



# March 2026 Bell



## First things first: Our identity in Christ

On Lenten Sundays, our monthly March theme will be putting first things first: Our Identity in Christ.

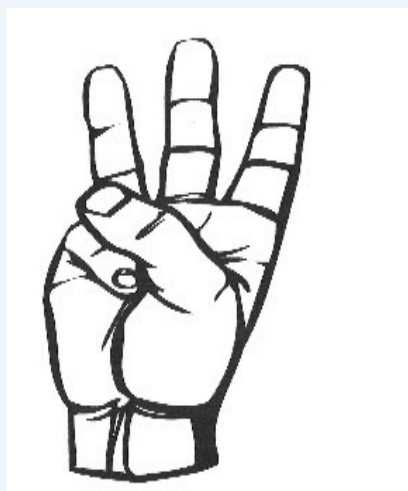
From the temptation in the wilderness and **“Christ’s wild kingdom”** to the encounter with Nicodemus being **“born from above”**

From a Samaritan woman’s **“Wellspring”** of Joy as she announces her new identity in Christ to a blind man who sees because of **“Amazing Grace”**

From Lazarus being **“Risen”** from the dead to the triumphal entry with **“Palms-up praise”** with hosannas to usher in the Son of David!

|      |             |                          |                |
|------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 2/22 | Lent 1      | “Christ’s wild Kingdom!” | Matthew 4:1-11 |
| 3/1  | Lent 2      | “You Never Forget!”      | John 3: 1-17   |
| 3/8  | Lent 3      | “Wellspring!”            | John 4: 5-42   |
| 3/15 | Lent 4      | “Amazing Grace!”         | John 9: 1-41   |
| 3/22 | Lent 5      | “Risen!”                 | John 11: 1-45  |
| 3/29 | Palm Sunday | “Palms-up Praise!”       | Luke 19: 28-39 |

(Continued on Page 2)



On Lenten Wednesdays, our theme will be 3, a powerful number in the Bible that holds both death & resurrection.

Death=worry, temptation, passion, denial, certainty, fear

Resurrection= forgiveness, freedom, new life & 3<sup>rd</sup> day hope!

|      |               |                     |                                            |
|------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 2/18 | Ash Wednesday | "Do not worry x 3!" | Matthew 6: 25-34                           |
| 2/25 | Lent          | "Temptation x 3!"   | Matthew 4: 1-11                            |
| 3 /4 | Lent          | "Passion x 3!"      | Matthew 16:21-23, 17: 22-23, 20: 17-19     |
| 3/11 | Lent          | "Denial x 3!"       | Matthew 26: 34, John 18:17, Mark 14: 66-72 |
| 3/18 | Lent          | "Certainty x 3!"    | John 21: 15-17                             |
| 3/25 | Lent          | "Fear x 3!"         | John 20: 19, 21, 26                        |

Throughout Lent, it looks like death has the final answer, but then resurrection happens on Easter Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> culminating with "On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day!"

See you on Wednesdays AND Sundays!

Pastor Hans

## 2026 Lenten Wednesday Schedule

02/18/2026 Ash Wednesday Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM

02/25/2026 Lent Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM

03/04/2026 Lent Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM

03/11/2026 Lent Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM

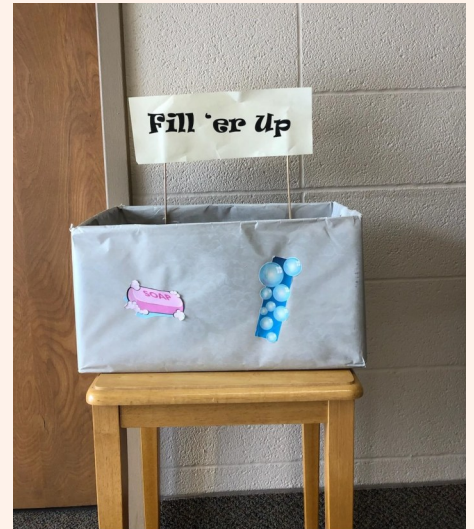
03/18/2026 Lent Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM

# FLCW NOTES

## A Lenten Stewardship Project

First Lutheran Church Women will be collecting donations of bars or pump bottles of soap.

The collection box will be in the church narthex. Donations can be given anytime the church is open. The bars of soap collected will be given to the Pine River Backus Food Shelf.



March is Minnesota Food Share Month.  
FLCW will make a \$300.00  
donation to the Pine River Area Food Shelf.

## An Irish Blessing

May you always have walls for the winds,  
a roof for the rain, tea beside the fire,  
laughter to cheer you, those you love near you,  
and all your heart might desire.

