



FIRST LUTHERAN BROOKINGS

...engaging life and the world, by and through God's grace.

Volume 25 Issue 1 February and March 2024

Friends in Following Jesus,

Have you ever been lost? It seems that literally losing your way is an almost extinct experience with the prevalence of convenient GPS maps. To get where we're going, one hardly needs to know the way, only the destination. By plugging that alone into your phone, the route will appear before you turn by turn. Some of you have seen more change in your lifetime than I have when it comes to wayfinding, but even I remember unfolding a paper map in the car. Even more impressive in my memory was the challenge of refolding it! And once, as a young adult leading a youth trip across the country, I printed out an entire large binder of step by step directions from Minnesota to West Virginia using an online service by AAA. There was no recalibrating of that route given traffic, road construction, or anything else, but at the time that was high technology.

It's just as easy as in the past, though, and maybe even moreso, to become lost in a metaphorical sense today. With so many distractions and options, we can lose sight of the path before us, and even forget our intended destination. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was an app for finding your way in a spiritual or life-directional sense? I'm not writing to tell you that there is an easy solution to the lifelong challenge of finding our way. I am here to share the Good News that no matter where we may go, even if we should stray or wander, God is with us and promises never to leave us to find our way on our own.

This year during the season of Lent, we will embark on a journey together. You know the traditional call of lent is to "return to the Lord our God," or "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The reason we need to hear this call to return or turn around over and over again is because we are prone to wander, and we often stray. We call this wandering and straying sin, and we thank God not for a plan to help us avoid it, but for a Savior to deliver us from it.

In our Lenten journey this year, we will walk the way of Confession and Forgiveness. We will seek to more deeply understand the sin that we confess by studying the 10 Commandments and Luther's explanation of them. As we grow in understanding sin, we will receive with greater appreciation the forgiveness that God gives us through Jesus. We will respond with thanksgiving and creativity to the costly gift of grace that is given to us for free. If you're a creative type, watch for an invitation to share a response to forgiveness through an expression such as poetry, art, dance, or song on behalf of our congregation when we gather for worship on Wednesday evenings in Lent.

As we walk over and over this well-worn path of confession and forgiveness, sin and absolution, we hope we will find ourselves lost less. Or, at least, we will learn to receive the rescue for all of us who stray that comes in the form of Jesus who saves us from our sin.

Blessings on your steps as we walk this Way together,

Pastor Jess



PRESCHOOL NEWS

FIRST, I WANTED TO LET EVERYONE KNOW THAT IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN REGISTERING A CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL CLASSES STARTING NEXT FALL, PLEASE CALL THE PRESCHOOL OFFICE AND GET YOUR NAME ON THE MAILING LIST. I WILL BE SENDING OUT REGISTRATION FORMS THE END OF FEBRUARY. THE FORMS ARE SENT OUT IN THE ORDER I RECEIVE THE CALLS AND THEY ARE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO CALL SOON. OUR CLASSES FILL UP QUICKLY. WE OFFER CLASSES TO CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 5 YEARS OF AGE. WE ALSO PROVIDE A JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN CLASS FOR 5-YEAR-OLDS. THE CHILDREN MUST BE THREE, FOUR, OR FIVE YEARS OLD BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST, AND TOILET TRAINED.

THERE ARE MANY THINGS GOING ON IN ALL THE DIFFERENT PRESCHOOL CLASSES THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS. WE HAVE OUR PASTRIES FOR PARENTS PARTY, VALENTINE EXCHANGE, OUR ANNUAL OCEAN BEACH PARTY, POPCORN AND PAJAMA PARTY, JR K ART MUSEUM, AND ALL OUR EASTER ACTIVITIES. AND WE ARE STARTING TO PLAN FOR OUR PRESCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH.

OUR SPRING PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES WILL BE HELD THE WEEK OF MONDAY, MARCH 11 THROUGH FRIDAY MARCH 15. THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL MARCH 13-15. THIS GIVES THE PARENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT ABOUT AND DISCUSS THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL GROWTH IN THE CLASSROOM.

