

**FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

526 South Olive Avenue
Sandpoint, ID 83864
208-263-2048

Office@FirstLutheranSandpoint.org

February 2024

Messenger

NEWSLETTER

Praising God | Nurturing Faith | Serving All

INTERIM PASTORS

Barbara Rolph
David Walker

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Lynne Campbell

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM in the Sanctuary
Online via YouTube by the next day

COMMUNION

Served first and third Sundays

COFFEE HOUR

Following Sunday worship

YOUTUBE

First Lutheran Church, Sandpoint ID

NEWSLETTER

Lynne Campbell

Office@FirstLutheranSandpoint.org

- Deadline is the 5th of the month
- Submit articles, ads, photos, and information via email
- Use "Messenger" for the subject

PASTOR BARBARA'S MESSAGE

Greetings friends and members of First Lutheran,

Lent is upon us and will begin Wednesday, February 14th. The Ash Wednesday service will be at 4 PM. This begins our forty-day journey toward Easter. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent, the devotional books "Gathered into One" will guide us each day in reflecting on our Baptismal call.

Let us pray for God to clean our hearts so we can rejoice in the day of salvation.

Meanwhile, the Call Committee has been busy interviewing a candidate for the pastoral position. Several council members have been busy working on the parsonage to

deal with the pipe break. Thanks to all who have helped with these events. As we get closer to spring, I will nudge you to help with some church spring cleaning. There is a need to toss out the old and prepare for the new.

Pastor Dave has begun Bible study on Thursdays at 1 PM. Study will be on the lectionary readings for the week.



Also, February is Samaritan's Purse – a collection for Helping Hands Healing Hearts. Tina Sunquist will have the details.

Blessings on you all, and it is my privilege to serve you.

Pastor Barbara

STAFF & CONTACT US

Pastor

Barbara Rolph
208-597-5422

David Walker
509-995-6582

Church Office

Lynne Campbell
Administrative Assistant
208-263-2048

CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Committee

Ray Yaw *President*
208-290-3880

Walter Ebel *Vice President*
509-951-4182

Sharon Roget *Treasurer*
208-263-2610

Trish Thurston *Secretary*
208-255-6885

Members at Large

Marianne Foster
208-946-6369

KarenMarie Moran
503-522-1599

Lila Petersen
208-263-2058

Linda Lacy
208-290-8884

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THE SEASON OF LENT



COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, 2-11-24

Dan Staglund, who is working with the insurance company, gave an update on the Parsonage. The furnace and water heater will be replaced, and other needs will be addressed.

The Congregation will be asked to authorize the Church Council to make adjustments to the budget as needed at the February 18, 2024 meeting to vote on calling Pastor Duane Fister to serve at FLC.

Additional Sanctuary lighting along the outer aisles was recommended by Scott Youngren and approved.

The Property Committee has three members, Bruce Johnson, Karen Marie Moran, and Linda Lacey. Anyone else is welcome to join. There will be a notebook maintained with a copy in the office of items to be addressed seasonally at the Parsonage and as needed. A work day for spring clean-up was discussed.

There is a National ELCA youth gathering in New Orleans starting July 25. Bennett Moran is registered to attend and is eligible for a scholarship.

The 2nd Harvest Food Truck event will be on September 10, 2024.

The Teen Center is doing well.

Pend Oreille Chorale will be giving a concert at FLC on June 7 at 7 PM and June 9 at 3 PM.

The Scholarship Committee, consisting of Karen Marie Moran, Sharon Roget, and Tiffany Wright-Marosi is authorized to evaluate needs and make recommendations to Church Council.

Pastor Barbara reported that she will be contacting the Charter School to see if they will help with spring clean-up.

The Helping Hands Healing Hearts offering will be collected at the end of February.

The Facilities Use Request form that Lila Petersen and Lynne have been working on was discussed.

Walt Ebel discussed Congregational Revitalization that was supported at the annual meeting. He and Pastor Barbara encouraged Council members to read the book "Living Lutheran." Copies were ordered.

Ron Roget reported on Luther Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Thurston

SUNDAY READINGS FOR FEB/MAR

Feb 14...Ash Wed.
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or
Isa 58:1-12
Ps 51:1-17
2 Cor 5:20b-6:10
Matt 6:1-6,16-21

Feb 18...1 Lent
Gen 9:8-17
Ps 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Feb 25...2 Lent
Gen 17:1-7, 15-16
Ps 22:23-31
Rom 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Mar 3...3 Lent
Exod 20:1-17
Ps 19
1 Cor 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

Mar 10...4 Lent
Num 21:4-9
Ps 107:1-3, 17-22
Eph 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Mar 17...5 Lent
Jer 31:31-34
Ps 51:1-12 or
Ps 119:9-16
Heb 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Year B 2024
Church Year Calendar



Talks at the Desk, Fire in our Hearts, Courage in our Actions

Dear Saints of the NWIM Synod,

We made it! We have turned the seasonal corner towards Spring, passing through the festival of Candlemas (Feb 2). Halfway between the winter solstice and spring equinox, Candlemas is a time when some Christians mark this passage by blessing all the candles in their homes and worship spaces. Do you have a favorite candle that marks a holy space?

