

# FIRST NEWS

*A monthly publication for the members and friends of First Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**MARCH 2025**

**MARCH 2025**

**Moment with Michael**

**Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. Luke 4:1-2**

It often happens that after the blessings comes the battle. After the mountain top comes the valley. After feeling so close to God, there comes a time when you feel so very far away from God. The greatest temptation follows the greatest victory. The greatest trials follow the biggest triumphs.

As Jesus prepared for ministry, we are told he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. This event directly follows the high-water moment of his baptism, when “the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove,” and a voice from heaven declared “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” Is it really all that surprising that after such a triumphant event, Jesus is in the wilderness facing temptations?

All of us, one way or another, have experienced the wilderness in our own lives. Possibly you are there right now. These are those times when we feel isolated, drained, or at our wits end. These moments can last for a day or two, some can last a month or more, at times even years. These are the moments in our lives when learning to rely on the Word of God is most important. These are the moments when placing our trust in God is of paramount importance.

Jesus was driven to the wilderness so to connect with us. He faced the same temptations we face. He experienced the same pain and hardship that we experience. And this is because it is through difficult circumstances that we are shaped and formed. It is through difficult times our ability to empathetically connect with others grows. By facing the same trials and temptations that we encounter, Jesus is able to connect with us, stand with us, be in solidarity with us.

How wonderful it is to know that through Jesus, our Christ, God intimately knows our pain. To know that through Christ, God has felt our fears and faced down our scariest demons. Because of Jesus, God understands our pain. As we enter this Season of Lent, walking through the wilderness, we will make our way towards a different mountain, the one they called Golgotha.

It is during this time I encourage you to keep your eyes on the cross. For on that cross Jesus died the death we all one day will experience; and by God’s mercy, because of Jesus, we will one day experience the resurrection.

Pr. Michael

**Our mission:** First Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to **welcome** people to faith in Jesus Christ; **equip** persons with a faith that works in real life; and **send** us in service into the world in Jesus’ name.

FIND THE  
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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
Mon. - Thur. 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Fri. 8 AM - 12 PM  
320-693-2487  
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WEBSITE:  
[www.firstlitchfield.org](http://www.firstlitchfield.org)

# Church Council

**“GOD’S WORK.  
OUR HANDS.”**

Church Council Meeting  
February 18, 2025 -7 pm

Our Mission:

FLC exist to Welcome people of faith in Jesus Christ; Equip persons with a faith that works in real life; and send us in service into the world in Jesus’ name.

Council Membership:

2026: Karla Kadelbach, Amy Nelson, Abby Hemingway, Mattie Baumgartner

2027: Betty Allen, Tanner Eberling, Sabrara Evenson, Karla Hyberger

2028: Jim Cottington, Julie Bredeson, Alexis Engelke , Mededith Elj

Devotions by Karla K

Additions to agenda: Soup supper, Council March 26 to work soup supper

Secretary Report: Read and approved

Treasurers Report read and approved

Welcome to new council members, Jim Cottington and Julie Bredeson

Pastors reports:

Pastor Tom Attended Green Lake annual meeting they are rebranding dba Edge of the Waters. Staff shortage last year hopefully this year will improve.

Pastor Michael: \$1563.45 for MST Breakfast for Annual Meeting, Sweetheart Dinner was had, 90 seats available - sold 86 tickets, Sedar Meal, 04/17 – Kitchen Crew, Servers, in need of Pit Boss

Lent will be Noah and the Flood.

Team assignments

Christian Education March 4 making bread Sunday school going well.

No other meetings to report.

Easter breakfast looking for volunteers to cook and serve.

Old Business Annual Meeting went well Exit Interviews are complete.

New Business

Ameriprise CD where we are putting it motion made by Jim C and seconded by Karla H to secure money market.

Retreat for Council March 17 3 to 7 pm

Crow River Conference 4 members going

Dates to Remember

Team Meetings March 4, 2025 630 and 7 pm

Ash Wednesday March 5 at 7 pm

Soup Suppers and lent services March 12, 19 26 April 2 April 9 6pm and 7pm.