LAST MONTH OUR JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN CLASS WENT TO VISIT THE SOUTH DAKOTA ART MUSEUM. THEY LEARNED ABOUT ALL DIFFERENT TYPES OF ART. THE CHILDREN CAME BACK AND THEY ARE USING THEIR ART KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE LOTS OF THEIR OWN MASTERPIECES. AT THE END OF MARCH OUR JR K CLASS WILL HOST THEIR VERY OWN ART MUSEUM AND FUNDRAISER. THE CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS SO EXCITED TO SHOW OFF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND THEIR WORK!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON ANY OF THESE EVENTS OR YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON FALL REGISTRATION, PLEASE CALL THE PRESCHOOL OFFICE AT 605--697-2756 OR EMAIL ME, SUEANN@FIRSTLUTHERANBROOKINGS.ORG. YOU CAN ALSO CHECK US OUT ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

HAVE A WONDERFUL WINTER!

SUEANN



ART MUSEUM AND PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR JR KINDERGARTEN'S ART MUSEUM, SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER, AND PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE. YOU WILL GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW ALL THE BEAUTIFUL AND CREATIVE ART CREATED BY OUR JUNIOR KINDERGARTNERS. YOU WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO ORDER T-SHIRTS DESIGNED BY OUR JR K, AND BID ON SILENT AUCTION PIECES, ALL CREATED BY OUR PRESCHOOLERS. WE WILL BE CONVERTING OUR GYMNASIUM INTO A "MUSEUM" FOR THE DAY. OUR MUSEUM AND THE PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 FROM 3:30—5:30PM.



First Lutheran Church Children's Ministry News

As Director of Children's Ministry for First Lutheran Church I oversee programming for children, infants through 5th grade and their families. Since we have reopened programming after COVID 19 participation of families with our youngest children has experienced rapid growth.

I am excited to announce that we have received a seed grant through the South Dakota Synod to create a new mission for the families of our youngest children. We will build the foundation of this mission with the help of Dr. Dawn Rundman. Dawn Rundman is a nationally recognized teacher, presenter, and author specializing in children's faith development. She received her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Oregon. Formerly a professor, Dr. Rundman currently develops faith curriculum and content for children and youth.

The first step in creating this meaningful mission will be to engage in a book study of 3 or 4 45-minute sessions using "Little Steps, Big Faith – How the science of Early Childhood Development Can Help You Grow Your Child's Faith." By Dr. Rundman. We, as a community, will conduct several Zoom sessions with Dr. Rundman in which we will delve into her book. Each session will include a meal and childcare.

The second part of creating our mission will be to meet with Dr. Rundman via zoom for 2-3 sessions to learn how to create, grow, and maintain a mission of this type in our community. Again, each session will include a meal and childcare.

This opportunity is too good to keep to ourselves. An open invitation will be given to Ascension Lutheran Church, University Lutheran Church, and various community organizations, who can benefit from receiving this valuable information.

We will be sending out a survey to assist in picking a weeknight that will work best for our participants. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in the group sessions, sharing talents, skills, or loving support with this population of our community, don't hesitate to contact Kari York.

Do you have a Thrivent Grant available, do you know of other grants, would you or your company be willing to help sponsor the session meal or other expenses? We are looking for additional funding. You would be recognized as a partner while your contributions will help in creating a solid foundation for this mission. Participation is growing, yet we are not currently in a situation to grow our staff or funding for programs. We hope that you will consider joining our efforts through your skills or some level of sponsorship.

Who couldn't use a little help when starting a new family? Who wouldn't treasure support from those in their faith community? Who wouldn't appreciate creating a loving support and social system? This grant, this mission allows us to create meaningful connections in a time that feels so divisive. These are exciting times. I hope you consider joining us. Contact Kari York faithformations@firstlutheranbrookings.org for more information or with any questions you may have.

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it” Proverbs 22:6.

Although the church refers to this season as Ordinary time, it feels more like the time that flies.

THE FIRST JOURNEY TO DISCIPLESHIP SESSION OF FEBRUARY IS CAMP THEMED.

Lutheran Outdoors camp registration opened in November. [Lutheran Outdoors registration link](#). We are providing a small taste of camp for those who have never attended church camp. We can't provide a taste of all the amazing camp options: fishing camp, family camp, 1-2-3 camp, and so many more, we can provide some of the fun. If you would like more information on LO camps check them out here [LO information](#).

FLC's staff understands that going to camp can be intimidating if you have never been or don't have someone going with you. We are planning to send some of our staff to various camps this year. Want to head to camp together? We also feel more comfortable surrounded by people we know. Invite your friends and family, let's go as a group.

