



# First Trinity Lutheran Church March 2024

First Trinity Lutheran Church  
Lutheran Church– Missouri Synod  
402 East Main, PO Box 540  
Bloomfield, NE 68718  
Office: 402-373-4797

E-mail:  
ftlcsec@gpcom.net

### Sunday School

Sunday 4:00pm

### Worship Times

Sunday 5:00pm

\*Communion 1st & 3rd

Website:

firsttrinitylutheranchurch.com

*Please check out the FTLC Facebook page for service times and event updates!*



*Palm Sunday*

**Sunday, March 24th**

**5:00 pm**

Palm Sunday Service  
with Communion  
& Rite of Confirmation



*Maundy Thursday*

**Wednesday, March 27th**

**7:00 pm**

Maundy Thursday Service  
with Communion  
& Rite of First Communion



*Good Friday*

**Friday, March 29th**

**3:30 pm**

Good Friday Service

Easter Service will be held at 5:00pm on Sunday, March 31st with Communion. Rod & Kay will host an Easter Egg Hunt for the children following worship service.



The Family Discipleship will host a BINGO night and Potluck supper following worship service on March 3rd (around 6pm) and a Family Game night and Potluck supper following worship service on March 17th (around 6pm).

## LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS...

LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

†Ruth Howder, Mark Stever, Celine Mlady, Janet Kirk, Shiree Whipple, Vince Vanness, Janice Jeannoutot, Susan Craft, Dana Bruegman, JoAnn Jensen, Julie Lush Watson, Shirley LaBelle, Kim Miller, Vicki Ketelsen, Dawn Hefner, Jerry Butler, Wayne Brewster, Don Kaiser, Cory Langner, Deb Sonnichsen, Kay Repenning, & Brian Brewster.

†Our men and women who serve our country. (Levi Kisker, Matthew Bobby Jr., Terron McLean and Jackson Reeves.)

†Missionaries: Pastor Samuel Bobby and his family, Pastor Andrew Fedder and family, & John Wolf and family.

†Families of Kathy Eisenhauer, Curt Strom and William Reffett.

## A Little About Suffering – Part 1 (A Misconception)



We live in a world where we cannot escape suffering. Suffering comes in all forms – physical, emotional, and spiritual. It affects young and old alike. It can result from disease, violence, accidents, gossip, lies, natural disasters, neglect, etc. All suffering has as its root the same thing – sin. It’s not necessarily our own sins that result in our suffering, but simply the fact that we live in a fallen world that is plagued with sin and it results. This world fell under the curse of sin when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, and since then, there has been suffering in the world.

There are some common misconceptions about suffering. One is that I have done something to deserve this suffering – that God is punishing me for some particular sin. There are times when we may suffer the consequences for committing a particular sin (e.g. – committing a crime and having to suffer through time in prison, cheating on your spouse and suffering through a divorce, committing any sin and suffering a guilty conscience). For such sins, our Lord gives us Confession and Absolution so that our conscience can be freed from guilt although we may still have to suffer the earthly consequences.

However, many, if not most, times, our suffering cannot be tied to any particular sin that we have committed; that is, God is not punishing us for some particular sin. While sometimes we can trace a medical condition to something specific that we did, most times it is the result of living in a fallen world that is subject to decay and under the curse of death. So, we don’t try to tie the suffering caused by acute or chronic illness or disease, natural disasters, accidents, violence, the sins of others against us, or manmade disasters to specific sins as deserving of punishment. It’s part of living in a world that is under the curse of sin as a whole.

Jesus’ teaching in Luke 13:1-5 makes this point. The people thought that the Galileans that Pilate’s soldiers killed while they were sacrificing at the temple in Jerusalem were somehow being punished for some terrible sin that they had committed. Jesus says, “No, they weren’t.” They were the victims of violence, but not as punishment for their sins. Jesus says the same of the people who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them. They weren’t worse sinners than others, and it wasn’t divine retribution against them.

Job is another example from Scripture. Job lost all his worldly possessions, all of his children were killed when a great windstorm destroyed the house they were in, and then Job lost his health as he was covered with great, festering boils on his skin from head to toe. God allowed Satan to inflict Job in this way not as a punishment against Job, but to prove Job’s faithfulness.

