cross and adoration of the crucified Christ become the primary symbolic action of this day. We offer honor and reverence to the one who, lifted up from earth, draws all people to himself. This service does not end in darkness and sadness, as if the assembly were reenacting the death of Christ. Rather, the liturgy ends with Christ exalted on the cross, an image from John’s gospel

Pastor Scott Kiehn

Church Council

President - Tara Wesen
Vice Pres - Greg Forrester
Secretary - Bev Johnson
Ed/Youth - Tana Tweten
Finance - Greg Forrester
Property - Marvin Johnson,
Jon Mattfeldt
Discipleship -
Mandy Rasmusen
Stewardship -
Maxwell Knodel
Worship - Judi Martin

Our Staff

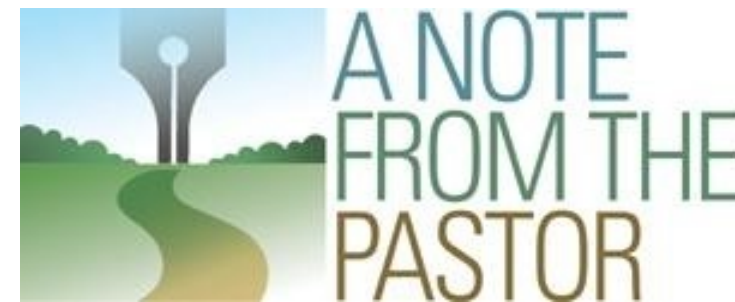
Youth/Family Coordinator
Daniel Brandt
Secretary
Sandy Carpenter
Financial Secretary
Peggy Hansen
Church Treasurer
Leanne Fontaine
Church Custodian
Deb MacDonald

Choir Director

Colleen Thompson
Kathy Smith, accompanist
Organist/Pianist
Audra Breigenzer
Jennifer Fewer

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- Pastor’s Note/Council Notes
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- What is Tenebrae



Easter is early this year, March 31st. Which means that Holy Week is also in March. That means that we have many opportunities to gather and worship. In addition to our mid-week Lent worship and soup suppers we have our regular Holy Week schedule. This includes Palm Sunday with palm branches and the reading of the passion narrative. On Thursday of Holy Week is our Maundy Thursday worship and Friday is our Good Friday Tenebrae worship. That brings us to Easter Morning where we will gather for worship, and proclaim that Christ has Risen! Many, opportunities to gather together to worship our risen savior, Jesus Christ! I encourage you to attend as many of these worship opportunities as you can, I also encourage you to invite others to worship with you. Please note that in the midst of all of these worship opportunities we will have construction going on in

“...we are called to share with the world, and that can begin right here by inviting one person at a time.”

“The story of Easter is the story of God’s wonderful window of divine surprise.”—Carl Knudsen



Prayer Vigil in 32nd Year

First Lutheran Church will hold a 24 hour Prayer Vigil. This will be the 32nd year since we began this vigil. Awesome!!! It will begin following our Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service at 5:30 PM until the Good Friday Service at 5:30 PM.

You can participate in this awesome opportunity by signing up in the Narthex for a one hour interval.

You can also submit prayer requests by using one of the forms in the basket. Personalized prayer requests must be signed by the requestor.

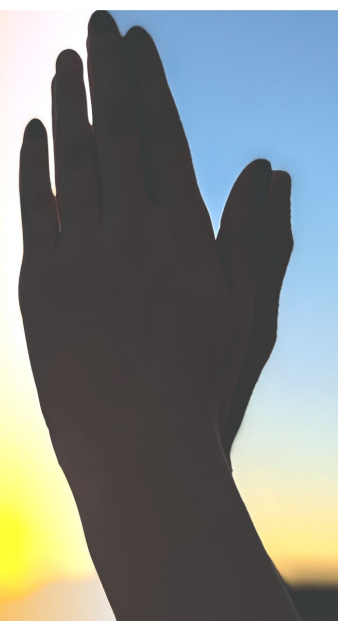


our building with the work on the lift project. The area where the construction is taking place will be sealed off during most of our worship opportunities. However, please be mindful of the construction activities and be patient with any inconveniences that it might cause.