FLC understands that \$\$ is tight. If you are interested in going to camp, we can help. FLC has funds donated for those interested in exploring camp as does Lutheran Outdoors. Talk to Pastor Jess to find out more. Let's make some amazing memories together!!!

FEBRUARY 14TH is a doubly special day. Yes, it is Valentine's Day, even more special, it is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season. There is **NO JOURNEY TO DISCIPLESHIP ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14** **AND** Note that we will dismiss at 6:50 on Wednesday's during the Lenten season. This will allow families time to pick up children prior to the shuffle of those coming for Lenten services along with all the Wednesday evening activities. Lenten services take place from 7:00-7:30. We encourage families to bring their children to these special services.

FEBRUARY 16TH we are holding a "semi-Lock-in" (6:00 pm to Midnight) for our 4th & 5th Graders. This will take place if we have at least **8** RSVPs by **February 9th**. Students are encouraged to bring friends. We would also love to have High School – Adults of all ages take a shift to join us or stay all night. Last year was so much fun, making one on one connections with our 4th & 5th graders. Students & Helpers please RSVP to Kari York no later than February 9th.

February 18th NO Journey to Discipleship.

February 19th our office is closed.

March 24th is Palm Sunday. We encourage all Journey to Discipleship students and volunteers to join us for the Palm Procession at both services. Watch for details. There will be Journey on that day as well.

March 27th & March 31st NO JOURNEY to Discipleship.

April 17th & 21st will be the **last Journey** to Discipleship sessions for this year.

April 24 5th Grade Faith Steppingstone "Welcome to Confirmation"

April 28 Blessing for 5th Grade Faith Steppingstone at both services.

July 22-25 VBS is planned for **5:30pm-7pm** for those who are 3 years old to 5th grade in the 2023-2024 (**current**) school year. Registration will be out prior to the end of Journey to Discipleship. If you would like to help prep, lead, sing, or in any way. Contact someone on the Child, Youth, & Family team or Kari York.

REGISTRATION FOR JOURNEY TO DISCIPLESHIP WILL OPEN IN FEBRUARY. PLEASE REGISTER BEFORE April 30th. Contact Kari York if you would like to volunteer for Wednesday, Sunday or prepping during the week next year.

Infant/Toddler Worship Room

First Lutheran Church welcomes, encourages, and treasures little one's in service. We believe God created children to wiggle, chatter, and move about, it is how they learn, grow, and become comfortable in a space. Jesus said, **“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.**

We understand that worship, mornings, new people, are all things children adjust to in their own time. That is why we provide a room at the back of the sanctuary with a glass wall and speaker to see and hear the service, while taking a moment away from all the stimulus and sitting of the sanctuary. This room also includes a changing table, small restroom, couch, and chairs for breastfeeding or rocking a tired little one. We are currently collecting offering from our Christian Education to add some wall mounted toys for friends who may need that option. *This room is at the back of the sanctuary. Ask an usher or staff member if you can't locate the room.*

We Provide Nursery for Children birth to 3 years old.

If your child is having a less than pleasant experience in worship, FLC provides trained nursery staff and a clean, engaging environment. You can find the nursery on the 2nd (education) floor just below the “office” door entrance. Ask an usher or staff member if you need help locating the Nursery.

So many Worship options for our children

First Lutheran Church believes that children belong in worship. Even when it seems they are not paying attention, they are listening and learning. We strive to provide various supports for children to remain in the sanctuary during service. At each sanctuary entrance you will find “worship bags” with items to give your child something to do during service and allow you to focus on the service. When children are 4 years old, they will be invited to receive their own “worship bag” as part of their Faith Steppingstone.

Each sanctuary entrance will have children's bulletins and crayons. Sometimes there will be a special gift for the children. These can be taken home.

We have found when families with young children sit near the front of the sanctuary the children pick up aspects of worship more than we think. There are times when families just need another option, we have that as well. The Glass room at the back of the sanctuary is our “gathering space.” Round tables with chairs are available for a change of pace.

For information on any Children's Ministry activities or events contact Director of Children's Ministry, Kari York firstformations@firstlutheranbrookings.org.