This may sound simplistic, but it all boils down to the fact that when Adam and Eve sinned, all of creation was placed under the curse of sin so that suffering is a part of life in this world. In the verses from Luke 15, Jesus said that we should see the suffering in the world and in our own lives as a call to repentance – to turn away from worldly ways and put our trust in Him. In John 16:33, Jesus tells His disciples that they will have tribulation in this world simply because they are in the world. Jesus immediately follows that by saying, “But take heart; I have overcome the world.” That is our peace in the midst of suffering – knowing that by His death and resurrection, Jesus overcomes the curse of sin for us.

We don’t always know why God allows suffering into our lives, but it’s not as punishment for sin, because Jesus “was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). But in the midst of suffering, we can take comfort in knowing that Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb 13:5), and we know that He works all things for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28), even when we don’t understand it.

# Worship Attendants

*Thank you for assisting in Worship. If you are unable to attend on the Sunday you are scheduled please find a replacement for that service.*

**Elder of the Month:** Steve True

## **Greeters**

- 3 Gary & LuAnn Jessen
- 10 Kelvin & Joleen Kumm
- 17 Aaron & Jessi Warrior
- 24 Clint & Pat Kauth
- 27 Richard Eisenhauer
- 31 Jody & Gayle Mach

## **Video**

- 3 Richard Eisenhauer, Jill Doerr & Brock Jeannoutot
- 10 Kyle Lamprecht, Melissa Wagner & Ty Freeman
- 17 Tom Reicks & Piper Stelling
- 24 Richard Eisenhauer, Jill Doerr & Avery Bargman
- 31 Kyle Lamprecht, Melissa Wagner & Layne Warrior

## **Acolyte**

- 3 Kelly Vanness & Tatum Edholm
- 10 Autumn Yonke & Raegan Ketelsen
- 17 Parker Stelling & Millie Reicks
- 24 Ajay & Kyler Jensen
- 27 Kelly Vanness & Maliyah Schmeckpeper
- 31 Charleigh Mach & Anthony Kauth

## **Readers**

- 3 Gannon & Grier Edholm
- 10 Sharon Peters & Lu Jessen
- 17 Katie Reicks & Karen Sonder
- 24 Eric & Danelle Miller
- 31 Pastor Bartens

## **Ushers\***

- 3 Youth Ushers (Mackenzie, Vincent, Owen, Pierce)
- 10 Curt & Kay Vanness, Mark & Karen Stelling
- 17 Alan & Karen Sonder, Richard Eisenhauer
- 24 Dan Hoppe, Eric & Molly Miller, and John Hoffman
- 31 Elders

## **Board of Finance**

- 3 Shane Greckel & Perry Broders
- 10 Kyle Lamprecht & Steve Schulz
- 17 Charles Yeager & Dan Hoppe
- 24 Shane Greckel & Perry Broders
- 31 Kyle Lamprecht & Steve Shulz



## THE LUTHERAN HOUR: March 2024

### **March 3**

#### ***"Included in Such Company"***

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
The more you listen to the life of Jesus, the more you admire Him and the more grateful you are to be included in His company. (Mark 10:13-45)

### **March 10**

#### ***"All Bets Are Off"***

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Jesus engages his opponents in a battle of wits and wins—for us. (Mark 11)

### **March 17**

#### ***"The Strangest Request"***

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe  
God promised to make Abraham the father of many nations through the gift of a son named Isaac. But then God asked Abraham to return that gift in a most shocking way. (Genesis 22:1-14)

### **March 24**

#### ***"Repurposed Joy and Junk"***

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
There are artists who can take old junk and turn it into something new and beautiful. Dr. Michael Zeigler tells how Jesus repurposes both the junk and the joy in our lives. (Mark 14:6)

### **March 31**

#### ***"Eucatastrophe"***

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Mark 16:6-7)

Listen to the Lutheran Hour on Sundays: on your computer: [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) or on the radio:  
KBRX 102.9 FM at 12:30 P.M.  
WJAG 780 A.M. at 12:30 P.M.  
KTCH 1590 AM at 7:30 A.M.  
KTIC 107.9 FM at 11:00 A.M.  
KTIC 840 AM at 11:00 A.M.  
WNAX 570 AM at 9:30 A.M.

