

First Evangelical Lutheran Newsletter

March 2026

"Proclaiming the Good News of Grace and Forgiveness in Jesus Christ to Our Community and World"

309 South Otter Avenue– Parkers Prairie, MN 56361 218-338-5731

Email: felcpp@midwestinfo.net Website: www.firstlutheranparkersprairie.com



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Greetings FELC,

Have you ever given something up for Lent? It's something some churches do more than others. Maybe you've decided to give up sweets for the 40 days or maybe cursing.

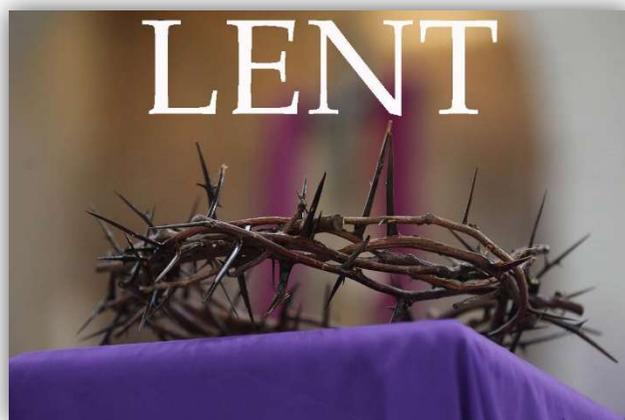
There are many ways people can go about it. Lent is often a time of reflection, repentance, and preparation leading to the joy of Easter. Historically, it has been marked by fasting, prayer, and acts of service. The practice of giving something up is a way for us to create new space in our lives, to refocus our priorities, to examine old habits and to become attentive to what truly sustains us and gives us life.

So the focus of Lent doesn't necessarily have to be: *"What am I giving up?"*. Instead, another way to frame it is *"What am I making space for?"* Lent invites us to a spiritual kind of reset. Psalm 51:10-12 famously says, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."* I think of this verse when I think of what it means to take a holy pause in our lives during this season.

In our busy and chaotic world, Lent reminds us to prioritize what matters most. Reminds us to make space for the new life of Easter. As this season continues, may we be thoughtful of how we spend our days, and may all make space for the Spirit to renew us in body, mind, and soul.

Christ's peace be with you always,

Pastor Ben Dyrhaug



March Birthdays

3/8 Sydney Lorine
3/12 Jay LaMere
3/17 Brianna Oeltjenbruns
3/20 Dorothea LaMere
3/22 Madisyn Bundy
3/23 Christina Truax
3/29 Michael Jahnke



In Our Prayers

Amanda Steinbeisser,
Tim Andree – grandson of Phyllis Haugen,
Barbara Syverson, Jody Lange, Andy Bowman,
Donna Hegg -mother of Nancy Noga
Pete Baugh -brother-in-law of Ken Bowman
Sue Henry – friend of Eric Martinson

Extended Care

Lucille Trisko, Carol Hanson, Avis Larson

May God Watch Over You During Your Service to Our Country:

Matthew Westad, Jordan Olson, Lukas Johnson, Jean Barbee- daughter of Bea Skoglund
Mitchell Cooper, Patrick Rubner, Dr. Drew Long – grandson of Carol Hanson



Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer



Sunday March 29 - Palm Sunday - Egg Hunt and Palm Sunday Breakfast before church, no Sunday School

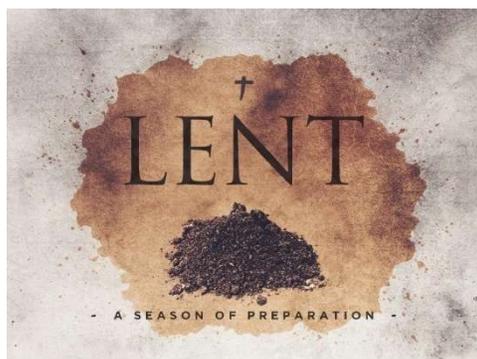
Sunday April 5 - No Sunday School

Sunday April 19 - Children will sing in church.

Sunday May 17 - Last Day of Sunday School for the school year. Bake sale before and after church. Children will sing in church.

Sunday July 12 - Thursday July 16 - Vacation Bible School will be held at church with Luther Crest Bible Camp counselors

2026 Lent Schedule



Mid-Week Lent Meal and Worship Services will be held on February 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th. A meal will begin at 5:30 pm with the service using Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm.

Palm Sunday is March 29th. A Palm Sunday Breakfast will be served beginning at 8:30 am and an Easter Egg Hunt will take place before worship that morning. NO Sunday School.

Maundy Thursday – April 2nd. Worship with Holy Communion and First Communion for our fourth-grade students will be at 6:30 pm.

Good Friday – April 3rd. Worship at FELC at 6:30 pm. Worship at Elmo at 5:00 pm.

Easter Sunday - Resurrection of our Lord – April 5th. Worship with Holy Communion.
8 am at Elmo 10 am at FELC. NO Sunday School

2025 Annual Meeting Wrap Up

Thank you to everyone who attended FELC's Annual meeting February 8th.

