



March 2024 Parish Visitor Newsletter

Pastor Sara Vanderpan

Interim Pastor



Driving through a Curve

She was my roommate. She was wild (in my eyes). But Val taught me something about rounding corners and the need for traction.

For one summer during college, I worked at the lodge in Zion National Park (Utah). I rode the bus from small-town Minnesota to get to this far-away place, so I didn't have a car with me. But my roommate Val did.

One weekend she was eager to have me accompany her to her brother's place in a nearby town. I said yes, though I knew this meant driving up and out of the canyon. It meant the switch-backs, with thousand-foot drops to the canyon floor below.

Val was a good driver, but way too fast for me, especially around the curves. When I could contain my stress no longer, I asked why she didn't slow down, at least for the curves? She glanced my way and smiled, saying that her brother raced cars and taught her that you get better traction (have more control) if you actually speed up in the curves. When I questioned the practicality of this, with such tight curves, she added that you needed to slow down just a bit ahead of the curve, so you had room to accelerate.

In some ways, FLC needed to slow down a bit in the past half year, but perhaps that's just what was needed, for the curve ahead. We have the capacity to accelerate, and gain traction, to negotiate the curve confidently and well.

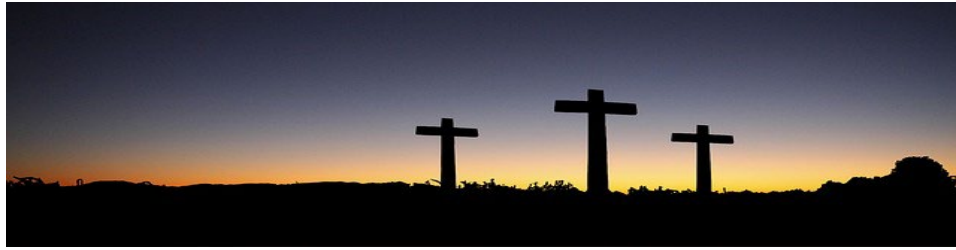
Please join me, the staff, and our congregational leaders, as we move forward these next few months in the call process. We'll rely on the God who provides what we need to round this curve — leaders, doers, thinkers, and prayers — and gives us the intensity and drive to do it well!

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,
and let us **run with perseverance** the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...*

(Hebrews 12:1-2a NRSV)

With hope,

Pastor Sara Vanderpan



Children & Family News

Samantha Nielson, Director of Education



Acolyte Installation of new Acolytes will be held during the Worship Service on Sunday, March 10th where they will receive their Acolyte Cross and Acolyte Stone for the 4th Grade Milestone Celebration.

TLC WOW (Wild on the Word) Memory Work Presentations:

TLC Wednesday & Sunday PreK through 6th grade students have been working on their Memory Work throughout the year. In April, each grade will be presenting their memory work during the Wednesday and Sunday Worship!

TLC Wednesday Presentation:

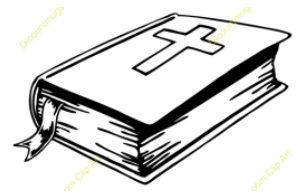
Wednesday, April 17th @6:00pm

ALL TLC Wednesday students

TLC Sunday Presentation:

Sunday, April 21st @9:00am

ALL TLC Sunday students



Youth & Family News

Bailey Long, Director of Youth & Family

Chamber Coupon books are available on Sunday mornings and also in the church office. \$30 each and the youth receive \$5. Proceeds go to the Senior High Summer Trip.



Hy-Vee Cards available for Purchase! The Summer Trip youth will continue selling the HyVee gift cards throughout the year as a part of their fundraisers. We have \$50 cards and \$100 cards. Everyone needs groceries....and its money you would spend anyway, if not all at one time, eventually. By using the gift cards, part of the money will go to the youth!

Annual Youth Sponsored Lenten Suppers for you and your family!

Help support Youth and Family Ministry at First Lutheran! Enjoy a nice warm meal together as a family. Invite your friends to join you too. Meals are served from 5:00pm - 6:05pm in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday. **These meals are made and served by the youth as a fundraiser for their programming costs.** This is why the price is higher than our "light meals on Wednesdays".

ADULTS (12-UP)\$8.00 YOUTH (5-11)\$6.00 CHILD (4-UNDER)\$4.00 Family Cap of \$30.00

Feb 28	"Pasta Night"
March 6	"Pulled Pork Picnic Meal"
March 13	"Baked Potato Bar"
March 20	"Ham and Cheesy Potatoes"

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY!!



We will have our **Annual Silent Auction** ONLINE again this year! This fundraiser is filled with various items and services for you to bid on for a two-week period. Everything is set up in the church for viewing, but bidding will take place online.

Anyone is welcome to put something on the auction to help out the youth! If you have a gently used still in *excellent condition* item, contact the staff to double check it. (Please bring them in to Bailey by March 5 if possible).

Bidding will start on Sunday March 10 and will end on March 24.

We will finish up on **Sunday March 24 with our PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION BRUNCH!** Free-will offering. Auction items will be publicized soon!



