



## LENT/HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Monday Adult Forums**  
February 12-March 19

**Ash Wednesday**

February 14: Worship at 12:10pm and 6:15pm (with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes)

**Wednesdays in Lent**

February 21, 28, March 7, March 14, March 21  
Worship at 12:10pm and 6:15pm

**Palm Sunday**  
March 25

**Maundy Thursday**

March 29: Worship at 12:10pm and 6:15pm Last Supper Re-enactment (with Holy Communion)

**Good Friday**

March 30: 12:00pm Combined ELCA Worship (Location TBD) and 6:15pm at FLC

**Saturday, March 31**  
No Worship

**Easter Sunday**

April 1: Worship at 7:00am, 8:30am, 9:45am and 11:00am (with Holy Communion)

# FOCUS

## february

## LENT 2018 *Living Our Baptism: Deep and Wide*

Lent is a time for Spiritual reflection as we ponder together the life and death of Jesus, awaiting the Resurrection. As we journey to the cross this Lenten season at First Lutheran, we remember the promises of Baptism that lead us each day. Join us as we focus our hearts and minds on living the promises of our Baptism in deep and wide ways.

<b>Lent Wednesday Worship</b> February 14-March 21 12:10pm and 6:15pm	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> February 14 at 12:10pm and 6:15pm with Imposition of Ashes and Communion	<b>Weekly Dinners</b> February 1-March 21 Chef prepared and served from 4:45-6:00pm
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<b>Monday Adult Forums</b> February 1-March 21 10:00am Family Room	
<b>February 12</b> <i>Living Our Baptism: Sealed By the Holy Spirit</i> Pastor Greg Billberg Pastor Adrian Lederman	<b>March 5</b> <i>Proclaim the Good News of God in Christ through Word and Deed</i> Karl Bloomquist, FLC member Amy Gesell, FLC member and Vision Team Vice Chair Brent Urke, FLC member and Vision Team Chair
<b>February 19</b> <i>Live Among God's Faithful People</i> Julie Critz, District 206 Superintendent Dave Holtz, Luther Crest Executive Director	<b>March 12</b> <i>Serve All People, Following the Example of Jesus</i> Jen Jabas, United Way Director A DMS Shelf Representative Alice Anderson, Feed My Sheep
<b>February 26</b> <i>Hear the Word of God and Share in the Lord's Supper</i> Coty Lund, FLC member Pat Kalina, FLC member Pastor Ben Jacobson	<b>March 19</b> <i>Strive for Justice and Peace in all the Earth</i> Vicki Schmidt, Advocate for immigration, global hunger and other issues of justice

# PASTOR'S PEN

## *Moving Forward Together*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Many of us grew up understanding that there are a few topics that should be avoided, such as religion, politics, and.....money. In fact 44% of Americans point to personal finance as the most challenging conversation of all. Nonetheless, over the last few weeks, we ventured into that challenging terrain through our sermon series entitled, Money and Meaning. While it may have caused some of us to be uncomfortable, we felt it was an important and healthy conversation to take place.

We also felt that way as we came to the last few months of 2017. We wanted to be able to end the year in good shape, but in order for us to do that we felt it was our responsibility to communicate our shortfall, and correct it. To that end it is our commitment to always be transparent and upfront with you.

The 2017 figures are completed we ended the year with a deficit of \$12,694. While this isn't where we wanted to land, this is just part of the story. We need to not only look at our shortfall, we need to also celebrate that together, we gave over \$1,077,178 in support of our day to day mission, and over \$1,148,036 to the building fund in 2017. First Lutheran is a generous and engaged congregation. We need to give thanks for lives that are being touched. God is doing some amazing things through this congregation. When you hit a bump or fall down, you get back up and figure out how you're going to find your way forward, and that is exactly what we are doing.

