



# First Word

75 Years of News for the First Lutheran Church Community

## Lent 2021 – This We Believe: Reflections on the Apostles' Creed

By Lars Olson, Executive Pastor



The season of the church called Lent has long served the church as time set aside to reflect on baptism as our connection to the cross, Jesus, and his empty tomb. That brings a bit of somberness to the season that is sometimes mistaken for being no fun. In reality, however, even though the seasonal music and liturgy are

less exuberant, we are invited to learn more deeply about the new life that God has given us in Christ.

The 40 days of Lent are broken up each week with a Sunday that celebrates fully Jesus' resurrection. That means that even if the tone of music and the decorations in the sanctuary communicate solemnity, the good news of Christ's resurrection breaks through to our ears.

Lent has traditionally been a time of self-denial, and therefore, people often chose to "give up something for Lent." This should not be seen as a time of self-improvement, but rather as time to give up an excess in order to notice how many other blessings God has given. In giving up something extra, we come to see how God provides even in time of having less. This is the reason churches or families might choose to have a weekly soup and bread supper, or eat fish on Fridays, rather than preparing a full meal with all the trimmings. It's not a weight loss diet nor a chance to show how humble one ought to be, but rather to see God's blessings even in the simple things of life. Unfortunately, due to this year's circumstances, we will not be having meals at church, but you are encouraged to take up this practice in your home in some way.

Baptism instruction has also been traditionally part of a congregation's life. Lent is a time to teach the Christian faith, especially to new believers. The instruction throughout Lent then leads directly to baptism at Easter (or the Easter season). Thus, instruction and baptism, Lent and Easter, death and resurrection, are the shape of the Christian life.

This year, First Lutheran will have a study on the Apostles' Creed during our Wednesday worship services, and we will teach our 5th graders about the Lord's Supper in preparation for First Communion. Please watch for details about how you can receive the daily devotions, scriptures, and prayers that will accompany us all through this season.



The Trinity, c. 1411 or 1425–27, Andrei Rublev

As we seek to dig deeper into the understanding of our faith, we invite you to join this year's engaging Lenten series: This We Believe: Reflections on the Apostles' Creed.

**Ash Wednesday, February 17:** "This We Believe: Reflections on the Apostles' Creed"

**First Week in Lent, February 24:** "I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth"

**Second Week in Lent, March 3:** "I Believe in Jesus Christ, His Only Son our Lord"

**Third Week in Lent, March 10:** "I Believe in the Holy Spirit"

**Fourth Week in Lent, March 17:** "I Believe in the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, and the Forgiveness of Sins"

**Fifth Week in Lent, March 24:** "I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting"

### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.



### Ash Wednesday Worship February 17 11:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Worship service with a solemn reminder of both our mortality and God's eternal life for us.

The Ash Wednesday worship service will be broadcast on KSFY at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17 and Live streamed on YouTube at 6:30 p.m.

Do you know someone who is unable to attend worship at First Lutheran? Please let them know about the television broadcast.

### Lenten Midweek Services

Wednesdays, February 24–March 24,  
6:30 p.m., Sanctuary and live  
streamed at [youtube.com/flcsf](https://youtube.com/flcsf)

## DRIVE-THRU Shrove Tuesday February 16 • 4 to 6 p.m.

Drive-thru craziness, hilarity, food, and more!  
We're shaking up our Shrove Tuesday party this year.

Drive through the church parking lot and pick up  
Mr. Twister balloons, doughnuts for the family,  
and other fun stuff! All ages are welcome.

Sign-ups are appreciated but not required  
(so we can plan for enough food).

Sign up at [flcsf.org/lent](https://flcsf.org/lent)





## “A Transfigured Reflection For Valentine’s Day” (Based on Mark 9:2-9)

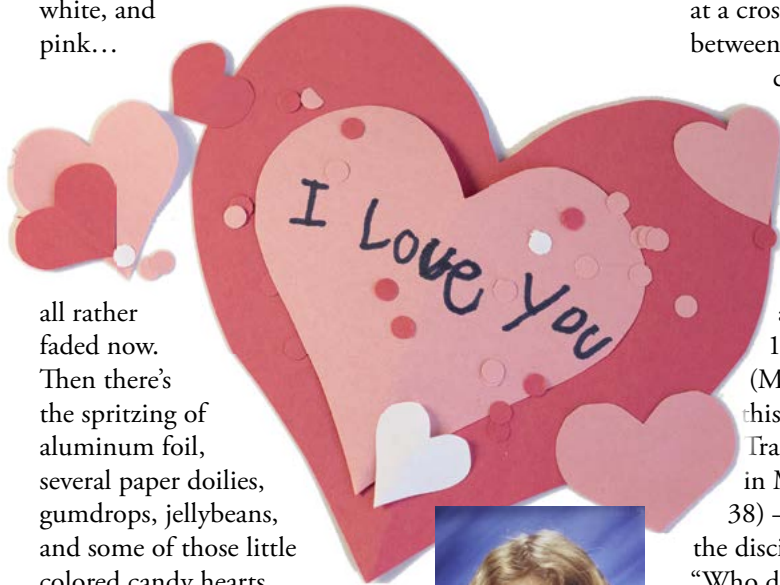
By John Christopherson, Senior Pastor



This year in the Church Calendar, the “*Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday*” (the last Sunday of Epiphany) falls on ... of all dates in February ... February 14. Perhaps better known on many an American calendar as ... yup, you guessed it: *Valentine’s Day*. And so, a brief story as it comes together with the Spirit of our gospel text for the second Sunday in February: Mark 9:2-9.

Sometimes after a long, hard day, I like to come home and make my way *up* the foyer steps, *up* to the highest point, where my wife, Cathy’s office is tucked away, *up* above our garage. And in that study is a set of book cases and cabinets filled with treasures made by our little trinity, John Andrew, Sarah, and Matt: drawings, letters and poems, sculptures and carvings. And in one of these cabinets, there’s a *thin place* that holds a now rather thin but precious treasure (thin enough to just slip right into your heart). It’s a little shoebox that once belonged to my daughter, Sarah. Size 12, if I remember right. No, not the size of a future star on Stanford’s Girls’ Volleyball Team; but rather, the size of a young first grader’s heart that shines through all the *thin places* when our lives become dark and thick with anything but gladness.

