



February 2026 Newsletter

"Sharing Christ, Changing Lives"

Could You Use Some Rest?

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

When Jesus speaks those wonderful inviting words to come to Him, we who are "weary and burdened," He sure grabs our attention! In his book "Where in the World is God?" Rev. Harold Senkbeil says that "it's not just the burden of our everyday work," Jesus is referring to, "it's the weariness of living." Sometimes we scramble so fast in this world, just going about the business of day-to-day living, that the whole idea of *rest* seems foreign to us.

What can be done about it? Lots of people believe that the Christian faith is supposed to do the trick. Faith in Jesus will help us find a silver lining for every cloud. The trouble is that life doesn't work that way.

Sheer willpower will not turn our frowns upside down into happy smiles for Jesus. The Christian church is not a big self-help group, where we simply forget our troubles by thinking happy thoughts to chase the blues away. Thankfully, Jesus has something better for us than simply happy thoughts. He gives us Himself.

"Come to Me," He says, "And I will give you rest." It's important to hear Him clearly. Left to ourselves we really don't want rest from Jesus; we want rules. We'd like to know what *we* can do to improve our situation. We want to know what we can to do clean up our act and make ourselves over into better people. But Jesus is not a self-help guru. He is not a moralist. He is a Savior!

It sounds strange to hear Jesus first invite us to rest and then in the next breath to say, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." How can a yoke be easy or a burden light? When it is the yoke and burden of Jesus; that's when! It is the yoke of the cross. On His cross Jesus pulled off the greatest exchange, the sweetest swap in all of history: He takes our sin and gives us His own righteousness. He takes all our sin away with Him into His death. His cross, that sign of death, is the sign of life and healing for us. This is what it means to be a Christian, to be baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus, to bear the mark of the cross in this world. This is our calling. This is our yoke, but it is also our deep and lasting joy. **For every burden there is strength, in every sorrow there is comfort, and in all distress there is peace. It is the strength, comfort, and peace of Jesus Christ.**

This is a big part of why as Lutherans we put so much emphasis on Lent. It's because as we reflect on Jesus' work for us on the cross, we see most clearly the depth of love that He has for us. We understand that His suffering and death were meant to relieve us of weary hearts and burdened souls.

Wherever Jesus is, there is rest for weary hearts and burdened souls. The risen and ascended Lord Jesus is present among us now, offering a Sabbath rest for all the people of God in this world. We have the high honor to come to Jesus where He has promised to be found- in His holy Church, where His Word is preached and His sacraments administered. Here He continues to bring healing for hearts that are weary and strength for souls that are burdened.

So please join us for worship especially during this upcoming season of Lent where we focus on God's love for us that is shown so amazingly in Christ's sacrificial work. Here, together, we will find rest for our souls, because His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dan Welch

Imagine that a friend or family member who is unfamiliar with your Christian faith asks you to summarize the gospel. She isn't looking for a laundry list of doctrines. She has no interest in hearing you recite the Apostles' Creed. She wants to get to the heart of the matter. "In seven words or less," she says, "tell me what you believe as a Christian."

What would you say? How would you put it? Are you prepared to confess your faith in Jesus? To be a Christian is to "believe with your heart" and "confess with your mouth" the good news of God's love for us in Christ (Romans 10:9–10). Peter calls us to be prepared always to give a reason for the hope we have as Christians (1 Peter 3:15). Christians have the best news in the world to share! But are we prepared to share it?

For Lutherans, this comes as no surprise. The Augsburg Confession (1530) stands as a model of Christian faith moving into life and speech. And not only for pastors. The confessors at Augsburg were normal Christians. They didn't wear robes or stoles. They didn't speak from a pulpit. But, with help from their pastors and theologians, they followed Peter's direction to be prepared to give a reason for their hope (1 Peter 3:15). What they said became one of the great Christian confessions of all time.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded on the Bible and the Augsburg Confession. And so as we celebrate the 150th anniversary, we want to share our community, our worship, and most of all our confession. The sixteenth-century Lutheran Christians were prepared. Are you? Are you prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have?

The season of Lent is a time to reflect and repent. It's a time to confess our sins as we prepare for Holy Week. But it's also a time to confess our faith. It's a time to prepare to give a reason for why Holy Week is so important. We will be equipped to confess our faith before a lost and dying world. We will do this by reflecting on the various ways the Scriptures confess the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In order to help prepare us to confess our faith, this series forces us to limit the number of words we use. It invites hearers to formulate a confession of the gospel using only seven words (or less). The hope is that, throughout this season of Lent, we will spend time searching for and finding the right words to summarize our hope in Christ. To guide the process, the sermons examine a number of distinct images and metaphors used by the biblical authors to confess the good news of Jesus.

During this season of Lent, we're preparing to celebrate Holy Week by sharing why it's so important. Our midweek worship services will offer opportunities to consider the many ways the Scriptures proclaim Jesus. During the week, each of us will be working on our own summary, with the hope that all of us are more prepared to share the good news of Jesus. On Sunday, our Bible Study during Lent will serve as a workshop as we work together to formulate faithful Christian confessions. Come prepared to contribute to the conversation! Come and join us this Lent, and join us by crafting your own confession of the gospel!

Speaking Christ,
Pr. Michael Ewert
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
(320)-864-5522 Ext. 1203

Romans 1:16–17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Lent: A Time for Giving Up or Taking Up?

By: Mark Wood



What are you giving up for Lent? Are you sure that's a good idea?

Giving up things for Lent is a long-standing tradition in the Western Church. Doing so is generally understood to help us prepare for observing and celebrating Easter through experiencing some kind of suffering through deprivation. While there is nothing wrong with giving up things for Lent and in some ways it can be a valuable spiritual discipline, for many people the practice has devolved into a work of personal suffering through which they expect to better understand the sufferings of Christ.

How silly of us to think that denying ourselves chocolate for forty days or going without our morning boost of caffeine for a season even begins to approach the least of Jesus' sufferings for us. We've moved far away from the purpose and substance of Lent by the insignificant things we're willing to give up.

While no one is certain about how the practice of giving up things for Lent began or what the motives were of those who first observed Lent in this way, we can certainly see how giving up things for Lent has come to be practiced in our culture.

Far from being a time of solemn reflection and repentance, the beginning of Lent has turned into another excuse for people to engage in excess. Now, without the disciplines of fasting, self-denial, and prayer that followed, people revel in consuming all the things that were once prohibited during Lent — and much, much more. Mardi Gras (and its various regional adaptations) has become a celebrated cultural event that shows more of what the American character has become than our half-hearted observances of Lent.

By giving up things for Lent in the ways that we do, we've made this holy season into one more instance of our self-absorption. Like the New Year's Resolutions that we made just a few weeks ago, our commitment to observing Lent sacrificially is momentary and fleeting. We have a sense of what is good for us and what we must do in order to improve ourselves or our circumstances, but we lack the resolve to see our way through the self-denial that it takes to make the needed change an effective part of our lives. What we give up for Lent is often as petty and insignificant as what we resolve for New Year's — and ends up just as broken and meaningless.

Isn't it time for us to put an end to our empty observances of Lent? Are we ready for a serious go at journeying through Lent in a way that brings us to a deeper understanding and appreciation of Christ's atoning work? If so, perhaps we should stop giving up things for Lent and use this sacred time to take up things instead.

The things that we should aim to take up during Lent are those things that we've let fall by the wayside as we've lived our lives at the breakneck speed of our culture. It might include taking up a daily devotion or taking up the practice of meditative prayer. If we've been away from the gathering of God's people in worship, we could take up participating in the Divine Service on Sundays as well as the mid-week Lenten services.

What a difference Lent could be for us and make in us if we would take up reading God's Word daily, intentionally speaking the Gospel to one person a week, showing the love of Christ to the poor and needy through acts of mercy, or listening to recorded sermons or Bible studies.

Whatever we might take up for Lent, we should remember that, above all, taking up things for Lent in a meaningful way inevitably results in hearing the clear call of Jesus to take up our crosses daily. Taking up our crosses involves looking beyond our self-interests, desires, and pious actions (including giving up things for Lent) and finding joy, peace, security, and purpose — those things that are so glaringly absent in our culture — in the realization of what Jesus gave up and took up for us.

Take up something edifying for Lent and discover joy that giving up earthly things for a few weeks can never approach.

Questions to consider:

What might I take up for Lent that would help me grow in faith and love?

How can either taking up something for Lent or giving up something for Lent open doors for me to share God's Word with people in my life? How might it get in the way of it?

In what ways can I use the season of Lent to be a witness of Christ to people who are caught up in the excesses of our culture?