Synod council March 15

Council retreat March 16 3-7 pm

Soup Supper Schedule

March 12- Christian Education

March 19 Music Group

March 26 Council

April 2 Men’s Group

April 19 WELCA

Adjourn

Respectively Submitted

Mattie Baumgartner

**First Evangelical Lutheran  
Church Council 2025**

**PRESIDENT:**

Tanner Eberling

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

TBD

**SECRETARY:**

Mattie Baumgartner

**TREASURER:**

TBD

**Team Representatives:**

**Christian Education/**

**Youth & Family:**

Abby Hemmingway

Amy Nelson

Sabrara Evenson

Karla Hyberger

**Stewardship & Finance:**

Karla Kadelbach

**Social Ministry/**

**Evangelism:**

Meredith Elj

Abby Hemingway

Amy Nelson

Sabrara Evenson

Betty Allen

Karla Kadelbach

Karla Hyberger

**Endowment/Memorial:**

Tanner Eberling

**Property:**

Mattie Baumgartner

Tanner Eberling

Betty Allen

**Worship:**

Meredith Elj

Amy Nelson

**Personnel:**

Tanner Eberling

**MST:**

Karla Kadelbach

Sabrara Evenson

# Stewardship & Finance

## General Fund:

Total Income for the month of Jan. 2025: \$22,426  
Expenses for the month of Jan. 2025: \$42,307

## Year to Date:

Income as of January 2025: \$22,426  
Expenses as of January 2025: \$42,307

**Gift were given** to the General fund in memory of Einar Lundin from Richard Buan, & Harold and Lavonne Huso.  
**Gifts were given** in honor of Mildred Neitzel's birthday from Mike and Kris Nelson, and Jerry and Lana Johnson.  
**Thank you** for the prayer shawl. It was so appreciated and helpful for my recovery from knee surgery. Carol Shoutz

**Thank you to** everyone that has directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to First Lutheran in the last year. A total of \$3,776 Choice Dollars were directed to First Lutheran Church in 2024.

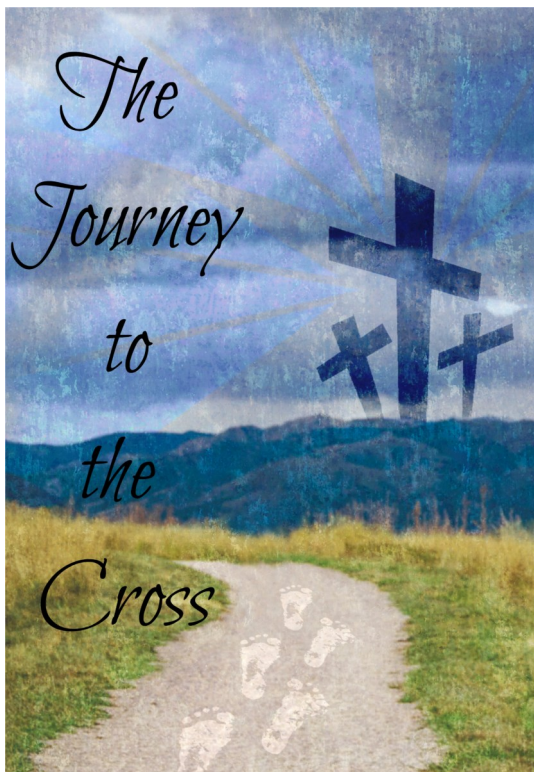
Thrivent members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. Members are then able to designate Choice Dollars to an enrolled charity of their choice.

In recent years First Lutheran has used these funds within our church to fund parking lot repair, window, boiler and air conditioning upgrades, new Christmas decorations for the sanctuary, God's Work - Our Hands, mission work through MST, MST-USA and MST Costa Rica. This is just to name a few!