Some twenty-two years ago now, in her first grade class in Montana, Sarah had taken this old shoebox and decorated it for me. A Valentine’s gift for Dad. First, there are the standard colors of construction paper: red, white, and pink...



all rather faded now.

Then there’s the spritzing of aluminum foil, several paper doilies, gumdrops, jellybeans, and some of those little colored candy hearts.

You know...the ones with the silly sayings on them that taste like *Tums*. And then, finally the whole thing is held together by that infamous what-would-we-otherwise-ever-do-without *Elmer’s Glue*. Which, by the way, also tastes like *Tums*! I call Sarah’s Size “12” Valentine: the GUMMY BOX. I mean, it sticks to you in a special kind of way.



Gummy Box Girl!

Sadly, however, this sticky icon isn’t looking too very good these days (like my grammar.) It looks rather like, to borrow an expression from yesteryear: “Gross!” By this I mean, most of the jellybeans and gumdrops have coagulated into a kind of ... well ... you *really would need some Tums*. And unfortunately, in our move to Sioux Falls, now some 19 years ago ... the GUMMY BOX got smooshed. *Smooshed!* Won’t find the word in *Webster’s*; but it’s a verb, passive, I think ... meaning “made thin under heavy pressure.” However, if you lift the lid off this little *thin* box, you’ll begin to know why it is that I still hold onto it. For on folded fragile pieces of lined, large school paper, there are words like, “Hi, Daddio”, “Hoppy Valentines” and lots of “I Love Yous (with little hearts).” And there are still five red gummy bears stuck to the bottom of this box representing our

family. Also scrawled in several places are the names of all three children, along with some of my favorite photos of them as children. A veritable, Valentine treasure box. Ah, the treasure-box in Johnny Depp and Hector Barbossa’s *Pirates of the Caribbean*, are nothing in the face of this gummy wonder!

And so, after those long, hard days when I’m feeling a little bit smooshed myself, I climb the stairs and go into this small, *thin* place, to get out the GUMMY BOX ... put it in my hands ... and somehow feel *transfigured* by it all ... knowing the love that it represents. It’s rather sacramental, you know, in a sense – something I can touch, and hold, and believe in ... especially when love gets difficult and there are no more small arms hugging my neck anymore.

“Sappy,” you say? Well, all of you who’ve been gifted with a GUMMY BOX by a beloved child, know it’s a treasure trove more valuable than any amount of gold. **So, like, hey ... just bury it with me, for I want to take it with me as far as I can go.**

In our Gospel Lesson for Valentine’s Day, or should I say, “the last Sunday of Epiphany,” we see that Jesus has also come to a *thin place* – standing exhausted// at a crossroads// at the foot of a mountain. Standing between his baptism on the one hand, and his crucifixion on the other. For two years now, since being baptized by John in the Jordan (Mark 1:9-11), Jesus has poured himself out into all the *thick places* of life: teaching people about the radical good news of God’s grace, about turning all kinds of legalism on-its-head (Mk. 2:15-17, 27; 3:1-6), healing and raising all who felt like deadbeats (Mk. 1:32-45; 2:1-12; 5:35-43), feeding thousands (Mk. 6:30-44; 8:1-12). And just eight days before this – now standing at the foot of a mountain – of Transfiguration – we look back just a few verses in Mark’s gospel to get our bearings (Mk. 8:27-38) – where Jesus pauses lakeside at Bethsaida with the disciples, in order to ask an all-important question: “Who do people say that I am?” (Mk. 8:27). Their answer: “John the Baptist; but others say, Elijah; and others, that one of the old prophets has risen” (Mk. 8:28). Well, they got it wrong! But then, from probably the most thick-headed and stubborn of the disciples, prompted by the Holy Spirit, Peter blurts out: “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God” (Mk. 8:29). Jesus then tells them that to be the Messiah means suffering, rejection, and even death in order to fulfill God’s plan of salvation. And that was a tough *Tums* to swallow, indeed. The last thing anyone wanted to hear. So it was, for the Son of God, if he’s also truly the Son of Man ... as we sing and confess in the well-beloved hymn, *Beautiful Savior* ... “by whose stripes of suffering we are healed” (cf. Isa. 53:5).

And so Jesus takes three of his disciples – James and John and Peter – *up* the stairs of the mountain, *up* away from all the distractions of voices so that they might hear “that still, small voice of God”, *up* into the *thin places* where the mountain top enabled them to peek *up* into heaven, *up* into the silence of a place where Jesus could take the *thin places* and hold them between his hands, the *Gummy Box of Prayer*, to find courage inside ... “for courage is fear that has said its prayers” (Anne Lamott; *Traveling Mercies*, p.239). Jesus needed to know ... “Father, is this the way that I must walk? The way to Jerusalem, that *via Delarosa* ... the way



The Transfiguration, c. 1516–20, Raphael and Sebastiano del Piombo

of sorrow...the way of crucifixion. Is this truly your way of salvation in the world?” It was a question upon which the divine answer soon would hang. On another mountain named Calvary.

And how did God answer Jesus? What a mountain! What a moment! What a message! Truly, it was that proverbial “mountain top experience.” Listen to the Gospel Lesson again: “And Jesus was transfigured before the three disciples, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared Moses and Elijah, talking with him” (Mark 9:4). And then, a cloud ... what the Jewish people knew from the Exodus time as a consecrated sense of God tabernacling with them (Exodus 13:21-22), called a *Shekinah*, that is “*the dwelling presence of God*” ... they were surrounded once more with swaddling cloths. And then, a much-yearned-for-voice sounds forth from the cloud saying: “This is my beloved Son, my Chosen, listen to him!” (Mark 9:7) And I can’t help but imagine what Jesus was thinking, then: “**Bury it with me. I want to take this voice with me as far as I can go...**”

My friends...Jesus calls us from the mountain top back into the plain (Mark 9:9). For this is most fully where the “gravity of God’s grace” calls us. Not with the big thick things of this world: the heavy stuff of gold medals...of Olympics...and glory...but rather into the *thin places* – to be his church, the people of *thin* little grains of salt, of leaven, of light. Are we listening!

