



LAMPLIGHTER

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Have you noticed those name tags in the narthex?

What started as a helpful tool for Pastor Jason to learn everyone's names has turned into a wonderful way for all of us to get to know one another better.

A huge shoutout to Dan & Dustin Glew for their hard work in building our beautiful new name tag stand! Be sure to grab your tag at worship and say hello to someone new!



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Lenten Meal & A Message

It is time for Lenten Meal & A Message. Lay Ministry is looking for committees to host and put together a meal on Wednesday Evenings before Wednesday evenings before worship.

Below are the dates and those who have signed up to host the meal so far:

- (Ash Wednesday) February 18 - Heaven Bound
- February 25
- March 4 - Confirmation
- March 11 - Choir
- March 18
- March 25- Evangelism

Please check your schedules to see if you are able to host. You can sign up online on Kenzie's weekly email or contact Susi at the office or Billie Zumbach, if your committee is available. Thank you in advance!



FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS
at 9:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAYS
at 6:00 P.M.

We also offer a live radio broadcast of our Sunday service on KMCH 94.7 FM and a live video stream on our FaceBook page, First Evangelical Lutheran Church - NALC.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be offered each Sunday and Wednesday worship service.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Thank You to our February Radio & Flower Sponsors!

KMCH Radio Ministry Sponsors

Feb. 1...Brenda Saunders -
IMO her mother, Ilo Glawe
Feb. 8...TBD
Feb. 15...TBD
Feb. 22...Vance & Linda Knutson in honor
of their 59th Wedding Anniversary.

Altar Flower Sponsors

Feb. 1...Ardelle Brooks
Feb. 8...TBD
Feb. 15...TBD
Feb. 22...Joann Miller to celebrate her
birthday with her church family

Annual "Souper Bowl" Chili & Soup Cook-Off

Wanted: All chili and soup cooks! Our annual "Souper Bowl" Chili and Soup Cook-off will take place on Sunday, February 8 at 11:00 a.m. You are not required to bring soup to enjoy the meal.

There will be time after church to enjoy a cup of coffee and fellowship. Materials will be available to make Valentines for Veterans until soup is served at 11:00 a.m.

If you are planning to attend, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. If you are interested in helping serve the meal or have any questions, contact Cathy Glew, Social Ministry



A Word From Pastor Jason

Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ... He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

~ Matthew 16:13b&15 ESV~

These are questions modern day disciples still need to ponder and answer. Jesus’ questions are examples of one of His teaching methods. Asking a question demands engagement, promotes thinking, and draws out a reasoned response. Many people might say Jesus was a ‘good moral teacher’. Others who are more antithetical to the biblical account of Jesus might say, ‘he was a delusional man that lived a long time ago and his teachings irrelevant.’ Some people even suggest Jesus suffered from schizophrenia. If a person believed Jesus suffered from schizophrenia, then His message was not true, and the person would never place faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.



C.S. Lewis addressed such notions writing:

“That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” (Mere Christianity)

We hear the unfaithful things people say about who they think Jesus is and it troubles us. Yet, truth be told, we often wrestle with our own understanding. Although we confess in the Nicene Creed that we believe Jesus is **Lord, Christ, the only Son of God, Light, true God, one with the Father**, we sometimes struggle to explain this to non-believers.

When Jesus asked who the disciples said he was, he was helping them articulate what many reject. Confessing Jesus as Lord and Messiah means changing how one understands themselves. We who are in Christ are called to die to ourselves and live for him – to live as God desires – loving God and loving others as Christ loves us.

This Lent our Wednesday evening worship sermons will focus on “Who Jesus Is”. Not what the world thinks, or I think, but who Jesus revealed himself to be. I encourage you to come and strengthen your understanding and confession of who Jesus is so we might be better disciples and witnesses for Jesus’ sake.

Feb 25 - Matt 16:13-20 “Christ, the Son of the living God.”

March 4 - John 8:12-19 “Light of the World”

March 11 - John 10:1-18 “Gate & Shepherd”

March 18 - John 11:17-27 “Resurrection and Life.”

March 25 - John 14:17-27 “Way, Truth and Life”

Maundy Thursday - Matt 26:17-30 “Lord or Rabbi”

Good Friday ... ‘Sunday’s Coming’

GLYSDI

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Pastor Jason

Galentine's Party!