**THANK YOU** for selecting First Lutheran Church for your Thrivent Choice dollars - we hope you continue to do so in the future. Thrivent Choice dollars for 2024 need to be designated by March 31. Directing your Thrivent Choice dollars is easy - it can be done on-line at Thrivent.com, or by calling the Thrivent office in Litchfield at (320) 593-2846. To find out if you are eligible for Thrivent Choice dollars contact your Thrivent representative today.

First Lutheran's Thrivent Choice committee members are:

Martha Christensen, Dave Meidal, Duane Henkelman, Valda Thomas and Jo Ann Lindstrom.



## **Lent – Easter Schedule 2025**

This year's Lenten theme will reflect on Noah and the flood.

**Soup Supper** will be served every Wednesday (starting March 12th) at **6:00 p.m.** in Chilstrom Hall.

### **Worship Services**

March 5	Ash Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
March 12	Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
March 19	Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
March 26	Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
April 2	Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
April 9	Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
April 13	Palm / Passion Sunday	9:00 a.m.
April 17	Maundy Thursday - Seder Meal	5:30 p.m.
	Chilstrom Hall	
April 18	Good Friday	7:00 p.m.
April 20	Easter Worship Services	6:30, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

# MST Costa Rica

## ...AND WE'RE OFF!

MST Costa Rica 2025 is loading the plane for Liberia March 22<sup>nd</sup> for nine days. We are busy getting ready and can't wait to tell you about our trip when we return.

A few stats:

Our team includes Ann and Bruce Tiffany, Kristi Quitney, Kris Myer, Sara Rick, Pastor Tom Evenson, Gary & Janet Smith, and Kris & Cade Cervin

We will be staying at the Roblealto Bible Home. The Bible Home/temporary shelter (founded in 1932), has ten houses, with ten children in each (population: 100) and foster parents in each house. This shelter cares for a population that demands special care and attention. Also, within the Bible Home premises Roblealto runs the Enrique Strachan School which specializes in learning disabilities, where the children from the shelter and over 61 more from the community attend.

While we are at Roblealto, we will be working hard servicing the bible home campus during the day. We are using donated and dedicated funds from First Lutheran to fund our service project. We are patiently waiting to hear what exactly we will be doing, but it looks like we will be building a fence! The project is very large and costs \$11,000. Roblealto is asking groups with a significant history at Roblealto to consider a \$4,000 donation. Our history dates back to: 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2023, and now 2025!

In the evenings, we will be having fun with the children!! No one on our team speaks Spanish, but I have no worries, there are no boundaries when playing with these children! They are very easy to love and get to know. With a high percentage of boys at Roblealto – there is always time to play baseball and soccer after school.

We may have an opportunity to tour the refugee camp where most of these children come from, as well as worship with the children on Sunday morning. We are hoping to take in a local market, spend the day at a waterfall park, zipline through the rainforest canopy, enjoy the amazing fruit, and visit with the wonderful foster moms providing a craft and devotion.

The Enrique Strachan School is back in session for the year, they slowly trickle in during the months of January – March. We typically surprise all the children with a small gift and holding crosses (thank you Rick Sandry!!). In Costa Rica the sun rises and sets at 6 sharp, it is a stunning view from the top of the mountain.

We would like to thank all of you who have donated to and promoted our MST Costa Rica trip! Thank you to the First Lutheran Congregation for budgeting money into a dedicated account to help sponsor our service project! The Roblealto Bible Home relies on teams such as ours to help with the immense amount of maintenance and spend special time with their children. Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare and travel to Costa Rica!

