



February Bell



A Publication of First Lutheran Church



Epiphany: Light has come!

The festival of Epiphany is always on January 6th (thirteen days after Christmas) and the season of the church year that follows is about the unwrapping of the Father's gift to the world of his only-begotten Son and this is called Epiphany a Greek word that means "To be made visible." If Christmas was about Jesus as fully human, a baby son born to Mary and laid in a manger. Then, Epiphany is about Jesus who is fully divine, the Son of God.

On the first Sunday after the Epiphany, we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord Sunday. On the last Sunday of Epiphany, before Ash Wednesday, we have Transfiguration Sunday. These 2 Sundays bracket the season of Epiphany because they most clearly reveal who Jesus is: The divine Son of God. At both moments, the voice of God the Father speaks from heaven, declaring Jesus divinity... "This is my Son!"

Epiphany is the second-oldest festival of the Christian church, only Easter is an older observance. Originally, Epiphany celebrated 4 different events... all on one day! These events were the birth of Jesus, the baptism of our Lord, Jesus first miracle, and the visit of the wise men. Each of these is a revelation of God to humanity.

Eventually, the celebration of Christ's birth was separated out and became Christmas twelve days prior to the Epiphany, so that the season of Christmas began with the revelation to Israel represented by the shepherds at Bethlehem and then ended with the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles represented by the wise men. Epiphany is therefore sometimes called "The Gentiles' Christmas."

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Over the centuries, the two other celebrations were separated as well. The baptism of our Lord moved to the first Sunday after the Epiphany and the commemoration of Jesus first miracle, the wedding at Cana moved to the second Sunday after Epiphany!

Epiphany: Light has Come! Is this February’s theme focusing on how Jesus is “made visible” and “made known” to the people. Light is a perfect theme for the Epiphany Season as one needs light to see! The first two Sundays this month are about Jesus as a gift or present in the presentation of our Lord and Jesus presented at the temple. The latter two Sundays reveal this gift as love! The levelling of the playing field on the landscape of love and loving all, yes, even our enemies! Jesus comes to us during this month of February as a gift in this present time, bringing the much-needed gifts of warming light and love!

See you in church!

Pastor Hans

February 2 nd	Presentation of our Lord	“A light lifted high”	Luke 2: 22-40
February 9 th	Epiphany 5	“A net-full of love”	Luke 5: 1-11
February 16 th	Epiphany 6	“Love on the level”	Luke 6: 17-26
February 23 rd	Epiphany 7	“Love your enemies”	Luke 6: 27-38

Pictures from Pastor Hans’ 20th ordination anniversary



FLCW NOTES

The 2025 First Lutheran Women Service

Booklets are in your church mailbox. The booklet contains the FLCW calendar of activities for the year. Also included are the lists of FLCW Officers, FLCW Committees, Monthly Fellowship Coffee Chairs and the funeral serving groups.



FLCW SERVICE
BOOK

2025

There is **ONE BIG CHANGE** in the 2025 FLCW Calendar. The FLCW Retreat will be Tuesday, May 27, 2025, rather than in June. We will carpool from the church at 10:30 AM headed to Clearwater Forest Camp near Crosby, MN. The day will include a meal at camp, the June Gather Bible Study presented by Pastor Hans Anderson and a pontoon ride. Please mark your calendars, request the day off from work and come enjoy the day!!

A Lenten Stewardship Project

First Lutheran Church Women will be collecting donations of bars or pump bottles of soap.

The collection box will be in the church narthex. Donations can be given anytime the church is open. The bars of soap collected will be given to the My Little Church, the Tiger's Den Food Shelf and the Pine River Backus Food Shelf.



Twelve hardy Lutherans enjoyed "Out to Lunch Bunch" on a very cold day.

FLCW NOTES

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH



We will be going to The Lodge on Leech Lake on February 18, 2025. We will carpool from the church at 11:00 AM

441 Walker Bay Blvd
Walker, Minnesota

February Circle Meetings

Dorcas Sewing Circle

Meetings are the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the lower-level Quilting Room in the church.

Dorcas is quilting and fellowship; no Bible study.

February 6th and 20th

Naomi Circle

Will meet on Thursday, February 20 at 1:30, in the church Fellowship Hall.

The Kitchen Committee will meet on
Monday, February 24, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Each year First Lutheran Church Women donate 15% of all yearly income to the Church Wide Women of the Evangelical Church in America. For 2024 this donation was **\$587.23**

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

First Lutheran Church

Council Minutes

1/19/2025

Members Present:

Anne Holm, Art Schmidt, Melanie Lindquist, Penny Siewert, Denice Smith, Pastor Hans Anderson & Cora Hohnstadt.