Even though this construction is taking place, the message of the resurrection is what we are called to share with the world, and that can begin right here by inviting one person at a time. Remember that our hope and salvation is in the promise of the resurrection – the promise that Christ died and rose for you!

In Christ,

Pastor Scott



Notices

- **Next Service/Event Team** is Mona Amundson & Tara Wesen. March call group is **Waarvik to Ball**.
- **Coffee Leader** for March is **Maxwell Knodel**.
- **2nd Sunday Brunch** March 10 is Discipleship with French toast, sausage and fruit.
- Looking for crocheters for prayer shawls. See Sandy.
- Mar 31 **Noisy Offering** to go to bathroom remodel.



Preparing for Easter



Login or register on Reynold's website. Then go to rewards and

my rewards. Click on the **Friends of Reynolds** button and add the charity (**#1006**) you would like to support. You can only support one charity at a time. **Last quarter check was for \$316.07.**

For help, come see Sandy in the office and she'll get you set up. Your grocery shopping is worth it.

Food Bank

Mar 3 Dried Herbs/Seasonings
Mar 10 Canned Stew/Chili
Mar 17 100% Juice boxes
Mar 24 Nut Butters
Mar 31 Whole Grain Pasta

Construction Update 2-12-24

The GOOD, the BAD, and the UGLY!

The good news is our lift has arrived in Billings ahead of schedule. G&J Enterprises has been notified to include our project on their schedule for installation. The library has been temporarily relocated to the northwest corner of the dining room. Ostlund Fire Protection has removed piping that conflicted with the lift. Near the end of phase one, the new sprinkler heads will be installed prior to the ceiling tile. The electrical work in library and dining room areas has been completed to accommodate the new lift.

The bad news is Corland's construction schedule has slipped a couple of weeks. The steel shipment has yet to be confirmed. The later start date is not a bad thing, as we need time to address the ugly.

The ugly; as a requirement of the state, all construction projects require an environmental review for hazardous materials. A survey has been completed by Ingraham Environmental. A preliminary verbal report indicates the 12x12 floor tile and mastic (glue) have asbestos. This means the tile directly under lift and stairway area will need to be removed by a licensed company. We are working on a cost and schedule to remove tile.

While a bit concerning, these delays are a normal part of construction projects. We may have been overly optimistic on the start date. The environmental surveys may seem over the top; however, they protect staff, workers, and most importantly, the children from exposure.

NOTES:

When the construction begins, the north entrance into the dining room will be closed. Please use the south entrance to access the dining room or kitchen.

Existing lift will remain in service until new lift is complete.

North Doorway Closed

Construction in progress
Please use south doorway
to enter dining room.



Good Friday TidBits from Good Housekeeping

It can take place any day between March 20 and April 23.

Since Easter is a "moveable feast," Good Friday similarly shifts dates from year to year. It all comes down to the lunar calendar, specifically the first full moon to take place after the spring equinox. Good Friday is celebrated the following Friday, with Easter Sunday just after it. Good thing your calendar calculates it for you!

Hot cross buns are considered good luck.

These sweet, dense treats traditionally baked on Good Friday to be enjoyed on Easter Sunday are said to be imbued with good luck. Superstitions say that buns baked on this day will never spoil, protect against shipwrecks and even shield your home from fire.

It's a good time to get a haircut.

Grab the scissors! According to superstition, getting a haircut on Good Friday prevents headaches for the rest of the year. It'll also ensure you look your best in your Easter bonnet on Sunday.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Worship

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 9:30 AM

Maundy Thursday Worship

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 5:30 PM

Prayer Vigil

BEGINS THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 6:30 PM

AND ENDS

5:00 PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 5:30 PM

Easter

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 9:30 AM

FLC Council Highlights

December 18, 2023

(Complete printed or electronic copies of the minutes are available from the church office.)

Council members present: Max Knodel, Tana Tweten, Jon Mattfeldt, Beverly Johnson, Marvin Johnson, Tara Wesen, and Judi Martin. Absent: Mandy Rasmusan. Others present: Leanne Fontaine, Colleen Forrester (alternate) and Pastor Scott.