Come February 17 we will begin to journey the *thin* road less traveled (ala Robert Frost) with Jesus – into the shadowlands of Lent. *Thin* people are we...like ashes that all fall down. But in the midst of it all comes a word that transfigures us with deep and abiding joy. A *Gummy Box* Word together with the bread and the wine coming into our shaking hands, and says, “Be My Valentine. Cross My Heart...”

Let us pray:

How good, Lord, to be here!  
Yet we may not remain.  
For since you bid us leave the mount;  
Come with us, please...  
Come with us to the plain. Amen

j.r. christopherson  
Senior Pastor

## Joyful Giving

By Pastor Lars Olson



It is all too easy to look over the past challenging year and be absorbed by the stories of struggle and woe. However, looking below the surface and through the narrative of COVID-19, we can also see some wonderful stories of triumph and perseverance. For example, one could focus on the amount of time that worship was closed throughout the year, but looking through that story of loss, we can also find another perspective in which we hear again and again how much people miss being able to sing, pray, and spend time in fellowship with other Christians. It's amazing how the challenging time has brought out people giving thanks and longing for what used to be taken for granted.

Similarly, in a number of ways, we've seen a renewed joy of giving over the last year. First Lutheran received a significant number of increased donations through our media ministry. This didn't happen because people were afraid of losing the broadcast, but rather because they were thankful and joyful to receive the gift of worshipping together. Surely some were thankful to join our broadcast because they couldn't worship with their home congregation, but looking beneath the surface, the story is that this ministry brought joy to people's hearts in new ways in the midst of a challenging season.

The Stewardship & Giving Board wants to tell the stories of "Joyful Giving" around the ministries of First Lutheran and in the lives of the people of First

Lutheran. So often giving is associated with dollars and cents, but telling the deeper story of people's giving brings out the joy that accompanies giving. Throughout the coming year, look for people's stories, in print or on our website, that focus on how generosity and giving abound with joy.



### Where and what do you give that brings you joy?

Start to think how you would answer the question, "Where and what do you give that brings you joy?" because someone might ask just to learn how the challenges you face can result in joy.

## CARE AND HEALTH MINISTRY



### Grieving with Grace, February 6

Chapter 2 of *Understanding Your Grief*

by Dr. Alan Wolfelt

In February, Grieving with Grace will focus on Chapter 2 of *Understanding Your Grief* entitled "Dispel the Misconceptions About Grief." The group will meet in person in the Gathering Room beginning at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation and begin our session at 10:00 a.m. For anyone who would prefer to attend the session via Zoom, that will be available as well. The group session will last from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. Pastor John will be facilitating our conversation/sharing/listening together.

If you do not have the book, please call Donna Jahr at (605) 336-3734 to reserve a copy.

The Zoom meeting number is 881 5271 9453. There is no password.



### Walking/Running to the Cure

Thirty-nine First Lutheran members completed the Walking/Running to the Cure journey October 1 through December 31. Along with the daily journey, a prayer was encouraged by all for a cure or vaccine for the COVID virus. A total of 19,583,911 steps were run or walked during the three months. We are all "on our way rejoicing" that the vaccine is among us!

Names drawn for an incentive award were Carolyn Costar, Sandy Fink, Judy Leslie, Beth Monson, and Kris Stark.

Watch for information about future challenges coming soon.



## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



### FLCW/WELCA

### Installation of Officers

By Jean Hoff, FLCW/WELCA President



On January 7, the new board members of FLCW/WELCA were installed by Senior Pastor John Christopherson. At this meeting, outgoing President Kathy Stelzer was thanked for her many years serving on the FLCW/WELCA Executive Board as either the Vice President or President. Kathy led the women during the challenge of COVID-19 with her love of our Lord always first in her thoughts and actions.

As the new year begins and the new board is working on bylaw changes that will conform to the new constitution that was adopted. We are looking forward to our Circles getting together again for Bible study, with some Circles continuing their studies via Zoom. A special thank you to Jodi Hoyt for helping the Circles with the Zoom Bible studies. We also want to thank Pastor Lars Olson for leading the WELCA leadership in their Bible study every month.

FLCW/WELCA will not have general meetings for the first three months of the year. As time progresses and we are able to return to holding our monthly general meetings, Circle chairs will contact their group members. We will also update things on the website and in First Word.

During this time that we are not able to be together, please remember to reach out to other women with either a card, a note, or a phone call. It is important for us to lift up each other. Let us continue to pray for our church, city, state, and nation. God's blessings to each of you in this new year.



Women  
of the  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA



#### Weddings:

December 26 Neil Carmody and Kjerstin Nelson  
December 31 Jackson Goihl and Kirsten Olson

#### Births:

December 26 Foster Alan McElroy, son of Mitchell and Ciera McElroy  
December 29 Jameson William Hoffman, son of Ryan and Celina Hoffman

#### Deaths:

December 3 Evelyn Lorenz  
December 10 Gordon Lyng  
December 20 Severin "John" Drobny

Please contact the church office, (605) 336-3734, if there is a change in address, phone number, or living situation for you or a family member.

## EDUCATION & DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY



### Book Club Resumes February 5

The Education and Discipleship board is excited to announce a new ministry re-starting in February—First Friday Book Club! It will be held on the first Friday of each month. We are hoping to hold our next meeting on Friday, February 5, at 5 p.m. at R Wine Bar (pending recommendations from the COVID task force). Our first book will be "Saving Simon: How a Rescue Donkey Taught Me the Meaning of Compassion" by Jon Katz. We're open to reading almost anything! We'd like to have some variety: fiction, nonfiction, biographies, history, Christian, or secular! We hope to make this a book club that appeals to people of all interests. We'd love to see you there; what a great way to kick off your weekend, right?



