

Third Sunday of Lent
March 8, 2026

WELCOME VISITORS

*We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave the service today.
Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.*

*Children are always welcome in church,
If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery for those age 4 and younger
located on the second floor in the education wing. Take the first left down the
hallway, and the nursery is the first door on your right.*

*Large print bulletins and hearing devices for today's worship are available,
please feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST March 8 – March 15

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilting
	5:30 p.m.	LARC Soup Supper
	7:00 p.m.	LARC Worship at First Lutheran
Thursday	1:00 p.m.	The Women of ELCA Meeting
	6:15 p.m.	Rose Ringers
	7:15 p.m.	Choir
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion FNF DEADLINE

GATHERING

WELCOME & PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdain the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

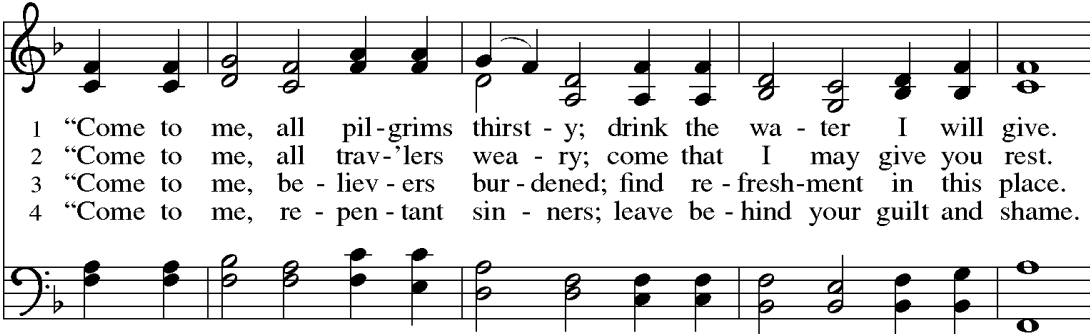
God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.


The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*




1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
2 "Come to me, all trav - lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.
4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.




If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



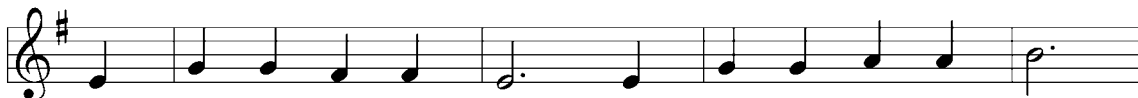
In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

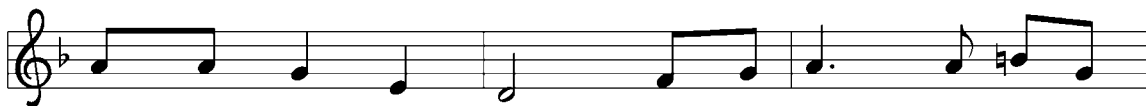


We come to hear your liv - ing Word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

4. Living Water of salvation,
be the fountain of each soul;
springing up in new creation,
flow in us and make us whole.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:1-7

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

The holy gospel according to John the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Please be seated due to the length of the Gospel reading

⁵ Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.

²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to your, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence follows the sermon for reflection.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please stand following the prayer as you are able.

Come to the Water of Life

Text and Music: WATER OF LIFE, Ray Makeover



1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for
 2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for
 3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for
 4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
 touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
 truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
 peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

You may be seated.