<u>GREETERS</u>			<u>FELLOWSHIP HOUR</u>		
Sun., Feb. 1	8:00 AM	Savannah Mathews	Sun., Feb. 1	9:00 AM	Altar Guild
	10:30 AM	OPEN OPEN	Sun., Feb. 8	9:00 AM	150 th Anniversary Comm.
Sun., Feb. 8	8:00 AM	Savannah Mathews	Sun., Feb. 15	9:00 AM	Altar Guild
	10:30 AM	Dave & Betty Withus Jada Neid OPEN	Sun., Feb. 22	9:00 AM	Evangelism
			<u>SPECIAL MUSIC</u>		
Sun., Feb. 15	8:00 AM	Savannah Mathews	Sun., Feb. 1	8:00 AM	Senior Choir
	10:30 AM	OPEN OPEN	Sun., Feb. 8	8:00 AM	FLS King's Kids (GR.3&4)
Wed., Feb. 18	2:00 PM	OPEN	Sun., Feb. 15	8:00 AM	Senior Choir
	7:00 PM	Jada Neid	Wed., Feb. 18	2:00 PM	FLS Lambs of the Lord
Sun, Feb. 22	8:00 AM	Priya Wisch	Wed., Feb. 25	2:00 PM	Senior Choir
	10:30 AM	Dave & Betty Withus OPEN OPEN			FLS King's Kids (GR.3&4)
Wed., Feb. 25	2:00 PM	Jada Neid			
	10:30 PM	OPEN			



DEACONS			
Sun., Feb. 1	8:00 AM Mike Cisewski David Hoefs • Wayne Ahlbrecht • Lee Terlinden	Sun., Feb. 1	8:00 AM Glenn Cohrs 10:30 AM Steven Schauer
	10:30 AM Mark Schmidt Dennis Wolter	Sun., Feb. 8	8:00 AM Kevin Cohrs 10:30 AM Grady Schuft
Sun., Feb. 8	8:00 AM Will Freberg Lee Terlinden 10:30 AM Dan Nikolaisen Dennis Wolter • Allen & Brenda Birkholz	Sun., Feb. 15	8:00 AM Andrew Mackenthun 10:30 AM Lynn Exsted
		Wed., Feb. 18	2:00 PM OPEN 7:00 PM OPEN
Sun., Feb. 15	8:00 AM Dennis Wolter David Polzin • Wayne Ahlbrecht • Lee Terlinden 10:30 AM Will Freberg Justin Petterson	Sun., Feb. 22	8:00 AM Lynn Exsted 10:30 AM Tyler Schauer
Wed., Feb. 18	2:00 PM Dean Scheele Mark Schmidt 7:00 PM Dan Nikolaisen Lars Ide	Wed., Feb. 25	2:00 PM OPEN 7:00 PM OPEN
Sun., Feb. 22	8:00 AM Dennis Wolter David Hoefs 10:30 AM Justin Petterson Dean Dahlke • Allen & Brenda Birkholz	CAMERA Sun., Feb. 1	8:00 AM Andrew Mackenthun
Wed. Feb. 25	2:00 PM Dean Scheele Brian Grochow 7:00 PM Jon Lemke Doug Dahlke	Sun., Feb. 8	10:30 AM Robert Schuft
		Sun., Feb. 15	8:00 AM Pam Ahlbrecht
		Wed., Feb. 18	NONE
		Sun., Feb. 22	8:00 AM Linda Ranzau
		Wed., Feb. 25	NONE
ACOLYTES		SCREENS	
Sun., Feb. 1	8:00 AM Blake Mathews Bryce Mathews 10:30 AM Claire Geib Cayle Weidendorf	Sun., Feb. 1	8:00 AM Chloe Donnay 10:30 AM Tyler Schauer
Sun., Feb. 8	8:00 AM Bryce Mathews Savannah Mathews 10:30 AM Claire Geib Cayle Weidendorf	Sun., Feb. 8	8:00 AM Piper Polzin (Priya Wisch) 10:30 AM OPEN
Sun., Feb. 15	8:00 AM Blake Mathews Savannah Mathews 10:30 AM Mason Ortloff, Drew Schmidt	Sun., Feb. 15	8:00 AM Brittney Wolff 10:30 AM Jeri Bennett
Wed., Feb. 18	2:00 PM Deacons 7:00 PM Natallie Schafer Nora Cohrs	Wed., Feb. 18	2 & 7 PM Amy Welch
Sun., Feb. 22	8:00 AM Mason Ortloff Levi Weidendorff 10:30 AM Macie Stradtmann Nora Cohrs	Sun., Feb. 22	8:00 AM Gemma Goff 10:30 AM OPEN
Wed. Feb. 25	2:00 PM Deacons 7:00 PM Ruby Graf, Nora Cohrs	Wed., Feb. 25	2 & 7 PM Amy Welch
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (SUNDAY SCHOOL) ASSISTANT			
		Sun., Feb. 1	9:15 AM Amy & Griffin Bargmann
		Sun., Feb. 8	9:15 AM OPEN
		Sun., Feb. 15	9:15 AM OPEN
		Sun., Feb. 22	9:15 AM OPEN
FACEBOOK LIVE STREAMING			
		Sun., Feb. 1	either OPEN
		Sun., Feb. 8	either OPEN
		Sun., Feb. 15	either OPEN
		Wed., Feb. 18	either OPEN
		Sun., Feb. 22	either OPEN
		Wed., Feb. 25	either OPEN

~ Board Summaries ~

Church Council

The Church Council reviewed, discussed, and affirmed the available December 2025 (and some November 2025) and January 2026 minutes from each of the individual Boards at the January 15th meeting. Learned about a grant opportunity for the school (passed in July 2025 called the "Federal Scholarship Tax Credit" or FSTC and the "Educational Choice for Children Act" or ECCA). Governor approval is required and expected as the funds go to other states if MN does not participate. Initial organizing meeting has occurred with tentative formation of the Sibley/McLeod/Carver Scholarship Granting Organization group. The proposed service area to center on 3 core congregations: Immanuel-Gaylord, Emanuel- Hamburg, and First Lutheran. Secondary congregations include the other LCMS churches in these three counties. The grant requires planning now; but funds available in 2027. The Church Council voted to indicate positive interest in this opportunity. The Council approved the addition of Jon Lemke to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee. Cindy Eggersgluess's leading the planning/coordination for the upcoming Pancake meal event was endorsed with appreciation for her service and organizing skills. 150th Anniversary plans were heard from the pastors and various Boards with support for the ideas presented. Recommendation from the Articles of Incorporation/By-Laws Committee for reporting status of the church secretary and business manager was discussed and returned to the Committee for further consideration.

Christian Education Board

Members voted on new officers for 2026. We discussed and decided on fellowship days to serve for 2026. It was determined that Christian Education Board meetings will be held the 2nd Mondays of the month at 6:00 p.m. in Room 111. Additionally, members discussed and agreed that each Christian Education board member would sign-up to help with Sunday School for one month each.

Day School

Board of Deacons

Officers for the board were selected at the reorganizational meeting in January. Lighting of the steeple windows was also discussed. The board approved Kunkel Electric to install low voltage strip lighting on the pillars in front of each window. There will be no cost to the church for this work.

Board of Evangelism

The board members present discussed the following events to be confirmed at the regular February Board meeting. The story of the Candy Cane was again well received for Advent and Christmas services over 330 were used this year. We were given the go ahead to contact Pastor Tom Evans about leading a grief seminar as part of one of the 150th anniversary events. We are planning an indoor Easter egg hunt for Saturday, April 4th. Small palms will be available for both Palm Sunday processions, and palm cross pins made by the Board of Evangelism will be distributed at both services.

Board of Stewardship

Board of Trustees | January 6th

Officers for the board were selected at the reorganizational meeting in January. Lighting of the steeple windows was also discussed. The board approved Kunkel Electric to install low voltage strip lighting on the pillars in front of each window. There will be no cost to the church for this work.

~ Homegrown! It's a Good Thing! ~

The Farm to School Dept of Ag grant monies are used to purchase locally grown and raised foods (beef, pork, poultry, eggs, vegetables, fruits) for our school lunch program.

Our January Homegrown meals were held on Jan. 28 & Jan. 29 during Lutheran School Week. The students had requested these two Homegrown meals as some of their favorites.

The first meal was Italian Dunkers made with local ground Beef purchased at the Brownton Meat Market and buns from the Pan-o-Gold Bakery in St. Cloud, and chocolate chip Ice Cream from Kemps.

The second was Grilled Cheese Sandwiches made with Bongards cheese and yogurt topped with Berries from Steven Schauer's garden. We're already also looking forward to our February Charcuterie meal.

As always, students sing the Homegrown song....

Homegrown's all right with me
Homegrown is the way it should be
Homegrown is a good thing
Plant that bell and let it ring

If you have produce or recipes to share, please reach out to First Lutheran School Secretary Michelle Alsleben at 864-3317 or Program Assistant Becky Ostlie, or Program Coordinator Cindy Eggersgluess at 612-840-6308 or eggersgluesscindy@gmail.com.

Remember, eat healthy and local -- it's a "Good Thing!"