## Evangelism & Outreach Board Introductions

By Jeff Backer, Associate Pastor, Evangelism & Outreach



As we prepare for the work of another year in ministry, I felt inclined to do an introduction of the current Evangelism & Outreach Board. Many of these board members have served for several years, but I felt it was time for you to get to know them a little better. I had each of the members answer the following questions:

1. Tell us about yourself and your family. Include what you do for work.
2. Tell us how long you have been at First Lutheran.
3. What is something you are looking forward to in 2021 (other than the end of COVID)?
4. What do you like or want to accomplish as an E&O Board member?

### Leslee Barness

2021 Board Chair & Church Council Member

1. My name is Leslee Barness, and my husband, Bryan, and I have two daughters: McKenna is an ICU nurse at Sanford, and Maddi is a recent Augustana University graduate who works as a full-time dance instructor at BritZa Studios. Bryan works at Sanford Hospital, and I am currently serving as the Co-CEO and Chief Director of Operations for Barness Family Ventures.



2. We have been members at FLC for almost five years.
3. We are looking forward to spending time together at our lake cabin this summer.
4. The best thing about being a member of the E&O Board is seeing all the ways FLC members contribute to our community. The level of commitment and passion for caring is wonderful to witness, and it is exciting to be a part of the board that helps coordinate these efforts.

### Jenifer Wollman

2021 Secretary

1. My husband, Greg, and I are both pharmacists. We were both non-traditional students and met in pharmacy school at SDSU (go Jacks!). We have a daughter, Milaana, who loves art, painting, reading, movies, and school marching band (she's a percussionist). We have a 7-month-old Cockapoo, Charlie, who is the most adorable pup on the planet (but we may be a little biased)! Greg is an avid sports fan and is like a "walking sports trivia encyclopedia." He loves documentaries and anything to do with US/European/modern world history. I love reading and movies, spending time with family and friends in DTSF, and traveling—and I am always up for the next adventure!



2. Greg and I joined FLC about four years ago. I grew up going to Bethany Lutheran Church in a small town in northeast SD, so FLC felt right at home for me.
3. I had to cancel a trip to Europe last year—so my three best friends (one of them is my daughter) and I are going to try to figure out when we can travel abroad again and jump on that plane! I'm excited about getting together with friends more often for book clubs and foreign language tables, and I'm going to search out every opportunity for laughter and joy—everyone needs that in their lives!
4. I enjoy getting to know other people, and I'm glad to be a part of the E&O Board. I truly appreciate how our group works to help people in need and spread God's message. I think helping others makes life worth living. There is so much joy that even little things can bring to those who do not have much, and teaching about God's love and forgiveness along with sharing what we have with our brothers and sisters is what makes our community and our world a better place.

### Jordan Brockhoff

1. I live in Sioux Falls with my husband and son. I am a therapist with Southeastern Behavioral Health and work primarily with adolescents with Substance Use Disorder. My son is 10 months old and my husband, Zachary, and I spend our free time keeping him alive.



2. I have been at FLC since 2016!
3. I am looking forward to bringing my son to Target so he, too, can experience the joy of Target Pizza Hut.
4. I want to help get more people who live close to FLC involved in our church community.

### Cherie Hopper

1. I grew up in White Lake, South Dakota, and moved to Sioux Falls in 1974 to attend college. My husband of 40 years, Dean, passed away from pancreatic cancer last March. Dean and I have a daughter, Shelly, who lives here in Sioux Falls with her husband, Tommy. Dean's beloved Scottie, Sherlock Bones, keeps me on my toes most days. In 2015, after 38½ years of service, I retired from Planning and Building Services of the City of Sioux Falls.

2. In 1975, I began attending First Lutheran and became a member in October of 1978. After Shelly was born, Dean and I team taught three-year-old Sunday School, and I continued to teach for three more years. I tried teaching Bible School one summer to experience the fun the kids had.

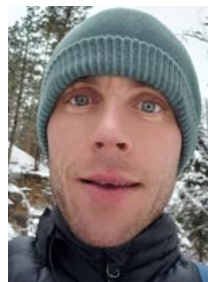
3. This fall two of my sisters and I are planning to travel to Scotland and Ireland for exciting adventures. My nephew recently moved to Sioux Falls from California, and he and his wife are expecting twins in June and I am going to be a surrogate grandma for my sister from Georgia.

4. As a member of the Evangelism, Mission, and Outreach Board, it has been fun to meet not only the board members themselves but members of our congregation. We try to find new ways to engage our congregation and get them as excited as we are about the future of our congregation. First Lutheran Church is making a difference in Sioux Falls!



### Justin Goens

1. I am an industrial painter. I have a sister, and my parents are divorced and remarried. I love to fish, exercise, hike, and just be outdoors!
2. I started attending First Lutheran Church around Christmas of 2019.
3. My girlfriend and I are planning a backpacking trip to Glacier National Park. She also bought me a nice fly rod, so I hope to learn how to cast it!
4. I hope to...just be a positive influence.



### Dan Lindquist

1. I am a Nurse Practitioner at Sanford and have two boys, Will (6) and James (5). I grew up in Sioux Falls, SD, went to Valparaiso University in Indiana for undergrad, and went to Georgetown University for my graduate degree. I enjoy traveling, cooking, and spending time outdoors.
2. I'm not sure exactly how long...4 years? FLC feels similar to my college on-campus church community, so it feels like I've been going here for much longer.
3. I'm looking forward to my brother's wedding. It was postponed in 2020, and I'm excited to eventually be able to celebrate all together as a family in November of 2021.
4. I have been and continue to enjoy being a member of the E&O Board. I feel called to witness to others and share the good news by my work, my daily life, and the way I conduct myself. I appreciate being part of the E&O Board because everyone brings their unique life experiences and talents to the table. It is one of the joys in my life, being surrounded by people who are excited



at the prospect of casting a net into our community and gathering all peoples together.

### Jon Martin

1. I have been married for nearly 25 years to Janet, and we have two sons, the oldest son, Max, is in his first year at West Point, and youngest son, Luke, is a sophomore at Lincoln HS. My work situation is complicated. I was working in the sports and entertainment industries prior to the pandemic. Currently, I am mostly unemployed and looking for new opportunities.