## **RECENT OFFICAL ACTS AT FTLCL:**

February 6, 2024: Funeral for Kathleen Eisenhauer (May 25, 1950-February 2, 2024)

# MARCH 2024

E-mail: [flcrev@gpcom.net](mailto:flcrev@gpcom.net)  
 Secretary: [flsecc@gpcom.net](mailto:flsecc@gpcom.net)  
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 402 E. Main St. P.O. Box 540  
 Bloomfield, NE 68718  
[www.firsttrinitylutheranchurch.com](http://www.firsttrinitylutheranchurch.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 4:00pm Sunday School & Youth Discipleship 5:00pm Communion Worship 6:00pm BINGO & Potluck	4 6:30am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Hall Reserved	5	6	7 9:00am Financial Rep	8	9
10 2:30pm Communion BGSC 4:00pm Sunday School & Youth Discipleship 5:00pm Worship	11 6:30am Men's Bible Study	12	13	14 9:00am Financial Rep	15 8:30am Orphan Grain Train Volunteers	16 12:00pm Mobile Food Bank
17 4:00pm Sunday School & Youth Discipleship 5:00pm Communion Worship 6:00pm Game Night & Potluck	18 6:30am Men's Bible Study	19 2:00pm Ladies Aid	20	21 9:00am Financial Rep	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 2:30pm Communion at Mainview 4:00pm Sunday School & Youth Discipleship 5:00pm Communion Worship w/ Confirmation	25 6:30am Men's Bible Study	26	27 7:00pm Worship Service & First Communion	28	29 3:30pm Good Friday Service	30
31 5:00pm Easter Worship w/ Communion						

## Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

-LCMS Stewardship Ministry [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)



### Take time to “examen”

I’m grateful to live in an area with distinct seasons. Each time of year has unique characteristics that give way to the next. “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven,” says Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV).

**FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, A TIME FOR EVERY ACTIVITY UNDER HEAVEN.**

ECCLESIASTES 3:1, NLT

Each change of season also lends itself to examen, a spiritual practice that involves reflection. Typically done daily, examen invites people to recall past events (highlights, struggles, even mundane activities) and consider when they especially sensed God’s presence or when he seemed distant.

Try a deeper examen four times a year as the seasons change. As a starting point, use your answers to these questions:

- ◆ Looking back at the past season, when did I see God at work? What was life-giving to me?
- ◆ In what areas did I need God to work? What was life-draining?
- ◆ As I enter this next season, how is God inviting me to engage more with his presence?

—Janna Firestone



## Mustard Seed Daily Devotions

### God Gives Joy and Laughter

#### *In the Word*

*A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones (Proverbs 17:22).*

#### *Of the Word*

Laughter is good medicine. A good laugh can dispel the worst of moods on the darkest of days.

The psalmist writes, Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them” (Psalm 126:2).

Bible scholars say those words were written about captives who returned to their homeland. Their mouths were laughing and singing, shouting out the joy that filled their hearts. The response of their neighbors was exciting! Not “What’s all that noise about?” but rather, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

Think for a moment of the people around you. What witness is being given to you and by you? Thank God for the message that says, “The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy” (Psalm 126:3).

#### *Walking with my Lord*

Dear Lord, help me to start each day with a happy heart. Let my face and voice reflect the joy I have in You. Then others will give glory to You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: Living in Joy. Authors: Dcs. Betty Knapp, Irene Mensing, Myrna Lou Meyer, Margaret White. 28/30 ©2005 Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations were taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. All rights reserved worldwide.

### Ladies Aid Minutes:

Ladies Aid did not meet during February. The next meeting is March 19, 2024.

### **Bless you!**

On March 17, when we remember the Christian missionary St. Patrick, Irish blessings abound. Here are two benedictions to share with friends in the faith:

Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,  
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. Amen.

May there always be work for your hands to do;  
May your purse always hold a coin or two;  
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;  
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;  
May the hand of a friend always be near you;  
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

### **Our feeble prayers, our Father’s response**

In He Still Moves Stones, Max Lucado recalls the story of Derek Redmond, a 1992 Olympic competitor in the 400-meter race. Halfway through Redmond’s semifinal run, a torn hamstring sent him tumbling to the ground. His dad, Jim, immediately ran onto the track. He met up with Derek, who, though crying, had managed to stand and was hopping forward.

“You don’t have to do this,” Jim said. But Derek insisted. “Well, then, we’re going to finish this together,” said Jim, who supported his son as he hobbled to the finish line. The crowd cheered and wept as Derek, with Dad’s assistance, finished the race.

Lucado writes: “What made the father do it? ... Was it the strength of his child? No, it was the pain of his child. ... God does the same. Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.”