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Choice \$. This past month, we received \$132 for FLC and \$227 for FLS. We also received a charitable Giving Grant of \$650! Visit (www.Thrivent.com/choice) or phone 1-800-847-4836 and say "Choice Dollars." Have your Thrivent ID# handy. You can phone Mon – Friday from 7 am to 6 pm. If you would like assistance, please contact Cindy or the church office. **Please take action to designate your 2025 Choice \$ before March 31, or they will be lost.**

✓ **Thrivent Action Teams** – A Thrivent Action Team is a simple, flexible way for you to bring people together to make a positive difference....you might hold a fundraiser, conduct a service activity, or hold an educational event. Each year, every Thrivent member has (2) Action Teams to use!

Visit Thrivent.com/actionteam to complete an online application (minimum 3 weeks before your event). If you are unable to make your request via computer, you can phone Thrivent and make your request via Customer Service – call 1-800-847-4836. When your project is approved, Thrivent will provide resources (Action Team Kit) to help plan the event, promotional items (including Thrivent T-shirts to increase your visibility), and seed money to cover promotional and material expenses (\$250 Community Impact Card). **New style shirts for 2026 are now shipping!**

EVERY Thrivent member is eligible to lead two Action Teams per calendar year. **IF YOU'RE WILLING TO SHARE YOUR ACTION TEAMS, PLEASE LET CINDY OR THE OFFICE KNOW!** All Thrivent members again have 2 Action Teams! Involve others – it's all about your friends, family and community coming together to make a positive impact! **We continue to seek more Thrivent members for projects associated with upcoming 150th Anniversary events.** (To date - Thank you to Neil Eggersgluess, Sue Engelmann, Les Engelmann, Gladys Mathwig, Verna Kunkel, and Janel Fischer.)

✓ **Thrivent Member Network - Twin Cities Region** works hard to create fun and educational content that you can engage in from the comfort of your own home. There are also some great on-demand webinars (variety of topics) that you can view anytime. **Guests are welcome!** Please feel free to share these events with your friends, family, and community.

Feb 28 – Pickle Ball with a Purpose – Mall of America

April 12 – Goldy's Run 2026 – Huntington Bank Stadium

See all the info and resources at:

<https://www.thriventfinancial.com/member-network/twin-cities/>

Cindy Eggersgluess – 612-840-6308 / eggersgluesscindy@gmail.com
– Your Congregational Volunteer

~ Mat Makers ~

From plastic bags to sleeping mats!



MAT – MAKERS Feb. 10 and 24

Crafting plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats for God's dear ones who need a place to sleep.

Mat-Makers meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month for the purpose of crafting grocery-type bags into warm, cushion-y sleeping mats for unsheltered people.

At this time, our mats are distributed by the LCMS Minnesota South District mission "New Freedom Store." (It is NOT a second-hand store. It is a mission based out of Jehovah Lutheran Church, St. Paul who distributes sleeping bags, tents, warm blankets, water, firewood, etc. to those who are unsheltered.)

They partner with LERT – Lutheran Emergency Response Team and other agencies. The mission director, Dr. James Seemann, assures us that the many warm mats we supply to this mission indeed save lives.

An unhoused person snuggled up with a mat and blanket or two, inside a heavy-duty sleeping bag and inside a small tent with a floor can withstand cold temperatures.

It takes over 700 bags to make one mat. People ask "Where do you go for all those bags?" We don't GO anywhere! Thanks to caring members and friends of the congregation, those bags come to us. We are very grateful for the continuing supply of clean, used bags provided.

At this time, we are in need of MORE bags. Place them in the wooden receptacle in the main south entry of church. ALL men and women of the congregation are welcomed to drop in any time just to see how mat-making is done.

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPLY PLASTIC BAGS FOR MAT- MAKING.

~ Stories of Faith ~



The Public Relations (PR) Team **invites members to share their stories** related to situations or events in which they experience God's love and providential care.

Cindy Eggersgluess 612-840-6308 eggersgluesscindy@gmail.com

**Satan is not opposed to good morals.
He's opposed to Jesus Christ.**

Read that again because most Christians miss this completely.

Satan doesn't care if you're a "good person." He doesn't care if you volunteer at the food bank, recycle your trash, and help old ladies cross the street. He doesn't care if you're kind, generous, and well-liked by everyone in your community. He cares that you don't bow the knee to Jesus.

Here's the deception that's damning millions: Satan has convinced people that morality equals spirituality. That being a "good person" is the same as being a Christian. That if you just live right, treat people well, and avoid the "big sins," you're acceptable to God.

This is a lie straight from the pit of hell. The Pharisees had impeccable morals. They followed the law meticulously. They were respected, disciplined, and religiously devoted. Jesus called them children of the devil. Why? Not because their morals were bad. Because their morals replaced Christ.

Satan's greatest trick isn't making bad people worse. It's making good people think they don't need a Savior. Think about it:

The atheist who feeds the homeless thinks he's good enough without God.

The Buddhist who meditates and practices compassion thinks she's enlightened without Christ.

The Muslim who prays five times daily thinks he's righteous without Jesus.

The moral Christian who goes to church, pays his tithe, and avoids scandal thinks he's saved without surrender.

All of them are headed to the same place: eternal separation from God.

Because morality doesn't save. Jesus saves.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

Satan loves moral people who reject Jesus. They're his best advertisement for the lie that you can earn your way to heaven.

They're living proof that you can:

- Be kind without Christ
 - Be generous without God
 - Be disciplined without the Holy Spirit
 - Be respected without redemption
- And still be lost.

If he can get you to:

- Trust your morals instead of Christ's sacrifice
- Rely on your goodness instead of God's grace
- Believe in your works instead of Jesus' finished work ...

He's won.

You can live a moral life and still die lost. You can be a good person and still face judgment. You can avoid all the "big sins" and still end up separated from God forever.

Because the only sin that damns you eternally is rejecting Jesus Christ.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36

Not the murderer who repents and believes in Christ is damned. Not the thief who turns to Jesus on the cross is damned. Not the prostitute who washes Jesus' feet with her tears is damned. The moral, religious person who rejects Christ is damned. That's why Satan loves morality without Jesus. It sends people to hell with a smile on their face, convinced they were good enough.

-Submitted (from Facebook post)

The most dangerous people in hell won't be the murderers and rapists. They'll be the moral, upstanding citizens who thought their goodness was good enough.

Their morals became their idol. Their goodness became their god. And Satan smiled because he'd accomplished his goal: Keep them from Jesus.

Here's what most Christians don't understand: Satan doesn't need to make you do bad things. He just needs to keep you from doing the ONE thing that matters: surrendering to Christ.

Stop trusting your morals. Start trusting Jesus.

Your goodness won't save you. Your works won't redeem you. Your morality won't justify you.

Only the blood of Jesus Christ can wash away your sin and make you acceptable to a holy God.

Everything else is just Satan's distraction from the one thing that actually matters.

~ Lutheran Women in Mission ~

AT TABLE WITH JESUS Burning Hearts and Opened Eyes February 2, 1:30 p.m.



It had looked like all was lost. The One (Jesus) who had shown such promise, of whom they had hoped would redeem Israel, now lay dead for some three days. Some women from their group had reported Jesus to have risen, but as these disheartened disciples make their way to Emmaus, their hopes seem far from alive. Yet in the next hours, as they make their way home to an evening meal, they will be joined by a "Stranger" who will kindle their hearts again with the promise of God's Word and will open their eyes in a meal symbolic of the Church they will share in founding.

Lutheran Women in Mission will meet Monday Feb. 2 at 1:30 p.m. to continue the Bible Study At Table with Jesus. This lesson "Burning Hearts and Opened Eyes" focuses on two disciples walking the 7 mile walk away from Jerusalem to the town of Emmaus. Little did they know it was the real, risen, living Jesus who walked along with them!

Guests are always welcomed to join these Bible Studies and enjoy the fellowship of sisters in Christ. It is a series studying some of the meals Jesus shared with His believers – and a few non-believers, too. Each lesson stands on its own. You will be able to jump right in without studying the previous meals.

Deaconess Polzin will lead a devotion. There will be only a short business meeting.

Happy February Birthday
to Lutheran Women in Mission
honorary members Ida Rutske and Lorraine Krumm.

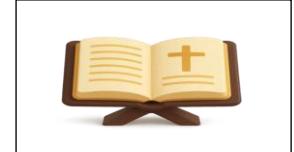
A \$5 gift to LWML Mission Grants "Mites"
has been in your honor.