2. We have been at FLC for about six years.
3. In 2021, I look forward to being able to be social with people again. I also look forward to being able to travel and see my son in New York.
4. I look forward to being on the E&O Board as I believe we are all called to make the world a better place and take care of our neighbors. While we can all do this individually, a wise use of the pooled resources gives us the opportunity to make a difference in many lives, in many different situations.

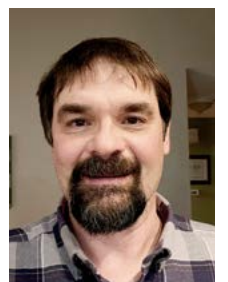
### Valerie Peters

1. I have been a member at First Lutheran Church for a long time (joined in 1985)! The church and church family have been a part of every important milestone in my life. My husband, Dennis, and I were married at First Lutheran Church, all three of our adult children (Adrian, Drew, and Derek) were baptized and confirmed at FLC. Our oldest, Adrian, married her husband, Reed, at FLC. Our grandchildren, Hadley and Thomas, have been baptized at FLC. Dennis and I have had the privilege to be a part of the faith journey for our children, not just as parents but through opportunities to be an active part of Sunday School and Confirmation.
2. I am retired from the Sioux Falls School District where I was an administrator serving young children and families through the Early Childhood Program. I currently work part-time with the district as support staff for children with autism, their families, and the staff who work with them. I am also an adjunct instructor for the University of Sioux Falls, and work with University of Nebraska-Lincoln in their Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families, and Schools.
3. Looking forward to 2021 and beyond, I want to continue to "grow into retirement," filling my time with projects and activities that I enjoy, increased time at the lake with friends and family, and possibly some travel. Having a son in Arizona gives a great vacation opportunity when the cold of winter arrives!
4. Being a part of the Evangelism and Outreach Ministries Board has given me an opportunity to learn more about and be a part of the support provided by First Lutheran within our community and beyond our community. Connecting to programs that I have watched grow, but not been an active participant with, has provided new opportunities for volunteering and connecting with the FLC community and the Sioux Falls community.



### Jason Schramm

1. My wife, Suzette, and I have been married for almost 25 years. She currently serves on FLC's Youth and Family Board. We have two sons, Elijah (17) and Benjamin (13). I teach high school social studies at Sioux Falls Christian where I also coach and teach driver's education.



2. We have been members at FLC for six years.
3. We are looking forward to taking a family vacation where we can enjoy the outdoors.
4. I have served on the E&O Board for approximately two years. As a board member, I look forward to getting to know fellow board members better, and I am excited about volunteering and supporting our many projects.

## YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY



### Milestone Minute

#### 5th Grade First Communion

Wednesdays during Lent, March 3-24

5:30-6:15 p.m.

Fifth graders and their parents meet in Reformation Hall/ Gym to learn together with Pastor Lars and the Youth & Family staff about the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. There will also be crafts and tastings! We celebrate your Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 1, during the evening worship service.



**Please Note:** Families will sit at their own tables with masks. If your family is uncomfortable with the in-person option, we completely understand. Any families that would like to, can wait until next spring to complete the First Communion teaching.

### 2nd Grade Confession & Forgiveness Sunday, February 7

Join us in person, 10:10-10:40 a.m., in Fellowship Hall or virtually—we will deliver your Milestone Kit to you ahead of time. RSVP via text (605-360-7354) or email (mbacker@flcsf.org) to Marnie.



**Day Camp at First Lutheran:** 3 year olds – 5th grade, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Cost \$20.

- Pre K–Kindergarten—Monday, June 14
- 1st–3rd grades—Tuesday, June 15
- 4th–5th grades—Wednesday, June 16 (time change: 3-9 p.m.)

3rd–5th grades—NeSoDak Bible Camp in Waubay, SD, July 25-30

6th–8th grades—Camp Metigoshe on the ND/Canadian border; June 20-25

High school youth—Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in Montana; June 26-July 3

**Register online at [flcsf.org/camp](http://flcsf.org/camp) or through the Church Center app.**

Please remember that each person receives a \$75 campership for a full week of camp. The high school trip also receives General Fundraising money. Please talk to Elias or Marnie if you're concerned about the prices.

## Christmas Eve with Angel Halos

Families of all ages and sizes received a Christmas Eve Kit with everything needed to watch worship on TV or YouTube. Here are some of our families sporting their angel halos for the children's message. Who can forget Pastor Lars wearing ALL the halos?!



Siblings: Joseph, Mollie, and George Bock, join their cousins, Minnie Budmayr (wearing angel mask) and little brother, Teddy, for a light-filled Christmas Eve.



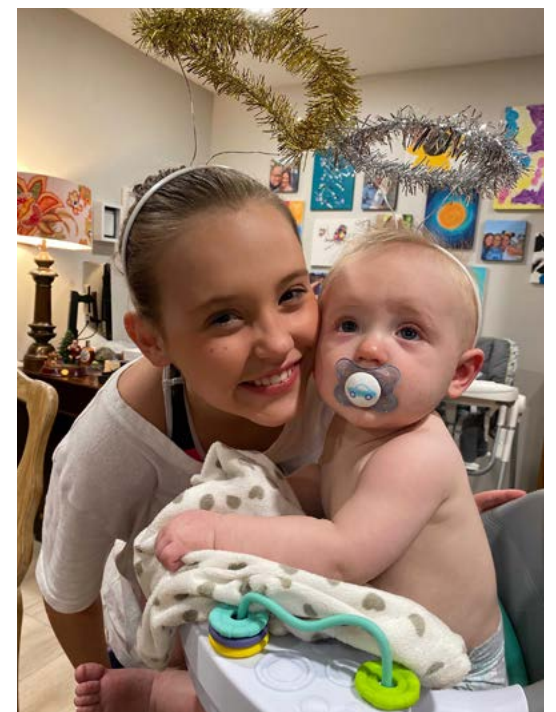
Liz Willers with Avery and Ben looking angelic .



Even puppy angel, Huckleberry Backer donned his halo.



Pastor Lars was feeling especially angelic during his Christmas Eve children's message.