Lent is the forty-day season (excluding Sundays) of penitence and preparation for the Three Days of Holy Week and Easter.

The term “Lent” originally comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “lencten” which means “spring.” This is the time, in the Northern Hemisphere, when the days are lengthening. The season began as period of fasting leading up to the Vigil of Easter. Catechumens, those preparing for baptism at Easter, would fast and spend days in intense preparation. For those that were already baptized, Lent was a period to be renewed in their faith by studying the Bible, the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer.

Although it was originally only a two-day period of preparation, Lent became a three-week preparatory period in the middle of the fourth century and then this was further expanded into six-weeks, or forty days. By the end of the fifth century, there was a desire to exclude Sundays from Lent since Sundays are always celebrated as feasts of the Resurrection. Thus Lent begins not on Sunday, but on Ash Wednesday.

The current practice of forty days of Lent recall Jesus’ forty-day fast in the wilderness after his Baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) as well as Moses’ forty-day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28).

In baptism, there is a way that each of us is a candle in the world. “Let your light so shine before others...” goes the charge at the font. We give the newly baptized person a candle to help them remember and kindle this flame for their whole lives. February is Black History Month in the US, and so this kindling of faith for us is also a call to learning, repentance, and bold change. We are blessed to have a resource to help us stoke this fire in our hearts for ending racism: the ELCA YouTube series called Talks at the Desk. Check out the trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ji2QOv2O1wY>

As your DEM (Director for Evangelical Mission), I urge you to engage this series as an educational and faith formational offering. Watch the episodes with a group from your church or with friends. Light a candle as you discuss the episode and ponder what it kindles in you.

Soon (very soon in this liturgical year), we will trace a cross of ash upon each other’s brows, a fire having been kindled and then burnt out to make this ash for our entry into Lent. Remember, we say. You are earth. You will die.

In other work as your DEM, I am learning about the movement throughout the church to think ethically about land and buildings. Times when death comes for a community and it is painful, or hopeful, or both. In the foreword to a book called *Gone for Good? Negotiating the Coming Wave of Church Property Transition*, Willie James Jennings writes about resurrection promise even in tough circumstances. “Death the wall has now become death the door.” That sentence jumped off the page for me.

We will honor death as a door when we walk through Lent together. What might we shed, or let be burned away, so that we can meet the gift of new life on the other side of this season? I believe Talks at the Desk, and it’s commission to the church, can help us discern how to renounce racism in order to dream, build, and live into the beloved community that Jesus offers all creation.

Light your candles, church. Kindle the flame and be courageous. Thanks be to God for the gifts of warmth and light, of truth and justice.

Liv Larson Andrews
Director for Evangelical Mission

Embodying Creation Care and Eco-Justice

February 21 at 4:30 pm PST/ 5:30 pm MST

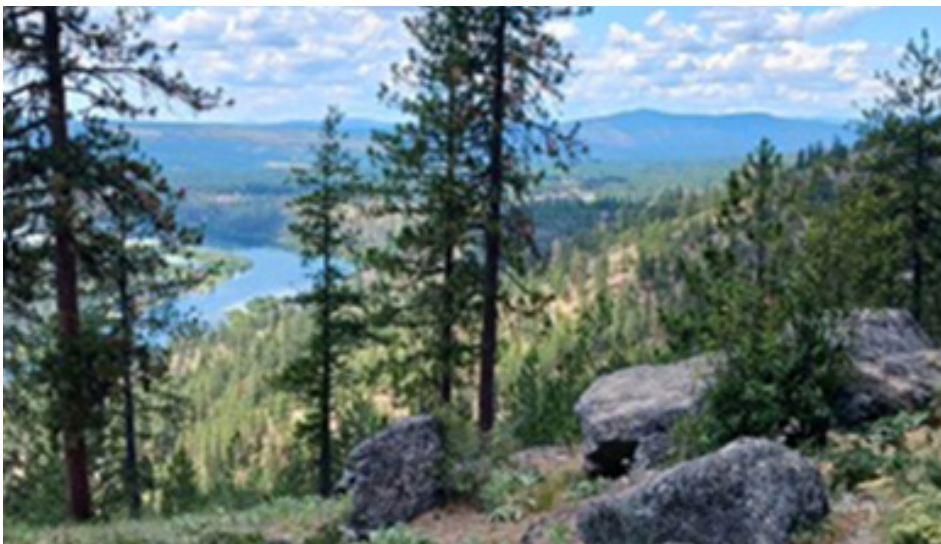
Starting in March, the group will meet on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm PST/ 7:30 pm MST.