SOME BIBLE VERSES ABOUT GOD'S PROTECTION

When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.
Proverbs 3:24

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 1 Peter 3:13



Let the beloved of the Lord rest secure in Him, for He shields him all day long, and the one the Lord loves rests between His shoulders." Deuteronomy 33:12

He will have no fear of news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. Psalm 112:7

If you make the Most High your dwelling – even the Lord, who is my refuge – then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. Psalm 91:9-10

But now, this is what the Lord says – He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." Isaiah 43:1-2

~ Miscellaneous, page 1 ~

Upcoming Silent Auction Dates

Fri., Feb. 20 – all auction items due
Sat., Feb. 28 – on-line auction begins
Sun., March 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Bump's catered meal
Sat., March 7 – on-line auction ends
Sun., March 8, 9 a.m. to noon – item pick-up



1ST LUTHERAN YOUTUBE PAGE

**Here is the link
to the YouTube
Page**



It can also be found if you search '1st Glencoe'. Videos should show up if you search First Lutheran Glencoe, but the channel itself will not, so, it should work better to use '1st Glencoe.' The QR Code is above. Please note, we now have this option because FaceBook will only keep videos on-line for a very limited time.



At 12:00 on January 1, 2026, fireworks marked the start of our 150th Anniversary year!

At that same moment, the Bible readings began.

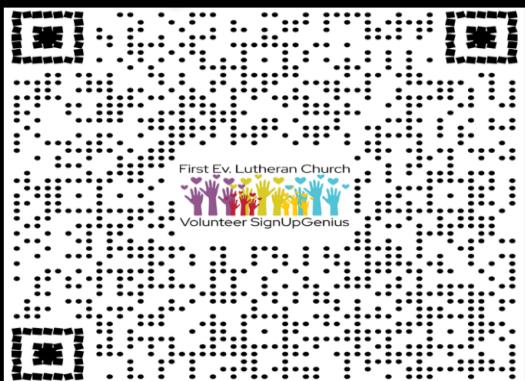
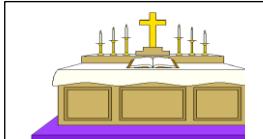
MARY MARTHA ALTAR GUILD

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer at church? The Altar Guild can use your Time, Talent, and Treasures! We encourage and welcome members of the congregation to join the Altar Guild at any time. If you see us working after the worship services, we invite you to join us and see what we are up to.

Our motto of service has remained the same for 70+ years: "Let all things be done decently and in order." 1 Corinthians 14:40 We prepare the altar, set up for Communion and Baptisms for our church services, and occasionally decorate the church for holidays.

We will provide training; no special talents required ~ just a willingness to share your Time, Talent, and Treasures. You work one month out of the year with 2 other members. We meet as a group four times between Sept. and May (Sept., Nov. or Dec., Jan., and May).

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Charleen Engelmann, or leave a message with the church office.



WE NEED YOU!

THIS CHURCH CANNOT FUNCTION
WITHOUT THE HELP OF MANY
VOLUNTEERS- PLEASE USE THIS
SIGN UP TO BECOME AN ACTIVE,
CONTRIBUTING, MEMBER OF OUR
CHURCH FAMILY!

ACOLYTES **SCREENS**
GREETERS **AV/SOUND** **FELLOWSHIP**
USHERS **HOSTS**

~ 150th Anniversary ~

Handcrafted Crosses

CRAFTED BY OUR MEMBERS
DISTRIBUTED AT OUR 150th
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON
JULY 12TH

Handcrafted crosses utilizing any medium (wood, crochet, tatting, beads, etc...) will be collected January-June so we can gift every attendee of our Anniversary Celebration Service with one. Please contact Cindy Eggersgluess with questions or to let her know your intention to participate!



Get ready... to be a congregation in prayer!



Check out the
Church
Newsletter or
150th Monthly
Calendar For
more
information!



1:50pm
Weekdays
in 2026

JULY

Important: **Mark your calendars NOW!**

'26

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

First Ev.
Lutheran
Church 150th
Anniversary
Service and
Celebration

~ 150th Anniversary, continued ~

CROCHET FOR A CAUSE

FEB. 2ND | 9-10 AM



Please consider joining us on the first Monday of the month (with a few exceptions for holidays) as we work together toward the goal of crocheting (or knitting) 150 hats for newborn babies! If possible, please bring your own hook and yarn, but Megan will bring extras just in case. We are happy to teach you or to welcome in long time crocheters. Please see Deaconess Megan Polzin with any questions.

~ Lenten Announcements ~

Taco Bar with Desserts & Drinks

Feb. 18



Feb. 25



Pulled Pork, Slaw, Baked Beans, Desserts, & Drinks

Lenten Meals

If you are at all interested in hosting a lenten Meal for the 2026 Lenten season, please contact the church office to schedule your date.



Dates

Feb 18: Mission Trip
Feb 25: Youth
Mar 4: FLS
Mar 11: ?
Mar 18: ?
Mar 25: ?

WE WANT YOU!

potato pancake & sausage dinner

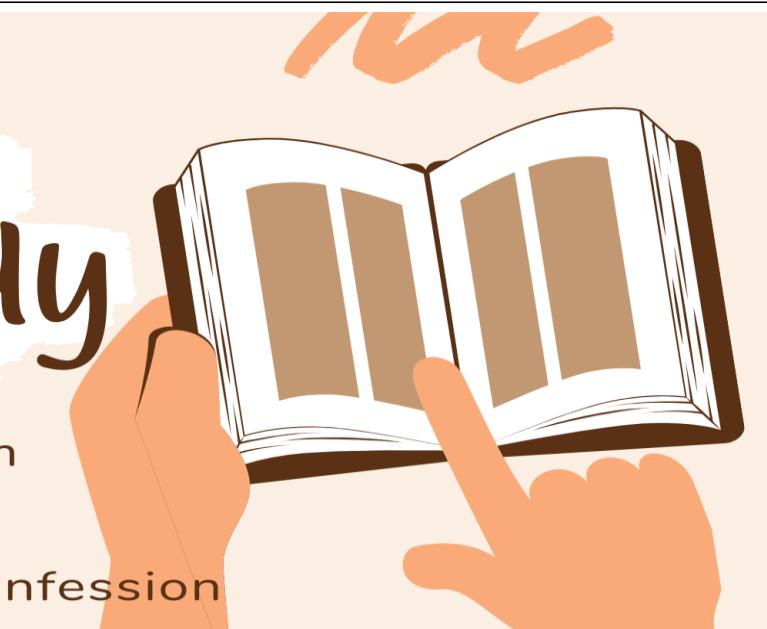
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

PLEASE CONTACT CINDY EGGERSGLUESS AT 612-840-6308 OR DEACONESS MEGAN POLZIN AT 320-854-1204 TO SIGN UP FOR A VOLUNTEER SLOT.

IT TAKES 100+ VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE THIS MARVELOUS EVENT HAPPEN--THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION OF TIME AND TALENT!

Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays at 9am or 7pm
Happening NOW!
Ends: May 12th
Topic: The Augsburg Confession



**YOU'RE INVITED TO
JOIN THE LUTHERAN
WOMEN IN MISSION
FOLLOWING 2 PM
ADVENT SERVICES FOR
DESSERTS!**

**THERE WILL BE AN OFFERING BOX
AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO DONATE
TO LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION GRANTS.**

A Message of Hope on The Lutheran Hour

Hear the Good News of the Gospel on the Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 7:00 am on KGLB 1310 AM and KGLB 96.1 FM Radio. During the month of February, you will hear the following sermon topics:

Feb. 1 "Rotten Tomatoes" with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Boasting gone wrong – it's the rotten fruit of rightful praise. It happens when we forget that everything we have is a gift, even the things we think we've earned and deserved. 1 Corinthians 1: 30-31

Feb. 8 "Type C" with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. In the Bible, the Holy Spirit meets us, gives us the mind of Christ, and leads us back into the world as children of God. 1 Corinthians 2:12

Feb. 15 "Up and Down the Mountain" with Guest Speaker: Rev. Michael Schutz. Many voices compete for our attention, but above all, listen to the voice of Jesus and hear what He's done for you. Mt. 17:1-9

Feb. 22 "As Through Fire" with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. To be baptized into Christ, to trust in Him, is to die with Him, to be raised by Him, to pass through the fire under His shelter. 1 Corinthians 3:13

2026 Sponsor Campaign Report

Our 2026 Sponsor Campaign continues. As of 1/20/26 we have received \$3,930.00 or 77.1 % towards our goal of raising \$5,096.00 for the 52 broadcasts in 2026. You are Invited to become a 2026 KGLB Lutheran Hour Broadcast Supporter. Any gift amount helps. Sponsor one broadcast (\$98.00) or broadcasts by sending your gift (payable to KGLB Lutheran Hour Broadcast) to: KGLB Lutheran Hour Broadcast Supporters, % First Lutheran Church, 925 13th Street East, Glencoe, MN 55336. Questions? Please contact Rich at 320-779-0123 or e-mail at richstreufert@embarqmail.com.. Thank you for your support!

