



# the Spire

MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020 SPIRE

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: (651)388-9311  
office@firstlutheranrw.com  
www.firstlutheranrw.com

## FIRST LUTHERAN STAFF

**Arthur Sharot: Senior Pastor**  
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**Marilee Anderson: Director of Music**  
ext. 19 / marilee.a.anderson@gmail.com

**Tina Goeman: Director of CYF**  
ext. 14 / tina@firstlutheranrw.com

**Gina Nelson: Bookkeeper, PT**  
ext. 11/ bookkeeper@firstlutheranrw.com

**Volunteer: Administrative Assistant**  
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Dial 6 to leave a message

**Syl Andersen: Custodian, PT**  
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**Brian Fladhammer: Maintenance, PT**  
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## 2020 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alyson Kloeckner - Treasurer  
Joe Rice - Finance/Stewardship  
Wendy Erickson - President  
Life and Growth/Personnel  
John Laidlaw - Stewardship/Education  
Cyd Mark - Vice President/ Worship  
Jean Fjelsted - Worship  
Matt Stinson - Stewardship  
Mary Weberg - Christian Action  
Mark Jaeger - Property  
Bunny Kulstad - Life and Growth  
Jon Ubbelohde - Property  
Judie Bowes - Personnel  
Elaine Ahern - Education

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

There will be no gatherings for worship HOWEVER all the worship services will be available on-line at [www.firstlutheranrw.com](http://www.firstlutheranrw.com).

We will continue to have the Lenten Services using the Holden Evening format on Wednesdays at 5:30 so you can watch it live or watch the video later.

The service for Saturday evening and Sunday morning will be available on Sunday at 9:30 so you can watch it live or watch the video later

## PRAYER MINISTRY

Kaitlynn Kukuska, Marcia Krause, Jenny Edmonds, Bob Swanson, Horst Radtke, Janet Larson, Crystal Swanson, Carol Peterson, Adair Palmatier, Doris Johnson, Bob Weir, Jim Miller, Dan Jones, Darrell Nelson, Cheryl Youmans, Holly (Dissel) Benson and children, Dylan Michel family, Carol Krie, John Oleson, Edla Bodelson, Ray Boggess, Jerry, Arthur Sharot Sr., Leah Larsen, Laura Anderson, Glenda Anderson, Tom Sasse, Jerry Krie, Jon Kinneman, Grosso family, Richard Jonas, Nikki Mahoney, John.

## FROM THE PASTOR

He is  
Risen!

### Luke 24.34a

*They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed...'*

As they say these days, "Spoiler alert"

He has risen! He has risen indeed!!

As you receive this newsletter this proclamation may be a little premature. You may be reading this right in the beginning of Holy week with the remembrance of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, suffering and death. We don't want to skip the events of this week. If we jump over all that Jesus has gone through and just go to Easter it does a great disservice to Jesus and his suffering and it also does us no good.

I am reminded of an old Blues song by David Bromberg called "Suffer to Sing the Blues". The chorus says:

*"You can sing a happy song if your glad,  
You can sing a protest song if your mad,  
but if you want to sing the blues,  
then boy you gotta learn how to lose"*

The point of the song is that if you want to sing the blues or if you want to complain, you first have to suffer. The same goes for the resurrection. If there is no death there is no resurrection. Christ has to die in order for him to rise. What sense does it make to celebrate Jesus rising from the dead if we forget that he was dead?

Jesus rose from the dead. If he didn't die then he didn't rise. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead then he was just a miracle man, a good teacher or just a good God but one that did nothing for our problem with sin, death and the power of the devil. Yet as the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15

*20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.\* 21 For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; 22 for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. He has risen! He has risen indeed!!*

As it says in the Apostles' creed.

*(Jesus) suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;*



Let's not make light of his crucifixion and death. Let us not forget from what he has risen. This way we can appreciate it as we ought to.