Sincerely, Kris Cervin MST 2025





## March 2025 Worship Schedule

### Sunday, March 2, 2025

- 9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School

### Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025

- 7:00 p.m. Worship in Sanctuary

### Sunday, March 9, 2025

- 9:00 a.m. Worship w /Communion
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School

### Wednesday, March 12, 2025

- 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Lent Worship in Sanctuary

### Sunday, March 16, 2025

- 9:00 a.m. Worship w /Communion
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School

### Wednesday, March 19, 2025

- 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Lent Worship in Sanctuary

### Sunday, March 23, 2025 Hymn Sing

- 9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
- No Sunday School*

### Wednesday, March 26, 2025

- 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Lent Worship in Sanctuary

### Sunday, March 30, 2025

- 9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School

## Special Dates...

- Transfiguration Sunday, *March 2, 2025*
- Ash Wednesday, *March 5, 2025*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 7, 2025*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 9, 2025*
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2025*

### Fasting and feasting

During Lent, consider this practical — and biblical — advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

**\*Traumatic Brain Injury Support Group**  
Group meetings are Wednesday mornings from 10 am - 12 pm. 10 until 10:45. - We will have open discussion about our lives today and the challenges we face. After a brief intermission we will start again at 11 am with a designated topic, then end at noon.

This support group is for anyone with a past TBI, including concussions, stroke, brain tumor, aneurisms, falls, and car accidents. It is free for everyone and feel free to come to one or both hours.

Any questions -  
please contact Marty at 320-267-1528

**MOVIE NIGHT**  
**Saturday, March 15, 2025**  
5:00 p.m.  
Holy Word Theater, FLC  
Movie: TBD....  
Please join us for a good movie and popcorn.  
Please bring your own beverage.

## WELCA MINUTES FEBRUARY 20, 2025

WELCA met on February 20, 2025, in Chilstrom Hall with Betty Allen calling the meeting to order. The Purpose Statement was recited. Devotions were given by Betty.

The secretary's report was not read as the last meeting we had was in November. December's meeting was called off due to the weather and we do not hold a regular meeting in January.

The treasurer's report was printed and Karen Eberhard went through various items. A Lucia report was provided and we had a profit of \$2,653.30 for the breakfast. She also explained the balance in a Savings Account. It has been there since she took over as treasurer. We earn a total of \$.01 interest per month. A motion was made by Jackie Kraushaar to transfer the money to a CD. Motion was seconded by Sue Lemmer and motion carried. A motion was made by Karla Kadelbach to accept the treasurer's report with a second by Norma Hall. Karen also mentioned that a \$1000 was donated for missions in Costa Rica as the group is leaving this weekend.

**Old Business:** A discussion was held on getting volunteers to step up and help with Lucia. The current committee is willing to help and train in new members to take over. **Younger people are needed to make sure the Lucia Breakfast continues for years to come.**

The February birthday party was hosted by WELCA at Ecumen on Tues. Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. Lana Johnson, Norma Hall and Kris Johnson served. Music was provided by Pastor Michael.

**New Business:** WELCA will be serving the soup supper on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Jackie Kraushaar and Darlene Meidal will make the soup. Members will be signing up to bring sandwiches and bars.

MST will not be having an Easter Breakfast this year. The Co-op Church students want to attend their own churches for Easter. If people step forward to help, it was thought that instead of a full breakfast, caramel or cinnamon rolls and fruit could be served. The church council social committee will be discussing that idea and see if people volunteer to help.

On Maundy Thursday a Seder Meal is planned for Chilstrom. A normal Seder meal will be provided, including lamb. It is thought that reservations will have to be taken so they can prepare the correct amount of food. Karla Kadelbach made a motion to pay \$200 toward the Seder meal as this is something new and was not a church budget item. Kris Nelson made the second. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on how we could spend/donate some of the extra money we have on hand. Items mentioned were an additional freezer for the kitchen; a new refrigerator for the kitchen; a new industrial refrigerator for the MST fair stand; donating to the MST on hand fund; or MAM as they are opening two new short-term apartments. Information on all these ideas will be gathered and brought back to WELCA next month.

**Dates to Remember:** March 20<sup>th</sup>—WELCA meeting, 1:30 pm  
April 9<sup>th</sup>—WELCA serving soup supper

The Lord's Prayer was recited and the Table Prayer was sung.

We then moved to the kitchen to replace the items that had been taken down from the top of the cupboards when the kitchen was repainted.

Thank you to Betty for Devotions and Jackie Kraushaar and Sue Lemmer for serving.

