



First Word

The newsletter of First Lutheran Church • Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Lent at First Lutheran: Hymns of Our Faith



By Pastor Jason Burggraff

In 1538, Martin Luther was asked to write an introduction to Wittenburg musician and printer, Georg Rheau's

hymnbook. In it he famously penned this line: *"next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise."*¹ You who love music and Luther have likely heard it quoted before. Yet Luther's accolades were not just on account of the pure beauty witnessed in listening to good music or the delightfully creative act involved in making it. For Luther and likewise for many in the faith, the gift of music is most highly valued because it can carry the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ in such a unique, heartfelt, and memorable way. And while not all may agree on what makes music good (are you more partial to Hank Williams or the "William Tell Overture"?), who doesn't love good music?

In the vein of good music of many styles, the Church has much to share. The treasure trove that has been created and shared over the generations of the Christian faith is the song or hymnody of the Church. Church music and hymns carry the beloved words of scripture and faith in a way that you can take with you—in your ear and in your heart. And

when we have such good news to share about the forgiveness of sins—the death and new life Jesus brings to us—how could we keep it to ourselves? Lutheran musician and professor Paul Westermeyer writes: *"In Christ God has won the victory. Those who know it are compelled to sing."*² Or in the words of Robert Lowry's hymn, "My Life Flows On in Endless Song" (ELW 763): "No storm can shake my inmost calm while to the Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?" If you know that hymn, you probably couldn't help but sing the words when you read them just now! That is the power of music and yoked in service to God's Word of perfect promise in Jesus Christ—it is a truly heavenly duet.

This Lenten season, First Lutheran has the beautiful opportunity to explore the hymnody of the Church more deeply. **Our Lenten theme for 2024 is "Lent at First Lutheran: Hymns of Our Faith."** Beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 14) and following Wednesdays, we will gather for midweek Lenten worship services at 11:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. After a special Ash Wednesday service, our weekly worship setting will be the Holden Evening Prayer Service. Our preaching will focus on a different hymn of the church each week and scripture readings related to that hymn. Our Lenten devotions will connect you with a Luther

House of Study podcast on hymnody, "Sing to The Lord," crafted each week by Zachary Brockhoff (Director of Music Ministries at FLC), Mason VanEssen (FLC member and Chair of the Stewardship Board), and Lars Olson (Director of Pastoral Formation at Luther House of Study). And in a churchly version of March Madness bracketology, we will be sponsoring a favorite hymn of FLC bracket, starting with 64 of your favorite church hymns, utilizing your voting each week to arrive at the "champion hymn" of the faith by Holy Week. Of course, we know and trust that Christ is truly the champion of all and the reason we must sing to begin with.

We are excited to be brought into the season of Lent with the good news of Christ in our ears and hearts and on our lips. We're thankful to discover together the treasure of Christ through scripture and hymnody. Please submit the names of your favorite hymns as we have fun exploring favorite hymns of the congregation. And through it all, let me tell you once again that Christ comes for you this Lent to make you perfect in his death and resurrection alone. Knowing that, how can we keep from singing?

¹Martin Luther, "Preface to Georg Rhau's Symphoniae inucundae," LW 53, p. 323.

²Paul Westermeyer, "Te Deum, The Church and Music," (Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN, 1998) p. 145.



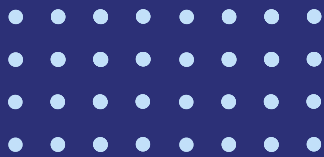
Hymns of Our Faith

flcsf.org/lent

On the Calendar

ANNUAL MEETING

2.4.24 • 12:15P




FLCSF.ORG/ANNUALREPORT



*Shrove
Tuesday
Carnival*

pancake feed • \$5/person
Mr. Twister balloons
carnival games

Tuesday, February 13 • 5-7p



*Ash
Wednesday
Worship*

February 14
11:15a • 6:30p
Broadcast: 3p • KSFY

Around the Church

Capital Campaign Updates



*By Jean Hoff
Capital Campaign
Coordinator*

About the time you are reading this, everything in the Gathering Room will be moving out. If you

find yourself asking, “Why?” to that question, we have great news! After 28 years, new carpet will be installed beginning on February 5! We’ll be using the same carpet that is installed in the Atrium and Welcome Center. The Gathering Room will not be available for use Friday, February 2, through Monday, February 12.

The new carpet is a gift to the church from a family in the congregation. The church is grateful for this generous gift.

As of the writing of this article, I have no new information on the Bell Tower/Steeple project. The church is still waiting for

a bid from the company in Wisconsin.

The sound system work will begin in February, so we are drawing closer to the new sound system being completed. The sound system is a project that we have been working on for six years. An event will

be planned after Easter to help us celebrate the completion. Look for more information about the celebration in the future.