*Easter Blessings to you Pastor Arte Sharot*

# FAITH FORMATION NEWS

## Confirmation Sermon Notes

We currently have a google form for you to use during this time. You can watch a service on-line and then fill out the form and submit it that way. The link for the form can be sent via email or found on the youth page on the website.

## Christ and Coffee

We will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings via online meetings. Please call or text Tina if you would like to join.

## Future Events

We will get information about upcoming events out to you as soon as we can once we are able to meet in person again. In the mean time remember we miss all the kids and hope to see you all again soon!

## Women & Wine

We will continue to meet on Sunday evenings via Zoom meeting. Please email Tina with any questions about this. We are currently reading "Fierce Women of The Bible and Their Stories" by Alice Connor.

## Fundraising

We realize this is a difficult time for fundraisers. We are currently working with the Butter Braid folks to make sure we



have time to sell these and deliver. Please contact Tina and she will have a student that is selling them reach out to you to take your order.

## That's My Pan

There is still time to order and support this fundraiser. You can order online at [thatsmypan.biz/Wearefirst](https://thatsmypan.biz/Wearefirst)

## Palm Sunday Breakfast

At this time we are not planing on having a Palm Sunday Breakfast and will hopefully have another meal of celebration when we can all gather again.

# MUSIC NEWS

All Music rehearsals are cancelled through the end of May. Marilee may contact individual musicians and singers to help provide music for the on-line services.

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2020

Members Present: John Laidlaw, Wendy Erickson, Jean Fjelsted, Joe Ride, Bunny Kulstad, Judie Bowes, Mark Jaeger, Aly Kloeckner, Mary Weberg

Staff Present: Pastor Arte Sharot

Devotions and treats by Wendy Erickson

Meeting was called to order by President Wendy Erickson.

AGENDA: Motion was made by John Laidlaw and seconded by Joe Rice to accept the agenda. All were in favor.

FEBRUARY MINUTES: Minutes were reviewed. Mark Jaeger made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bunny Kulstad. Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Aly Kloeckner reviewed the treasurer's report. All looks good but income is up because of quarterly giving this month. If a member is giving on TITHELY and wishes to change their giving, it is up to that member to go to the Web Site and make the change. The pledge given in November is to help the budget planning committee. They make no changes to an individual's account.

STAFF REPORTS: Not everyone got Pastor Arte's report so he will send it again and no report was received from Marilee Anderson. Tina's report was in.

## TEAM REPORTS

Worship and Music – did not meet. They will be discussing need for extra ushers for Easter. The council will be responsible for treats on Easter and serving and cleaning up. John and Wendy Rohan, Bunny Kulstad, and Mark Jaeger have offered to help.

Property Committee – They have an estimate on cleaning condensers and coils for \$1425. This needs to be done. Also there is a need to fix a window and mortar on the side of the building. An estimate for the window is \$1200 and the stucco \$6000. This can be done some time this year.

Life and Growth – Selling pans through “That’s My Pan”. Some are not buying pans but are donating the amount of the pan to church for the confirmation robes.

Stewardship – no meeting or report.

Personnel – They will be interviewing 5 people for the administrative assistant position at church the week of March 16 – 27.

Youth and Family – They did not meet but Tina had all that was going on in her report.

Christian Action – Food Share Month with an emphasis on cereal. Sun., March 15th is toilet paper Sunday. We have also signed up to do Feed My Starving Children Sat., March 21st. So far not enough have signed up to go. Need to know by Friday, March 13th.

OLD BUSINESS: Big Turn Music Festival. Felt it went well, great volunteers, great music. Would do it again. Only concern is no light by the blue door entrance. Should be corrected if done again.

NEW BUSINESS: RENEW (4/26/2020) This is a Southeast Synod Event for leaders of the church. Rev. Dr. Joy Moore will be the speaker. Event will be at United Redeemer Lutheran Church in Zumbrota, MN on Sunday, April 26 from 1 – 3:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Fjelsted (sub - secretary)

# THANK YOU

A **BIG** thank you to all who helped with the **Big Turn Music Festival** at First Lutheran. We had about 575 people come to see the 10 shows put on at First. That's a lot of people.