Sibling angels: Saylor McCoy and baby brother, Crosby Steffke-Linn

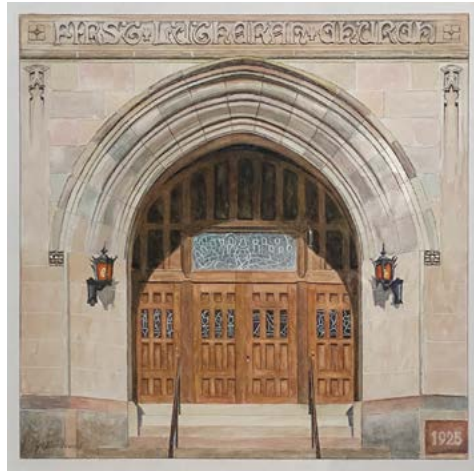
## Capital Campaign Update

By Jean Hoff, Campaign Coordinator

As this new year begins, there is great hope and expectation that it will bring some normalcy of pre-COVID-19 times. That is also the hope and expectation of the capital campaign. There is joy in the HVAC outstanding loan amount that now is \$464,158. Thanks be to God for the almost 1 million dollars that has been paid on the loan.

We are now offering a print of a beautiful new watercolor of the Dakota Street entrance painted by artist Jim Sturdevant. There will be note cards available as well as the prints. Look for them in the Gathering Room on Saturdays and Sundays before and after worship services.

There is much anticipation of the new paraments that will be unveiled on Sunday, February 14. They have arrived and they are beautiful! What a treasured gift that members of the congregation have given to the church through the capital campaign. The wonderful group of women who serve on the Parament Committee have worked a very long time on the this project. Our thanks and appreciation goes to them for the hours upon hours of time they have given. Let us rejoice in these gifts that God has abundantly given First Lutheran Church through *God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future* capital campaign. Please join in worship on Transfiguration Sunday, February 14. *See page 8 for photos.*



## Council Highlights

December 17, 2020

- FLC financially doing well compared to budget.
- HVAC Loan down from \$1.4MM to \$464,158.
- Worship Services cancelled to stop the spread of infections.
- Members of the congregation and staff are struggling with COVID.
- Pastoral Care working to support the needs of staff and the congregation.
- The following new recommendations by the COVID task force were approved:
  - o The remainder of in-person worship services cancelled through December.
  - o All non-worship related activities shut down until January 1, 2021.
- Thanks to Pastor Jeff Backer and the Evangelism and Outreach Board for touching people's lives.
- Appreciate the support of Jody Hoyt, Zachary Brockhoff, and the musicians for continuing to support worship services through music and worship bulletins.

## February Special Offering: Local Missions

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." – Matthew 25:35

More than 800 men, women, and children in Sioux Falls are without a home. This month's special offering envelope will go to support four local missions that provide crisis support to members of our community experiencing poverty or homelessness: Union Gospel Mission, Bishop Dudley House, St. Francis House and The Banquet.

### Union Gospel Mission

Union Gospel Mission has been working in Sioux Falls since 1900 to provide spiritual nourishment, housing, meals, clothing and household items to needy folks in our community.

Lodging for up to 70 men and 48 women and children is available for individuals who find themselves without shelter and needing a place to rest and get out of the elements. In addition to providing three meals a day, UGM also provides daily chapel, adult learning, medical care, and more. Learn more about this ministry and how you can volunteer at [ugmsf.org](http://ugmsf.org).



### 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. The Bishop Dudley House offers daytime and overnight emergency shelter for the homeless and vulnerable, housing some 80 men, 20 women, and 7 families nightly at the House. Like Union Gospel Mission, their programming also serves the whole needs of the person. To learn more about this ministry, as well as explore volunteer duties and donation options, visit [bdhh.org](http://bdhh.org).



### St. Francis House

St. Francis House is an emergency and transitional housing program for up to 120 men and women, and 7 families whose mission is to move people from homelessness to hope. SFH's programming requires guests to obtain and maintain employment; place 50 percent of every paycheck into a savings account; remain alcohol, substance and gambling free; uphold 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 [stfrancishouse.com](http://stfrancishouse.com) to learn more.



### The Banquet

The Banquet aims to equip volunteers as they provide food and fellowship to the many community members served through this ministry. By hosting meals at their facility, The Banquet provides a safe place where people can gather, receive nourishment, and experience love in action. Volunteer groups come from churches, businesses, service clubs, schools and individual families. Learn more at [thebanquetsf.org](http://thebanquetsf.org).



Please consider financial support of these ministries by using one of the special offering envelopes our church provides or by writing "February Local Missions" on the memo line of a check made out to First Lutheran Church. Unless otherwise indicated, your donation will be divided equally among these four organizations.

No matter what you do, please remember the ministries of Union Gospel Mission, Bishop Dudley House, St. Francis House, and The Banquet in your prayers. Thank you for your support!

*Special offering envelopes are included with your regular offering envelopes. If you do not have one, please use a yellow envelope in the pew, bring your donation to the Information Desk at church, mail to the church, or visit [flcsf.org/give](http://flcsf.org/give) to donate online.*

## MISSION

First Lutheran Church welcomes all people into the community of Jesus Christ, equipping and sending them forth to serve and witness in Jesus' name.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We are grounded in the great commandment of Jesus. (Matthew 22:34-40)

We are grounded in the great commission of Jesus. (Matthew 28:16-20)

We are committed to welcome and minister to all people.

We are committed to equipping people for ministry.

We are committed to service in our community and world.

We are committed to a ministry of relationship building.

We are committed to our heritage and identity as a reforming church.

We are committed to excellence in broadcast ministry.



## WORSHIP SERVICES

All worship services are in the Sanctuary

Sat. 5 PM Traditional Service

Sun. 8 AM Radio - rebroadcast of the previous week's service on KELO-FM (101.9)

Sun. 9 AM Traditional Service  
Watch live [youtube.com/flcsf](http://youtube.com/flcsf)

Sun. 11 AM Contemporary Service  
Watch live on YouTube

Sun. 11 AM Traditional broadcast on KSFY Sioux Falls, KPRY Pierre, and KABY Aberdeen

Find us on social media:

[youtube.com/flcsf](http://youtube.com/flcsf)

[facebook.com/flcsf](http://facebook.com/flcsf)

[@firstlutheransf](https://www.instagram.com/firstlutheransf)

## First Word

First Word is the monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. It is distributed to members of the congregation and others upon request. Opinions expressed in First Word are those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by the First Lutheran Church congregation or staff. The First Lutheran editorial staff reserves the right to edit submissions.