Ladies, join the Evangelism Team on Thursday, February 12th at 6:00 p.m. at Mixteca Grill in Manchester for a Valentine's themed evening. We will meet in the back room, where you can order food and drinks (available for purchase). Bring your friends for food and fellowship.

Because our Vision Board Workshop was canceled in January, we will be making vision boards at the Galentine's Party! Vision Boards are a tangible way to visualize your goals and intentions for the new year in a creative format. We will supply poster boards, markers, scissors, glue, and some magazines to get you started. If you have any supplies of your own that you'd like to use or old magazines you don't mind cutting up, feel free to bring them.

Please RSVP by contacting the church office or Leah Beaman or sign up in the narthex.



Valentines for Vets

Help show some love to our veterans by writing a valentine! If you and your family would like to show your appreciation and love to our veterans, please drop off any cards to our valentine box in the narthex by Sunday, February 8th.

Supplies will be available to make valentines between the church service and the Souper Bowl Cook-Off on Feb. 8th.

We will be delivering valentines to veterans at the Legion and Good Neighbor Home that week. Anyone interested in helping deliver valentines, please contact the church office or Leah Beaman.



You're Invited! Fundraiser for Chuck Reetz

Chuck Reetz, brother of Mark and Darcey Reetz is having a fundraiser. On August 14 Chuck went to the ER, he couldn't breathe, he was air lifted to Iowa City to work on his lungs. Then to Mercy in DSM for acute care.

Cardiology evaluated him and discovered a torn mitral valve. He had two surgeries and spent 98 days in hospitals. He then was transferred to Friendship Haven for 21 days of rehab. He was blessed to return home in time for Christmas with his family. Chuck continues to receive physical therapy.

On February 28 from 4:00 p.m. to 11 p.m. a fundraiser will be held at Rides Banquet Center, 723 South 21st Street, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

There will be a meal, silent auction and music. If you would like to donate something for the auction or the event, please contact church office or Mark and Darcey Reetz.

Mission of the Month (MOTM)

Our February Mission of the Month for our noisy can offering is EWALU-Cedar Lodge. EWALU has begun a campaign to renovate Cedar Lodge and strengthen their mission.

“Over the years, Cedar Lodge has provided a welcome space for all kinds of camp activities, but the well-used building is in dire need of an upgrade. After spending many an hour repairing the decades-old plumbing, heating, lighting, insulation, kitchen appliances, and exterior effects, the plans to renovate it are very exciting. The time has come to give this gem of EWALU a facelift and bring it into the 21st century.” - Paul Frantsen, EWALU property director.

EWALU plans to use any donated funds to provide:

- ADA accessible bathrooms, main level
- Remodeled bathrooms and showers, lower level
- Air conditioning and new HVAC
- New electrical and plumbing
- Expanded and updated kitchen space
- Remodeled break room for summer staff
- Increased storage
- Technology upgrades
- Covered main entrance
- New pack-out room
- Redesigned dining hall
- Solar energy collectors
- New laundry facilities
- Modular room dividers

Please consider giving to this very worthy cause. EWALU has hosted many First Lutheran members over the years. We will be collecting on February 8th and 11th.

Music Notes

Adult Choir Schedule-February 2026

- Feb. 8 Rehearsal @ 10:15 a.m.
- Feb. 22 Warm-up @ 8:20 a.m.
Sing @ 9:00 a.m. service
Rehearsal @ 10:15 a.m.

Fellowship Following Sunday Church Services

Thank you for the volunteers who have served fellowship hour. Many members enjoy this time socializing.

Fellowship Hour continues each Sunday following 9 AM church service. On Sunday, February 15, Heaven Bound will be serving breakfast during fellowship hour.

We need additional volunteers to sign-up to serve. If you do not want to provide food, but willing to serve and clean-up food will be provided. Please sign up on the Lay Ministry Board or online.

Any questions, please contact Cathy Glew, Social Ministry.



First Lutheran Church Council Minutes – January 12, 2026

The regular meeting of the First Lutheran Church was called to order at 6:02pm by President Millie Kehrli. Meeting was held in the Church Friendship Room.

Members present: Millie Kehrli, Donna Millenkamp, Lucas Thomas, Doran Zumbach, Brenda Palas, Duane Nieman, Vance Knutson, David Johnson and Pastor Jason. **Absent:** Jen Cassutt, Leah Beaman, Billie Zumbach and Cathy Glew.

Opening devotions were given by Pastor Jason

Approval of December Council Minutes: Motion by Duane, seconded by David to approve the minutes; motion carried.