DOWNLOAD THE
**CHURCH
CENTER**
APP TODAY
flcsf.org/apps



- View your worship volunteer schedule, sign up for open slots
- See the weekend announcements
- Register for events
- Check in at worship, Sunday School, and more
- View the daily calendar
- Give, see your donation history, set up recurring donations
- Participate, stay up to date with small groups
- View published meeting minutes

Board Updates

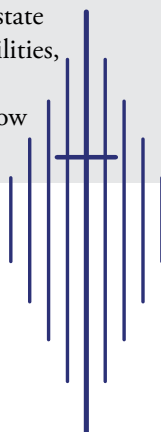
FLCW/WELCA to Host Pastor Jeff Backer in March



By Marcia Huffman and Lola Coon,
FLCW Co-Presidents

As co-presidents of the First Lutheran Church Women, we cordially invite you to be part of our fellowship on March 7 at 12 p.m. (noon) in the Gathering Room for a luncheon and our first general meeting of 2024. Please join us as we welcome Pastor Jeff Backer back to First Lutheran to share with us his ministry at St. Dysmas, the ministries at the other state

prison facilities, and his interaction with the inmates. He will also tell us how his position has impacted his own life.



St. Dysmas
OF SOUTH DAKOTA



The Lenten Journey, 2024



By John Hegg

Two years ago, it was Jerusalem and last year Kyiv, along with a donation of \$1,400 to Lutheran World Relief for Ukraine, that served as our

focus for our personal Lenten walking/running journey. This year our path will take us the 6,875 miles to Ngaoundere,

Cameroon, the headquarters for the ELCC (Evangelical Lutheran Church Cameroon).

This synod is 215,000 members strong in 1,350 congregations and growing. The South Dakota Synod has a long history with the ELCC both financially and personally. We encourage you to search the internet for further information relative to the ELCC.

Beginning February 14, keep track of your steps/miles walked, run, or biked

each day. Each Tuesday during Lent, the weekly total will be reported to John Hegg. On the daily journey, one is encouraged to think about and pray for our brothers and sisters in Cameroon. We do need a large team to cover these many miles!

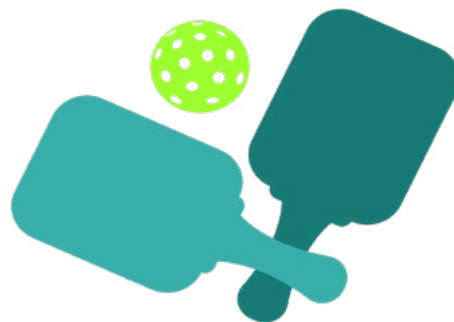
Registration for this journey is necessary by texting or emailing John at 605/376.2895 or johnhegg@sio.midco.net. You may also sign up by the calling the church office. More information will be shared with each participant.

Pickleball at FLC

Pickleball continues to be alive and well at First Lutheran. For the rest of the winter, the more competitive, advanced group will play Thursday mornings, 8:30-10. The beginner and intermediate players will own the three courts Thursday evenings 5:30-7. Paddles and balls are

available for play if needed. White-soled, non-marking shoes are necessary.

Beginners needing instruction concerning rules and the fundamentals of playing the game should connect with John to arrange a time to meet. Call 605/376.2895 or email johnhegg@sio.midco.net.



Board Updates

February Special Offering – Local Missions



By Val Peters
Evangelism &
Outreach Board

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its

various forms.” -1 Peter 4:10

Many of our neighbors within the Sioux Falls community face the reality of what it is like to be homeless. The increasing numbers include adults and children, both sheltered and unsheltered. The focus for February’s special offering centers on three local missions within our community that provide a variety of crisis support to adults and children who are experiencing poverty, homelessness, and other conditions that create challenges for adults and children in crisis.

Union Gospel Mission

Union Gospel Mission has been present in Sioux Falls since 1900 and provides spiritual nourishment, housing, meals, clothing, and household items to individuals in need in our community. The Mission provides safe, comfortable lodging and showers for individuals who find themselves without shelter and needing a place to rest and get out of the elements. Guests might be transients passing through the area; some are people struggling as they work to get back on their feet, and a few others are individuals who choose to join the UGM discipleship program and become accountable in several areas of their life. Lodging is offered for up to 80 men and 48 women and children. In addition to providing three meals a



day, UGM provides daily chapel, adult learning, medical care, and more. During 2023, the UGM provided 30,565 nights of shelter to men, women, and children; provided 148,065 meals and 18,000 hours of case management; and served 125 guests nightly. Visit ugmsiouxfalls.com to learn more about this ministry and how you can volunteer.