**Newsletter submissions are due the first business day of each month.**

Please submit articles or questions regarding First Word to Communications Director, Jodi Hoyt, at [jhoyt@flcsf.org](mailto:jhoyt@flcsf.org). Reader feedback is always welcome.

First Word is available online to read or download by the first of every month at [flcsf.org/firstword](http://flcsf.org/firstword).

## FINANCIAL SERVICES



### Gifts and Memorials

#### Additional August 2020 Gifts:

**Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in memory of:**  
Ed Mansfield: Lyle & Jean Eidsness, Dorothy Mikkelson, Carl & Janet Naessig, Kathy Stelzer

**Gifts to the Youth & Family Ministry in memory of:**  
Ed Mansfield: Betty Pfeifle

#### December 2020 Gifts:

**Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in memory of:**

Darlene Colwill: Vance & Sherry Goldammer  
Dennis Griffin: Vance & Sherry Goldammer  
Gladys Halstenson: Vance & Sherry Goldammer  
Jeremy Halstenson: Vance & Sherry Goldammer  
Jake and Norma Hofer: Vance & Sherry Goldammer  
Betty Johnson: Dorothy Grevlos  
Ralph Larson: Dorothy Grevlos  
Ed Mansfield: Vance & Sherry Goldammer

**Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:**

John Drobney: Rick & Renee Aaker, Arlene Hoek

Sharon Eck: Hazel Wek  
Leland & Mark Eide: Jon & Mary Hunter  
Doug Funke: Ruth Werner  
Bob Gednalske: Terry & Kathleen Hofer  
Frank Hansen: Peter & Marilyn Hegg  
Jake Hofer: Jerry Drake, Grant & Mary Gubbrud, Peter & Marilyn Hegg  
Betty Johnson: Jim & Sandy Fink, Jon & Mary Hunter, Doris Krogstad  
John Kinkead: Enid Kinkead, Mike & Gloria Simpson  
Ralph Larson: Donald & Sarah Abbas, James & Cynthia Buss, Jim & Sandy Fink, Kathy Stelzer  
Evelyn Lorenz: Kelley & Patty Gourley, Tom, Barb, & Gabriella Kalczynski, D. R. Wallin  
Bob Nesje: 1st Financial Bank USA, Kyle & Wendy Aspaas, Friends & Family, Jared & LaDawn Nesje

**Gifts to Music Ministry in memory of:**

Ralph Larson: Marilyn McLeod

**Gift to Project CAR in memory of:**

Frank Hansen: Vance & Sherry Goldammer



### Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice Dollars are used for a variety of events at First Lutheran such as the 100 year anniversary as well as outreach ministries. Please remember to designate First Lutheran Church if you have Thrivent Choice Dollars. When designated to First Lutheran, these dollars support all ministries of the church. If you have dollars available, you must make an annual request for them to be distributed. The last date to apply for 2020 Thrivent Choice Dollars is March 31, 2021. Please contact Pr. Jeff Backer, jbacker@flcsf.org or Ginger Miller, gmiller@flcsf.org, or call Ginger at (605) 339-1983 ext. 236.

### Financial Update as of December 2020

#### Total Revenue, year-to-date

2020 Budget . . . . . \$2,166,950  
2020 Actual . . . . . \$2,155,182  
2019 Actual . . . . . \$2,142,216

#### Total Expenses, year-to-date

2020 Budget . . . . . \$2,166,950  
2020 Actual . . . . . \$2,088,856  
2019 Actual . . . . . \$2,529,817

YTD Net Profit/Loss . . . . . \$66,326

Contract For Deed, Ideal . . . . . \$137,979

HVAC System . . . . . \$464,158

Payroll Protection Plan . . . . . \$0

Worship Attendance Dec. 6 . . . . . 159

## MEDIA MINISTRY



### Thank you December Media Sponsors

**Dec. 6:** Television was sponsored in loving memory of our parents, Ernest & Emma Tiede and John & Clarice Yttreness, by Don & Karen Tiede.

**Dec. 13:** Television was sponsored in loving memory of Margaret Doescher by her family. Radio was sponsored in memory of Gene Koch, whose birthday would have been December 31, and Jane Nelson, whose birthday would have been December 15.

**Dec. 20:** Television was sponsored in loving memory of Verlyn & Corinne Petersen, Jill McCormick, and Robert & Sandra Aamlid by Brian and Denise Aamlid. Radio was sponsored in memory of Ralph and Priscilla Hillgren and in memory of their daughter, Sonja Hillgren. It is made possible through a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation. Closed captioning was sponsored in honor of Arlys Reitan by her father, Orville Hill. Arlys celebrated her birthday on December 23.

**Dec. 24:** The Christmas Eve broadcast on the CW was sponsored by Lori and

David Melemseter in honor of Lori's parents, Dr. J. David & Sally Larsen; in memory of Lori's grandparents, Rev. J. David & Helen Larsen & Dr. H. C. & Alice Peterson; and in memory of David's parents, Harold & Berniece Melemseter. Closed captioning was sponsored in honor of Richard Wold by Jean Wold and family. The YouTube live stream was sponsored in memory of Betty Olson on her birthday by Marilyn McLeod.

**Dec. 25:** The Christmas Day rebroadcast and closed captioning were sponsored by Judy Jasper in memory of her parents, Jack and Mabel Jasper.

**Dec. 27:** Television was sponsored by the First Lutheran Church Women as a tribute to the pastors and staff of First Lutheran. Radio was sponsored by Steve Johnson in memory of his mother Ruth Johnson, whose 99th birthday would have been January 4. The YouTube live stream was sponsored by Lila Speckels in honor of Marvin and Eva Olinger.

### 2021 Sponsors Needed

Please consider sponsoring a worship service in honor or remembrance of loved one, or to celebrate a life event. For information, more open dates, or to sponsor, call the First Lutheran Church office at (605) 336-3734.

