

First Fruits

Worship Ministry

March 2026
Volume 30, Number 3

FIRST LUTHERAN MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES will continue every Wednesday in March with soup and sandwich supper provided at 6 PM and worship at 7 PM. There is a host sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex to bring dessert, make coffee, and clean up. Dates are March 4, 11, 18, and 25.



CHARITON EASTER BREAKFAST SIGN UP on the table in

the Narthex. There are **TWO** sign-up sheets—one for those willing to help with breakfast and another for those planning on attending. Please sign up so enough food is prepared!



Palm Sunday
March 29 - 9 AM

First Lutheran will celebrate with palms—youth gather in Fireside room and process into sanctuary
No Sunday School



Maundy Thursday
April 2 - 7:00 PM
Special Joint Worship at First Lutheran in Chariton
Fireside Room for Seder



HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Good Friday
April 3 - 12-1:30 PM
Special Joint Worship at Christ the Servant in Corydon
7 Last Words—come anytime between noon-1:30

Easter Sunday
The Resurrection of Our Lord
April 5

First Lutheran
7:30-8:45 AM—Easter Breakfast
9 AM—Festival Worship
No Sunday School

Christ The Servant
9:30-10:45 AM—Easter Breakfast
11 AM – Festival Worship

EASTER LILY AT FIRST LUTHERAN



If you plan to donate a lily for Easter Sunday at First Lutheran, the sign up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. You may designate it as a memorial or in honor of someone. The list of names will be printed in the Easter bulletin.

SANCTUARY HOURS -HOLY WEEK

The First Lutheran sanctuary will be open to members for prayer and quiet reflection on **Maundy Thursday, April 2**, from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM and on **Good Friday, April 3**, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. We invite you to come and spend time in worship as we remember Christ's love and sacrifice during this holy week.

MIDWEEK LENTEN OFFERINGS

Midweek Lenten offerings will be received at the door either before or following worship. The offerings will be given to Lutheran Lakeside Camp for camp equipment.



Lutheran Lakeside Camp

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Discipleship Ministry

CINNAMON ROLL SUNDAY IS BACK!! The youth are raising money for future activities.



The third Sunday of every month (September-May) cinnamon rolls will be available after church for a free will donation.

Buy 1 or 2 or even 6! They will be delicious! Mark your calendar for the third Sunday of the month—the youth will be happy to serve you!!

This month it will be **SUNDAY, MARCH 15!**

NOISY OFFERINGS AT FLC



Every gift makes extra noise! The Church Council will match all Noisy Offering donations—**up to \$500**—with funds supporting Lutheran Lakeside Camp equipment. This matching opportunity runs through March, so let's make it loud and generous!



Lutheran Lakeside Camp

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY!!

RADIO BROADCAST



The radio broadcast of Pastor Hutton's sermons is an ongoing ministry of First Lutheran and Christ the Servant. Ways to listen at 10:30 AM each Sunday morning:

KIIC Radio—96.7 FM (Albia)

kiicradio.com—website
(Click on "Listen Live")

If you miss Sunday, catch it as a podcast on church's website!

Broadcast Sponsors:

March 1: Del & Karen Kray

March 8: LuAnn & Tom Mosbach in honor of their children & grandchildren

March 15: Dave & Lana Kuball in honor of her birthday

March 22: Randy & Marcia Heimdal in honor their children's birthdays

March 29: Pastor Dick & Carolyn Hutton in honor of family

ONLY 9 SUNDAYS LEFT FOR 2026!! With a member and friends in care facilities, the broadcast brings our worship to those, plus we have listeners all across Iowa. If you would like to sponsor one of these broadcasts, **please call the church office. Sponsorships are \$35. 641-774-4875 Thank you!**

Stewardship Ministry

MARCH IS KITCHEN SINK MONTH for the Ministry Center. Examples would be dish soap, comet, scouring pads, Lysol, wipes, toilet bowl cleaner, etc.

Thank you! **Please consider helping with this ministry!**



The Ministry Center also needs volunteers!

Ministry Center hours:
Open M/W/F 9:30-11:30 AM
410 S. 7th St.—774-8146

Salvation Army Assistance available during open hours. Don't forget the blessing boxes found around town can use donations, too!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Vacation Bible School will be held at First Lutheran Church June 15-18. The camp will be sponsored by First Lutheran and provided by Lutheran Lakeside Camp staff. VBS will be open to K-5th grade and open to the community. Volunteers will also be needed. Watch for details in the coming months.



ON THE VINE



CTS WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, March 2 at 11 AM.

FLC WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet on Tuesday, March 3 at 10 AM.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SOUP SUPPER & WORSHIP SERVICE will be held on Wednesdays throughout March (4, 11, 18, and 25). Soup supper at 6 PM with worship at 7 PM.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS on Sunday, March 8.

LAPLANDERS QUILT GUILD AT CTS will meet on Monday, March 9 beginning at 2 PM.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on Monday, March 9 at 6:30 PM.

BREAKFAST GALS meet on Tuesday, March 10 at 8 AM at Hardees.

"SHARING THE WEIGHT" BLANKET MAKING will take place on Tuesday, March 10 from 9 AM-3 PM at CTS.