Our Mission

Help us spread the Gospel message in the KGLB Radio listening area. The KGLB Radio Lutheran Hour broadcast is a congregational outreach ministry supporting congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the KGLB listening area by inviting listeners (at the end of each broadcast) to attend a "Church of the Lutheran Hour" in their area. It is independently funded by generous Christians, church groups and congregations who want to spread the pure and powerful message of the Savior's love in their communities.



Hear the Spanish language Lutheran Hour program at: <https://www.paraelcamino.com/>.
Weekly biblical message of faith and hope to accompany you on life's journey.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6 ESV



February Youth Calendar

2/18 Pulled Pork Lenten Meal

Pulled Pork on a bun with coleslaw, baked beans, and desserts will be served from 5:30-6:45pm!



2/25 Taco Bar Lenten Meal

Beef or Chicken Tacos (soft shell, plate, or salad) with all the fixings, desserts, and drinks will be served from 5:30-6:45pm!



Lenten Meal Signup Here



Activities:

1st: IMPACT (6:30pm @ the Lighthouse)

8th: NO Blaze

15th: Ladies Bible Study

16th: Gertens Sale Opens Online
(Store ID: 1019)

18th: Lenten Meal & Service
(Ash Wednesday, 7pm)

25th: Lenten Meal & Service
(7pm)

CONFIRMATION DATES TO KNOW

8/15

APRIL
PHOTO ORDERS
DISTRIBUTED AT
CONFIRMATION
CLASS

22

APRIL
LAST DAY OF PUBLIC
SCHOOL
CONFIRMATION
7PM QUESTIONING
PICTURES AFTER

CONFIRMATION IS NOT GRADUATION...WE LOOK
FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ACTIVE IN CHURCH!

SPRING 2026

26

APRIL
10:30 DIVINE
SERVICE-RITE OF
CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION Dates to Know

February 25: Gown Measurements

April 15: Photo Orders Distributed

April 22: Public Review/Questioning (7pm),
Photos (~7:40pm), Fees due

April 26: Rite of Confirmation (10:30am)



Happy 150th Anniversary! 2026 – a year to reflect on our history and heritage, celebrate God's abundant blessings, and recommit ourselves to our mission of sharing Christ and changing lives. Our theme for this special year is **Hebrews 10:22-24**, with the tagline **Worship • Community • Confession**.

Activities and Events to commemorate our anniversary are already underway.....we began at 12:01 AM on Jan 1st with our Continuous Bible Reading, the Church Bell welcomed in the year on Jan 4th with 150 rings, many are praying daily at 1:50, and volunteers are crafting away making newborn hats and crosses. Here are a few upcoming reminders:

- **Continuous Bible Reading:** On **Friday, February 20th from 6 AM till MIDNIGHT**, we will once again read God's Word Aloud, beginning with Genesis and continuing through the Old Testament. (On Jan 1st, we read the entire New Testament and Psalms in 24 hours and 10 minutes). Please register to read via Signup Genius or contact Cindy at 612-840-6308. We'll see how far we read this time and then plan for another future reading until we've read the entire Bible!
- **Shine the Light: The Church Steeple windows will soon once again be illuminated at night! Watch for it!**
- **Monthly "150th" Calendars:** Have you **picked up** your February calendar page? Make sure to get one each and every month. Each month features a historical photo, highlighted service activities, daily prayers, significant historical moments, and other events.
- **Congregation in Prayer:** Each weekday at **1:50 p.m.** (in honor of our 150th year), we invite you to pause wherever you are and join fellow members and friends in prayer. Short prayers are shared on the monthly calendar handout.
- **150+ Service & Fellowship Activities:** We've compiled more than 150 opportunities for the year ahead! Many have already started crocheting/knitting hats for newborns and hand-crafting little crosses. **Drop off your crosses on the last Friday of each month.** Join in anytime!
- **Abundant Blessings Drive** – Each month, we'll hold a drive for a variety of organizations, Throughout **February**, we'll accept gently used clothing, shoes, and blankets that will be distributed via **Orphan Grain Train**. Looking ahead to March, we'll gather new Diapers (all sizes) for Common Cup Ministries Diaper drive.
- **Heritage Sundays:** On the **second Sunday of each month**, we will hold a Divine Service featuring various elements of our Lutheran heritage: historic liturgies, hymns, and treasured traditions from our past. Vintage collection plates will be used, vintage floral arrangement baskets (you may sponsor one in honor or in memory of someone), and attendees are encouraged to dress in old-fashioned attire (hats are available to borrow for this service). **February 9th will be our second Heritage Sunday!** Join at fellowship time and enjoy refreshments from the 150th Committee.
- **Service of the Daily Office** – Services will be led by Pastor Ewert on the third Thursday of each month. Join us on **February 19th at 6 PM** for this short traditional service.
- **Special Anniversary T-Shirts** are available for purchase (\$15). We invite all to wear this shirt around the community! **Please pick yours up soon! If you're working the Pancake Dinner, please wear this T-Shirt.**
- **Church Pictorial Directory and Historical Recap (1876–2026)** will feature both member photos and a rich collection of historical information. We held (12) photo dates with more than (350) sittings. The book is planned for publication by early summer.
- Look for a special historical display to be unveiled during the **Pancake & Sausage Meal on Sunday, March 22**. This display will then move into the City Center (west end) through June. **We invite** boards/committees/groups to set-up a **display to showcase** your group for one month. Ask about available dates.
- Stay tuned to **Glencoe Talk (KGLB 1310 AM)** on **March 13th** as we inform the community of our many happenings!
- FLS students will paint **Kindness Rocks** to place around the Glencoe Community in springtime.
- Planning has begun for a **First Lutheran Cemetery Tour (The Silent Stories Tour) on May 17**.
- Mark your calendars for our **Anniversary Service on Sunday, July 12, 2026**, a day for your whole family to attend and celebrate together.
- Mark your calendars for **August 11** to attend a Community Trip to watch the **MN Twins** take on Baltimore Orioles.
- Mark your calendars for a **Red Cross Blood Drive on October 9**.

These are only **some** of the events planned as we honor 150 years of God's faithfulness. Please stay tuned, (watch the monthly historical calendar) pray for our preparations, and consider how you might participate. Ideas and questions may be directed to the 150th Anniversary Committee Co-Chairs, **Cindy Eggersgluess and Dennis Wolter**.

Can you help? There is a display case in the Glencoe Community Center (west end) that will showcase First Ev. Lutheran Church & School during the 2nd Quarter of 2026. We need assistance in planning and setting up this wonderful way to feature FL and our 150 years of history in the Glencoe community!

Can you help? Volunteers are needed to organize a Community Pet Parade.

Do you remember? When did in-person registration for communion end? What do you remember about this?

Do you know? Where did the Altar from the 1904 Church go when it was replaced with the 1961 addition?

Memories? Do you have specific memories/stories of FL that you're willing to share?

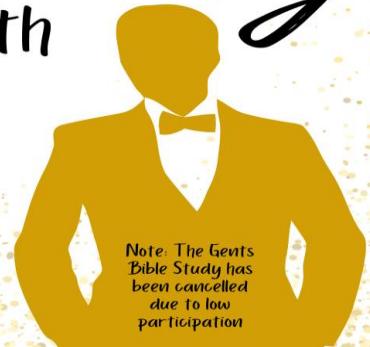
Did you know? Ruby Streich, born on Sept 29, 1924, is our oldest congregational member. She resides in her own apartment at Grand Meadows Senior Living.

Ladies Bible Study

Sunday, February 16th

6:30 – 7:30 pm

Meet in the
Church Fellowship Center
Grades 5-8 & 9-12



Bring a Bible if you have one, and a friend if you wish!

Note: The Gents
Bible Study has
been cancelled
due to low
participation



Miscellaneous Announcements, page

SNOW PLOWING

Reminder: Church members need to be aware that parking lots will be plowed AFTER the snow has stopped falling. PLEASE be careful if you come to church during a snowstorm.



2025 Offering Statements

Now available
for pick up!

Digital requests to Jaylene





DID YOU KNOW?

In 2025 the Youth of First Lutheran raised over \$1,600.00 utilizing the Raise Right gift card rebate program. Imagine how much we could earn if you were willing to purchase just one item (such as gas or groceries or pizza) using gift cards! See Megan for details!



\$1,606.42
1/1/25-12/31/25



Sales Opening SOON!

To access the site and place an order:

1. Go to www.gertensfundraising.com
2. Enter the **Store ID code 1019** to continue.
3. Upon checkout, select the name of your seller (if applicable).

The site will open Feb 16 and close at 10 PM on April 6.

We cannot accept any late orders past the deadline.

*PLEASE NOTE: Quantities are limited on fundraiser items. If an item sells out, it will be marked sold out on the website and customers will not be able to continue to order that item. Please get your orders in early to avoid limited item availability.

Flower Pickup is set for Monday, May 11th from 3 - 6 pm in the church parking lot.



IGNITE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH

3-4:45PM

AGE 5 - 4TH GRADE



DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER!