- KELO Radio broadcast (\$155)
- KSFY telecast (\$1350)
- Closed captioning (\$150)
- YouTube live stream (\$75)

**Feb. 7:** Television, radio, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors needed.

**Feb. 14:** Television and YouTube sponsors are needed. Radio and closed captioning are fully sponsored.

**Feb. 17:** Ash Wednesday broadcast and closed captioning is fully sponsored.

**Feb. 21:** Radio, television, closed captioning and YouTube sponsors are needed.

**Feb. 28:** Radio, television, closed captioning and YouTube sponsors are needed.

*There are many sponsor opportunities open in the 2021 Media Ministry schedule. Call now to get the closest date for your memorial or event celebration.*

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Officers/Executive Committee (as nominated for 2021)

Martin Oyos . . . . . President  
Michael Kedik. . . . . Vice President  
Randy Eide . . . . . Treasurer  
Suzie Hernes . . . . . Secretary  
John Christopherson . . . . . Senior Pastor  
Jaci Aberson . . . . . Member-at-Large  
Lori Wilbur . . . . . Member-at-Large

### Council Representatives

Care & Health . . . . . Barney Brandenburg  
Education & Discipleship . . . . . Lindsey Olson Gray  
Evangelism & Outreach . . . . . Leslie Barnes  
Finance, Admin. & Property . . . . . Lyle Eidsness  
FLC Women . . . . . Jean Hoff  
Foundation . . . . . Somer Anderson  
Stewardship & Giving . . . . . Mason Van Essen  
Welcome & Community . . . . . Deb Nelson  
Worship & Music . . . . . James Moore  
Youth & Family . . . . . Suzy Schramm

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF DIRECTORY

### Pastoral Staff

(203) Dr. John Christopherson . . . Senior Pastor  
(210) Rev. Lars Olson . . . . . Executive Pastor  
(209) Rev. Jeff Backer . . . . . Associate Pastor  
(202) Rev. Bob Chell\* . . . . . Visitation  
(202) Rev. David Houck\* . . . . . Visitation  
(202) Rev. Roger Noer\* . . . . . Visitation  
(202) Rev. Dennis Tranberg\* . . . . . Visitation  
(202) Rev. Dave Johnson . . . . . Emeritus

### Administration

(236) Ginger Miller . . . . . Director  
(211) Jody Byrers . . . . . Finance Administrator  
(202) Donna Jahr . . . . . Ministry Support Coord.  
(201) Kristy Zuraff . . . . . Receptionist  
(252) Bev Bentzinger\* . . . . . Admin. Assistant

### Care and Health Ministries

(202) Cheryl Satterlee\* . . . . . Wedding Coordinator

### Media Ministry

(231) Jodi Hoyt . . . . . Director  
(213) Susan Bell\* . . . . . Coordinator  
Kathy Hein\* . . . . . Broadcast Director  
Jon Martin\* . . . . . Broadcast Director  
David Palmer\* . . . . . Broadcast Director  
Hons Oakland\* . . . . . Broadcast Director  
Tanner Wangness\* . . . . . Broadcast Director

### Facilities

(201) Kent Wilson . . . . . Facility Manager  
Rick East . . . . . Custodian  
Jeff Hartnett . . . . . Custodian

### Worship and Music Ministries

(260) Zachary Brockhoff . . . . . Director/Organist,  
FLYGHT and Jubilant Singers Director  
(261) Shirley Barlow\* . . . . . Administrative Assistant  
Larry Olson\* . . . . . Contemporary Worship  
Dr. Paul Nesheim\* . . . . . Adult Choir Director,  
Women's Choir Director  
Bonnie Lindgren\* . . . . . Carol Choir Director  
Donna Hamilton\* . . . . . Accompanist  
Sue Severson\* . . . . . Accompanist  
Mary Ryrholm\* . . . . . Agape Ringers Director  
Pam Sonnichsen\* . . . . . Instrumental Coordinator  
Marcia Kittelson . . . . . Organist Emerita

### Youth and Family Ministries

(204) Marnie Dahle Backer . . . . . Director  
(235) Elias Johnson-Youngquist . . . Youth Minister  
(238) Valerie Pherson . . . . . Children's Minister  
(228) Mark Nassen\* . . . . . Coordinator  
Karina Hackworth\* . . . . . Nursery Attendant  
Nancy Henrichsen\* . . . . . Nursery Attendant  
Irma Rodriguez Leon\* . . . . . Nursery Attendant  
Kris Stark\* . . . . . Nursery Attendant

( ) = Direct dial phone extensions. If no extension is listed, please call the Director of the ministry area.

\* Part-time staff

Main phone . . . . . (605) 336-3734  
Direct dial to extensions . . . . . (605) 339-1983  
Toll-free . . . . . (800) 425-9899  
Fax . . . . . (605) 336-8370  
Pastoral emergency . . . . . (605) 610-9431  
Custodian cell . . . . . (605) 351-8281  
Project CAR . . . . . (605) 332-2777

# WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY



## New Paraments Have Arrived!

Paraments—perhaps you’ve heard that word but aren’t certain of its meaning? Paraments are the Sanctuary banners and cloths you see hanging on the altar, pulpit, and lectern, as well as the pastors’ stoles, that change color with the season.

Thanks to designated gifts to the capital campaign and Council approval, volunteers on the paraments committee (Diane Atchison, Cathy Christopherson, Cami Jacobsen, and Marilyn Van Demark) worked tirelessly for months (years even!) to design and obtain new paraments for all of the seasons of the church year. These new paraments truly are the result of hundreds of hours of collaboration beginning in 2018 involving committee members, FLC pastors, and staff at Ecclesiastical Sewing in Minnesota. The paraments arrived at the church last month, and our committee and pastors had the privilege of carefully unpacking them.

This project also included valuable work from the volunteers in the shop to build storage racks as well as many hours of work by volunteers to prep the racks prior the arrival of the new paraments.

We hope you’ll join us as we dedicate these new paraments in worship on Transfiguration Sunday, February 14.



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First Lutheran will be closed on Monday, February 15, in honor of Presidents’ Day

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