



# First Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## February/March Handclasp Newsletter

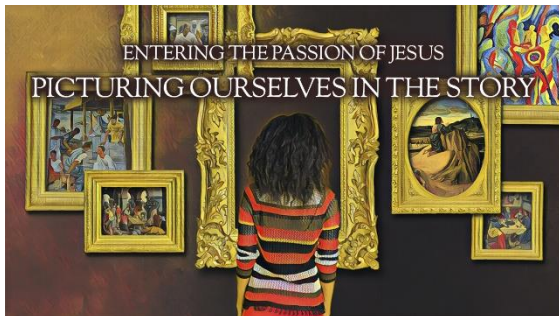


### From Pastor Sami

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. When I ask people about Lent, they often talk to me about what they will give up. When I ask why, they explain how they connect the suffering they feel with the suffering Jesus endured on the cross. It helps them appreciate Jesus' sacrifice more because of their fasting. Fasting was practiced throughout the Old and New Testaments. There are many reasons to fast. Isaiah 58:6-7 talks about fasting or doing without so others who don't have can have enough. Whatever our reasons, it's important to connect fasting and prayer. We often forget that part. As we feel the pains of deprivation, we pray. As we feel the frustration of not getting what we want, we pray. As we feel temptation to give up and break our fast, we pray. This way, our fasting becomes a spiritual practice. Historically, those wishing to be baptized at Easter Vigil (the night before Easter) would fast and pray to prepare themselves. Those already baptized would renew their faith by studying the Bible, Creed, and Lord's Prayer during Lent.

Whether it's fasting, studying, praying, a devotional, a new podcast, or some other practice you choose during Lent, the purpose is to help us grow in our faith and prepare us for the coming death and resurrection of Jesus. One way we can prepare and reflect this Lenten season is through Lectio Divina. Lectio Divina is Latin for divine reading. When practicing this spiritual discipline, we first **prepare**. Perhaps we light a candle, get a journal, or just sit in a peaceful spot and prepare our hearts and minds to read scripture and listen for God's voice. Next, we **read** the scripture for the first time listening for any words or phrases and paying attention to images or feelings that stand out to us. Read the passage a **second time**. Perhaps God reinforces what was highlighted during the first reading or perhaps God moves in a different direction. Be open to wherever God leads. Read the passage a **third time** and after, **respond** by journaling, praying, meditating, painting, drawing or however you choose to respond. Finally, let yourself rest in this holy space for a minute before coming back to the day.

If you would like a Lenten Lectio Divina guide, please contact or pick one up at the church. You can also go to our webpage [www.flcsj.org](http://www.flcsj.org) or our YouTube page to find videos for each day in Lent guiding you in the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina.



## Worship Ministry

The Worship Team has selected the Lenten worship series, “Entering the Passion of Jesus; Picturing Ourselves in the Story.” The events of the last week of Jesus’ life, often don’t receive enough time in our worship and study. These stories are important to our faith journey and our identity as followers of Jesus. And yet we often move too quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little time to absorb the dramatic story of that last week. Throughout the six weeks of Lent, we will “freeze-frame” moments in Holy Week so we might put ourselves in the picture, thereby “Entering the Passion of Jesus.” How might taking a closer look at the ancient stories open us to deeper conviction for our role in its ongoing message?

## Music Ministry

Welcome Jonathan McClain, our new Technology Coordinator. Jonathan owns his own DJ company and does sound for many bands in town. He brings a wealth of technology knowledge and courage! He is very willing to learn new things and is not intimidated by the challenge of understanding new technology. Thank you so much, Jonathan for all you do!



Welcome Jim Pierce, our interim Music Coordinator. He will help organize the music for the Praise Team (band) and lead when needed. We are giving him a stipend for taking on this interim position. Thank you so much Jim for all you do!



## Open Position

We are still looking for an accompanist. If you know of someone, please reach out to them. We have been actively searching to fill this position. Please keep us in your prayers that we find the right person for this very important ministry.

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## **Altar Guild**

### **Altar Flowers**

The new year brings changes and there is a price change for altar flowers that went into effect January 1. For the past three years, Darla's Flowers has supplied us with fresh flowers for the altar at a cost of \$40.00/2 bouquets. Unfortunately, she has been forced to raise her price to \$50.00/2 bouquets due to rising costs for flowers, supplies, and shipping. We realize that this may be a hardship for some who would like to put flowers on the altar for a special occasion. The Altar Guild will welcome two dedications at a cost of \$25.00 for each sponsor. They will also pay for one bouquet if someone just wants one bouquet to take home for \$25.00. We also will reach out to those who watch our service online. If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar, there is an Altar Guild member who has volunteered to deliver the flowers to you or Pastor Sami will take them to our homebound members when she visits. The Altar Guild also agreed to continue to provide flowers for any Sunday without a sponsor. Those flowers will be given to people on our prayer list, our homebound, or someone who we think would appreciate a cheery bouquet. We will continue the tradition of no altar flowers during Lent which is February 26 - April 2.