First Lutheran Youth are selling Puffins as a fundraiser (Feb 28-March 13) for Klein Ranch and the Senior High Summer Trip. If anyone is interested in purchasing and would like to get hooked up with a youth who is selling, contact Bailey.

It's Senior Class Pictures Time: If you have gotten your Class of 2024 senior pictures taken or are going to be taking them soon. Please remember to bring in a wallet size picture for our Class Composite. You can also email Bailey a digital one. Baccalaureate Worship will be Sunday, May 12th. More details later.



Hey 2024 Seniors! Apply for a College Scholarship

First Lutheran Church, with financial support from the First Lutheran Church Foundation, is pleased to announce the opening for applications for the annual Norman and Irene Timm Memorial Scholarship.



This scholarship was made possible by the generous contribution of the Timm family, in memory of their parents, who were long-time First Lutheran Church members. **The 2024 scholarship is for \$500**, and is open to seniors that are involved at church, attending college in the fall, and have some goals for your future, which you'll write about in your essay. Applications can be found at the church or on our website. The deadline is April 30, 2024.



Outreach News

Tonya Tomasek, Director of Outreach

Printed Directory: Just a friendly reminder that if you want a printed copy of the First Lutheran Directory, you can contact Tonya in the church office. For \$5, we will print a colored copy for you!

1. The Instant Church Directory site link is:

<https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

You can update your information or photo whenever you want.

2. You can also download an app for your phone and have access to our directory wherever you go. (It's a lime green icon and says Instant Church Directory)



First Lutheran Family Spring Fling!

Mark it down! More details will be coming! **Friday, April 12 from 6:30pm-9pm** will be another family fun night at First Lutheran! Spread the word and invite other families to join us!



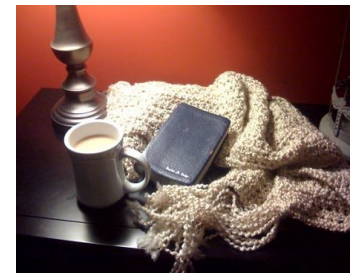
Prayers for the HEARTh: Prayer can be a complicated thing for many people. Sometimes you know who or what you want to pray for, but you don't know how. During the season of Lent, we will have the opportunity to practice prayer together. There will be a labeled box on the Narthex table with paper hearts for you to write who or what you wish to pray. Prayers placed in the box will stay in the box unread by us but heard by our Heavenly Father.



On Maundy Thursday, the prayers will be “burned” taking to heart Psalm 141:2
 "Let my prayer be counted as incense before you and the lifting up my hands as an evening sacrifice."

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Did you know First Lutheran (FLC) has a Prayer Shawl Ministry? We do and we would like to let the members of FLC know that anyone can participate by knitting or crocheting a shawl. Also, to let everyone know if there is someone in your life in great need of support (a member of FLC or in our community), let Ann in our office know and we will try to accommodate by visiting with a shawl.



Coffee Servers for Sunday Morning Needed:

“Hospitality”.... the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. Wondering where you might be able to serve or help at First Lutheran? We are in need of a few more people willing to be in the rotation to help provide the fellowship time of coffee and donut holes on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, contact Tonya and she will answer any questions.

Thrivent Choice Dollars in 2023:

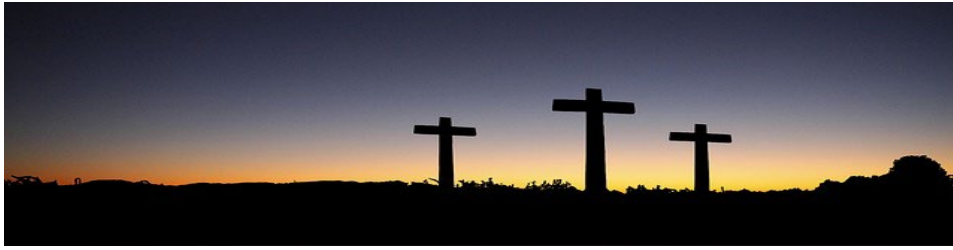
In 2023 First Lutheran received \$1,464 in Thrivent Choice Dollars® grant funding. Thank you to everyone that contributed! **If you haven't given your 2023 choice dollars yet, you have until March 31, 2024 to do so.** Help Lutheran organizations that are near and dear to you—even First Lutheran Church. YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR SUPPORT. YOUR CHOICE

Eligible benefit members of Thrivent can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funds through Choice Dollars SM, part of the Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program.

Here's how Choice Dollars works:

- Designated Choice Dollars are based on qualifying insurance premiums and qualifying contract values. They are available as premiums are paid and contract value is determined.
- Choice Dollars can be directed to First Lutheran Church by visiting Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or by calling 1-800-THRIVENT (1-800-847-4836) and saying “Thrivent Choice.” Or contact: Joshua Johnson at (507) 532-2559 Your local Thrivent Financial representative

Help support what matters most to you by directing Choice Dollars



Other Important Items



Coloring for Christ will meet on Monday, March 4th at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please come with your coloring supplies. We will be focusing on Easter. Everyone is welcome who enjoys adult coloring! Please call Paulette Hanson @ 507-530-0284 if you have questions.