Members Absent:

Val Johnson, Jan Brasel, Gloria Johnson, Barb Richards, Kayci Finley, & Camden Zinda

Call to Order:

Denice Smith called the meeting to order.

Devotions:

Denice Smith presented the monthly devotion. Anne Holm will give the devotion in February.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Hans gave an oral report looking ahead to 2025. "A Place for You" will be the Lenten Theme. There will be a brief presentation at the close of each Holden Evening Prayer Lenten Service.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Anne Holm to approve the November 2024 written council minutes, seconded by Melanie Lindquist. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Cora, Hohnstadt, noted that the Marian Chindvall Memorial Fund has been completely used and the Margaret Jorgenson Memorial Fund is now at \$76.50. These memorials have been used to provide funds for the WOW program and meals. There is a WOW donation/fee account that will now be used to pay WOW expenses. The remaining \$48.00 owed for Christmas poinsettias will be paid from the Worship and Music Budget. The council members were made aware of the increase in the yearly Plunkett's bill and the payment for repair of water leakage issues in the men's bathrooms. Motion by Anne Holm to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Art Schmidt, motion carried.

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Old Business

The council was made aware that the guest organist/pianist fee is \$150.00. The fee follows the fee schedule for weddings/funerals held at First Lutheran.

Discussion was held about the snow removal and shoveling. The Council President will contact the shoveling employee to note our 9:00 am church service start time and to shovel front sidewalk if it has not been plowed.

New Business

A 2025 Audit Committee will be formed following the constitution guidelines.

The scheduled April Church Council Meeting falls on Easter Sunday. Council members agreed to hold no meeting in April.

Lenten Soup Suppers will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex for members to form weekly "Soup Groups". Each group of four families will set up/clean up and provide the food for our soup suppers. WOW will continue to meet during Lent except for the school's Spring Break (April 19) and early out day. (April 9).

Following the church constitution directions, the Executive Committee of the council will set a date to do the yearly review of the First Lutheran Church Constitution.

Bibles will be presented to students on Sunday, February 23, 2025.

Cora noted there were 6 zoom participants today.

What Have We Done Well? What Are Our Hopes for 2025? These questions were discussed briefly and will be a part of each church council meeting. We will vision for our congregation.

The Lions Community Blood Drive, March 19, 2025 will be announced in the church bulletin.

The next Church Council Meeting will be Sunday, February 16, 2025, 10:00 am in person.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denice Smith, President.

40 ways to love God and neighbor

APOLOGIZE.	PUT YOUR HAND OVER YOUR HEART AND BREATHE.	TURN OFF THE TV.	ASK A STRANGER A QUESTION.	GIVE SOMEONE THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.
LET GO.	GIVE GENEROUSLY.	BE PATIENT.	DON'T TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT.	RESERVE JUDGMENT.
GIVE YOUR BEST.	FORGIVE SOMEONE.	FORGIVE YOURSELF.	MAKE PEACE.	REST.
PAY ATTENTION.	SAY "YES" TO SOMETHING NEW.	TAKE THE DAY OFF.	TAKE A WALK.	BE THANKFUL.
ACT JUSTLY.	SAY "NO" WHEN YOU NEED TO.	GO OUTSIDE AND COUNT THE STARS.	SHAKE THE DUST OFF YOUR FEET.	GRIEVE.
FACE A FEAR.	HELP SOMEONE.	LISTEN.	KEEP YOUR WORD.	SLOW DOWN.
BE THANKFUL.	CARE FOR THE PLANET.	THINK GRACIOUS THOUGHTS.	SING.	CELEBRATE.
LEARN.	CONSIDER SOMEONE ELSE'S PERSPECTIVE.	STOP LOOKING AT YOUR PHONE.	HAVE FAITH.	CHOOSE YOUR WORDS WISELY.