Respectively submitted,

Sue Lemmer, Secretary

# Churchwide

## LENTEN “GIVING CROSS” PROJECT

The 2025 Lenten “Giving Cross” Project will begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through Easter Sunday. The emphasis is on the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) parish projects which include Baby Care Kits & Personal Care Kits.

The cross will be located in the Narthex and filled with cards, each having an item printed on it. Please take a card or two, purchase the items, tape the card to the item and place the items in the basket placed by the cross. If monetary donations are made, please make the checks payable to First Lutheran Church - noting “Giving Cross Project”. Monetary gifts may be left at the church office as well.

After Easter, the kits will be assembled and packed for Lutheran World Relief. Because shipping costs have escalated each kit costs approximately \$2.65 to ship, so monetary contributions are also appreciated. In the past your response to this project has been overwhelming, so please take the time to make this another successful Lenten Project.

If you have questions regarding the project please contact a committee member.

Thank you,

The Giving Cross Committee, Brenda Johnson, Elaine Lenhard or Joan Sommerfeld

### BABY CARE KIT

- 2 lightweight cotton t-shirts – (6 – 24 months)
- 2 gowns or sleepers (without feet) – (6 – 24 months)
- 2 receiving blankets
- 4 cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- 1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with hood, or include a baby cap
- 2 pair of socks
- 1 hand towel, dark color recommended
- 2 bath-size (4-5 oz) ivory soap

### PERSONAL CARE KITS

- 1 light-weight bath-size towel (approx. 52”x27”), dark color recommended
- 2 bath size (4-5 oz) soap in original wrapping
- 1 adult size toothbrush in its original packaging
- 1 study comb
- 1 metal nail clippers

## Meeker Area Food Shelf’s Annual March Campaign

Please bring your donations to church so we can “Pack the Pews”



# Pack the Pews

**Soups**  
*Low Sodium/  
Healthy  
Requests*

*Cream of Chicken  
Cream of Mushroom  
Tomato  
Chicken Noodle  
Vegetable  
Chicken Soups  
Beef Soups*

### Always Needed Items:

Soups, crackers, oatmeal, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned meat, granola bars, cereals, cooking oil, sugar, spaghetti sauce, rice, noodles, spices, condiments.  
*\* Healthy options are highly recommended.*

<b>Meeker Area Food Shelf</b> 118 North Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355 (320) 693-7661 Hours: M: 11am-6pm W, Th, F: 10am-3pm	<b>Dassel Area Food Shelf</b> 531 Atlantic Ave. W. Dassel, MN 55325 (320) 275-0124 Hours: T: 10am-3pm Th: 3-6pm
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Website: [www.meekercountyfood.org](http://www.meekercountyfood.org)  
Email: [needfood@hutchtel.net](mailto:needfood@hutchtel.net)

### Our Mission:

The Meeker Area Food Shelf is a cooperative venture of community partners working to provide access to healthy food for those facing food insecurity.

The Meeker Area Food Shelf and Dassel Area Food Shelf serve all of Meeker County. We provide around 400 families with a 3-5 day supply of food each month.

### Donate online easily at:

[www.givemn.org](http://www.givemn.org)  
Search: Meeker Area Food Shelf

*\*Monetary donations allow us to purchase food at a discounted rate through our food bank.*

Thank you for your support!

Pack the Pews is a great way to come together as a faith organization during the Meeker Area Food Shelf’s Annual March Campaign and collect food for those facing food insecurity. This year, we have created a Needs List of our most needed items for your convenience. This also helps to meet the needs of those needing our services.



# Churchwide

## MST USA



### Butter Braids

Beginning March 10<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> MST-USA 2025 will be taking orders for Butter Braids.

Orders may be placed with any MST-USA youth (online or in person), or through the church office. With the Online ordering option, customers can visit the on-line store, place an order and pay all in one spot! Your Butter Braids will then be available for pick up at church or delivered by one of our youth. If you'd like to place an order on-line please contact a MST-USA youth or visit the First Lutheran's Facebook page for the link.