Bishop Dudley Hospitality House

Bishop Dudley Hospitality House is an ecumenical ministry in Sioux Falls that provides a central, first-stop resource for those in crisis. Bishop Dudley Hospitality House offers daytime and overnight emergency shelter for those who find themselves homeless and vulnerable, providing housing for 80 men, 20 women, and 7 families nightly. Their programming serves the holistic needs of the individual. The Bishop Dudley House has a



maximum capacity of 155 overnight guests. They offer a warm, safe, secure place to start the road back to a more stable, long-term way of living.

Please visit bdhh.org to learn more

about this ministry, as well as explore volunteer opportunities and donation needs.

St. Francis House

St. Francis House (SFH), with a mission to move people from homelessness to hope, began as an ecumenical partnership between First Lutheran Church and the Sioux Falls Catholic Diocese in 1987. SFH is an emergency and transitional

housing program for up to 120 men and women and 7 families. Providing housing for those in need, SFH also provides three meals each day as well as case management services to assist guests with obtaining and maintaining employment, attending treatment classes, rebuilding their relationships with family, and paying off their debts to society. SFH requires guests to obtain and maintain employment. Guests are required to place every paycheck into a savings account. While at the House, guests must remain alcohol, substance, and gambling free; perform household chores; and attend two self-improvement classes each week. SFH provides guests with shelter, food,

debt management, basic essentials, case management, and HOPE! Visit stfranchishouse.com to learn more about this mission, their donation needs, and ways that you can volunteer.

As you keep these local missions in your prayers, please consider financial support of these ministries by using the special offering envelopes included with your regular offering envelopes. If you do not have an envelope, you can bring your donation to the Information Desk at church, using “February Local Missions” on the memo line of your check, or visit flcsf.org/give to donate online.



Board Updates

Youth and Family Ministry Updates

February greetings from the Youth and Family staff! We gain an extra day this month due to Leap Year, but our schedule is over-flowing with exciting opportunities for everyone! With a full staff, we are ready for the adventures.

Every month we celebrate a milestone, typically on the first Sunday of the month.

In January, the congregation put ink thumbprints on a cross artwork that was sent to all those who were baptized in 2023.



In February, the second graders will celebrate their Confession and Forgiveness milestone.

The month continues with fun for the whole family. Our Shrove Tuesday Carnival will be on February 13, 5-7 p.m., featuring pancakes, balloons, and carnival games!

Middle schoolers will tube at Great Bear on February 9, and high schoolers will head there on February 19.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, with worship for the congregation at both 11:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. *Note: meals are not served on Ash Wednesday.*

Youth and Family will host a few fundraising events in February as well. On all Wednesdays during Lent, we will have BINGO 5:30-6:15 p.m. in Reformation Hall during the meal. Join us for fun and prizes!

On February 25, join us for "FLC's Got Talent" at 2 p.m. Sign up for an act by February 14. *All* are welcome for ice cream, desserts, and a great time! Read more below.

You're Invited! FLC's Got Talent, Y&F Fundraiser



 Sign Up Now

What: talent show fundraiser for youth attending camps and mission trips this summer

When: Sunday, February 25, 2 p.m.

Where: Reformation Hall

What are you famous, or infamous, for? Do you have a hidden, funny, unusual, or awesome talent you'd like to share? FLC's Got Talent is looking for YOU!

Do you juggle? Are you a comedian? How about a dramatic reading?

All performances MUST be appropriate for church families of all ages. Acts will be reviewed and approved by event staff.

To sign up, scan the code or visit flcsf.org/now.

Not a performer? There are other ways to help!

- Donate something awesome for our fundraising auction.
- Buy something awesome at our fundraising auction.
- Volunteer to set up, serve, and clean up at the event.
- Invite others to come with you to the event!

Can't make it but still want to help? Donate to the camp and/or trip fund by contacting Caryn Lengkeek, clengkeek@flcsf.org or 605/339.1983 ext. 202.

December Gifts and Memorials

First Lutheran Church Foundation

In memory of Dorothy Grevlos

Cindi Grevlos, Donna Jahr, Jeff and Sarah Herbert, Kathleen Heligas, Keith and Julie Dykstra, Margaret Mansfield, Pamela Johnson, Paul and Jean Colon, Roger Lamp

In memory of Donna Schiager

Russel and Carol Greenfield

In memory of John Peckham

Lyle and Jean Eidsness, Robert and Marilyn Van Demark

In memory of Steve Bushard

David and Pamela Sonnichsen, Donna Willadsen, James and Sandy Fink, Orrin and Karen Anderson, Sharyl Wolf

First Lutheran Church

In memory of Donna Schiager

family and friends of Donna Schiager

In memory of John Peckham

James and Mindy Moore, John Paulson, John Quello

In memory of Dorothy Grevlos

Sheridan DeGrace

Media Ministry

In memory of Dorothy Grevlos

Donna Willadsen, Gloria Simpson, Jerry and Jan Bork, Joan Hansen, Kathleen Stelzer, LaVonne Wolf, Lillian Carlson