OUR RESPONSE

GATHERING OF GIFTS

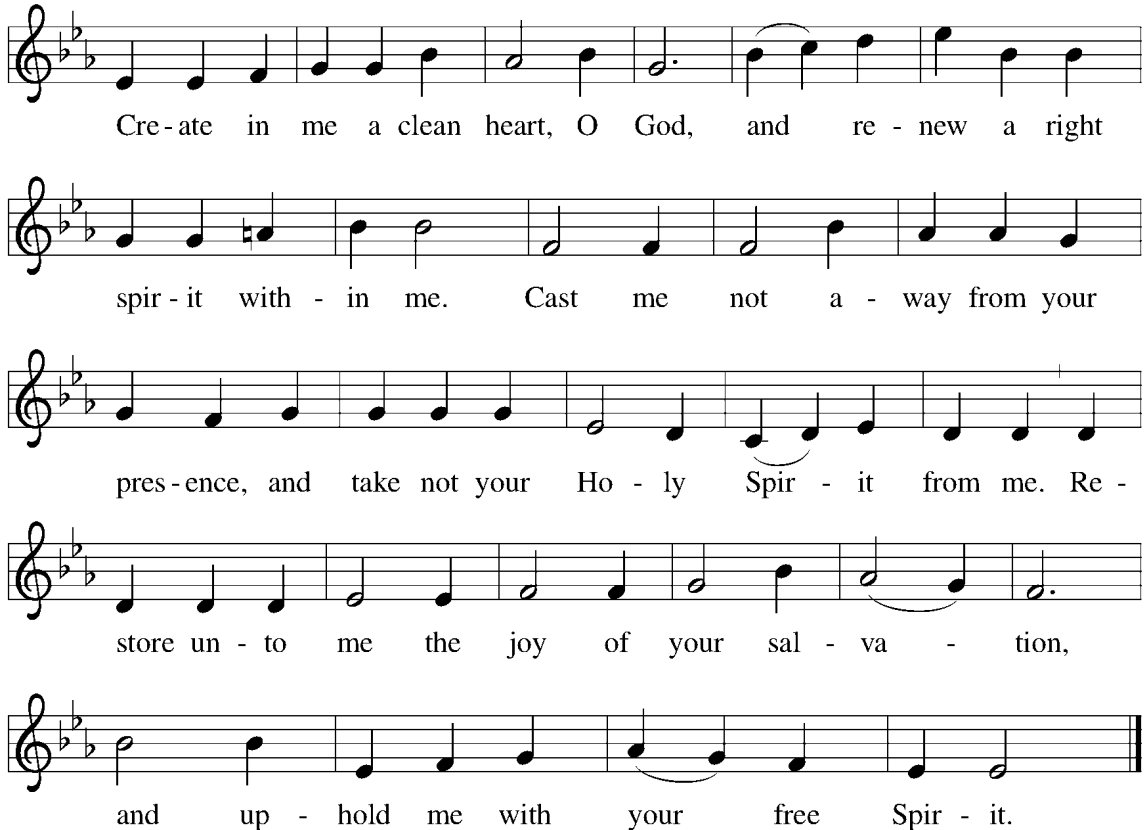
An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Online giving is available at felcc.org or by scanning this QR code



ANTHEM

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, as you taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:

God, who calls all things into existence,

Jesus Christ, who redeems us,

and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,

✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

Text: William Williams, Peter Williams Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more. I will raise for - ev - er - more.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Please remember in your prayers...

Healing: Cathy Beam (3/22), Amy Cover (3/17), Susan Lilly (3/9), **Dalton Paul** (3/27), **Peggy Stout** (3/9), **Connie Wilkins** (3/9)



Continuing Prayers: Madeline Artman, **Joanne Caskey**, **Pat Dent**, **June Diehl**, **Harold Forrester**, **Charles Kampmeyer**, **Julie Paul**

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold, **Hunter Boock**

ATTENDANCE March 1 66 in person 7 online

LENTEN OFFERING of First Lutheran Church will be given to the Discretionary Fund to help people with rent and utility bills.

THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA MEETING is on Thursday, March 12 at 1:00 p.m. in meeting room 1.

EASTER BREAKFAST Please join us on Easter Sunday, April 5 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. for breakfast. Easter Egg Hunt for children will be at 10 a.m. Please sign up by main office door for breakfast by March 29.

THANK YOU to all who put together the ‘variety’ for the show last weekend and served the food. The youth are extremely grateful for the money raised (\$673) for retreats and camps along with the support given by this congregation.

FURNITURE The Lutheran Churches work together to collect furniture and give it to families in need. If you have any furniture, they would like to have the opportunity to come and look at it to see if it can be used. There is a storage unit for the items until needed. If you have furniture to contribute, please contact Don Greer at Trinity Lutheran Church at 717-263-8156.



NETwork Ministries Fundraising Banquet is on Thursday, April 16th, 6 PM, at World Harvest Outreach. Doors open at 5 PM, and the evening includes a catered dinner, artwork, testimonies, and performances from NETwork's youth, and guest speaker Tommy Nixon. The cost is \$30. Please contact NETwork at networkchambersburg@gmail.com or 717-264-4640 by April 6th to make reservations. Don't miss this year's celebration!