May joy and peace surround you,  
Contentment latch your door,  
And happiness be with you now,  
And bless you evermore.

Bless you and yours  
As well as the cottage you live in.  
May the roof overhead be well thatched  
And those inside be well matched.

May your neighbors respect you,  
Trouble neglect you,  
The angels protect you,  
And heaven accept you.



# FLCW NOTES

## OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

**Thirteen of us went to the Snarky Loon for lunch on February 17.**

**A good time was had by all, but we missed the snowbirds!**

**In March we will be going to Lakes Latte in Pequot Lakes. We will meet at 11 in the church parking lot on March 17.**



### March Circle Meetings

#### *Dorcas Sewing Circle*

Meetings are the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the lower-level Quilting Room in the church.

Dorcas is quilting and fellowship; no Bible study.

March 5th and 19th

#### *Naomi Circle*

Will meet on Thursday, March 19th at 1:30, in the church Fellowship Hall.

Patty Sweeny & Ethel Hopper are the hosts, and study leaders.

**Kitchen Committee will meet at 1:30 pm on Monday, March 30th.**

# OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

Our March outing will be to Lakes Latte in  
Pequot Lakes

We will meet on March 17 in the church  
parking lot at 11:00 AM



Lakes Latte is a cozy coffee shop blending the charm of a coffee shop, breakfast spot and a tea house. Popular menu items include: scones, cinnamon rolls and paninis.



# March 2026

## Worship Volunteers

### March 1, 2026

#### *Second Sunday in Lent*

Reader:

Communion Assistants:

Sound: Sandy Gilbertson

Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt

### March 8, 2026

#### *Third Sunday in Lent*

Readers: Rene Frigaard

Communion Assistants:

Sound: Matthew Rohr

Zoom:

### March 15, 2026

#### *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

Reader:

Communion Assistants:

Sound: Denice Smith

Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt

### March 22, 2026

#### *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Reader:

Communion Assistants:

Sound: Denice Smith

Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt

### March 29, 2026

#### *Palm Sunday*

Reader:

Communion Assistants:

Sound: Denice Smith

Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt

Ushers: Paul Pearson, Vince and Jace Norman

Counter: Brenda Anderson

Altar Guild: Jodi Perry & Val Johnson

Coffee: Hoplin Families

**First Lutheran Church  
Congregational Care Commission Minutes  
2/15/2026**

**Members Present:**

Pastor Hans Anderson, Matthew Rohr, Val Johnson, Peter Moeller, Anne Holm, Melanie Lindquist, Cora Hohnstadt, Penny Siewert, and Rhonda Wippler

**Members Absent:**

Denice Smith

**Today's Devotions:** Anne Holm          Devotions for March:

**Pastor's Report:** Discussed Pastoral care concerns, names suggested for contact

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes for 1/18/2026  
Motion to Approve: Val          Seconded by: Anne

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to Approve: Anne          Seconded by: Penny

**Old Business:**

**Ceiling Fans and Can Lights:** Per Matthew, Electrician will be here Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> to begin the work.

**Leak under Heater downstairs:** Leak has been repaired.

**Repair of Women's Restroom Floor:** Major project, prefer to review in June when church is not as busy.

**Signer names on bank accounts:** Paperwork has been completed, driver's licenses presented and signatures recorded at bank by Peter, Matthew and Rhonda.

**Information and request for donation from Cory Bradow** – No updates – Melanie feels she should contact Cory again.

**Responses from invitation to Methodist, Maple Hill, Swanberg, and/or Bethlehem to join us for Lenten Services:** No verbal responses but invitation was presented to each church. Pastor wonders if a more formal invitation to join/merge our churches should be discussed with our Bishop?

(continued on next page)

**New Business:**

**Camp Sunday:** There is a volunteer board member from Camp Vermillion but no date set yet, generally happens in February. Pastor will check further and advise.

**FLCW Soap bar and pump collection for Lent – Food Shelf:** Discussed where this had gone in prior years and some felt it had gone to the Tiger's Den at school. Melanie believes that, at school, it isn't so much picking what you want as it is everyone being offered the same prepackaged variety of goods.

**Website Issues:** Our FLC website was hacked and Steve Braker in Backus is working on fixing this for us. Pastor said that the same thing happened the same day at his wife Erin's place of employment, feels strongly that it is just random.

Matthew advised that our website and the access to our services is what brought his family to our church and that he feels there could be more energy put into our website to attract those in need of access to the Word, if not able to attend.