# MARCH

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*



## Birthdays:

3/1	Carol Boldenow	
3/2	Danelle Miller	
3/4	Tyler Smith	
3/7	Julie Fahr	
	Anne Stratman	
3/8	Matthew Kolessa	
3/10	Sarah Castaneda	
	Jason Freeman	
	Bruce Schlote	
3/16	Karen Stelling	
3/18	Sky Adams	9
	Abigail Reicks	7
3/19	Kenna Kronberg	10
3/20	Isabel Loseke	12
3/21	Vincent Vanness	17
3/22	Jason Doerr	
	Vicki ketelsen	
	LaVern Lehnert	99
3/24	Don Schulz	
3/25	Robbin Beckmann	
	Owen Kuchar	16
3/27	Duane Schlote	
3/28	Alexis Mackeprang	
	Rod Repenning	
3/29	Bryndle Cunningham	4
	Layne Cunningham	4
3/31	Parker Stelling	14
	McGuire Mackeprang	

## Anniversaries:

March 6th:

Jody & Gayle Mach (15 years)

Craig & Bev Vanness (48 years)

March 7th:

Kelvin & Joleen Kumm (37 years)

March 12th:

Jason & Dawn Hefner (8 years)

March 27:

Duane & Lisa Schlote (38 years)



3/3	Doris Mackeprang
3/5	Autumn Yonke
3/7	Curtis Beckmann
	Greg Beckmann
	Norma Gieselman
	Taggert Jensen
3/8	Elvira Doerr
	Mary Ketelsen
3/9	Lance Freeman
	Jolene Greckel
3/10	Diane Smith
3/11	Lainey Ketelsen
	Aaron Warrior
3/12	Jackson Eisenhauer
	Lori Schaefer
	Doug Schmeckpeper
3/16	Danelle Miller
3/17	Laurel Rose
	Jessi Warrior
3/18	Craig Erbst
3/20	Darrell Beckmann
	Raegan Ketelsen
	Kelly Rose
3/21	Carol Boldenow
3/23	Amy Eisenhauer
	Bridget Kuchar
3/24	Dawn Hefner
	Jeff Holtz
3/25	Todd Edwards
3/26	Sandy Kaiser
3/27	Bruce Schlote
3/28	Ruth Howder
	Jeff Schmeckpeper
3/30	Tony Kauth
	Mark Stelling

## **THANK YOU...**

† To the individuals and families that help with lawn care, snow removal & flowers.

† To the elders and families who host fellowship on Sundays!

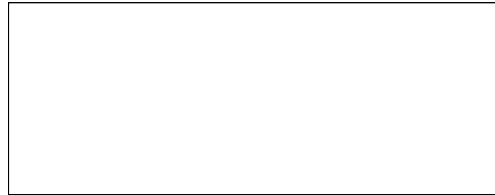
† To the worship attendants and the Sunday school teachers and aides.

† **Anyone who would like the opportunity to serve the Lord by volunteering their time can call the church at 373-4797.**

FIRST TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
402 EAST MAIN  
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*In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world. —LCMS Mission Statement*

### By faith

'Tis by the faith of joys to come  
We walk through deserts dark as night,  
Till we arrive at heaven our home.  
Faith is our guide, and faith our light. ...  
Cheerful we tread the desert through,  
While faith inspires a heavenly ray,  
Though lions roar and tempests blow  
And rocks and dangers fill the way.  
So Abraham, by divine command,  
Left his own house to walk with God;  
His faith beheld the promised land,  
And fired his zeal along the road.  
—Early American hymn



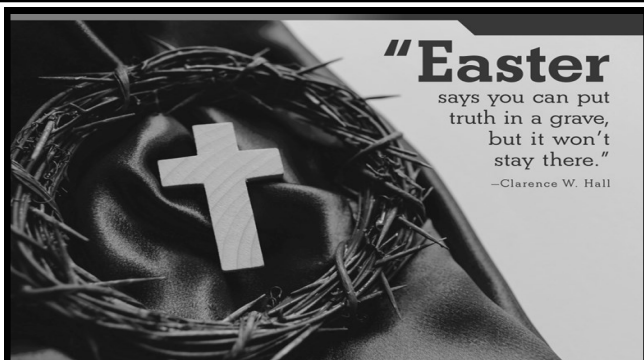
### Christian Symbol

**BUTTERFLY** — The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.

### Bible Quiz

The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth



**"Easter**  
says you can put  
truth in a grave,  
but it won't  
stay there."  
—Clarence W. Hall