ST. SERAPHIM Soup Kitchen needs your help. Since they provide soup, hotdogs, sandwiches, crackers, drinks and a sweet bite for folks who need a meal on Thursdays and Saturdays, the Orthodox Church is asking for donations of canned soups. No tomato please. There is a bin in Memorial Hall for donations.



BIRTHDAY BAGS for Little Daisy's Closet are needed. The needs are: large birthday bags, plates, napkins, candles, balloons, small gifts, snack items, cakes, icings, and cake pans. Thank you for your contributions to make up the bags!

SCAN (Student Clothing Assistance Network) Working with the social workers of the school district, SCAN volunteers fill emergency requests for clothing and school supplies. When a request is received, it is assigned to volunteers to acquire the necessary items, either through purchase or donation. When requests are received the need is urgent. The children involved are in crisis situations—domestic upheaval, homelessness, unexpected relocations. Please contact Tim or Mary: 717-264-4759, 717-491-0611, tim@gotwald.org, mary@gotwald.org Thank you for considering.

SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa on Sunday, March 15 and Sunday, April 12 from 2:00-4:30 p.m. Meet some of the Summer Camp Staff and take a tour of the camp. For more information, visit www.LutheranCamping.org or call the camping office at 717-677-8211.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS 2025 Thrivent Beneficiary

Member please remember to direct your “Choice Dollars” by March 31, 2026. Please consider directing those dollars to First Lutheran ASAP. The dollars that are not designated by the end of March 2026 will be lost. You can designate your dollars by going to www.thrivent.com or calling 1-800-847-4836 and say “Choice Dollars.”



LARC LENT 2026 THEME: Living Water in a Dry Land

Date	Weekly Theme	Location	Preacher
March 11 7:00 p.m.	Living Water Offered John 4	First Lutheran 43 W Washington St	Deacon Ford Brooks Trinity Episcopal
March 18 7:00 p.m.	Washed in the Water Romans 6	Trinity Lutheran 431 Philadelphia Ave	Father Benjamin Kwaghgba Corpus Christi
March 25 7:00 p.m.	A River of Life Ezekiel 47	Trinity Episcopal 58 S 2nd St	Deacon Richard Ramsey Corpus Christi

LARC LENT SOUP SUPPERS A soup and bread supper will be held each Wednesday evening at 5:30 at the church where worship will be held. If you are able to help serve, clean-up, or provide soup on March 11 for the supper being held at First Lutheran, please contact Barb Evans at 717-360-2535.



LARC LENTEN OFFERINGS LARC Lenten offerings received on Wednesday evenings will be donated to Hearken House Ministry. Hearken House Ministry provides a work/training program for those being released on parole. Checks to support Hearken House may be **made payable to LARC.**



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

March 8

Lector: Gerry Wilson

Communion
Assistants:

Greeters: Bob Hammer
Dot Hammer

Altar Guild: Barb Evans

Ushers: Don Shoop
Kathy Shoop
Bob Wildeson

March 15

Sally Herritt

Jane Love
Donna Ross
Mike Ross

Bob Hammer
Dot Hammer

Barb Evans

Don Shoop
Kathy Shoop
Bob Wildeson

March 22

Rose Wilson

Bob Hammer
Dot Hammer

Barb Evans

Don Shoop
Kathy Shoop
Bob Wildeson



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717-264-2015

Pastor
Pastoral Assistant
Director of Church Music
Parish Administrator
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Technical Lead
Custodian

The Rev. Jane Nicholson
The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer
Freda J. Dorand, Deacon
Ashley Hessong
Sally Herritt
Carol McCoy
Daniel Worcester
Jennifer Flores

Church Office Hours – Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We welcome visitors this morning.

Please pick up a **visitor's packet**. They are located at the top of the steps.
at the rear of the church or on the table at the elevator entrance.

Our Mission

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to be the light of Jesus,
burning brightly and vigorously in our community.

Sunday Schedule

Donuts and Coffee at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School for All Ages at 9:30 a.m.

Worship at 10:45 a.m.

also on Facebook at First Evangelical Lutheran Church
and on our webpage at www.FELCC.org

ALL are invited to hear and receive God's blessing in Jesus,
and to worship with us.