CRAFTING for a Cause



*CROCHET
for a Cause*

who: ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CREATIVE, SERVICE-ORIENTED, CELEBRATORY ACTIVITY!

what: HATS FOR NEWBORN BABIES! ANYONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO KNIT OR CROCHET (OR IS WILLING TO LEARN) IS INVITED TO JOIN US AS WE CRAFT ADORABLE HATS FOR NEWBORN BABES OF ALL SIZES. THESE ITEMS WILL BE DELIVERED TO LOCAL AND METROPOLITAN HOSPITALS TO BE DISTRIBUTED WITH A SMALL NOTE STATING THEY ARE DONATED IN HONOR AND CELEBRATION OF OUR CONGREGATION'S 150 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE.

when: THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH (WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS) FROM 9-10 AM.

where: DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WE WILL MEET IN THE SOUTH ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH RECEPTION AREA (THE BLUE COUCHES). IF WE GET A GREAT NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS, WE CAN MOVE TO THE FELLOWSHIP CENTER.



why: BECAUSE CHRISTIANS VALUE LIFE AS A GOD-GIVEN GIFT TO BE CELEBRATED AND REJOICED! AND BECAUSE GOD GIVES US ALL VARIOUS TALENTS AND ABILITIES THAT CAN BE UTILIZED TO SHARE HIS LOVE WITH PEOPLE IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

how: PATTERNS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BOTH CROCHET AND KNITTING. WE DO ASK THAT YOU BRING YOUR OWN SKEIN OF YARN AND HOOK TO START (WE MAY HAVE A FEW EXTRA HOOKS IF YOU'RE JUST WANTING TO TRY IT OUT). WE WILL NOT BE PICKY IF ONE LOOKS DIFFERENT FROM ANOTHER, SINCE EVERY BABY WILL BE UNIQUE, SO WILL THE HATS!



who: ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CREATIVE, SERVICE-ORIENTED, CELEBRATORY ACTIVITY! ALL ARTISANS ARE ASKED TO CONTACT CINDY EGGERSGLUESS AT (612) 840-6308 SO SHE CAN KEEP TRACK OF ALL THE ARTISANS AND THE MEDIUMS THEY ARE USING.

what: ARTISANS, UTILIZING VARIOUS MODES OF ART, WILL CREATE CROSSES TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE JULY 12TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SERVICE. CROSSES CAN BE CROCHET, TATTED, KNITTED, WOVEN, CARVED FROM WOOD, OR USE ANY OTHER ARTISTIC MEDIUM.

when: CROSSES WILL BE CREATED INDIVIDUALLY AT YOUR CONVENIENCE, THEN WE WILL HAVE A "CROSS COLLECTION" ON THE LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, JANUARY - JUNE. THIS WILL ALLOW US TIME TO KEEP UP ON QUANTITY SO WE ENSURE WE HAVE ENOUGH TO DISTRIBUTE AT OUR JULY CELEBRATION.

where: CROSSES WILL BE CRAFTED AT HOME AND THEN COLLECTED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

why: WE WOULD LIKE TO DISTRIBUTE THE CROSSES, ALONG WITH A SMALL TAG REJOICING IN AND CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF GOD'S GOODNESS AND GRACE.

how: WE ARE ASKING THAT WHATEVER MEDIUM THE ARTISANS USE, THE CROSS DEMENSIONS ARE APPROX. 4" TOP TO BOTTOM AND 2.5" SIDE TO SIDE.



HAND CRAFTED

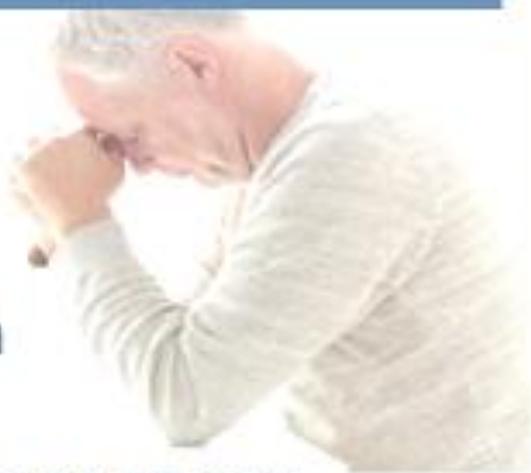
Crosses



Grief Support Group

*Helping you
find hope and
faith in your loss*

**4:30 - 6:00pm
every Monday**



St. John's Lutheran Church
101 SE 2nd Avenue
Norwood Young America, MN 55397

Provided cost free. Refreshments served.

For more information, please contact...

St. John's Church Office
952-467-2740



congregation in Prayer



- who:** ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS VALUABLE HABIT AS A CELEBRATORY ACTIVITY!
- what:** EACH WEEK DAY WE ARE ENCOURAGING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO JOIN TOGETHER AT 1:50 PM FOR A MOMENT OF PRAYER. ALTHOUGH WE ARE ALL FREE TO CONVERSE WITH GOD OVER ANY MATTER, A CALENDAR/LIST WILL BE PROVIDED MONTHLY SO EVERYONE CAN FEEL COMFORTABLE KNOWING WHAT TO PRAY FOR IF THEY DON'T HAVE SOMETHING PERSONAL.
- when:** AT 1:50 PM EACH WEEK DAY (IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE THIS PRACTICE ON THE WEEKENDS YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY FREE TO DO SO, BUT WE WILL FOCUS ON THE WEEKDAYS TOGETHER AS A CONGREGATION).
- where:** THIS IS THE BEST PART ABOUT PRAYER--WE CAN DO IT WHEREVER WE ARE. WE CAN PRAY AUDIBLY OR QUIETLY IN OUR HEARTS. SO WHEREVER YOU FIND YOURSELF IS PERFECT!
- why:** BECAUSE GOD LOVES US SO DEEPLY AND WANTS US, EVEN COMMANDS US, TO PRAY. IN OUR BUSY LIVES WE FREQUENTLY DON'T TAKE THE TIME TO BE IN A PERSONAL CONVERSATIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR CREATOR/SAVIOR. BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS TIMED PRAYER, WE WILL CREATE A HABIT OF PRAYER AND REJOICE TOGETHER AS A CONGREGATION THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE YEAR.
- how:** MAKE SURE YOU GRAB A 150TH ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR EACH MONTH IN 2026. CONTAINED ON THAT DOCUMENT ARE PRAYERS FOR EACH DAY OF THE MONTH. IF YOU CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTIVITY, YOU ARE FREE TO PRAY FOR ANYTHING YOU WISH, OR TO USE THE PROVIDED PROMPTS. WE ALSO RECOMEND THAT, IF YOU ARE ABLE, YOU SET AN "ALARM" TO GO OFF AT 1:50PM TO HELP REMIND YOU TO PARTICIPATE!



150TH ANNIVERSARY TSHIRT DESIGN



front
design &
color
choices



back
design



who: ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE INVITED TO PURCHASE A TSHIRT COMMEMORATING OUR 150TH YEAR TOGETHER AS A CONGREGATION.

what: TSHIRTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE (\$15 EA). SIZES AVAILABLE RANGE FROM ADULT XS - 3XL IN BOTH THE APPLE GREEN AND BONDI BLUE COLORS.

when: AS SOON AS OUR SHIPMENT ARRIVES WE WILL BEGIN SELLING AFTER THE EARLY SERVICE, BEFORE THE LATE SERVICE, OR THROUGHOUT THE WEEK IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

why: HAVING CHURCH BRANDED TSHIRTS ALLOWS OUR COMMUNITY TO EASILY RECOGNIZE MEMBERS OF THIS CHURCH, AS WELL AS OFFERS YOU A CHANCE TO WITNESS WITH WHAT YOU WEAR! WITH OUR 150TH THEME VERSE ON THE BACK, OUR SPECIAL 150TH LOGO ON THE FRONT, AND BOLD COLOR CHOICES, COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE GUARANTEED TO NOTICE WHEN THESE ARE SEEN OUT AND ABOUT!

how: PLEASE BRING CASH OR CHECK TO THE WELCOME CENTERS AFTER EARLY SERVICE OR BEFORE LATE SERVICE TO PURCHASE. IN ADDITION, SHIRTS MAY BE PURCHASED FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE ANYTIME DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

*Note: Exact cash is appreciated. If paying by check, please make it out to First Lutheran Church.