## **Opportunities to Serve**

### **Haven House: Fourth Tuesday**

Sign up by contacting the church office [flcsj302@gmail.com](mailto:flcsj302@gmail.com) or 816-232-8378.

3:00 p.m. Cooking

5:00 p.m. Serving

### **Outreach Team**

We are creating a new Outreach Team who will look for and tell us about service opportunities. In the past, this has primarily been done by Carol Bunge. She would like help moving forward. We have partnered with Grace House providing shoes and backpacks, Open Door Food Kitchen serving 2 times a year, the Bartlett Center, The Crossing, and many more. If you are interested in being a member of this team, please contact Pastor Sami at [pastorflcsj@gmail.com](mailto:pastorflcsj@gmail.com) or 816-232-8378.



# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Photo Scavenger Hunt

Building community and having fun, the youth went on a Photo Scavenger Hunt to Wal-Mart and McDonalds. They do things like take a picture of their entire group in a mirror, one of the groups jumping, and one of someone in a shopping cart. Well done youth and youth leaders!

## February Youth Group Activity

February 19, 7:30 p.m.

### Game Night at the church

Sardines, Signs and more at the church! Make sure to invite your friends. These games are a lot more fun when we have more people!!

*You're invited!*





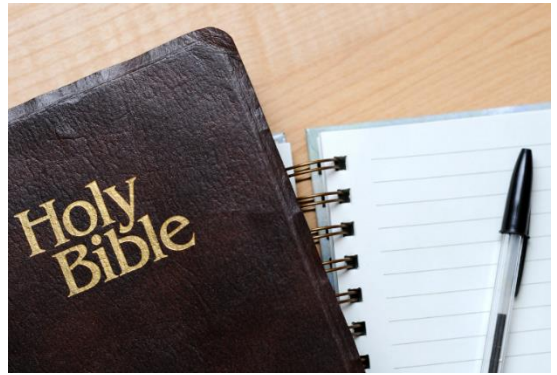
## Council Updates

- ~ Council retreat Feb. 11
- ~ Disbursement of foundation hunger grants: InterServ: \$1500.00, Patee Park Baptist: \$1500.00 for pantry and Wednesday night meal. Open Door: \$1000.00, Nutrition Center: \$1000.00, our Food Kitchen designated fund:\$1000.00
- ~ We will send \$3000 as part of our giving to our Synod.
- ~ The tower repair has been paid for in full by a historic grant from the city, from personal donations and from the foundation.
- ~ New Council Members to be voted in on the Jan. 22 Congregational Meeting are Ken Korrell and Kent Heier. Marilyn Hunt will serve another term.



Joyce Stroud presenting our check to InterServ

Thank You 



## Christian Education Opportunities

### Weekly:

Scripture Study with Pastor Sami meets Mondays from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the upstairs classroom. We discuss the scriptures to be preached the upcoming Sunday.

Scripture Study with Pastor Sami also meets Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. online only. **Zoom ID 845 6213 2526**

Thursday Morning Bible Study meets from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the upstairs classroom.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Choir Room. We discuss the scriptures and sermon from worship.

### Monthly:

Phoebe's Circle is a women's Bible study group that meets the third Thursday of the month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the chapel.

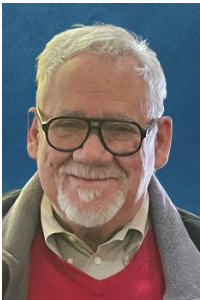
# New Members



Ry Hatfield, Nickie Casburn and Tracy Hatfield chose to join First Lutheran because they liked the blended worship experience and Pastor Sami. When they came, they felt welcomed and accepted. They have three dogs.



Tami Davis is First Lutheran's line dance teacher. She works at the Platte City School District in charge of the scheduling of the buses. Tami's passion is to dance!



Gary Poling comes to us as a friend of Roger Lenander. He has a passion for God and is excited to continue growing in his faith. Gary also has a heart for service.