Pastor Jess brought her new goldfish friends, appropriately named Mary and Joseph, with her to the children's sermons on Christmas Eve. At last report, Mary and Joseph were enjoying their new home at the Daum residence in a bigger tank...not a manger filled with hay.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

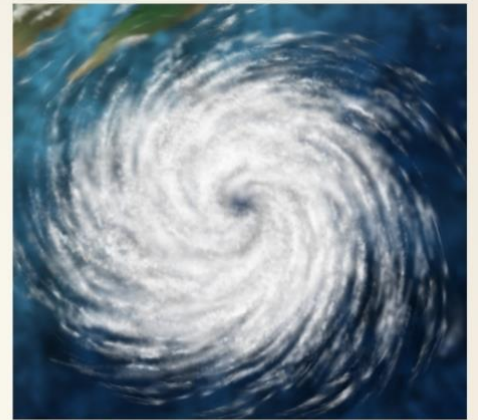
Hi there!

After a long winter break I am not the only person excited to welcome students back into the building! December was full of gatherings and celebrations and January was full of quiet time full of planning and organizing.

6th - 8th Grade Confirmation:

We returned to confirmation and began with a reflection on resonance and worship as part of Mary Moeller's Resonance project.

We ended the night with imagining outdoor worship spaces that could benefit our church and community. We will be diving into the New Testament Story of Jesus calming the storm, our modern day connection will be exploring how God meets us in our Anxiety. Lent begins February 14th with Ash Wednesday and confirmation will focus on the stories leading to Jesus' Crucifixion and Easter.



9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION

We are still working our way through the Wellness Wheel! In January we hosted our night focused on Vocational well-being where we hosted a panel of folks from our congregation to chat about how God has called them into different roles in their life. In the coming months we hope to explore Emotional, Financial, and Physical well-being.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



OUR NEXT FOCUS WILL BE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND SCIENCE.

WE ARE HOSTING A HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT OFFSITE FEBRUARY 24TH-25TH. WE PLAN TO ENJOY A RESTFUL WEEKEND, CONNECTING WITH FRIENDS, AND EXPLORING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PART OF THE PROMISES OF GOD'S LOVE? PLEASE REGISTER BY

FEBRUARY 9TH AT

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/C7M5FMLHNBFWX7N78](https://forms.gle/C7M5FMLHNBFWX7N78)

**CREATED
TO BE**

SUMMER YOUTH TRIP 2024:

This summer 21 of our youth will be heading to New Orleans to experience the ELCA Youth Gathering with youth and young adults from all over the country!

UPCOMING YOUTH TRIP '24 FUNDRAISERS:



Kids Night In! - Friday Feb 9th

Do you have children between the ages of 0-10? Looking for a time to celebrate Valentine's Day or just want some quiet time to clean the house? FLC youth are hosting a "Kids Night Out!" a fundraising event on Friday February 9th! There will be games, movies, crafts, and more! The event will run from 5-8pm. Sign up by February 6th
<https://forms.gle/o4eQ7dKoGZv4jkGa7>



ROLLS WILL BE SHARED ON THE SUNDAY MORNINGS OF FEBRUARY 11TH AND 25TH AS WELL AS MARCH 10TH



MARCH 17TH
WE WILL HOST A KICKBALL TOURNAMENT, KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED ON MORE INFORMATION TO COME!



PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH MARCH 24TH

HOSTED IN THE GYM/ ACTIVITIES CENTER IN A SIMILAR FASHION TO YEARS IN THE PAST YEARS PAST WE WILL HOST A BIG BRUNCH FOR A FREE WILL DONATION MADE AND HOSTED BY THE YOUTH AND FAMILIES GOING ON THE SUMMER YOUTH TRIP.

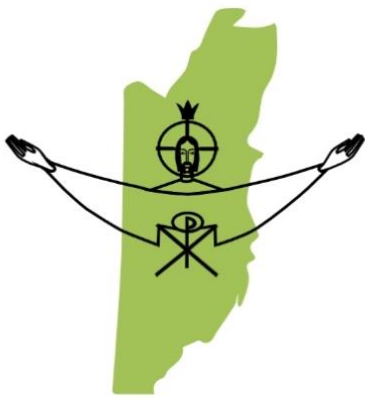


EASTER FLOWERS

A SMALL PORTION OF THE PRICE OF THE EASTER FLOWERS PURCHASED WILL GO TOWARDS OUR YOUTH TRIP. ORDER FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN LATE FEBRUARY.