Heritage Sundays

who:

ALL MEMBERS OF FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CELEBRATORY ACTIVITY!

what:

WE WILL BE “THROWING IT BACK” TO OUR ROOTS EACH HERITAGE SUNDAY. CONGREGANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR “OLD FASHIONS” SUCH AS HATS, GLOVES, VEILS SUITS, CANES, ETC... WE WILL ALSO FEATURE SOME GERMAN LANGUAGE PORTIONS OF WORSHIP AND USE THE “OLD” OFFERING COLLECTION PLATES.

when:

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH IN 2026.

where:

AT FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

why:

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING 3 IS A MODERNIZED VERSION OF THE ORIGINAL GERMAN LUTHERAN LITURGY, THEREFORE WE WILL REJOICE IN OUR ROOTS WHILE WE CELEBRATE IN A FUN AND CREATIVE WAY!

how:

WE WILL NEED MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER IN A FEW CAPACITIES. WE ARE LOOKING FOR SINGERS WHO ARE WILLING TO LEARN A VERSE OR 2 IN GERMAN FROM A SELECTED HYMN (WE NEED UP TO 12 OF THESE VOLUNTEERS). IN ADDITION WE WILL NEED USHERS WILLING TO ASSIST WITH OFFERING. LASTLY, ALL MEMBERS CAN HELP MAKE THIS A FESTIVE OCCURRANCE BY PARTICIPATING IN THE “OLD FASHIONED” DRESSING!



75TH ANNUAL

POTATO PANCAKE & SAUSAGE DINNER

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM



—

FIRST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

925 13TH STREET E. GLENCOE, MN 55336

320-864-5522 | WWW.FIRSTGLENCOE.ORG



MENU INCLUDES: YOUR
CHOICE OF AUTHENTIC
GERMAN POTATO
PANCAKES OR REGULAR
PANCAKES, SAUSAGES,
APPLESAUCE,
CHEESE & MILK

ADVANCED TICKETS

ADULTS: \$14

KIDS (10 & UNDER): \$6

TICKETS @ DOOR: \$15

PURCHASE @ FLC OFFICE &
SELECT YOUR DESIRED TIME

TIMELINE OF EVENTS FOR THE UPCOMING

FIRST EV. LUTHERAN SCHOOL

19TH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION & MEAL

Thank You



YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVENT WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT FIRST EV. LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, TO HELP KEEP TUITION RATES AFFORDABLE, AND TO HELP WITH GENERAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND NEEDS.

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS



flsboosters@gmail.com

Online Auction

Feb 28th 1pm - Mar 7th 1pm

WWW.32AUCTIONS.COM/FLS2026



In-Person Meal

Sunday March 1st | 11am-1pm

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bump's Family Restaurant Mac & Cheese Bar:
Meal will include white cheddar macaroni and cheese, cheddar macaroni and cheese, shredded pork, breadsticks or bun, bread crumbs, jalapenos, bacon bits, BBQ sauce, potato salad, chips, pickles and various homemade desserts.



PRE-PURCHASE TICKETS

Adults \$12 | Kids (under 12) \$10

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT DOOR

Adults \$15 | Kids (under 12) \$12



Item Pick-Up

Sunday, March 8th | 12pm-3pm

Monday, March 9th | 3pm -5pm

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Accepting cash, check or credit card



What a Great Day on the Lake!

All who gathered on Lake Waconia for our 2nd annual Ice fishing tournament had an amazing LIFE experience.

CATCHING FISH

FALLING DOWN

DRIVING ON ICE

WINNING PRIZES

BUNDLING UP (5 layers)

it was a not to be missed amazing Day!

THANK YOU FUTURE FLAMES for all your work and an Amazing Day of Fun and Fishing!

ICE FISHING

LOOK:

Above...

The Large Crowd Gathers as the prizes are being given out including a full size ICE HOUSE!

Over 300 people came and enjoyed the Day. We also served Hot Dogs and Chips, and a lot of Hot Chocolate and Coffee

Thank You to all of our Donors... check out facebook for more info.



Look : Above

Two boys bring some fish to be weighed in at the Weigh in Station! Pastor Ewert is helping out .

THANK YOU

to all the Volunteers for coming out in the Wind and frigid Temperatures to RAISE some Funds for FLS!



Some of our Participant and Winners in our Ice Fishing Tournament



principal@1stglencoe.org

SHHH SILENT AUCTION

19th Annual Silent Auction

Our school's biggest fundraiser is quickly approaching!

The silent auction will be taking place online again from 1:00 pm on February 28th and ending on March 7th at 1:00 pm. Then, on Sunday March 1st the students sing in church with a catered pulled pork and mac and cheese bar from 11:00 to -1:00pm. You can purchase your tickets in between church services or from the church or school offices!

At this time, we are also looking for donations. If you know of a business that is willing to donate, please have them reach out to flsboosters@gmail.com or send it to Boosters via FastDirect.

If you have a donation that you would like to give, please drop it off at the church or school office by February 20th.

NLSW - coming up End of January 25-31

Make a JOYFUL NOISE

What a busy week it is!

Every morning the students start their day with devotions in the church Sanctuary led by teachers. To end each day, the students play a Minute-to-win-it game led by Miss Lilienthal and have a closing devotion led by our DCE, Deaconess Megan Polzin. **Sunday: JOYFUL NOISE!**: We kicked off the week with the whole school singing in church, followed by Root Beer Floats

Monday: Joyful Noise in Praise: We made Valentines Day cards for the local nursing homes to be delivered

Tuesday: Joyful Noise in Worship: We went to Mayer Lutheran for an EPIC DAY. In the afternoon, our 3-8 students participated in Bible Trivia.

Wednesday: Joyful Noise in Service: Mrs. Polzin leads us in "Joyful Noise of Service for our Church"

Thursday: Joyful Noise in the Community: The morning started with a cereal breakfast, followed by chapel that parents came to enjoy.

Friday: Joyful Noise to Christ Alone: We had our rock, paper, scissors contest & the afternoon was filled with reading stories with our chapel buddies while drinking hot chocolate!

SATURDAY: DAVID MOVIE 10:00am FREE for FLS students and Parents at Odyessey 9 in Hutchinson. We thank God for the blessing of our school, our faculty, and our supporters. Thank you to the parents who choose to send their students to First Lutheran and make their faith a priority!

First Ev. Lutheran School | 1015 14th St. E, Glencoe MN 55336 | 320-864-3317

EVENTS

- **February 8th** | Worship Service - King's Kids (Grades 3-4) at 8 am
- **February 12** | Homegrown meal
- **February 14** | Valentine's Day... Jesus loves you the most!
- **February 16** | No school - Presidents Day
- **February 18** | Ash Wednesday | Lambs of the Lord (K-2) sing in church at 2:00
- **February 19** | Kindergarten goes to Grand Meadows
- **February 28-March 7** | Silent Auction is open for bidding
- **Mar 1** | K-8 sing in church 10:30 am
- **March 1st** | Pulled Pork and Mac and Cheese Bar| 11-1 Auction Meal
- **Tuesday, March 3** | Preschool and Kindergarten Open House | 5:30-7:00 pm



Together we pray for:

- The Silent Auction Committee and all involved as they prepare for the big event.
- Our country, that it might thrive and accomplish God's will here on earth!
- OUR CHURCH celebrating 150 years!
- The strength to remain faithful to God.
- Our committees at First Lutheran as we continue to work together in LOVE!

thank you

- To everyone who attended our Christmas Service. It was such a great time being able to share the news of our Savior!
- To all who donated to the wish tree. We received 4,260 along with several school classroom items.
- Miss Lilenthal, and DCE Megan Polzin for their efforts in planning National Lutheran Schools Week.
- The Neubarths who shovels our sidewalks, even on the coldest of days!
- Loren Engelmann, Gary Schauer, and Trustees for help with new Kitchen floor!
- Michelle Alsleben for all of her hard work in the office!



THIRD GRADE NEWS

Third grade students are learning about the Old Testament kings. How the people cried out for a human king to rule them, but soon found that a human king didn't always have their best interests in mind. They are learning that God never gave up on His people and that He will never give up on us either. The students are working on using past, present, and future tense verbs in their sentences. They are applying multiplication and division strategies in their math lessons. This year marks a monumental milestone for our parish: 150 years of community and service. As we look back at our roots, we are also looking forward through the eyes of our youngest historians.



A Little Note:

From Principal Miller

We are almost to the 100th day of school this year, it seems to have flown by. We are diligently working to finish the school year strong. Also in the meantime behind the scenes teachers, boards, staff are planning for next year! Please Pray for Wisdom for Tuition, Building Projects and staffing for next year. May God's Will Be Done!



Forgiveness. How often does God call us to forgive? "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." - Matthew 18:21-22

This isn't a specific number, but instead a concept that as Christians, we are called to forgive, forgive, forgive. Why? Because Jesus forgives us!!

ABUNDANT BLESSINGS DRIVE

In Thanksgiving for 150 years of God's Grace at First Lutheran, each month we will hold an Abundant Blessings Drive. We are grateful for your donations!

February: [Orphan Grain Train](#) Clothing Drive – Bring your clean and gently used CLOTHING/SHOES for Men, Women, Boys, Girls, and Infants and place in designated totes. Quilts and Blankets too. Donations are shipped to US disaster areas and countries around the world.

March: Diaper Drive for [Common Cup Ministries](#) – Donate new DIAPERS (all sizes) for distribution to McLeod County families in need.