Butter Braids will be delivered on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – just in time for Easter! If you have any questions, please contact: Carrie Block 320-333-7954. Thank you for your support of MST-USA!



### Bingo at the Muddy Cow

The MST-USA will be selling tickets for Bingo at the Muddy Cow for Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The ticket cost is \$40 which includes 9 games with \$200 payout and 1 Blackout game with a \$2,000 payout. Tickets can be purchased by any MST-USA youth.



This baptism is the start to a wonderful and long lasting faith. Congratulations on this milestone!!

**Baptized: Sunday, February 23, 2025**

**Josiah Daniel Pecholt**

**Parents: Daniel & Kelsey Pecholt**

**Sponsors:**

**Emily Smith & Christian Young**

**LOVE**  
*YOUR neighbor*  
**AS YOURSELF.**  
*Mark 12:31*



# March Calendar

## March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School 2:00 pm Scout Event 6:00 pm 4-H Meeting	<b>3</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>4</b> 7:30 am BREW 8:30 am Quilters 2 pm Worship @ Mkr. Manor 5:30 pm Worship Team Mtg. 6:30 pm NA – Chapel 6:30 pm Exec. Team Mtg. 7:00 pm Team Meetings	<b>5 Ash Wednesday</b> 10 am *TBI Support Group. 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm Confirmation/Mentors Meeting/Meal, Chilstrom Hall 7:00 pm Worship w/ Communion	<b>6</b> 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm Widow's Grief Support, Conf. Room 6:00 pm Den Mtg., Chilstrom		<b>8</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Group
<b>9</b> 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. & Baptis, Lauren Riley Pater 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>11</b> 7:30 am BREW 8:30 am LAMA Meeting 6:30 pm NA – Chapel	<b>12</b> 10 am *TBI Support Group 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Worship 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle, Sheri Nelson's home	<b>13</b> 7:55 am "Open Gate"/KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Scout Mtg, Sunday School Assembly Room 7:00 pm Scout Leaders, Chilstrom Hall		<b>15</b> 5:00 pm Movie Night, Holy Word Theater
<b>16</b> 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am First Communion Class 3:00 – 7:00 pm Council Retreat, Pastor Tom & Kim's home	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 9:30 am Rachel Circle	<b>18</b> 7:30 am BREW 9:00 am Martha Circle 11:00 am M.A.M. Meeting 6:30 pm NA – Chapel <i>No Church Council Meeting</i>	<b>19</b> 10 am *TBI Support Group 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	<b>20</b> 7:55 a.m. "Open Gate" KLFD 12:30 pm Widow's Grief Support, Conf. Room 1:30 pm WELCA Meeting		<b>22</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Group 10:00 am Pine Derby, Chilstrom Hall MST-Costa Rica leaves for trip
<b>23</b> 9:00 am Hymn Sing Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee <i>No Sunday School</i>	<b>24</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>25</b> 7:30 a.m. Brew 8:30 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. N/A, Chapel	<b>26</b> 10 am *TBI Support Group 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	<b>27</b> 7:55 am "Open Gate"/KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Den Mtg. Chilstrom		<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am First Communion Class MST-Costa Rica returns from trip	<b>31</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts					

First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
703 South Sibley Ave  
Litchfield, MN 55355  
320-693-2487

# Serving Group & Birthdays

## MARCH 2025 SERVING GROUP

<b>Chairs:</b>	
<b>Steve &amp; Jackie Kraushaar</b>	Mark & Judy Hulterstrum
<b>Daniel &amp; Robin Johnson</b>	Gary Husmann
Andy Hoffmann	Harold (Hal) & LaVonne Huso
Donald & Mary Hokanson	Rocky & Karla Hyberger
Iris Holmgren	Derek Isaacson
Mark & Jayne Holmgren	Dan & Brenda Johnson
Cecile Hoyer	Dan E. Johnson
Eric & Kayla Hulterstrum	David & Myra Johnson
John & Katie Hulterstrum	Gladys Johnson
Laura Hulterstrum	Gordon & Darla Johnson