Matthew has resources that he will approach for more information and suggests we determine how much money can be allotted to improving our audio and video (cameras/stands, etc). He has some equipment that may assist in bettering our Zoom processes.

Val proposed that we think about setting up a committee of interested and qualified persons.

Kyann Shamp will be recording each student's name in their Third Grade Action Bibles, for presentation on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor encouraged sign ups for providing food and clean-up for the Lenten Wednesday Meals.

**Closing:** The Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

Rhonda Wippler, Secretary

## FINANCIAL DATA

SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2026

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Budgeted Income (all areas) | \$93,838.47   |
| Actual Income (all areas)   | 82,485.31     |
| Difference (BELOW BUDGET)   | (\$11,353.16) |

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Budgeted Expenses        | \$93,837.88   |
| Actual Expenses          | 80,960.05     |
| Difference (BELOW BUDGET | (\$12,877.83) |

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Actual Income (all areas) | \$82,485.31 |
| Actual Expenses           | 80,960.05   |
| Difference                | \$ 1,525.26 |

ACTUAL PREVIOUS MONTH CHECKING:

|         |                   |               |
|---------|-------------------|---------------|
| Jan. 31 | Ending Balance    | \$54,341.84   |
| Jan. 1  | Beginning Balance | 57,434.61     |
|         | Difference (loss) | (\$ 3,092.77) |

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Jan. Income       | \$12,869.36   |
| Jan. Expenditures | 15,962.13     |
| Difference (loss) | (\$ 3,092.77) |

Because there are some changes in income and expenses after this report is written, you will see the bottom portion of the report giving the actual previous month's numbers.

[illegible]

## NOISY OFFERING FOR MARCH

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month, when people, businesses, and organizations come together to help food shelves across the state. The campaign is the largest grassroots food drive in Minnesota.

First Lutheran Church's March Noisy Offering will be going to the local food shelf.





# LENT

## GRATITUDE JOURNAL



The three things I am grateful for today are

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The best thing about today

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Today I learned

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Today I helped

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|--|

# March 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

|                                                                                                        |                                                                       |                                          |                                                                    |                                                                                                                        |               |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <sup>1</sup><br><b>Worship</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b><br><br><b>Coffee</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b>               | <sup>2</sup>                                                          | <sup>3</sup>                             | <sup>4</sup><br>WOW 3:30 PM<br>Soup 5:00 PM<br>6:00 PM<br>Service  | <sup>5</sup><br><b>Dorcas</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b>                                                                        | <sup>6</sup>  | <sup>7</sup>  |
| <sup>8</sup><br><b>Worship</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b><br><br><b>Coffee</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b>               | <sup>9</sup>                                                          | <sup>10</sup>                            | <sup>11</sup><br>WOW 3:30 PM<br>Soup 5:00 PM<br>6:00 PM<br>Service | <sup>12</sup>                                                                                                          | <sup>13</sup> | <sup>14</sup> |
| <sup>15</sup><br><b>Worship 9:00 AM</b><br><br><b>Coffee</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b><br><b>CCC 10:00 AM</b> | <sup>16</sup>                                                         | <sup>17</sup><br><i>Out to<br/>Lunch</i> | <sup>18</sup><br>WOW 3:30 PM<br>Soup 5:00 PM<br>6:00 PM<br>Service | <sup>19</sup><br><b>Dorcas</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b><br><b>Operation Sandwich</b><br><b>Naomi Circle</b><br><b>1:30 PM</b> | <sup>20</sup> | <sup>21</sup> |
| <sup>22</sup><br><b>Worship</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b><br><br><b>Coffee</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b>              | <sup>23</sup>                                                         | <sup>24</sup>                            | <sup>25</sup><br>WOW 3:30 PM<br>Soup 5:00 PM<br>6:00 PM<br>Service | <sup>26</sup>                                                                                                          | <sup>27</sup> | <sup>28</sup> |
| <sup>29</sup><br><b>Worship</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b><br><br><b>Coffee</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b>              | <sup>30</sup><br><i>Kitchen</i><br><i>Committee</i><br><i>1:30 PM</i> | <sup>31</sup>                            |                                                                    |                                                                                                                        |               |               |

# **New Member Classes are coming in April!**

**April 12, 2026** New Member Class  
after worship

**April 19, 2026** New Member Class  
after worship

**April 26, 2026** New Members received with  
potluck following worship.



## **New Member Class**

**First Lutheran Church  
Welcomes you!**



### **Sunday Worship & Study:**

Worship & Communion 9:00 AM.

Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 AM

**Pastor: Hans Anderson**

**Church Office: 218-587-2316**

**[www.1stluth.org](http://www.1stluth.org)**