April: [Lutheran Social Services Mankato](#), Crisis Nursery Pajama Drive – Keeping children safe and promoting child and family well-being are the primary goals of the Crisis Nursery. Please help by donating PAJAMAS (infant to size 8) to Mankato area families.

May: [Shoe Drive for SPOC](#) – St. Paul Outreach Center is located at Jehovah Lutheran Church (also location of New Freedom Store) Please help by donating new or good condition used SHOES.

June: [Lutheran Social Services of MN](#), Youth Shelter Safe House – Safe House is an emergency shelter for youth ages 16-20 years old. While there, youth have a safe place to stay, nourishing meals, caring employees and active support from a case manager to help them secure long term housing and meet basic needs.

July: Oral Health Drive for [Lutheran Social Services](#) – Help by donating TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE, and DENTAL FLOSS to families in need.

August: [VSP Global](#) partners with local organizations like the Lions' Club to support sight initiatives. Drop off your gently-used EYE GLASSES for global distribution.

September: [Hope Pregnancy Center of Willmar](#) – Help by donating new or gently used BABY SUPPLIES (onesies, diapers, bags, shoes, clothing, etc.) As this drive approaches, we will let you know if there are specific items especially in need.

October: [Pastor Appreciation & Concordia Seminarian Support](#) - Drop off your gift to First Lutheran's Ministerial Staff as well as future Pastors, Deaconesses, and Missionaries studying at Concordia University.

November: Blessing Bags for [McLeod County Food Shelf](#) - Drop off FOOD GOODS - boxed stuffing, canned vegetables, canned cranberry sauce, canned gravy, boxed mash potatoes, boxed cake and frosting, and monies for McLeod families in need.

December: Blanket Collection for [Unhoused at Pig's Eye Park in St. Paul](#). Drop off gently-used clean BLANKETS and SLEEPING BAGS for the Homeless Camp in St. Paul. They will be distributed by The New Freedom Store.



Lutheran Night at MN Twins – Community Outing

Looking forward to summer..... Tickets are reserved for the 6:40 pm game on Thursday, August 11th against the Baltimore Orioles. Seats are located in Section 213 (Home Plate Terrace, same as last several years) at a cost of \$44 each. Bus transportation from First Ev. Lutheran Church in Glencoe will depart at 4:15 pm, at a cost of about \$16 per person. At Target Field, the bus will drop and pick us up near Gate 14, which is convenient to our seating. Please contact Cindy at 612-840-6308 or eggersgluesscindy@gmail.com to reserve your spot!



SUNDAY – THE LORD'S DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																											
1 8:00 AM – DS w/Com. ♪ Senior Choir Sings 9:00 AM – Fellowship 9:15 AM – Education Hour 10:30 AM – Divine Service 6:30 PM – IMPACT (Setting 1, p. 151)	2 11:00 AM – Funeral 1:00 PM – Quilt Tying 1:30 PM – LW in Mission 3:15 PM – FLS Staff 6 PM – Flames Boosters 6:30 PM – Hoffmann's 6:30 PM – Endowment 7:00 PM – Trustees	3 9:00 AM – Women's Study 1:15 PM – Staff Meeting 4:45 PM – Stewardship 5:30 PM – Day School 6:00 PM – Evangelism 7:00 PM – Women's Study 7:00 PM – Men's Study	4 3:30 PM – Public School Catechism 6:00 PM – FlamesBoosters 6:15 PM – Senior Choir	5 8:15 AM – Chapel (Pastor Welch) 6:00 PM - Deacons	6 NOON – Private Rental	7 																																																																																											
8 HERITAGE SUNDAY! 8:00 AM – Divine Service ♪ Kings' Kids (FLS gr. 3&4) 9:00 AM – Fellowship 9:15 AM – Education Hour 10:30 AM – DS with Com. 6:30 PM – Blaze (Setting 3, p. 184)	9 1:00 PM – Quilt Tying 3:15 PM – School Staff 6:00 PM – Christian Ed. 6:30 PM – 150 th Historical Committee 6:30 PM – Bible Study at Hoffmann's	10 9:00 AM – Women's Study 10:30 AM – GlenFields 1:15 PM – Staff Meeting 1:30 PM – Mat Makers 7:00 PM – Women's Study 7:00 PM – Men's Study	11 3:30 PM - Public School Catechism 6:15 PM - Senior Choir	12 8:15 AM – Chapel (Mr. Lilienthal) 2:00 PM - Grand Meadows	13 Pastors' Circuit@ LesterPrairie	EDUCATION HOUR Sundays 9:15 to 10:15 AM 2s, PS, K Flames Room 1st-4 th Room 111 5 th -8 th Library 9 th -Adult Fellowship Center																																																																																											
15 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 8:00 AM – DS w/Com. ♪ Senior Choir Sings 9:00 AM – Fellowship 9:15 AM – Education Hour 10:30 AM – Divine Service 6:30 PM -Ladies' Bible Study (Setting 4, p. 203)	16 PRESIDENTS' DAY No School 1:00 PM – Quilt Tying	17 9:00 AM – Women's Study 1:15 PM – Staff Meeting 6:30 PM – Day School 7:00 PM – Women's Study 7:00 PM – Men's Study	18 ASH WEDNESDAY 2 PM – Ash Wed. Service ♪ Lambs of the Lord(FLS K-2) 3:30 PM - Public School Catechism 5:30 PM - YouthLentMeal 6:00 PM - Senior Choir 7 PM – Ash Wed. Service ♪ Senior Choir Sings	19 8:15 AM – Chapel (Mrs. Hoffmann) 1:30 PM – FLS (K) to Gr. M. 6:00 PM – Daily Office 7:00 PM – Church Council	20 SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS DUE Continuous Bible Reading 6 AM to Midnight	21 March Newsletter Deadline 																																																																																											
22 1st SUNDAY IN LENT 8:00 AM – Divine Service 9:00 AM – Fellowship 9:15 AM – New Member Welcome! 9:15 AM – Education Hour 10:30 AM – DS with Com. ♪ Senior Choir Sings 6:30 PM –LadiesBibleStudy (Setting 4, p. 203)	23 1:00 PM – Quilt Tying 6:30 PM – Bible Study at Hoffmann's  Gerten's Youth Flower Sales Begin	24 10:30 AM – GlenFields 1:15 PM – Staff Meeting 1:30 PM – Mat Makers 7:00 PM – Voters Assembly <i>Common Cup Ministry Diaper Distribution @ City Center</i>	25 WEDNESDAY IN LENT 2:00 PM – Lenten Service ♪ Kings' Kids(FLS gr. 3&4) 3:30 PM - Public School Catechism 5:30 PM - YouthLentMeal 6:00 PM - Senior Choir 7 PM – Lenten Service	26 8:15 AM – Chapel (T.B.D.)	27 Little Crosses for 150th Anniversary Drop - off in Church Office <i>1st Lutheran School End of Trimester</i>	28 ON-LINE AUCTION BEGINS Youth Group Laser Light Snow Tubing 																																																																																											
MARCH 1 8:00 AM – DS w/Com. ♪ Senior Choir Sings 9:00 AM – Fellowship 9:15 AM – Education Hour 10:30 AM – Divine Service 11 to 1 – Silent Auction Meal 6:30 PM – IMPACT (Setting 1, p. 151)	MARCH 2 1:00 PM – Quilt Tying 1:30 PM – LW in Mission 3:15 PM – FLS Staff 6 PM – Flames Boosters 6:30 PM – Hoffmann's 6:30 PM – Endowment 7:00 PM – Trustees	MARCH 3 9:00 AM – Women's Study 1:15 PM – Staff Meeting 4:45 PM – Stewardship 5:30 PM – Day School 6:00 PM – Evangelism 7:00 PM – Women's Study 7:00 PM – Men's Study	MARCH 4 WED. IN LENT 2 PM – Lenten Service ♪ 1 st Luth.Singers (FLS 5-8) 3:30 PM – Public School Catechism 5:30 PM – MEAL: OPEN 6:00 PM - Senior Choir 7 PM – Lenten Service ♪ Senior Choir Sings	JANUARY <table border="1"> <tr> <th>SUNDAY</th><th>MONDAY</th><th>TUESDAY</th><th>WEDNESDAY</th><th>THURSDAY</th><th>FRIDAY</th><th>SATURDAY</th></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					MARCH 2026 <table border="1"> <tr> <th>SUNDAY</th><th>MONDAY</th><th>TUESDAY</th><th>WEDNESDAY</th><th>THURSDAY</th><th>FRIDAY</th><th>SATURDAY</th></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD Katie Ide 320-296-3075 Sue Plath 320-296-3168 Linda Ranzau 510-1491
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Some 150th Anniversary Activities: Every day at 1:50 PM – Congregation in Prayer: Mon., Feb. 2 at 9:00 AM – Crochet for a Cause: Thu., Feb. 19 at 6:00 PM – Daily Office