



First Lutheran Church, Newton IA 2016

First Epistle

From the Pastor...

Lenten Disciplines and Resurrection

If you have been paying attention during worship, you have noticed these words in our prayer after communion: “Release us now to go on our way in these forty days, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need.” This line which we pray each week refocuses us during our Lenten journey and reminds us what the disciplines of Lent are about. Many see Lent as the time of year when you’re supposed to give something up (whether you actually gave something up for Lent is another story altogether). While this is true, the disciplines of Lent go far beyond simply giving something up. The depth of the Lenten Spiritual disciplines are rooted in this post-communion prayer.

Traditionally there are three elements to the Lenten disciplines—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This prayer roots itself in each of these traditional elements.

“Ready to see our work as prayer.” The first discipline of Lent is prayer. During this season we are to take intentional time away from all the rest of our busy lives and strengthen our relationship with God by talking to the One who Creates. It is important to carve out time to explicitly listen and to speak with God at all times. In this season of Lent, we make a point to do so even more. One way to do this is to participate in the midweek Lenten worship services. This year our focus is on prayer itself. But this petition in the post-communion prayer goes beyond simply adding prayer time. In this season of Lent we reorder our lives so that we recognize that God is with us at all times, and so, in all we do—in our work and in our play—we are conversing with God. The work we do—at our place of employment, or while we are at home—is also prayer.

“Ready to fast from complacency.” The second discipline of Lent is fasting. Here we get the simple idea of giving something up, that is, fasting from that particular thing. But here we see that fasting is far more than simply giving something up. Complacency—that smug self-satisfaction in one’s own abilities—is a problem that eats away at us. We forget that we rely upon God and instead place our own abilities ahead of the Creator. During Lent, we refocus ourselves so that we see our abilities as gifts from God and that God is the source of all that we are.

“Ready to share with those in need.” The third discipline of Lent is almsgiving. At its most basic, this is giving money to those who are poor and/or needy in our world. This prayer reminds us that what we have is from God and that God has given us the skills, talents, and resources we have so that we are able to help those who are in need.

In the final analysis, this prayer is about rooting us in God. All that we have is God’s. As stewards we are called to tend it and to share it with the world. This is particularly highlighted as a prayer thanking God for the grace we have just received in the body and blood of our Savior.

One of the primary images of Christian faith is that of a grape vine. Each year, at about this time of year, the vine needs to be pruned. It needs to be cut back and prepared for new growth in the spring. That which is dead and no longer helpful—in fact, detrimental—in the growth of the vine is removed so that the power of new life will pour out from the plant. During the season of Lent, we

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Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Fellowship
10:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday
9:00-Noon
or by appointment

First Lutheran Church will be renewing the Lutheran Church Potluck tradition!

Starting on March 6, every First Sunday of the month, First Lutheran will be hosting a pot luck following worship service. If you're able, please bring a hot and/or cold dish to share, as well as your own table service. If you're unable, please join us anyway! Normally, water, coffee and lemonade will be provided. However, on March 6th, we will be taking our potluck to Sugar Grove after church for a special Spring event. So, please, join us, and this time, do bring your own beverage in addition to your table service and goodies.

We hope to see you there! Jello salad here we come!

Please remember, if you are having trouble hearing: Listening devices are available. Please ask an usher.

First Communion Class - March 12

Are you interested in what Holy Communion is about? Is your child asking questions about Holy Communion? Please let the office know you want to come to our class on March 12.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

The Food Pantry would like us to emphasize a specific item each month. Remember, you may bring any item you wish, but spreading this among the contributing congregations keeps a steady supply of their most basic needs coming each month. **For the month of March, Jello, pudding and canned fruit have been requested.** There is a basket in the narthex for all food pantry items.

Thank you for being so generous.

Chancel Flowers

Mar. 6—
Mar. 13— Zimmermann
Mar. 20—
Mar. 27— Easter Lilies

Fellowship

Mar. 6— Potluck
Mar. 13—
Mar. 20—
Mar. 27—

Please sign up to provide flowers and fellowship.

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spend time as followers of Christ pruning ourselves. We refocus our bodies and minds. We prune away habits and complacent behavior to make room for new growth in Christ. We prune away those parts of ourselves that are dead and prepare for resurrection and new life. This is why we celebrate Lent. This is why Lent moves directly into Easter. This is why we pray: "Release us now to go on our way in these forty days, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need."

Peace, Pastor Zach



3/1	Ron Grunig	3/9	Arlene Byers
3/4	Doug Wilken		Pat Foote
3/5	Dawn Lucas	3/18	Robyn Friedman
	Denise McVey	3/19	Sharon Petersma
	Barbara Orsund	3/24	Sebastian Peters
3/7	Andy Breuer	3/27	Michael Hodnett
3/8	Pam Comer	3/31	Meagan Frehse



**Don't forget—
Daylight Savings Time begins
March 13th!**

Spring forward an hour
on Saturday night,
so you will not be late
for church on Sunday!

A big Thank You to all who came out to help prepare and eat pancakes at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! It was great to have so much help!



Many thanks to the talented bakers and candy makers who provided treats for the Sweets for your Sweet bake sale held on February 13. This year's batch of goodies was especially elegant and tasty, and the purchasers were delighted with their quality. We were able to sell all the goodies we had, and raised \$215 for the Children's Hospital at Zinga. Thank you for your good work. Thank you for your help to improve the lives of children on the other side of the world.