IN PEACE AND PRAYER, MADISON MCCABE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES



belize

Celebrating FLC Connections in Belize

Thanks be to God for supportive staff, generous contributions of time and money from First Lutheran members and the Brookings community, and our beautiful FLC facilities that all combined to create a fundraiser to celebrate - bringing in over \$17,000. In addition, Dee Shanley was able to return to school with \$2,000 additional funds to create a lunch school program. Total fall receipts, including funds from Deck the Halls, and the Sunday rolls and craft show sales, provide over \$21,000 for the Belize mission work this fall. We are thankful!

The Purses for a Powerful Purpose luncheon and weekend fundraiser receipts continue to provide strong support for mission ministry in Belize. View the bulletin board photos outside the FLC office to see the connection with our partners in Belize. Additionally, funds will provide for student computer support, school lunches, supplies, and incidental sewing needs for Dee Shanley's classroom.

Preparing for this event requires many volunteers: those who donate purses, jewelry, Christmas décor; those who clean, sort, price, design and display the donations; those who haul, host, sweep, cook, wash, and serve in many unseen ways. If you'd like to get in on all this fun, we welcome you to contact someone on the team or the church office.

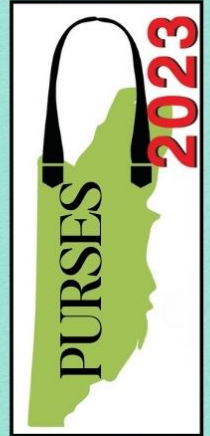
God is good, indeed, and we have seen God's goodness through you!

Belize Mission Team,

Dee Shanley, Jim Schade, Debbie Pederson, Jean Gentry, and Mary Moeller



Dee Shanley hosted a Purses luncheon table with a Belizean theme.



Children shop for gifts



Volunteers are essential to serve so many so quickly!



Many volunteers including Diane Almos, Connie Quirk, Mary Moeller & Gail Tidemann work on pricing jewelry for the Purses event sales.

INTERESTED IN A MISSION TRIP TO BELIZE?

1.7.2024 Belize Travel Planning Meeting, MCHS meeting room at 9:45 A.M.

Opening Devotion

Have you heard the one about the group of folks who decided to plan for a trip together? Here's how their story goes. They had already agreed on a general destination, but there were still lots of details to work out. One of their first steps was to consult with a travel agency to help determine the best and most direct route, looking for smooth roads, and avoiding dangerous obstacles. And they did get some advice from an agent with Spirit Travel, an information source they had used before with good results and with multiple star ratings. The future travelers were advised that the timing and conditions were indeed just right for travel, so next it was time for them to pack up.

But what all to take? Baggage and weight were, of course, limited, but since the trip was long, they paid for the extra luggage, packing for all kinds of weather conditions with layers of clothes in their checked bags. And, because they expected to meet lots of different people on their way, they decided to pack some presents, some souvenirs to hand out to hosts and new friends. Since they all loved to snack, their carry-ons were filled with treats such as crackers, nuts, and dried fruits.

Off they set on their journey, with farewells from friends and family, good luck wishes, and hauling heavy loads of goods. Every day during weeks of travel soon had them asking each other, "Are we there yet?" Finally, the travelers decided to stop and ask some local folks for advice. Sure enough, people in the know confirmed that they were indeed "almost there"! So over a few more hills and down another dusty road, they finally stopped to discover -- the holy Christ-Child, the Lord of the universe right there in front of them! Never could they have imagined this surprising place and baby king!

Holy God, whenever we embark on a new adventure, help us keep the story of the Wise Men in mind: how they went out in faith, trusting the Spirit to guide them. Help us to be open to seeing you in new places and in new faces, at work in the world in new ways. Let us allow our encounter with Jesus on those adventures to shape us in new ways that are pleasing to you. And, as we plan, encounter us today, so that we might be changed by your presence here among us. Amen

Present: Nancy and Jim Schade, Pastor Trey, Nancy Kristofferson, Kim & Brad Dahl, Roberta Wagner, Waynette & Orland Geigle via FB Messenger, Lon & Mary Moeller

Jim presented an overview of the Belize mission and a brief explanation of Belize history. He described a proposed itinerary of visiting the high school, spending time with Mr. Bay, the principal, and exploring the local cultural sites. Nancy S. added details about last year's experiences in getting to know the Alvin Young students who are being supported with scholarships and in visiting the family of one scholarship student. They see this mission as focused on building relationships and understanding the challenges and opportunities these students experience. Last year's goals were focused on several building projects at the school and working at Camp SeKonsa.