Approval of December Treasurer's Report: Motion by Lucas, seconded by Donna to approve treasurers report; motion carried.

Total Income YTD (December 2025)	\$62,845.33	Total Income previous YTD	\$32,666.69
Total Income YTD budgeted	\$78,037.50	Total Income YTD vs budget	\$(15,192.17)
Total Expenses YTD (December 2025)	\$79,006.36	Total Expenses Previous YTD	\$51,640.83
Total Expenses YTD Budgeted	\$79,331.16	Total Expenses YTD vs budget	\$(324.80)
Operating YTD Loss/Profit	\$(16,161.03)	Operating Previous YTD Profit	\$3,606.10

Treasurer's Report – David Johnson:

- Income for the month of December was \$24,102.38, which is \$1,910.12 less than budget.
- Income YTD was \$62,845.33, which is \$15,192.17 under budget.
- Expenses for the month of December were \$22,103.88, which is \$4,339.84 under budget.
- Expenses YTD were \$79,006.36 which is \$324.80 under budget.
- Net Operating Income for the month of December was \$1,998.50 and YTD is \$(16,161.03).

President – Millie Kehrli:

- Reflected on Isaiah scripture from Sunday's sermon.
- Dan & Dustin Glew's efforts on the holder for the name tags is appreciated.

President – Elect – Vance Knutson: No report

Christian Education – Lucas Thomas:

- Christmas program went well.

Evangelism – Jen Cassutt/Leah Beaman:

- We handed out around 70 small gifts after each Advent service. Any feedback? We have extras that will be either mailed to shut-ins or saved to give out to new members (other ideas welcome).
- This is the first year in quite a while that every gift was taken off the Touch of Christmas Love tree-thank you to all who purchased a gift and helped box and wrap them! Our congregation was able to help six families have a more special Christmas.
- Our Vision Board Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, January 22 at 6PM in the fellowship room.

- Please turn in any Valentines for Vets to the narthex by Sunday, Feb. 8th . We will have supplies available for anyone interested in making Valentines between the church service and the Souper Bowl cook-off on Feb. 8th as well. They will be delivered to the Legion and Good Neighbor Home that week. Let Leah Beaman or the church office know if you are interested in helping deliver these.
- We will be having our Galentines party in February-stay tuned for details.

Lay Ministry – Billie Zumbach:

- Pastor Jason’s Retreat is January 23 – 29, 2026. Pastor Jason gone from January 26th thru 29th.
- Pastor Kurt will have the service Wednesday, January 28th @ 6:00 PM
- Guidelines will be posted for the Funeral Ushers.
- Gratuity for Sound System Assistant for Funerals
- Lenten Service Theme-Who Do I say Jesus is?
 - Ash Wednesday Service-February 18 @ 6:00 PM
 - Meal and Message Dates-5 PM February 18th & 25th , March 4th , 11th , 18th & 25th
 - Sign up for Meals will be on Kenzie’s weekly update
- Valet Parking for members
 - Doran Zumbach presented information to the council regarding providing a Valet Parking service for parishioners and requested the support of council.
 - Motion by David, seconded by Lucas for Lay Ministry to move forward with providing the Valet Parking service; motion carried.

Properties – Duane Nieman:

- Replaced the dishwasher at the parsonage.
- Elevator at church is temporarily fixed. Parts coming this week. It may take most of a day to repair.
- The main doors into the church are dragging on the sill so they don’t shut correctly. Trying to get them adjusted.
- Property committee is meeting soon to look into a list of repairs.
- Discussed possibility of adding more handicap parking spots and possible options for doing so.

Social Ministry – Cathy Glew:

- 12/22/25 Funeral meal honoring Bruce Nieman.
- 1/2/26 Funeral meal honoring Marilyn and Lain Gibbs
- Ongoing Coffee Fellowship following Sunday church service. Needing volunteers to serve coffee fellowship each week.
- Had great attendance for breakfast following the Christmas Program on 12/14/25.
- Breakfast will be served on January 18 following the church service.
- Continuing visits with homebound and residents of the Meadows and the Good Neighbor Home.
- Continuing to provide food for the community using the outside food box. Many donations. Avoiding items that will not withstand freezing.
- Freezer meal team are available for those in need.
- Christmas meal served. Bingo played following the meal.
- Annual “Souper Bowl” Chili and Soup Cook-off will be Sunday, February 8 th at 11 AM.

