

Hello First Lutheran,

First, please note the leader worship bulletin is included in this email. It will be sent out weekly for those who are worshipping online. That way, they have the words, music, etc. and can better participate in worship.

Second, the Altar Guild with the support of Church Council have decided to no longer purchase the wine and bread chalices for Communion because they cost 2 times as much as the juice and bread. Altar Guild, like so many of us, never expected the pandemic to go as long as it has. They are striving to be good stewards of their budget and thus, have decided to only order the juice and bread option. We have about 300 wine and bread chalices we will use until they are gone. If anyone would like to donate funds for the wine and bread option, it costs \$130 a month.

And lastly, I am so excited to tell you about our new Worship Team. This team will work with our music staff and pastor to create worship experiences. Our first task was to plan for the upcoming Lenten season. Our Lenten theme this year will be "Full to the Brim." During the 40 days of Lent, we journey with Jesus to the cross. As we walk with him, we prepare our hearts for the death of our Savior. Historically, Lent was a time of preparation for baptism. People would reflect on their old, sinful lives and prepare themselves for baptism into new life through fasting, Bible study, and other daily devotions. Through our baptism, our old sinful selves are swallowed up in the life-giving waters. We are freed from the chains of sin that leave us broken and empty.

To live into this new life in Jesus Christ, we need to recognize and acknowledge our old, sinful selves. We need to admit our emptiness. When we announce we are healed, we admit we needed healing. When we celebrate that we are forgiven, we admit we needed forgiveness. This Lenten season, we will honestly admit our emptiness and need for God's fullness.

The Altar Guild is also a part of this worship planning through their help with the liturgical art. This important element will help us further engage with scripture and with our theme of "Full to the Brim."

Our first Lenten worship experience will be on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Mark your calendars!

Blessings,  
Pastor Sami