Internal transportation possibilities include vehicle rental on our own or working with a local rental/tour agency. Housing is planned at Rumors Resort, San Ignacio with a final stay at a seaside resort tbd.

Possible activities and a timeline to consider for this trip are listed in the meeting draft Nancy provided with a 6-7-day trip proposed and dates contingent on participant availability. Lon reported on a possible airline route through Denver and direct to Belize City; other potential travelers might travel directly.

Goals for trip were discussed: how/where to experience ministry. Waynette explained her connection with Luis Chan, a student that has received support in attaining his B.S. degree in agriculture. Luis has expressed his interest in hosting our team with a tour of his farm.

Immediate goals include the following: recruiting potential travelers, determining a travel date, dividing responsibilities for leadership and planning.

The meeting closed with a general discussion describing the personal impact and growth possibilities available in a mission trip such as this. Contact Jim Schade for more trip information at 605-940-2363 or Schade@itctel.com.

A NOTE FROM DEE your missionary in Belize:

I was blessed to have my family, friends, and Debbie Pederson return to Belize with me in December and join me for my Birthday party. My new friends in Belize met my family members from the States. My family joined me and met our scholarship students from Alvin L. Young High School in San Jose Succotz. We worked on a project together serving at Camp Sekonsa, a Camp for children with disabilities, from Belize.

From there my family joined me on an amazing cultural tour of the country of Belize traveling from my village to Xunantunich Maya site, to the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve, to a Cacao Farm and production of Chocolate, to protected Cayes (islands) in the Caribbean Sea where coral is being grown and introduced back into the natural coral reef.

My family returned home to the cold and snow of the north and I returned to my volunteer teaching position at the high school where Debbie Pederson and I hope to implement a feeding program at the school with donations provided by you, our friends from First Lutheran Church. I thank you all for your continued support.
You are a blessing.



1. Debbie Peterson joined Dee in Belize after Christmas
2. Dee celebrated her birthday with family and friends
3. Dee getting her first meal from the kitchen FLC helped remodel
4. Some children from Camp Sekonsa



5. Dee assisting one of the students with a sewing project
6. Dee and a friend enjoy a meal at the Christmas party



7. Debbie Pederson with some of the school students
8. Dee with her family enjoying the beautiful Belize scenery



notes from

PASTOR TREY

Lent: Confession and Forgiveness

This year, we're navigating the forty days of Lent around our understanding of sin: confessing ours to God, and receiving the Good News of forgiveness. There's plenty to unpack. Throughout the season, we'll explore sin, spend time in confession, and rejoice in the abundant grace of God's forgiveness.

Ash Wednesday February 14, 2023

Worship at 12 Noon or 7pm

Lent begins with an abrupt announcement to remember we are dust and to dust we shall return. This day's worship includes an extended confession of sin, a physical expression of this confession in an ashen cross and the certain and abundant proclamation of forgiveness of sin. On Ash Wednesday, we receive Holy Communion, a foretaste of the feast to come, when Christ, not death, has the final Word.

Wednesday Mid-Day Gatherings in Lent February 21 = March 27

Lunch and Community Worship in the FLC Activity Center:

Soup, Sandwich, cookie, and beverage. \$10.00

Lunch served 11:30-12:10

Brief Community Worship: 12:10-12:45

Proceeds benefit the ministry of
the Brookings Ministerial Association

Please park on the west side of the church

to allow room for pick up/drop off at the preschool.

Wednesday Evenings: February 21 = March 27

Supper: 5pm - 6pm

Worship: 7pm-7:35pm

These brief services will explore the Ten Commandments through our theme of confession and forgiveness. Each service concludes with a creative response to God's forgiveness shared by a member of our church community.

Sundays during Lent

Our usual Sunday schedule continues with worship at 8:30am and 10:30am.

We take time together to bring our brokenness to God
and receive God's declaration of forgiveness.

Happy New Year 2024! I am looking forward to what is in store for our Mission Coffeehouse this year, the first being the “Fill the Cup” campaign! With the generosity of the community, congregation and all who donated, we reached our goal, plus some! Thank you and God bless you for the help with the expense for our updating plans of remodel. A couple of equipment items that need to be replaced have already been ordered and hopefully on the way! We are hopeful that we will not have to be closed at all when the updates start to flourish forward, but in the case that changes, we will reach out and let you know!