February 2025

Worship Volunteers

February 2, 2025

Reader: Kaye Schroeder
Communion Assistants: Roger Hoplin II
Sound: Rene Frigaard
Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt

February 9, 2025

Readers: Penny Siewert
Communion Assistants: Roger Hoplin II
Sound: Val Johnson
Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt

February 16, 2025

Reader: Val Johnson
Communion Assistants: Val Johnson
Sound: Denice Smith
Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt

February 23, 2025

Reader: Rene Frigaard
Communion Assistants:
Sound: Tyler Hoplin
Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt

Ushers:	Paul Pearson
Counter:	Holly Knutson
Altar Guild:	Anne Holm & Kim Terhaar
Coffee:	Art & Shirley Schmidt

FINANCIAL DATA
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 – JANUARY 16, 2025

Budgeted Income (all areas)	\$63,171.61
Actual Income (all areas)	<u>63,587.37</u>
Difference (BELOW BUDGET)	\$ 415.76
Budgeted Expenses	\$63,162.15
Actual Expenses	<u>56,413.13</u>
Difference (BELOW BUDGET)	(\$ 6,749.02)
Actual Income (all areas)	\$63,587.37
Actual Expenses	<u>56,413.13</u>
Difference	\$7,174.24
ACTUAL PREVIOUS MONTH CHECKING:	
Dec. 31 Ending Balance	\$57,421.83
Dec. 1 Beginning Balance	<u>52,277.81</u>
Difference (loss)	\$ 5,144.02
Dec. Income	\$17,513.00
Dec. Expenditures	<u>12,368.98</u>
Difference (loss)	\$ 5,144.02

Because there are some changes in income and expenses after this report is written, you will see the bottom portion of the report giving the actual previous month's numbers.

February's Noisy Offering will be going to Heifer International. Heifer International works to end hunger and poverty with the communities they serve. By supporting and training the world's farmers, ranchers, and female business owners, they are investing in a new breed of success. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause.



Clearwater Couple's Retreat 2025:

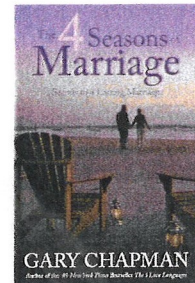
The 4 Seasons of Marriage

When: Feb. 28- Mar. 2 (7 pm on Friday until 1 pm on Sunday)

Where: Clearwater Forest Camp & Retreat Center

Cost: \$350/couple

Leaders: Pastors David and Sarah Parker
Pastor Hans and Erin Anderson



It will be spring at Clearwater, but is your marriage also in the season of spring? Come to Clearwater Forest to enjoy a meaningful weekend learning about the four seasons of marriage and how your marriage can thrive in any season! There will be time for couples to be together on their own as well as time for large-group activities. Here are some of the fun activities we have planned:

- ♥ Love Song Karaoke
- ♥ Couple's Board Games
- ♥ Worship with Vow Renewal
- ♥ Quality time with your special someone!

Goals for the weekend:

1. Learn about the reoccurring seasons of marriage
2. Identify which season of marriage you and your spouse are currently in.
3. Learn seven relationship strategies for any season.
4. Spend meaningful time with your spouse.
5. Reconnect with the other couples and/or get to know new couples!
6. Have fun!

This retreat will be partially based on the book *The 4 Seasons of Marriage* by Gary Chapman, author of the #1 New York Times Bestseller *The 5 Love Languages*. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Anderson, Clearwater Forest Executive Director, at eanderson@clearwaterforest.org or (218) 678-2325

To register, go to clearwaterforest.org!



February 2025

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

							1
2 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee	3	4	5 10:00 AM Bible Study	6 9:00 AM Dorcas	7	8	
9 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee	10	11 10:00 AM Operation Sandwich	12 10:00 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM WOW 5:00 PM Meal 6:00 PM Video 6:00 PM Confirmation	13	14	15	
16 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee 10:00 AM Church Council	17	18 11:00 AM Out to Lunch Bunch Dunmire's	19 10:00 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM WOW 5:00 PM Meal 6:00 PM Video 6:00 PM Confirmation	20 9:00 AM Dorcas 1:30 PM Naomi Circe At the church	21	22	
23 9:00 AM Worship/Noisy Offering 10:00 AM Coffee	24 4:00 PM Kitchen Committee	25	2626 10:00 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM WOW 5:00 PM Meal 6:00 PM Video 6:00 PM Confirmation	27	2828		

Lenten Soup Suppers

Soup groups are needed!!!

Soup suppers for 2025 will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5 and continue through April 9. The sign up sheet for volunteers and food donations is posted in the narthex.

Please come every Wednesday for a warm meal and the Lenten Church Service. Food for your body and soul—begins at 5:00 pm and done by 7:00 pm



**First Lutheran Church
Welcomes you!**



Sunday Worship & Study:

Worship & Communion 9:00 AM.

Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 AM

Pastor: Hans Anderson

Church Office: 218-587-2316

www.1stluth.org