In memory of Steve Bushard

LaVonne Wolf

In memory of Harlan Miller

Kathleen Stelzer

In honor of Harold and Patricia

Larson, married at FLC December 17, 1949

Kathy Amundson

In memory of John Peckham

Alfred Borgen, Bob Doescher, David and Linda Munson, Donna Willadsen, Marilyn McLeod, Milt Mutch and Ellie Marshman, Orrin and Karen Anderson

In memory of Les Miller

Kathleen Stelzer

Music Ministry

In memory of Dorothy Grevlos

Judy and Don Erickson, Patti Richards

In memory of Donna Schiager

Elnear Marshman, friends of Donna Schiager, Janice Schneekloth

In memory of John Peckham

Don and Judy Erickson

Agape Ringers

In memory of Charles Osthus

Betty Wolf

FLCW Bazaar

In memory of Dorothy Grevlos

Jane King

Lutheran Men in Mission

In memory of Bob Lommen

Bruce Eide, Corey Halstenson, DeGeest Corporation, Diana Mogck, Donna Oesterling, Elaine Berg, James and Melody Mielke, Keith and Julie Dykstra, Kris and John Tank, Lyle and Jean Eidsness, Michael and Cynthia Franken, Michael and Julie Twedt, Orrin and Karen Anderson, Patricia Dirks, Paul and Barb Halstenson, Paul and Jean Colon, Paula Bartels, Phyllis Day, Raymond and Rosalie Ramstad, Scott and Melissa Gibson, Sid and Paula Oldenkamp, Tracie Osthus

Volunteer Shop

In memory of Bob Lommen

Dana and Jerry Priebe, David Wilson, Donna Jahr, Glenyce De Geest, Kenneth and Sheryl Mielke, Kevin and Gina Jensen, Kyle Mielke, Lazann and Roy Caudill, Orrin and Karen Anderson, Roger Lamp, Timothy and Holly Glover, William and Rachel Burgraaf

2023 Poinsettia Garden

In memory of son Thomas and daughter Jill

Russ and Carol Greenfield

Below are members of our congregation who turn 90+ this month. If you see them around church, wish them a great day!

Feb 8 – Joyce Nelson

Feb 12 – Gladys Horsted

Feb 14 – Marjory Hey

Feb 15 – Elaine Nevin

Feb 17 – Bob South

Feb 27 – Don Toft

Thank You, December Broadcast Sponsors!

December 10, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of parents, Ernest & Emma Tiede and John & Clarice Yttreness, by Don & Karen Tiede.

December 17, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Margaret Doescher by her family.

December 24, 2023

- The Christmas Eve telecast on Fox was sponsored by Lori & David Melemseter.
- The telecast and closed captioning of the Christmas Eve rebroadcast on Christmas Day on KDLT was sponsored by Judy Jasper in memory of her parents, Jack & Mabel Jasper.

Life Transitions

First Lutheran Church
327 S Dakota Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57104

Baptisms

December 16, 2023

Parker Kennteth Smith,
child of Cade Smith and
Taylor Hansen

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

December 16, 2023

Hanna Marie Sawyer, child
of Ethan and Annie Sawyer

Deaths

December 6, 2023

Bonnie Oldre

December 18, 2023

Neva Erickson

FLC NOW

Informed • Engaged • Involved

FLC Now provides a quick, monthly look at ways to stay informed, be engaged, and get involved in the life of the church.

Find out what's happening, what donations are being requested, and what volunteer opportunities are available.

Visit flcsf.org/now.



On the Calendar – February

2 – First Fridays Book Club, 5p, R Wine Bar & Kitchen

3 – Grieving with Grace, 10a, Friendship Room

4 – 2nd grade milestone, 10a, Fellowship Hall

4 – Annual Meeting, 12:15p, Sanctuary

9 – Middle school event, 6p, Great Bear

13 – Shrove Tuesday celebration, 5p, Reformation Hall

14 – Ash Wednesday worship, 11:15a and 6:30p, Sanctuary

14 – Ash Wednesday broadcast, 3p, KSFY

17 – Dementia/Alzheimer's support group, 9a, Friendship Room

19 – Office closed all day, President's Day

19 – High school event, 2p, Great Bear

21 – Midweek Lenten worship, 11:15a and 6:30p, Sanctuary (*watch evening service live at youtube.com/flcsf*)

25 – FLC's Got Talent Y&F fundraiser, 2p, Reformation Hall

28 – Midweek Lenten worship, 11:15a and 6:30p, Sanctuary (*watch evening service live at youtube.com/flcsf*)