These are exciting days for First Lutheran. And as exciting as it is to think about building our new church home, let's remember why we exist and what our mission is. A building is just a tool. Our most important calling is to reflect the light and love of Jesus, to touch lives, and to bring hope. Our first commitment is to live out and support our mission, because if we don't do that, our building (old or new) won't matter. What makes First Lutheran unique is that we always find a way to come together and serve Christ.

For us as a congregation, our mission is something that we all have a stake in and always comes first. But that is possible only because each one of us steps up and invests ourselves, our time and our financial support in it. This is what makes First Lutheran the special place it is. Thank you for all that you do and the difference you make in the lives of so many.

I hope you will set aside the time to be a part of our Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 11, 2018. We will have lunch beginning at 11:30am with the meeting following at approximately 12:30pm. It is more than just a meeting, it is a celebration of what God is doing in and through us. I hope to see you there.

In Christ,  
Pastor Greg

# PARISH HEALTH

## *The New Year is a great time to write your Family Health History*

A family health history can be key to your wellness as well as to that of your kids and grandkids. Think of it as a family tree all about your health! Here are some questions to ask each relative to create your family health tree: What chronic conditions do you have? Have you had any other serious illnesses, such as cancer? How old were you when you developed each illness? Have you had pregnancy or childbirth issues? What countries did our relatives come from? Has anyone in the family had birth defects, learning problems or developmental disabilities? What illnesses did our late grandparents have? How old were they when they died? What did they die of? Options for creating your own document include printed and online versions. Visit [www.hhs.gov/familyhistory](http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory) to locate the format that works for you (My Family Health Portrait Tool). Once you fill in the information, share it with your healthcare provider and with other family members, especially children and grandchildren, to help them live healthier lives too.

## *Looking for people willing to bring communion to members in their homes...*

As part of our caring ministry, First Lutheran has long brought communion to members in their homes. We are looking for people who would be willing and able to join us in this ministry. Volunteers would provide brief communion visits as their schedule allows and depending on their availability. The Care Team (pastors, parish nurse) will provide training to ensure that volunteers have a chance to ask questions and feel prepared. If you would be interested in learning more about this opportunity, please call Val Trumm (320.762.2196).

## *Support Groups in and Around the Alexandria Area...*

•**Caregiver Support Group:** Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month (February 13) at 2:00pm at First Lutheran Church.

•**Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group:** Meets the 4th Thursday of each month (February 22) at 1:30pm at the Douglas County Public Works meeting room, 526 Willow Drive, Alexandria. For info call Mary (320.762.3047).

•**Alexandria Area Parkinson's Support Group:** Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month (February 28) at 3:00pm at Nelson Gables in the Governor's Room, 1220 Nokomis St, Alexandria. For more information, contact Val Trumm, Parish Nurse (320.762.2196).

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE RECENTLY BAPTIZED

Daphne Danielle Dokken  
Skyler Marie Palm  
Pierce Matthew Geiselhart  
Owen Ray Holverson

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

We express sympathy and God's love to the family and friends of:  
Palmer Bergner  
Eleanor Brekke  
Evelyn Myrin

# COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

*Registration is now open!*

Registration for the 2018-19 school year begins for members of First Lutheran Church on Thursday, January 25 from 7:30am-5:15pm.

2018-19 Class Offerings:

## Rainbow Room 3 & 4 year olds

Mon. and Wed. morning class 8:15am-11:20am (\$95/month) Tues. and Thurs. morning class 8:15am-11:20am (\$95/month) Friday morning class 8:15am-11:20am This class will be offered as a one day option or as an add on to either the Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs class making it a 3 day option. (\$50/month for one day class) (\$140/month for 3 days a week)

## Sunshine Room 4 & 5 year olds (4 years old by Sept. 1st)

Mon., Wed., Fri. morning class 8:15am-11:30am (\$140/month) Tues. and Thurs. morning class 8:15am-11:30am (\$95/month) Mon., Tues., Wed., and Thurs. afternoon class 12:15pm - 3:15pm (\$190/month) Mon. and Wed. afternoon class 12:15pm-3:15pm (\$95/month) Five day class options are available. (\$235/month)

Please see our website for additional information on before and after school care. [www.communitypreschoolalexandria.com](http://www.communitypreschoolalexandria.com).