Fertile hills that feed the world. The respite of deep lakes and the energy of rushing rivers. Forests with miles of trails. All of these are part of the beauty that we enjoy in the Northwest Intermountain Synod.

In gratitude, how do we, as people of faith, respond in a way that shows love for all our neighbors within this community of creation? And how do we use the gifts of creation to care for our families now, while also being just to Indigenous people who were here before us and to those who will live here after us? How faithfully are we tending the portion of God's garden where we live, as instructed in Genesis 2:15?

A group has started meeting via Zoom to explore these and other questions related to creation care and eco-justice within our synod. We share stories of congregations who are already engaging in this mission, and we seek ways to support congregations as they address environmental issues within their landscape and context. Our hope is to inspire and equip congregations to embody the commitments made in the ELCA's social statement on Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice.

All synod members are welcome to participate in this new group. The next meeting is February 21st at 4:30 pm Pacific / 5:30 pm Mountain. Starting in March, the group will meet on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm Pacific / 7:30 pm Mountain. For the Zoom link, or if you have questions about the group, send an email to the facilitator, Deaconess Katrina Martich, at contact@katrinamartich.com.



NEWSY NOTES

Our Congratulations to Tiffany Kurwicky on her marriage to Caleb Marosi. Our best wishes to you both!

Our Condolances to Dawn Rice whose father passed recently. Our prayers are with you.

Sharon McCormick has moved to Luther Park where you can reach her at her former phone number.

Adult Bible Study is convening on Thursdays at 1 PM with Pastor Dave. All are invited. See Sunday bulletins for the lectionary readings to be discussed.

Parsonage Repairs from freezing pipe damage are moving forward diligently as FLC prepares the building for the Fisters should the pastor accept the call.

Music Together is adding a second class in the nursery on Tuesday mornings for young children.

Phil Misner to Visit the March 17 service with a discussion to follow afterwards.

LWR Quilters applied for and received a \$450 grant from Advent Lutheran Church in Spokane Valley to be used for purchasing batting.

Youth Gathering begins July 25. Bennett Moran will be attending. Scholarships are available. Any youth interested should contact KarenMarie Moran.

A Property Committee is forming with new members KarenMarie Moran, Linda Lacy, and Bruce Johnson signed on so far.



QUICK AND EASY CHILI

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 carrot, chopped
- 1 tbsp jalapeno pepper, minced, or 1/4 cup green bell pepper, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced, or 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp cumin
- 2 (14-ounces) cans tomatoes with juice
- 2 (15-ounce) cans red kidney beans
- 1 c whole kernel corn
- 1/4 c rice (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat oil in large pan over medium heat.
2. Add onions, carrots, jalapenos, garlic, chili powder, and cumin. Cook until onions are soft.
3. Add tomatoes, beans, corn, and rice (if using). Cook on high heat until the chili bubbles.
4. Turn heat to low and simmer for about 15 minutes, until rice is cooked.

Yield: 6 cups

Serving Size: 1 cup

FINAL STEP:

Be sure to invite friends over and enjoy!

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

In January, FLC members donated 22 pounds of food and \$125 in cash.

January's contributions will be collected on the 28th and all Bags of Blessings donations will go to Helping Hands Healing Hearts.

Please give cash donations to Marianne Foster or to Lynne Campbell in the church office.

FOOD BANK THANKS FLC

Recently, the Bonner Community Food Bank sent a letter of thanks for FLC's 2023 contribution of \$633 that shares in part: Your generosity and commitment have been a beacon of hope for countless families facing the challenges of food insecurity throughout Bonner County.

This year, we have witnessed a significant increase in the need for our services, and we attribute our ability to meet this growing demand to your compassion and dedication. The impact of inflation costs has been felt by many, and, as a result, more families are finding themselves in situations where putting food on the table has become increasingly difficult.

Because of your support, we distributed 525,000 pounds of food and over 130,000 pounds of produce from community gardens...meeting the needs of nearly 40,000 visits to assist 3,000 families every month...This is a 21% increase from 2022.



Helping Hands Healing Hearts would like to thank FLC for participating in the Samaritan's Pouch fundraiser, conducted in February because it is the month of love. Jesus taught the parable of the Good Samaritan to demonstrate that our neighbor is someone in need, and that we should love our neighbors as ourselves.

This year, the funds will go toward our new Helping Hands Healing Heart's building. HHHH is definitely a "Good Samaritan" type of ministry and is the backbone of both HHHH and The Good Samaritan Inn ministries.