The Executive Committee has extended the short-term rental agreement with the Presbyterian church to continue to use the Gethsemane chapel on Sunday mornings. The agreement was extended until July 31, 2024. More discussion about the arrangement will be had at that time. If it seems like a long-term agreement is in the best interest of both parties, council and congregational approval would be needed. As always, continue to welcome our Presbyterian friends when you see them.

Meals on Wheels: Thank you to everyone who signed up to help distribute food for Meals on Wheels!



Important Winter Weather Policy!

In the event of severe winter weather, a cancellation decision will be made by 7:00am Sunday morning. Listen for an announcement on Marshall Radio. It will also be posted on First Lutheran's Facebook page.

For Wednesday programming, if school is released early or canceled due to severe weather, there will be no TLC, Worship, or youth activities. Please listen to the local radio stations or check First Lutheran's Facebook page. Stay warm and be safe!

It's Spring Cleaning at First Lutheran on April 6th!

We are looking for volunteers to sign-up and help clean the church on Saturday, April 6 from 9-12pm. We will meet in the office area at 9:00am. Jobs will include cleaning the church pew cushions, washing chairs and tables in the Fellowship Hall, washing windows, dusting and sweeping, etc.

Please sign-up by calling the church office at 532-2429 or send Ann an email: ann@1stlutheranchurch.org



Pack the Pews – March 1- March 24, 2024

March is Minnesota Food Shelf Collection month. First Lutheran will be participating in this activity March 1-March 24, 2024. During this Lenten season, let us share our daily bread with those in need. All food and money donated stays local at Marshall Kitchen Table Food Shelf. A donated bag of groceries can go a long way.

Green Bags will be placed in pews with information regarding the project:

- 1) Take this bag home.
- 2) Fill it with non-perishable food, even a few items help.
- 3) Bring it back to the church and place it by the shopping cart at the parking lot entry or take it directly to the food shelf.

****Lori Lerohl from the food shelf says they can't keep taco shells, mashed potatoes and baking items are a big need.



First Lutheran's Goal is 1200 lbs. If you wish to make a monetary donation you can write a check (to: First Lutheran with memo line "Pack the Pews") or put money in an envelope with a note indicating for Food Shelf. For every \$1 received, 3 complete meals can be provided! There will be a blessing of the bags during the church services on March 23 and 24th.

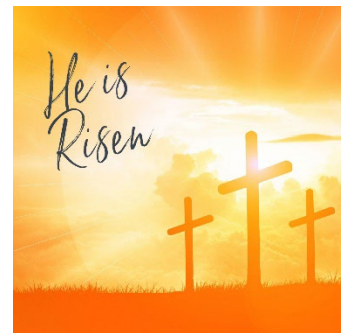
EASTER week Worship Services:

Maundy Thursday Worship Service: Thursday, March 28th at 7:00pm

Good Friday Worship Service: Friday, March 29th at 7:00pm

NO Worship on Saturday, March 30th

Easter Worship Services: Sunday, March 31st at 9:00am and 11:00am.



American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held here at First Lutheran on Monday, March 1st from 11:00-5:00pm in the Narthex. Give something that means something to others. Give Blood.

**March
2024**



14 Keeley Island Drive
Slayton, MN 56172
507-763-3567
camp@shetek.org
www.shetek.org

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Happy Easter!



Tapping Trees for Sugar Bush

Wish List

- Glue and Glue Sticks
- Extension Cords
- Volunteers
- **Summer Staff -**

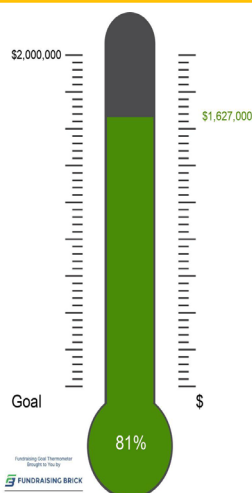
<https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

Mark your Calendar

- March 15-16 Confirmation Retreat
- March 24 Sugar Bush Pancake Breakfast & Square Dance
- April 19-20 Confirmation Retreat
- April 22-25 Quilt & Craft Retreat
- Register at shetek.org or

Call 507-763-3567 for more information!

We met our Phase 1 goal! \$1,627,000 in gifts and pledges! Our challenge goal is \$2,000,000 and with increased costs, our budget has changed for our different phases. More info on our website. <https://shetek.org/slm-master-plan/>



Help send kids to Camp...

Become a Pelican Club or Timber Society member today. Pelican Club members support the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a year and Timber Society members give \$500 or more a year. Thanks for your support!

First Lutheran Worship Schedule

Wednesdays 6:00pm Saturdays 5:30pm Sundays 9:00am



Radio 11:00am Sundays on 1400AM or 101.7FM
Local Cable TV 10:00am Wednesdays and 5:00pm Thursdays
Spectrum 180 & Bluepeak 17

www.youtube.com/c/FirstLutheranChurchMarshall

Church Office Phone: (507) 532-2429

Office email: office@1stlutheran.org



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Interim Pastor

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