## DEEP AND WIDE CELEBRATIONS

### *Mission Possible*

The Feed My Sheep ministry impacts our community, neighbors and church. The mission of this ministry is to "To be sensitive to the needs of all God's children, by extending a caring and welcoming presence, through food, fellowship and friendship." This ministry has befriended an Alexandria family who adopted four young international children. FMS members

have offered educational support, respite time for mom and dad to be with their four young adult biological children and a few new Minnesota experiences for the four adoptees. First Lutheran Church is reaching Deep and Wide into our community by sharing God's love with others.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please join WELCA on Thursday, February 1st at 1:00pm for an interesting program with Greg Tvrdik, Steve Heseltine and Mark Bergerson. They will be sharing with us about their Habitat for Humanity Cambodia trip this past fall. The Esther Bible Study Group will be serving dessert and coffee. Our theme this year is *Hospitality...Entertaining Angels* so we ask you to please invite an angel in your life.
- The next Baptism Class for expecting or new parents will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Call the church office (320.762.2196) if interested in attending or with any questions.
- BookSeekers will meet next on Monday, February 12, 6:30 pm at the church. The book we will discuss is *Andy Warhol Was a Hoarder* by Claudia Kalb.
- Monthly Men's Breakfast: Join other men from First for a great breakfast and speaker. They meet Thursday, February 8 from 6:30-7:30am in the Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome!

## *Library Update*

Check out our new material! We have great new book selections from authors such as: Karen Kingsbury, Jan Karon, Jen Hatmaker, Chip and Joanna Gaines. There are some new chapter books such as A to Z Mysteries, Diary of A Wimpy Kid, and Amelia Bedelia. We also have some new DVD's such as Veggie Tales, The Shack, Hidden Figures, God's Not Dead 1 & 2, and The Case for Christ. We also have new music CD's.

Please be courteous of others by keeping your checked out items an appropriate length of time. (We recommend 6 weeks for books and two weeks for DVD's/CD's.) We do appreciate getting your donated items. Due to space, and trying to keep current with newer selections, we ask that your items be appropriate in content and have a copyright date no older than 10 years. (This can generally be found on the page after the title page.) We are currently keeping only one copy of an item on the shelf. Your donated items can also be dropped at the Douglas County Library and the Senior Center.

## GIFTS & MEMORIALS

### BUILDING FUND:

In memory of Janice Thue, given by Dan & Linda Zisner, Jenny Trumm, Stan & Mary Norlien, Junnell Widmark, Michael & Barbara Golden, Jeff & Janna Lindoo, Jerry & Joyce Hansen, Rod & Sally Olson, Dennis & Bonnie Miller

In memory of Mitchell Brazel, given by Alan & Kathy Patton

In memory of Kim Clayton, given by Michael Clayton

In memory of Olive Leland, given by Delores Nasby

In memory of Keith Lundsetter, given by Larry & Beth Pappenfus

In memory of Marian Barr, given by Ivan & Lois Wambheim, Greg & Val Trumm, Roger & Barbara Riley

In memory of Muriel Fisher, given by Greg & Val Trumm, Jenny Trumm

In memory of Evelyn Myrin, given by Greg & Val Trumm

In memory of H Dan Ness, given by Wade & Cindy McCoy

In memory of Keith McCoy, given by Wade & Cindy McCoy

In memory of Palmer Bergner, given by John & Marie Stellner, Stan & Helen Johnsrud

In honor of Pastors Greg, Kari and Ben, given by Ken & Cindy Losch

### DISCOVERY FOOD SHELF:

In memory of Matt Kjelland, given by the Matt Kjelland Memorial Fund

In memory of Darlene Aaberg, given by John & Marie Stellner

### CHANCEL CHOIR:

In memory of Marian Barr, given by Bev Reque

In thanks for the use of the choir room, given by the Doo Wops

### YOUTH CHOIR:

In memory of Janice Thue, given by Steve & Kathy Haug

In memory of Irma Cottoor, given by John & Marie Stellner

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 3

## *Bags of Love*

Join us for this congregational service project that reaches DEEP and WIDE by spreading joy to the older adults in our congregation and/or those going through a time of need.