## March Ushers 9:00 a.m.

Dennis Gartner - C  
Winton Nelson  
Jason Oslund  
Chad Zeppelin  
Larry Radunz  
Gary Pierce  
John Streed



## March

Laurie Pierce  
Laurie Koehn



All workers are essential

The concept of vocation, Latin for "to call," previously referred only to a calling to church work. But then Martin Luther emphasized the importance — and even sanctity — of *all* types of labors. The reformer pointed out that

"God doesn't need our good works,  
but our neighbor does."

RJ Grunewald, in a blog post titled "God Makes Pizza," describes how this looks today: "God is busy about *his* work in the midst of *your* work whether you realize it or not. The laundry, the spreadsheets, the phone calls and the cups of coffee are all deeply spiritual because God is at work in the world. He is serving your family, your coworkers and your community through the work you do. God is at work providing 'daily bread' through the work that you do, no matter what that work is."

### MARCH 1

MARCH 2  
Richard Nistler

### MARCH 3

Christopher Breault  
Pastor Michael Buller  
Noah Elam  
Ava Provencher  
Alixzander Rodriguez

### MARCH 4

Jan Fawcett  
Michael Johnson

### MARCH 5

Bonnie Bohn  
Joni Book  
Fay Braseth  
Brady Stille  
Valda Thomas

### MARCH 6

Dusti Berglund  
Pastor Tom Evenson  
Ashlin Hasson  
Dan Johnson  
Joel Ramthun

### MARCH 7

Erika (Gartner) Schilla  
McKenna Mahlow

### MARCH 8

Jacob Gabrielson  
Jerry Johnson  
Jim Lenhard  
Brielle Moore

### MARCH 9

Heidi Johnson  
Jeanette Nelson  
Oden Nelson  
Javin Stucky

### MARCH 10

Brenda Anderson  
Lexi Cumings  
Ezekiel Forster  
Howard Koehn

### MARCH 11

Henry Buller  
Marshall Herzog  
Ben Kranz  
Sabrina Schreiber  
Mathew Steichen

### MARCH 12

Hal Huso  
Sara Strolberg  
Sara Strolberg

### MARCH 13

Miranda Michaletz  
Tanna Stucky

### MARCH 14

Justin Boop  
Jason Michels  
Olivia Rick  
Karlie Snodgrass

### MARCH 15

Nathan Nelson  
Charlene Tancabel  
Colleen Worden

### MARCH 16

Judy Berglund  
LillieAnna Giang  
Jeremy Westphall  
Jody Westphall

### MARCH 17

MaryKay Hannan  
Crystal Wilson

### MARCH 18

Teri Alsleben  
Megan Birch  
Dakota Birch  
Troy Hurd

### MARCH 19

Lisa Bohn  
Brandon DeWolf  
Katherine Hantge  
Ruth Massingham  
Tracy Quale  
Jon Silverberg

### MARCH 20

Ella Eberling  
Taylor Manning  
Deb Zeppelin

### MARCH 21

Bradley DeWolf  
Chris Madsen

### MARCH 22

Robert Farmer  
Kirk Lundin  
Maverick Miller

### MARCH 23

Keith Evenson  
Shirley Lekander

### MARCH 24

Scott Hoff  
Macyn Hulterstrum

### MARCH 25

Beth Boyle  
Erin Kleinschmidt

### MARCH 26

Lillian Barrick  
Nathean Andersen-Otto  
Riley Defries  
Avery Liestman  
Luke Herzog  
Beverly Nelson

### MARCH 27

Jill Ramthun  
James Rorah

### MARCH 28

Audree Hanson  
Kayla Hulterstrum

### MARCH 29

Norman Bohn  
Deborah Maurer

### MARCH 30

Jacqueline Defries  
Jesse Kleinschmidt  
Daniel Piepenburg  
Cindy Strolberg

### MARCH 31

Allan Andreen  
Dorothy Euerle  
Nicholas Gabrielson  
Gina Lokken  
Sadie Ludowese  
Charlotte Noroski  
Julia Noroski  
Layne Pater