Wednesday Night Community Dinners:

THANK YOU to the people that helped with our Wednesday Night Community Dinner this past month! Our next dinners are on **March 23rd and 30th**. Ours is always the fourth Wednesday of the month and we help if there is a fifth. Please join us again to continue this very important community service. A warm meal on a cold night helps a lot of people.



**Women of the ELCA
Cluster 2 Spring Gathering
Saturday, April 2, 2016**

St. Paul Lutheran Church
605 1st Avenue N
State Center, Iowa
641-483-2140

Registration is 8:30—9:00 a.m. Cost \$5.00.

Our spring gathering will include a 90 minute program where we discuss and watch the movie “Miss Representation”. This movie explores how mainstream media and culture contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America. This movie offers a lot of information. We encourage everyone to take this opportunity to see it.

Our Love-In-Kind offering is items for St. Paul’s Backpack Program. Single serving food and drink packages are needed. Examples would include: granola bars, fruit cups, cereal cups, juice boxes, cup of soup, etc. The idea is to give food needing little or no preparation.

We hope to see you there!



Henry Saye contact address

In January we blessed Henry Saye as he left on his most recent call to action in the Army Reserve to Afghanistan. Now we have an address where you can send Henry your encouragement and well wishes.

SPC Saye Henry
518th RSSB
TF Ragging Bull
APO, AE, 09354



**Prayer
Corner**

We pray for all of our families, friends and church family. Lord, help us as we walk through Lent, learning more about prayer and our relationship with you. We look forward with anticipation to the joy of the resurrected Jesus at Easter. It reminds us your ways are not our ways. We thought the blessing of the birth of Christ was over when he died. Yet you gave us an even greater blessing when you raised him on the third day. Your love for us is amazing. Help us to share your love with others. We continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community and our world.

A Call for Easter Lilies

We plan to decorate the Sanctuary with Easter Lilies and invite your help in providing lily plants.

If you would like to order a lily, please complete the form below, attach your check, fold together, and place it in the offering plate. You may also mail or bring your check and order form to the church office.

You may pay with cash or a check payable to Hy-Vee Floral in the amount \$9.00 for each lily ordered. The deadline for turning in order and payment is Monday, March 21st.

Lilies may be taken home after the Easter Service.



Name _____

Phone _____

Lily(s) ____ **\$9.00/each** (Check payable to Hy-Vee Floral)

Given in honor of

Given in memory of



2016

**LENTEN
SCHEDULE**

February 10	Ash Wednesday
February 17	Study of Prayer
February 24	Study of Prayer
March 2	Study of Prayer
March 9	Study of Prayer
March 16	Study of Prayer
March 20	Palm/Passion Sunday
March 22	Sedar Meal at Holy Trinity - 5:30pm
March 24	Maundy Thursday
March 25	Good Friday
March 27	Easter

Please join us on our Lenten journey as we learn about prayer by studying Martin Luther's bible studies featuring many familiar characters from the Old Testament. **All Lenten services will be held at 7:00pm here at First Lutheran.**



Good Friday Cross Walk

Please join the community and Mission Coalition for the Good Friday Cross Walk starting at noon on March 25th. We will walk, sing, listen and carry the cross as we visit seven downtown churches in this year's walk. Come be a part of this beautiful expression of faith in our community.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 WOW 7:00 Worship	3	4	5
6 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship Potluck at Sugar Grove 6-8pm Downtown Youth	7 5:00 Bible Study	8	9 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 WOW 7:00 Worship	10 1:30 Good Cheer	11	12 First Communion Class
13 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 6-8pm Downtown Youth	14 5:00 Bible Study 7:00 Hannah	15 6:00 Council	16 8:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Lois 1:00 Martha 6:00 WOW 7:00 Worship	17 7:00 Eunice	18	19
20 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	21 5:00 Bible Study Newsletter articles due	22	23 8:00 Men's Breakfast 5:30 Community dinner 6:00 WOW	24 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Worship	25 Good Friday 7:00 Worship	26
27 Easter Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	28 5:00 Bible Study	29 9am Dorcas	30 8:00 Men's Breakfast 5:30 Community dinner 6:00 WOW 6:30 Confirmation	31		

March Serving Schedule

Sunday 9:30am	Acolyte	Council on Duty	Greeters	Lector	Ushers	PA
March 6th	Brock Jordan	Julie Laube	Pat & Steve Putz	Bethany Baumgartner	Dave Troen, Dirk Amundsen, Alex Anderson	
March 13th	Lane Rose, Isaac Friedman	Pat Foote		Marlys Amundsen	Lee Swenson, Aaron Bartholmey	Matt Coyle
March 20th Palm Sunday	Anna VanDam, Mae VanDam	Deb Rose		Pat Foote	Bob Floss, Stan Kirchhoff, Andrew Weiland	
March 24th Maundy Thursday	Anna VanDam, Mae VanDam	Pat Foote			Captains	
March 25th Good Friday					Captains	
March 27th Easter	Lane Rose, Blake Baumgartner, Brock Jordan, Thomas Hodnett	Rex Thompson		Dirk Amundsen	Gary Johnson, Jim Lammey, Tom Sharp	Andrew Weiland

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