The new HHHH building is the goal of our first phase as we endeavor to make the best use of the land God has given us. Having no rent, more room, one level, adequate parking and indoor storage, accessibility will all be very beneficial in how we serve the needy in our community.

To help us reach this goal, fill out a pouch with coins, bills, or checks (made payable to "The Good Samaritan Inn"). Jesus said that the Good Samaritan "was moved with tender compassion." By filling a pouch, you are expressing tender compassion for the needy in our community.

Please sign up with Tina Sundquist for a pouch, and turn it in on February 25. You may also donate online at:

www.donorbox.org/gsi. Thank you and God bless you as you give. Call 208-263-6378 if you have questions. All gifts are tax deductible.



**FUNDING FORWARD:
STEWARDSHIP FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW
Ezra 3:10-13**

In this passage, we meet the Israelites as they are trying to find their 'new normal' after the destruction of the first temple and the rebuilding of the second. There is a mix of both grief and hope in the air as the foundation is being laid. This passage reminds us to tend to the variety of emotions present as we tend to the work of innovation in the church today.

We are excited to invite you to one of Regional Gatherings this coming spring. This will be an opportunity to learn together, to reconnect with friends and build relationships with people from neighboring congregations.

April 27, 2024 - Advent Lutheran Church - Spokane Valley, WA

May 4 - Our Savior Lutheran Church - Twin Falls, ID

May 18 - First Lutheran Church - Ellensburg, WA

9:30 am Registration

10:00 am Gathering

Each congregation is asked to register for the day-long event closest to you. The registration fee is \$300 per congregation. Congregations are asked to register by March 8, 2024. Bring as many people as you would like. Later in March, information will be sent to register individual participants. There will be a \$15 fee per person to cover lunch expenses. The Gathering will conclude at 4:00 pm.

PASTOR BARBARA'S PROJECT

Pastor Barbara is communicating with a relief agency in Eastern Washington regarding recovery efforts from last summer's fire in Elk. Several businesses were destroyed.

Currently, she is searching for tools to help a diesel mechanic shop or an autobody shop. If you have tools to donate, please contact her at 208-597-5422.

ELCA NOTES ON THE PRACTICE OF LENT

The appointed liturgical color for Lent is purple, the color long associated with royalty. In this case, Christ reigns from a cross.

Now, the ancient understanding of Lent as both a time for baptismal preparation and baptismal renewal is being rediscovered in Lutheran rites and practice. Many congregations hold mid-week services during Lent and a baptismal renewal theme is particularly appropriate for these.

Many congregations refrain from using the word "alleluia" during Lent. "Burying" the alleluia occurs at the conclusion of worship on Transfiguration Sunday, and it is restored at either the Vigil of Easter or Easter Sunday. A Lenten acclamation replaces the alleluia verse in preparation for hearing the Gospel.

QUILT FOR CORINA

Stitches of Love quilt group at FLC gifted a beautiful green quilt to organist Corina Hughes. Corina is recovering from shoulder surgery. Pictured from left to right are Lynn Youngren, Judy Payne, Corina Hughes. Brigitte Sanborn also worked on this quilt.





Yoga Ministry

Classes designed for “Late Bloomers” are held weekly in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:15 to 9:15 AM. Contact Judy Payne at 208-263-3564.

At FLC: Community Organizations

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild (non-profit)

Second Tuesday each month, Fellowship Hall. Providing education, enjoyment and social exchange for those who enjoy the art of quilting. For questions or more information...

Contact: Linda Oldridge
208-597-1598

Teen Center

Teens will be using the Fellowship Hall, kitchen and game room on schooldays from 2:30 to 5:30 PM (1:30 to 5:30 on Fridays).

Contact: Joan Avery
208-946-1087

Music Together

Music classes in the nursery for families with children, newborns to 8 years old.

9 AM, Tuesdays
A second class following the first is in the works.
Contact: Emily Bond
262-402-8295

Quilting Groups

Bosom Buddies

Third Monday each month
9:30AM-12PM, Fellowship Hall.

Contact: Linda Aavedal
208-610-6565

Lutheran World Relief

Wednesdays, 1:00 PM,
Sunday School Quilting Room.

Contact: Sharon Roget
208-610-9005

Stitches of Love

Currently on hiatus

Contact: Brigette Sanborn.
If you know of someone in the FLC congregation who would benefit from a tangible gift of love and caring through a handmade quilt, please contact Brigette at 208-263-8120.

Women’s Circles

Phoebe / Faith Bible Study

Fourth Tuesday each month,
1:00 PM, Conference Room.

The Phoebe and Faith Bible Study groups have combined and are studying the Book of Ruth. *Gather Magazine* may be used.

For more information, contact:
Judy Payne at 208-263-3564 or
Sharon Roget at 208-610-9005

Mary’s Circle

Each meeting arranged
Contact: Jean Cafferty
208-263-4942