Highlights

- 2026 FELC Budget of \$169,354.63 was approved
- Joe Bridges, Jen Glebe and Tyler Hoppe were elected to the Church Council
- “Thank you” to our outgoing council member: Kelly Olson
- 4 Baptisms
 - Rayne Christman
 - Addison Yohnke
 - Landon Wiirre
 - James Hoppe
- 4 youth affirming their baptismal vows through Confirmation
 - Logan Lahman
 - Caleb Oeltjenbruns
 - Sydney Lorine
 - Venna Carlson
- 3 funerals
 - Bev Olson
 - Shirley Myren (held at Lind Funeral Home)
 - Alan Syverson (held at Elmo Lutheran)
- 3 students receiving First Communion
 - Maverick Bitzan
 - Dawson Carlson
 - Karysn Lorine
- 3 Fourth Grade students receiving their Bibles
 - Payzlee Douma
 - Gracie Oeltjenbruns
 - Finn Olson
- 1 High School Graduate
 - Weston Olson
- New Members
 - Garth Olson
 - Wyatt Olson
 - Weston Olson
 - Tyler and Kali Hoppe, Jackson Hoppe
 - Amy Bitzan, Maverick and Griffin Bitzan
 - Ross & Jennifer Bundy, Madisyn and Mason Bundy
- Members transferring to another church
 - Jan Schultz
 - Pam Lorine
- “Thank you” to our members for their generosity in giving this past year to both the general fund and our building fund. We were able to end the year in the black.



NO Formal Confirmation Classes during Lent. Students are encouraged to attend the mid-week lent worship services. The meal is at 5:30 pm with the worship service at 6:30 pm.



We are looking for musicians for the 1st and 2nd Sunday of the month. If you have any solid leads, please contact Pastor Ben.

JAM (Jesus and Me) will be held on Wednesday, March 10th. If you would be willing to volunteer, help with food, or have questions, please reach out to Pastor Ben at 218-405-0362.



The monthly meeting of the Church council will be held Wednesday, March 10th following the mid-week lent worship service.

Thank you!

Thank you to Dale Plasek for his many years of adding to our worship services with his beautiful guitar and vocal music. Dale has resigned from his position here with us at FELC. We wish him all the best in the future.

Easter Flowers. There are order forms in the Gathering Space to purchase lilies and other spring flowers to beautify our sanctuary for Easter. Lilies range from \$15.00 - \$45.00. Begonias are \$18.00, Cyclamen: \$18.00, Daffodils: \$15.00, Hyacinths: \$15.00, tulips: \$15.00 and Crown of thorns: \$12.00. The orders are due March 13th. Checks should be made out to FELC with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line.



PP FOOD SHELF



The Parkers Prairie Food Shelf will be open on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 3:30-6:30 in the Church basement. You may stop in at any time during those hours as there will be someone to assist you. If you know someone in need, please pass this schedule on to them.

If you need immediate assistance, please call the church office at 218-338-5731 and we will try to help you with your needs.

March Worship Assistants

3/29

	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	
Reader	Terry Carlson	Terry Carlson	Joe Bridges	Joe Bridges	Neveah Koep
Usher	Joe Bridges	Joe Bridges Olson Boys		Robin Douma Pat Sukraw	Joe Bridges
Communion Asst					
Music		Julie Lindgren	Diane Alveshere	Brad Lambrecht	Brad Lambrecht
Acolyte	Wyatt Olson	Hattie Truax	Madisyn Bundy	Payzlee Douma	Maverick Bitzan
Sound System	Caleb/Jim/Owen	Caleb/Jim/Owen	Caleb/Jim/Owen	Caleb/Jim/Owen	

Mission of the Month - Salvation Army

The Fergus Falls Salvation Army believes in faith put into action and making life better for others. Our services meet physical, emotional and spiritual needs to rebuild lives and create lasting change. Help is given freely and without discrimination, while preserving the individual's dignity. We're here to change lives, one at a time.



In our local area, there is a Salvation Army Thrift Store both in Henning, 410 Douglas Ave. (218)548-3200 and in Fergus Falls 917 Pebble Lake Road (218) 739-3448.

February Financials

General Fund	02/01	02/08	02/15	Ash Wednesday	02/22
Sunday Offering	\$1,285.00	\$1,131.00	\$1,420.00	\$572.00	\$1,035.00
Electronic Giving		\$535.00 (1 st)	\$835.00 (15 th)		
Elmo Contribution			\$1,451.07		
Vanco		\$122.35	\$20.00		
Mission of the Month	\$25.00 Ambulance \$25.00 LSS \$100.00 Food Shelf	\$25.00 Ambulance	\$25.00 World Hunger, \$25.00 Ambulance. \$50.00 Organ Cleaning		\$25.00 Ambulance, \$25.00 Pipe Organ, \$25.00 World Hunger
General Fund Total	\$1,285.00	\$1,772.35	\$3,710.07.00	\$572.00	\$1,035.00
Building Fund	0.00	\$316.00	\$16.00	\$1,330.00	\$0.00

FELC Financials-January 2026

Income: General: \$11,178.04 Building Fund: \$507.00 Expenses: \$17,774.07



Convenient ways to give to First Lutheran through our Vanco online giving platform:
 You can give online at this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZX4X/home> or scan the QR
 Code below. This is a safe and secure way of giving online.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 2026						
1 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship w/Communion	2	3	4 NO Confirmation 5:30 pm Meal 6:30 pm Mid-Week lent Worship	5 11:30 am Senior Dining	6	7
8 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship	9	10	11 JAM 3-5:30 pm 5:30 pm Meal 6:30 pm Mid-Week Lent Worship 7 pm Council	12 11:30 am Senior Dining	13	14
15 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Communion –	16	17 3:30 -6:30 pm Prairie Food Shelf	18 Mid-Week Lent 5:30 pm Meal 6:30 pm Worship	19 11:30 am Senior Dining	20	21
22 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship	23	24	25 Mid-Week Lent 5:30 pm Meal 6:30 pm Worship	26 11:30 am Senior Dining	27	28

Sunday March 29: NO Sunday School

8:30 am Palm Sunday Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

10 am Worship

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
309 Otter Avenue South
Box 29
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

“Proclaim the Good News of Grace and Forgiveness in Jesus Christ to our Community
and the World...”