Stewardship – Donna Millenkamp: MOTM update:

- We raised \$220.92 for Delaware County Pay It Forward in December.
- We are collecting for NALC Disaster Response on January 11th and 14th .
- Tentative list of Mission of the Month-will be released month by month to remain flexible.

Secretary of the Council –Brenda Palas: No report**Pastor Jason Cooper:**

- Some parishioners expressed concerns regarding a recent visitor. The visitor is known to other area churches and the concerns were addressed.
- Connections Church in Dyersville has a ministry called Community Impact Center which has discounted goods for sale. They have requested our membership list so our members can shop there, if they so desire.
- Mentoring a young man going to Wartburg Seminary who is considering leaving the ELCA.
- Thank you for the dishwasher, Christmas gifts/cards and attending the open house at the parsonage.
- We will have two Easter Services-Sunrise service at 7AM and regular service at 9AM
- Lenten Service Theme-Who Do I say Jesus is?
- Karlee Wright is willing to run the sound system for funerals. Suggested gratuity of \$40 per funeral.
- Delaware County Ministerial Association is focused on addressing the homeless situation in the county. They have rented an apartment in The Glenn for \$375 per month which can accommodate four individuals. Ask is for us to help fund some of the rent. Motion by Millie, seconded by Lucas to contribute \$1125 from our Good Samaritan Fund to the Delaware County Ministerial Association to help fund rent; motion carried.

Old Business:

- NALC Constitutional Amendment request – Congregation Meeting to be called in January 2026. Motion by Duane, seconded by David to schedule the Congregation Meeting on February 1st immediately following worship with appropriate notification given on January 18th and 25th; motion carried.

New Business:

- Laptop/Software for Church Secretary
- New Church CD
- Leann Miller will no longer be in our regular rotation as an accompanist.
- Motion by David, seconded by Vance to purchase laptop and software for church secretary with a purchase limit of up to \$1500; motion carried.
- Motion by Duane, seconded by Lucas to move \$150,000 from the new church CD to the Building Improvement Fund for property maintenance and the remainder of the CD to be reinvested in the highest yielding CD in the Manchester area; motion carried.
- Motion by Millie, seconded by Lucas to give Leann a going-away gift of \$500; motion carried.

Next meeting will be held on February 9, 2026 @ 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Palas

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you so much for your donations and love given to Operation Christmas Child last year. It is never too early to start collecting for this coming year. Some of the shoeboxes are given to areas where the climate is cold. With this in mind, be aware of any winter scarves, hat, mittens and gloves that might be on sale. Don't miss out on post-holiday deals after Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter. In addition, I have heard area stores (specifically Dollar General near valentine items) has small stuffed animals for around a dollar. My personal favorite place to shop is Western Star Wholesale online.

Check it out! OCC is a year-long mission. If you don't want to store the items at your house, drop them off at the church office or contact Mary Maurer at marycurtmaurer@gmail.com or call 563-927-3679. We are creating a collection area in the church to store the items.

Thanks for caring and sharing.

Cuthbertson Scholarships

First Lutheran Church Endowment offers scholarships to current high school seniors and college students who wish to further their education. The scholarships may be applied to tuition costs only.

Request an application form by emailing firstlutheranmch@gmail.com or picking one up from the office. **The application submission deadline is April 17th.**

Monthly Offering Comparison

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	\$13,690.10	\$18,937.13	\$21,906.87	\$13,353.69
February	\$30,109.94	\$28,414.39	\$17,120.64	\$16,450.02
March	\$19,866.51	\$33,049.82	\$18,216.41	\$18,306.05
April	\$17,566.50	\$20,542.21	\$20,210.51	\$17,359.59
May	\$14,277.58	\$25,993.18	\$18,624.85	\$13,893.45
June	\$17,597.90	\$22,744.81	\$13,614.20	\$15,796.30
July	\$20,417.36	\$28,784.78	\$15,272.71	\$13,557.29
August	\$14,562.30	\$22,196.56	\$15,206.24	\$13,397.73
September	\$19,239.02	\$23,810.07	\$12,636.67	\$13,114.42
October	\$15,733.97	\$29,430.84	\$16,694.94	\$16,919.28
November	\$13,196.34	\$20,937.08	\$11,898.12	\$19,161.69
December	\$54,975.22	\$32,662.87	\$8,854.54	\$22,911.47
Yearly Totals	\$251,232.74	\$307,503.74	\$190,256.70	\$180,823.25