Moving into the new year, as always, we offer homemade soups with the dedication of our wonderful volunteers, homemade caramel rolls Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Kool Beans coffee served daily Monday through Friday. The Mission of the Month, all coffee donations go towards the monthly organization to help the needs to be met. Lunch is served Monday through Friday and includes toasted sandwiches, flat bread pizzas and salads.

Lenten season is just around the corner, and we will continue to serve Lenten Lunches on Wednesdays, starting on February 21st. The Lenten lunches consist of a noon meal and services. I look forward to working with the volunteers that help with the lunches and provide their time to do so and make it successful.

Speaking of Wednesdays, our youth started back up with their Journey classes and the evening meals are served from 5-6 pm. Thanks to our volunteers that help to make this possible to serve our youth and families. Come enjoy a meal before classes start for the evening!

I am extremely excited to move into this new year. The Mission Coffeehouse remodel is exciting and looking forward to it getting started! Looking forward to seeing all our loyal customers and new faces returning. Thank you volunteers for your dedication! Thank you FLC for your support! Here's to 2024, let's make it a great year!!

Sincerely, LaDeane Harrison



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on March 10th!!



Mission of the Month



Deb Bortnem with the representative from “Project Joy” presenting a check for \$1,910.00



A donation of \$1,933.50 was collected in December. \$350.00 was sent to Heifer International. \$1,733.50 was sent to ELCA Good Gifts.

*"IF MUSIC IS 'THE LANGUAGE OF THE SOUL,' THEN SACRED
MUSIC MUST BE THE LANGUAGE OF THE SPIRIT. ONLY THE
CHRISTIAN FAITH GIVES 'A SONG IN THE NIGHT'."*

NATHANAEOL OLSON

As we move through Lent and into Easter, let our 'songs in the night'
bring us comfort and peace.

If you have looked ahead at your calendars, you may have noticed that Ash
Wednesday and Easter are early this year. In fact, Ash Wednesday is on
Valentine's Day, Feb. 14th! In a way, this seems fitting as we consider
God's great love for us as we contemplate Christ's journey to the cross.

The Sanctuary Choir resumes rehearsals January 17th and will be
rehearsing for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, and Easter services. On Ash
Wednesday, the choir will not have a rehearsal but will lead our
Wednesday night service at 7:00 pm. During the six weeks of Lent, the
Sanctuary Choir will be rehearsing after Lenten services at 7:35pm.

During Holy Week, the Hand Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir will provide
special music on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Palm Sunday and
Easter Sunday services will be greatly enhanced by the addition of brass as
we sing joyfully of Christ's victory over death and the grave.

Thanks be to God,
Pat Anderson, Music Coordinator for 8:30 service

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MARCH 24

PALM PROCESSIONAL AND CHILDREN'S CHOIR AT BOTH SERVICES

SUNDAY BRUNCH

8:30 A.M. FESTIVAL TRADITIONAL SERVICE

10:30AM PRAISE CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

THURSDAY MARCH 28

7:00 P.M. MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

FRIDAY MARCH 29

7:00 P.M. GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

SUNDAY MARCH 31

7:00 A.M. EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

8:30 A.M. FESTIVAL TRADITIONAL SERVICE

10:30AM PRAISE CONTEMPORARY SERVICE





JOIN US FOR A MOVIE FUNDRAISER

FEATURING:
KUNG FU PANDA 4

SAT
9
MARCH

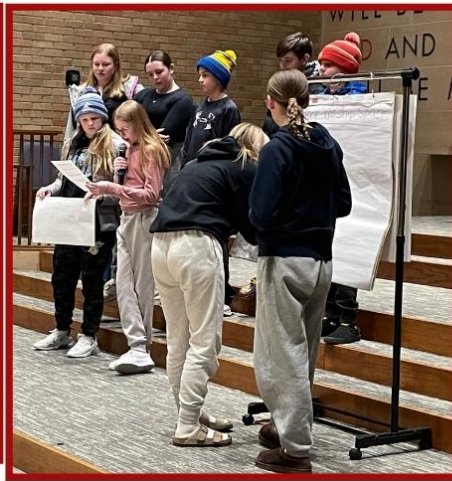
10:30 AM

Brookings Cinema 8
219 6th St.