Kids and youth fill the bags with tokens and cards they have made and the congregation delivers them. Bags will be available for you to pick up in the Family Room on February 3.

Sunday, February 11 at 11:30am & 12:30pm

## *Meal and Annual Meeting*

Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting and Meal. Please join us at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall for the meal and then at 12:30pm in the Sanctuary for the meeting on Sunday, February 11.

Sunday, February 11 at 8:30am - 12:00pm

## *Made With Love Bake Sale*

Mark your calendars for this year's Made With Love Bake Sale on Sunday, February 11 from 8:30am-12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Drop off items to sell Saturday, February 10 from 10:00am-12:00pm. Proceeds support the building fund. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center if you plan to bring baked items. Coffee will be served in the Fellowship Hall with special Valentine treats.

Thursday, March 15 at 4:00pm

## *Adult Social Event*

You are invited to the Adult Social Event on Thursday, March 15 at 4:00 in the family room. We'll be watching the movie *Truman* followed by discussion and a supper (free will offering). This movie will give us topics to discuss plus fellowship time.

Friday, April 6 at 6:00pm

## *Raising the Roof Dinner*

Please join us Friday, April 6 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall for Raising the Roof Dinner. It will be a festive evening of fabulous food, phenomenal fellowship and friendly fundraising. Tickets are \$40 and the price includes: a four course dinner, live auction, and possible prize money! Tickets will be available for purchase beginning February 17. You can purchase tickets at all weekend and Wednesday worship services or during business hours in the church office. Ticket and auction proceeds will go toward our new church building.

# YOUTH AND CHILDREN

## **LUTHER CREST WINTER RETREATS**

Who: Grades 3-6

When: February 9-11

Registration Deadline: January 31

Who: Grades 6-9

When: February 23-25

Registration Deadline: February 14

Cost: \$105/camper (\$50 non-refundable deposit). Begins at 7:00pm on Friday and ends after Closing Worship on Sunday

\*All students active in First Lutheran Programming will receive a \$25 campership! Cost will be \$80.

## **4TH GRADE STEWARDSHIP MILESTONE**

When: February 26

Time: Meal at 5:10pm and Instruction at 5:30pm

## **5TH GRADE COMMUNION MILESTONE**

Retreat: Saturday, March 10 from 9:00am-2:00pm at Luther Crest Bible Camp

\*Attendance by 5th grade students and their families is expected.

Celebration: Maundy Thursday March 29th during the 12:10 or 6:15pm services

## **FLY/CONFIRMATION MENTORS**

\*9th grade students and mentors meet during Lent to discuss the Baptismal promises.

## **HOUSTON TEAM MEETINGS**

February 21 at 7:00pm

April 4 at 8:00pm

May 9 at 7:00pm

June 6 at 7:00pm

## **LIL' KINGDOM KIDS**

When: March 18 at 9:45am

## **SR FLY WINTER RETREAT**

When: February 9-11

Where: Cabin near Parkers Prairie

### Wednesday Night Worship:

If your weekend is busy or you are out of town, this is a great alternative for worship. Feel free to join us for supper from 4:45-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lent meals prepared by Chef Roger Apadaca.

2/7: Taco Salad/Nacho Bar

2/14: Rosemary Chicken with Rice & Green Beans  
Salad & Veggie Tray  
LutherCrest Cookies

2/21: Cheese Enchiladas with Spanish Rice and black beans  
Chips & Salsa

2/28: Chicken Wild Rice Soup / Tomato Soup  
Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich  
Salad & Veggie Tray  
LutherCrest Cookies