

First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 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 February 22 – March 1

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship
Monday	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 Corpus Christi
Thursday	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
	11:45 a.m.	Pancake & Sausage Brunch Followed by Variety Show

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 disdaining 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.

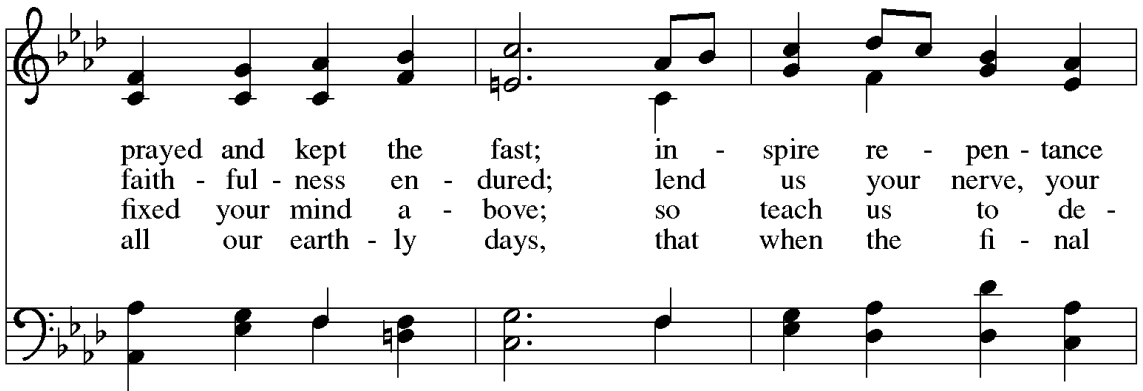
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

Text: Claudia F. Hernaman; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr. Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



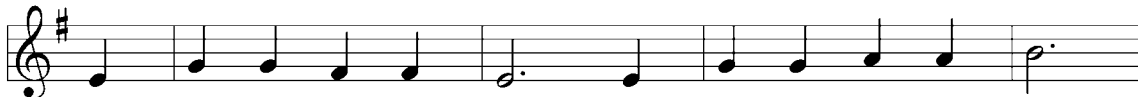
for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

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.

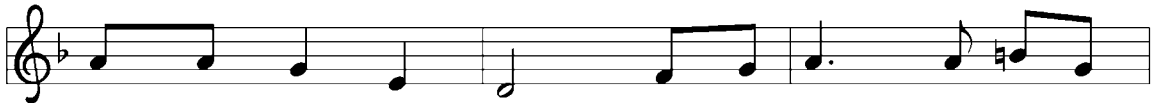


We come to hear your liv - ing Word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

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. From the dawning of creation
you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation,
make us turn to you alone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray. **Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
- ² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- ⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification.

¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

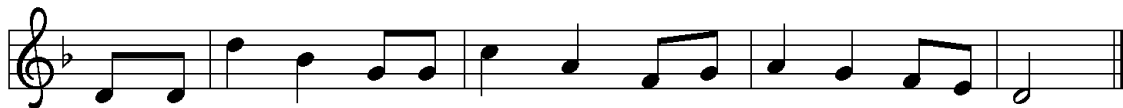
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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.

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to your, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON (Based on Bible Study presented by ELCA Pastor David Lose.)

Silence follows the sermon for reflection.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please stand following the prayer as you are able.

When We Are Tested

Text: Ruth Duck Music: SLANE, Irish traditional



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

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 our baptism, 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.**

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

Text: William McComb Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead

1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!

died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.
peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.
When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;

As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.
faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.
grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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Please remember in your prayers...



Healing: Amy Cover (3/17), Susan Lilly (3/9), **Kimberly Long** (3/03), **Mia Long** (3/03), **Peggy Stout** (3/9), **Connie Wilkins** (3/9)

Continuing Prayers: **Joanne Caskey, Pat Dent, June Diehl, Charles Kampmeyer, Dalton Paul, Julie Paul**

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

ATTENDANCE February 15 52 in person 10 online

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

THE BALTIMORE CONSORT performing music of Shakespeare's time "IN ANGEL'S WEDE: Music for Mary Queen of Scots" Narration by Emmy Award Winner, Robert Aubry Davis on Sunday, February 22 at 4 p.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran Church at the corner of S. Bedford and E. High streets in Carlisle. Free admission, freewill offering, and a reception.

PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BRUNCH along with a variety show will be held on March 1st following worship. This is a fund raiser to help our young people attend camps and retreats. If you have some variety to share (skit, jokes, music, dance, magic, juggling) you get the idea – please speak with Cassie Craven to have your act placed in the program. Save the date to attend and have a great time with everyone. Thanks to Thrivent Financial for helping us with expenses.



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.



EASTER FLOWERS Celebrate the Resurrection through gifts of flowers to decorate our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Potted flowers available for this year’s Easter celebration include tulips, lilies, hyacinths, azaleas, and hydrangeas. They may be picked up after the 10:45 a.m. service on Easter morning. Order forms are on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. Orders due Wednesday, March 4.

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
February 25 7:00 p.m.	Thirsting for God Isaiah 55	Corpus Christi Roman Catholic 320 Philadelphia Ave	The Rev. Tommy Wimsae Trinity Lutheran
March 4 7:00 p.m.	Water from the Rock Exodus 17	Corpus Christi Roman Catholic 320 Philadelphia Ave	The Rev. Jane Nicholson First Lutheran
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

February 22

Lector: Dia Schumacher
Communion Jim Brown
Assistants: Ralph Burdick
Deb Fleegal
Greeters: Bob Wildeson
Nancy Wildeson
Altar Guild: Barb Evans
Ushers: Jim Brown
Denny Love
Mary Beth Warne McGraw
Rose Wilson

March 1

Ralph Burdick
Jane Love
Donna Ross
Mike Ross
Bob Hammer
Dot Hammer
Barb Evans
Denny Love
Don Shoop
Kathy Shoop
Bob Wildeson

March 8

Gerry Wilson
Jane Love
Donna Ross
Mike Ross
Bob Hammer
Dot Hammer
Barb Evans
Denny Love
Don Shoop
Kathy Shoop
Bob Wildeson



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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.