Special ticket offer: \$5 per person

Cash or check only

All proceeds will be donated to Zander Ulvestad and his family to help cover medical expenses incurred while he undergoes intense cancer treatments at Mayo Hospital and Sanford Children's Hospital.



Top to bottom, L-R: Families gathered in January to celebrate the anniversary of Baptism; A confirmation class shows how they would design an outdoor worship space; Madison McCabe, Jacob York and Corey Shelsta lead music for Praise worship; Kari York presents a bible to one of our Kindergarteners; 3rd graders and their families went through 1st Communion; Pastor Trey presents a blessing from the altar on Christmas Eve; Pastor Jess presents 1st Communion to her own daughter, Ruby; the Sanctuary choir shows off their brand new choir robes.



First Lutheran Church
PO Box 300
Brookings, SD 57006

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Brookings, SD
 Permit No. 87

Return Service Requested

www.firstlutheranbrookings.org
 Phone: 692-6251
 Fax: 697-2760

X

If you have an article or information for the April/May Newsletter, please have it to the church office no later than 5:00pm March 7th.

If you would like information put in the Sunday announcements, please have it in the church office by noon the Monday before. Thank you!



The preschool decorated a tree for the Brookings Art Council tree contest in December. The tree was based on the book “The Mitten” by Ian Brett. The public voted it #1 again this year!

X

X

X

February 2024

**Only church activities are included
 on this calendar.
 Check the on-line calendar for outside
 meetings and events scheduled.
 (Calendar subject to change.)**

1
2:30 pm
Judy
Alickon's
retirement
party in
MCH

2

3

HC = Holy Communion SS = SteppingStone

<p>4 8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC</p>	<p>5 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"</p>	<p>6 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in Parlor 7:00pm Bible Study in MC</p>	<p>7 5:00 pm Meal 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>8 6:30pm Church Council in Parlor</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 8:30 am Festival Service 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service</p>	<p>12 9:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm ULC & Parkplace Communion 5:30 pm "Sew What"</p>	<p>13 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in Parlor 5:30 pm CYFT Meeting in Parlor 7:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>14 NO JOURNEY OR YOUTH GROUP 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service w/HC 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service w/HC 7:00 pm Confirmation**</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 6:00 pm - 12:00 am 4th & 5th Grade Lock-in</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 NO JOURNEY 8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC</p>	<p>19 MCH AND CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED 5:30 pm "Sew What"</p>	<p>20 8:30am Quilters 9:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Bible Study in Parlor 7:00pm Bible Study in</p>	<p>21 5:00 pm Meal 5:30 pm Children's Choir 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Confirmation** 7:35 pm Sanctuary Choir 7:35 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 8:30 am Festival Service 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service</p>	<p>26 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"</p>	<p>27 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>28 5:00 pm Meal 5:30 pm Children's Choir 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Confirmation** 7:35 pm Sanctuary Choir 7:35 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>**Note: confirmation students should attend Lenten evening service then go to small groups</p>	

March 2024

Only church activities are included on this calendar.
Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled.
(Calendar subject to change.)

HC = Holy Communion SS = SteppingStone

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC	9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	11:30am Lenten lunch 5:00 pm Meal 5:30 pm Children's Choir 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Confirmation** 7:35 pm Youth Group	April/May newsletter deadline		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30 am Festival Service 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service 	9:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Park Place & ULC Communion 5:30 pm "Sew What"	8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	11:30am Lenten lunch 5:00 pm Meal 5:30 pm Children's Choir 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Confirmation** 7:35 pm Sanctuary Choir 7:35 pm Youth Group	6:30pm Church Council		
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8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC	9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	11:30am Lenten lunch 5:00 pm Meal 5:30 pm Children's Choir 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Confirmation** 7:35 pm Sanctuary Choir 7:35 pm Youth Group			
24 PALM SUNDAY	25	26	27	28	29	30
Palm Procession at both services Easter Brunch 8:30 am Festival Service 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service	9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	8:30am Quilters 12:00pm-5:00pm Preschool Art Museum 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	5:45 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 pm Good Friday Service	
31	**Note: confirmation students should attend Lenten evening service then go to small groups					
7:00 pm Easter Sunrise Service w/HC 8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 10:30 am Praise Service w/HC						