**Not  
Pictured**

Lind Goodwin grew up in the Pentecostal denomination and loves the positive messages of First Lutheran. She also loves the quiet and meditative spaces in our worship experience. Linda works as a care giver.



## Anniversaries and Birthdays



### Anniversaries

No anniversaries this month.



### Birthdays Continued.

Jeremy Olson, 02/12

Quill Rush, 02/12

Sarah Cotton, 02/13

Jason Starks, 02/13

Allen Amos, 02/14

Jaxon Aarstad, 02/15

Karri Chladek, 02/19

Gary Meyers, 02/24

David Bezona, 02/25

Carl Perkins, 02/27

Juel Pierce, 02/28

Sophie Runge, 02/28

Pam Farrell, 02/29

### Birthdays

Kylee Meehan (Happy 21<sup>st</sup>!), 02/02

Jamie Moore, 02/24

Zach Officer, 02/06

Diane Jull, 02/07

Gene Rasmussen, 02/07

Judith Bunker, 02/08

George Hoeffner, 02/10

Janet Ruff, 02/11

Mort Nelson, 02/12





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## Prayers

### Members:

**Floreen Johnson** Prayers for continued health and happiness.

**Pamela Kirkpatrick-Norton and family**, prayers for healing and continued strength to lean on God in difficult times.

**Della Schiermeyer**, prayers for healing and good health.

**Dorothy Masteller**, prayers of strength as she deals with her cancer.

**Richard Palmer** (husband of Debbie Ziph-Palmer and friend of Carol Wilson)

**Verna Kirschner**, prayers for comfort and peace.

**Kay Howard** continued prayers of healing after issues with surgery.

**Karen Young** who is recovering from partial hip replacement.

### Friends

**Darin Hinnergardt** (friend of Jeff Langdon),

**John and Kay Mallon** (friends of Jim Pierce),

**Brenda Fanning** (step-daughter of Dorothy Masteller),

**Carol Powers** (Marilyn Hunt's sister),

**Larry Kramer** (Joy Winters' brother-in-law),

**Robbi O'Connell & Randi DeRoin** (Charlotte Chirila's granddaughters),

**Rosa and Vivine Langdon** (granddaughters of Kris and Jeff Langdon),

**Keira Wall** (great-niece of Irene Wall)

**Charles Frazer** (friend Irene Wall)

### Friends continued:

**Loren Larkin** (friend of Sharmyn Thompson),

**Judy Black** (friend of Laurel Goforth),

**Janis Roorda** (Jeff Langdon's friend),

**Victor Johnson** (uncle of Kenny Ruff),

**Kim Durbin** (cousin of Kenny Ruff),

**Nick Howard** (Kay Howard's husband),

**John Rushin and Barbra Wife** (friends of Dan Chladek),

**Jennifer** (Diane Jull's niece)

**Kevin and Becky Carlson** (cousins to Kathy Wessler)

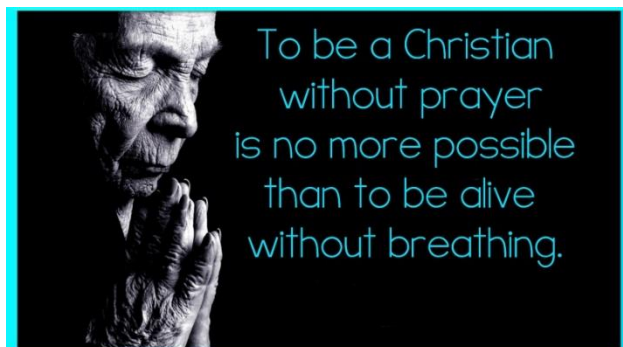
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**Carol Powers** (Marilyn Hunt's sister)

**Larry Kramer** (Joy Winters' brother-in-law)



<b>Date</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>
February 5	Brenda Bass	Larry Reder	Caleb Bufkin
February 12	Nancy Lewis	Ken Korell	Brett Chladek
February 19	David Bezona	Randi Lenander	Stetson Rush
February 26	Jim Pierce	Kris Langdon	TBD

**Ushers:** Ann Newman, Joyce Stroud, Marilyn Hunt

<b>Average Attendance</b>	
In Person	62
Online	112
<b>Offering Year-to-Date</b>	
Income	\$211,258.72
Expense	\$209,297.77
Difference	\$299.89



<b>Date</b>	<b>Flower Schedule</b>
February 5	Kris and Jeff Langdon
February 12	Phil and Nancy Heeler
February 19	Marilyn Hunt
February 26	<b>No flowers during Lent</b>