- **Youth and Family report:** Tana Tweten is the chairman, Shelly George is the treasure and Jordan Radakovich is the secretary. Dan Brandt is checking with the youth to determine if anyone signed up for the conference in New Orleans. Doughnuts will be made and sold January 21 and 29, 2024.
- **Safety committee:** The safety committee will consist of Pastor Scott, Sandy Carpenter, Deb MacDonald, Jenny Fuller (Property team), a preschool teacher and Mandy Thompson (Preschool board member).
- **Tech Committee:** It is going ok except the one screen continues to have poor color and quality.
- **Treasurer's report:** Total income for December was \$28,850.78. Total expenses for December were \$29,613.56. December's cash flow was -\$762.78. YTD cash flow is -\$23,841.90.
- **Bills to be paid:** SDI Architects \$390.00.
- Darcie Warrvik resigned her position on the church council. Greg Forrester will serve on the council as

vice president and member of the finance team. This position will be for 2 years.

- **Discipleship:** The noisy offering in December was \$93.15.
- **Finance:** The finance team recommended we renew the \$20,000 CD at Edward Jones for 3 months at 5.15%. January 22 is the finance review meeting. Finance will do the brunch for February.
- **Stewardship:** End of year statements went out. There is \$54,089 in pledges.
- **Worship:** They have purchased devotional booklets for Lent. The Lord's Prayer will be the theme. There will be soup suppers after each Lenten service. Max announced that he has found an organ tuner,
- **Property:** A new rack was installed in the choir room for the robes.
- **Pastor Scott:** Three services during Christmas. 1 funeral, no baptisms and no weddings. CSI. Continued Divine Drama Bible study on Tuesday mornings and Bible study at Prairie Ridge. Went to Valley View only 2 times due to Covid. Lots of meetings including Youth/Ed and stewardship. Hospital visits and home visits with communion. Worked on articles and report. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

January Financial Update
Income \$18,538.33
Expenses \$18,447.46
Cash Flow: +\$90.87

Good Friday TidBits continued

Commercials are banned in New Zealand.

According to the Broadcasting Act, TV and radio ads are prohibited between 6 a.m. and noon on Good Friday in New Zealand, out of respect for the religious day of observance. The same law holds true on Christmas, Easter Sunday and Anzac Day so as not to disrupt celebrations.

The origin of the name "Good Friday" is unknown.

There are numerous theories behind the name Good Friday, but none are backed by solid evidence. Many believe that the "Good" means "Holy," while others are convinced that "Good" is a gradual change from "God." Each country and language has their own unique interpretation and translation.

Dancing is outlawed in Germany.

Dancing is prohibited on this sacred holiday, forcing nightclubs to close or risk being fined £1,000 (or \$1,300). In German, the name for the holiday translates as Sorrowful Friday.

You can watch a play for free in London.

Every year, the open-air play The Passion of Jesus is put on in London's Trafalgar Square for free. If you can't make it across the pond for the occasion, watch via a live stream on Facebook.

Chuck Carpenter always said to plant your potatoes on Good Friday. Do you have any Good Friday sayings?

When someone needed a boat made, what did the people in town say?

Answer: "We Noah guy."

First Lutheran Church

Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of God's world as Ambassadors of Christ.



Most people don't realize it is different than regular offering. All money that comes in during Ash Wednesday and Lenten services goes to a special cause in the community. The office can provide a list of places it has gone to in the past years for reference.

"This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before." —Leonard Bernstein
"Everything that seems empty is full of the angels of God."—Hilary, 4th-century bishop of Poitiers
"Being negative only makes a journey more difficult. You may be given a cactus, but you don't have to sit on it."—Joyce Meyer

Note: Forwarding addresses and returned newsletters cost the church \$0.68 each.
If you have an address change or wish to stop receiving newsletters or receive e-news instead, please contact us at firstlutheran@nemont.net or 406-549-7821 to update your information.
Thank you for helping minimize this expense!

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