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY:



\*Our members known to be in the military are:

**Staff Sgt. US Army, Zachary Olimb**, Vicenza, Italy, grandson of Lil Madson;

**Master Sgt. Austin Kleinschmidt**, 934<sup>th</sup> Airwing, Minneapolis, son of Kipp and Lynette Kleinschmidt;

**Staff Sgt. Matthew Wiechmann**, stationed at Fort Drum, NY; son of Virgil and Jamie Wiechmann;

**Eric Kammermeier**, Chief Petty Officer HSC-23, United States Navy, son-in-law of Mike and Beth Boyle;

*Welcome Home! to those of you who now have returned to the States. Thank you all for your service*

\*Please let the office know if titles, locations, and/or addresses have changed for any of the above.

## GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING: Giving Cross - Lutheran World Relief Kits



Be still, Receive God's Love, Embrace God's Word, Welcome the Day.

**B.R.E.W.**

meets every **Tuesday morning at 7:30 a.m.** with Pastor Tom  
for coffee and fellowship. Join us!!

## **Save your greeting cards!**

They can be recycled! They will take the whole card or you can cut off the signed names, if you wish. I will drop them off at the Senior Center in Hutchinson. **\*\*No Christmas Cards please.**  
Thank you! Elaine Lenhard

Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers,

Meeker Manor: Lois Rusch

Bethany Home: Wendy Norine

Litchfield, in own home: Jutta Goodrich, Darlene Miller

VA Health Care, St. Cloud: Gordon "Bud" Johnson, Richard Allen

Hilltop Health Center, Watkins: Elois Johnson



### **Widow's Grief Support**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each  
Month, in the Conference Room  
at 12:30 p.m.

All are Welcome!

### **Confirmation**

**Confirmation Photos** are here! Please  
pick them up in the church office.  
Thank you!

Women of the **ELCA**

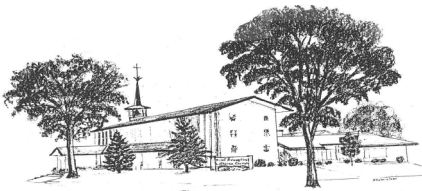
**WELCA Meeting**

**1:30 pm**

**March 20, 2025**

FIRST NEWS is a monthly publication of First Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
703 S. Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355

Please send submissions to: The Church Office by **March 15th**  
For the **NEXT ISSUE: April 2025**

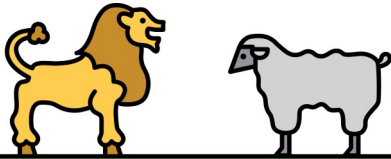


# FIRST NEWS

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
703 South Sibley Avenue • Litchfield, MN 55355

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Joan Anderson, Choir Co-Director

Kipp Kleinschmidt, Media Director  
firstmedia@firstlitchfield.org

Scott Nelson, Custodian

Joel Ramthun, Custodian

First Lutheran Church Office: 320-693-2487  
LIKE us on Facebook! Or Follow us on Youtube!



Crow River Conference Women of the ELCA

## **SPRING GATHERING** **Saturday, April 26, 2025**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cokato**  
280 3<sup>rd</sup> St SE Cokato, MN

An elevator is available if needed.  
Registration begins at 8:00AM Brunch at 8:30AM

**“Rejoicing in the Lord Always”**  
**Special Guests: SWMN Youth Band,**  
**Directed by Pastor Hans Peterson**

Offering: 50% SWMN Synod of the ELCA  
50% Gethsemane Lutheran,  
Dassel for Summer Food Program for Children

In-Kind offering:  
Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits  
You may bring any kits, quilts, and shipping  
cost contributions.

**Reservation: \$12.00 per person**  
Checks payable to Women of the ELCA  
Reservation Deadline April 16

Sign up in the church office.