SCRIP ORDER FORM

Contact Brenda with questions: 563-920-3191

BUSINESS	%	DENOMINATIONS
Amazon.com	2%	10 ___ 25 ___ 100 ___
American Eagle	10%	25 ___
Applebee's	8%	25 ___
Arby's	8%	10 ___
Aunt Emmy's (L)	4%	10 ___
Barnes & Noble	9%	5 ___ 10 ___ 25 ___
Bath & Body	13%	10 ___ 25 ___
Bed,Bath & Beyond	7%	25 ___
Best Buy	4%	25 ___
Boubin Tires (L)	5%	See Brenda
BP Gas	2%	50 ___ 100 ___
Buckle	8%	25 ___
Bushel & A Peck	3%	10 ___
Burger King	4%	10 ___
Cabela's	8%	25 ___
Casey's	3%	25 ___ 50 ___ 100 ___
Castle Theatre (L)	10%	5 ___
Cenex	3%	25 ___
Chili's	11%	25 ___
Chuong Garden (L)	10%	10 ___ 25 ___
Culvers Restaurant	5%	10 ___
Dairy Queen (5-L) 10 & 3%		5 ___ 10 ___
Darden/Olive Garden/Cheddars	8%	10 ___ 25 ___
Dick's Sporting Goods	8%	25 ___ 100 ___
Dollar Fresh	3%	25 ___ 100 ___
Express	10%	25 ___
Exxon/Mobile <*>	2%	50 ___
Fareway	3%	25 ___ 100 ___
Gap/Old Navy	14%	25 ___
Gift Holder	10%	2 ___
Hardee's	5%	10 ___
Home Depot	4%	25 ___ 100 ___ <*> ___
Honey Creek Furn. (L)	3%	See Brenda
iTunes	5%	15 ___

BUSINESS	%	DENOMINATIONS
JCPenney(CC)<*>	5%	25 ___
Joanne's Fabrics	6%	25 ___
Kohl's (CC)	4%	25 ___ 100 ___
Kwik Trip	4%	25 ___ 50 ___ 100 ___
Kwik Trip Grocery	15%	25 ___
Lowe's <*>	4%	25 ___ 100 ___
Maurices	7%	20 ___
Menard's	3%	25 ___ 100 ___
Michaels	4%	25 ___
Old Navy/Gap	14%	25 ___
Outback Steakhouse	8%	50 ___
Palmer Hdwe. (L)	5%	See Brenda
Panera Bread	8%	10 ___ 25 ___
Pizza Hut	8%	10 ___
Pizza Ranch (L)	8%	5 ___ 25 ___
Posy Place (L)	5%	10 ___
Red Lobster	8%	10 ___ 25 ___
Red Robin	9%	25 ___
Staples	5%	25 ___
Starbucks	7%	10 ___ 25 ___
Subway	6%	10 ___
Sunset (L)	10%	10 ___ 20 ___
Target	3%	10 ___ 25 ___ 100 ___
Texas Roadhouse	8%	25 ___ 100 ___ <*> ___
TJ Maxx	7%	25 ___
Ulta Salons	4%	25 ___
Visa/Discover pp (CC)	1%	<*> 50 ___ 100 ___
Walmart	3%	10 ___ 25 ___ 100 ___
Wendy's Carwash(L)	20%	25 ___

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- <*> Not stocked, can be ordered
- *** See Brenda for special details
- (L) Local participating businesses
- (CC) Can be used to pay on credit card

For a full list of participating businesses, go to: <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>



FEBRUARY 2026

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quilting 6:00 p.m. Lay Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Confirmation Heaven Bound</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship MOTM-Noisy Can Offering 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Choir Rehearsal 11:00 a.m. "Souper Bowl" Chili & Soup Cook-Off <i>Valentines for Vets due</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Council Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quilting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Worship MOTM-Noisy Can Offering 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Confirmation Heaven Bound</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Galentine's Party at Mixteca Grill</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School HB Valentine Breakfast</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quilting</p>	<p>18  <i>Ash</i> <i>Wednesday</i></p> <p>5:00 p.m. Lenten Meal 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Confirmation Heaven Bound</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>March Lamplighter Deadline</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:20 a.m. Choir Warm-up 9:00 a.m. Worship Choir Sings 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Quilting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Lenten Meal 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Confirmation Heaven Bound</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Chuck Reetz Fundraiser</p>