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP will meet at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, March 11.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, March 12 at 1 PM at First Lutheran.

CINNAMON ROLL SUNDAY will be on Sunday, March 15 after worship.

CTS TASK FORCE will meet on Sunday, March 15 at noon.

LUTHERAN ADULT FELLOWSHIP will meet on Sunday, March 15 at 5 PM. Duane & Cindy Bedford will host. Please bring a food item to share.

NOW YOU CAN GIVE

EASILY THROUGH ONLINE GIVING!

Be part of the amazing work God is doing in our church! Instead of writing checks, you can now give to the church's general fund easily by scanning the QR code with your smartphone's camera and following the secure link to make a quick, secure donation **OR** use the link below to reach the same secure link.



<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZXZE>

Thank you for your support!

NOISY OFFERINGS!!



Please consider bringing your loose change to church and "noisily" depositing it in the pot!! Offerings

December through March at First Lutheran will go to Lutheran Lakeside Camp equipment. Offerings through March at Christ the Servant will go to swim lessons.

Pastoral Pondering

St Paul in his letter to the Philippians writes: “Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:12-14).

In the light and spirit of Paul, I share with you this month that my Doctor has informed me that I have prostate cancer and will need some treatment. Our discussions focused on my desire to remain actively involved with all the joys that marriage, family, ministry, tending to growing plants and grass, and playing bridge allow me. With all that in mind, we have agreed to treat my cancer with two treatments of High Dose Radiation (HDR Brachytherapy) sometime after Easter. It is hoped that such treatment will only cause me to miss two days of work (this is my goal in light of the Doctor’s sharing with me the impact of the radiation treatment). And then I will press on with the joy of walking with you in ministry. I know that there will come a day when I may need to retire, but hopefully that is still two to three years away.

Life does sometimes present to us challenges, but with your prayers and the grace of our Lord, cancer is not something that I fear; nor am I afraid of dying. I truly believe that God is in charge of my longevity, and so I look forward to devoting my energy in pursuit of those wonderful joys that our loving God opens to me each day.

As we walk through Lent this year with the Lord of the Mountain, God calls us to dream big dreams, focus on the future (not the past), and realize that there is a cost to being a disciple of Jesus Christ. The careless assumption that life does not demand preparation is not a part of the New Testament teaching. Remember the children of God who faced the challenges of the mighty walls of Jericho, the giant Goliath, the small jars of oil and meal, the rough waters on the Sea of Galilee, and the Roman Empire; also Martin Luther, Pastor Peter Marshall, and Dr. Alvin Rogness (President of Luther Seminary). In any and all circumstances God was there walking with and inspiring his servants to be witnesses to the power and love of our gracious God.

If our Lord could walk the dusty roads of Jerusalem and climb the hill to Calvary, is it too much for us to face our challenges this year? As Paul wrote in the next chapter of Philippians: “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me but had no opportunity to show it. Not that I am referring to being in need, for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress” (Phil 4:8-14).

Blessings to all of you!

Pastor Dick

Re:Newed

March Baptismal Anniversaries



During this month, we remember and give thanks for the baptisms of:

3/20	Jean Heston	3/25	Makala Whaley
3/23	Easton Wilson	3/25	Kaiti Farrell
3/24	Vivie Nichols	3/26	Tom Schilling
3/24	Gwen Shanks	3/27	Tanner Duey
3/24	Maeve Shanks	3/30	Jason Allen

Thanks be to Jesus for the saving waters of baptism!

(In baptism, we all are made one in Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither male nor female, neither Chariton nor Corydon! Are we missing your baptismal anniversary? Let us know! Tell us the story of your baptism!)

OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION to Duane Bedford, Roger Blunk, and Don Brown for assisting CD Atwell with removal of the dead tree in the church yard.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE!



Daylight savings time begins on March 8. Please remember to move your clock ahead one hour on Saturday evening, March 7.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

CORYDON

3/7	Madison Harman
3/15	Jason Allen



CHARITON

3/1	Karen Patterson
3/1	Mary Jo Fisher
3/4	Canon Wilson
3/8	Trayton Brown
3/11	Blaze Cunningham
3/11	Coleton Atwell
3/12	Ryan Dachenbach
3/13	Jo Aulwes
3/13	Lana Kuball
3/13	Jim Moore
3/14	Betty Pepping
3/15	Kelsey Seufferer
3/18	Taylor Duey
3/19	Carol Brown
3/20	Julie Horstmeier
3/23	Nancy Stansbery
3/23	Pastor Dick Hutton
3/24	Jodi Draper
3/26	Brooklin Atwell

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

CORYDON

3/14	Dr. David & Wendy Foster
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CHARITON

3/31	Roger & Kary Blunk
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IF YOU WISH TO PROVIDE ALTAR FLOWERS, let the office know. We will no longer have a flower chart hanging in the hallway.



Minutes and Reports

Copies of recent meeting minutes and financial reports are available on site at both First Lutheran and Christ the Servant. At FLC, please look on the bulletin board outside the church office. At CTS, check the table by the windows on the lower level.