Thank you to Larry Wiederich, John Laidlaw and John and Isaac Rohan for help in getting the sanctuary ready.

Thank you to the Friday volunteers;  
Cyd and Kevin Mark, KC and Kim Flueger, Chloe Mark and Zach Henreich, Doug Alms

And the Saturday volunteers;  
John Rohan, Mark and Mary Jaeger, Arte and Sandy Sharot, Bunny Kulstad and Isabella, Mary Weberg, Jill Mehrkens, Sheila Walsh, Janet Brandt.

A special thank you to Syl Anderson and Brian Fladhammer for the late night extra work they did to get the sanctuary ready for Sunday worship.

**Lou and Merlyn Leach** would like to offer thanks for the Christmas Poinsetta they recieved from the church.

## FEBRUARY 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR Feb 2020				
OPERATING INCOME	Feb Actual	Budgeted Feb	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted
General Fund Pledges	46,727	32,917	80,494	65,834
Mission Support	10	63	90	126
Other Income	(9,547)	4,286	(43,394)	(28,694)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>52,031</b>	<b>36,714</b>	<b>89,226</b>	<b>73,978</b>
OPERATING EXPENSES	Feb Actual	Budgeted Feb	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted
General Operating Expenses	38,540	39,132	73,272	78,264
ELCA Benevolence	2,084	2,083	4,168	4,166
Other Outside Giving	1,325	1,324	2,649	2,648
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>41,949</b>	<b>42,539</b>	<b>80,089</b>	<b>85,078</b>
<b>Income vs. Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,082</b>	<b>-\$5,825</b>	<b>\$9,137</b>	<b>-\$11,100</b>
Beginning Cash Balance 1/1/20	\$ 119,267	Operating Fund Balance 1/1/20	\$ (258)	
Ending Cash Balance 2/29/2020	\$ 137,881	Operating Fund Balance 02/29/2020	\$ 14,679	

# This and that...

These are the upcoming readings for the Month of April. We encourage you all to read them and reach out to a friend to share, discuss and pray.

## WEEK OF MARCH 29

Readings and Psalm

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The dry bones of Israel brought to life

Psalm 130

I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

Romans 8:6-11

Life in the Spirit

John 11:1-45

Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus

## WEEK OF APRIL 5

Procession with Palms

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord submits to suffering

Psalm 31:9-16

Into your hands, O Lord,

I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

Philippians 2:5-11

Humbled to the point of death on a cross

Matthew 26:14--27:66

The passion of the Lord

## WEEK OF APRIL 12

Readings and Psalm

Acts 10:34-43

God raised Jesus on the third day

Jeremiah 31:1-6 (alternate)

Joy at the restoration of God's people

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

Colossians 3:1-4

Raised with Christ to seek the higher things

## WEEK OF APRIL 19

Readings and Psalm

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Christ's resurrection: the fulfillment of God's promise to David

Psalm 16

In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)

1 Peter 1:3-9

New birth to a living hope through the resurrection

John 20:19-31

Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

## WEEK OF APRIL 26

Readings and Psalm

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Receiving God's promise through baptism

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

I will call on the name of the Lord. (Ps. 116:13)

1 Peter 1:17-23

Born anew through the living word of God

Luke 24:13-35

Eating with the risen Christ



We have several copies of “**Christ in Our Home**” devotional booklets, regular print and large print, at church. Let us know if you would like one mailed or delivered.

# APRIL PRAYER CALENDAR 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Prayers for World Peace Day	2 Executive Council of First Lutheran	3 Employment for everyone	4 Peace Corp Workers
5 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Courage in times of trouble	6 Those who live with diabetes and diabetes awareness	7 Finance Committee as they meet	8 That brothers and sisters love each other	9 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Support for community businesses and opportunities	10 <b>Good Friday</b> Occupational therapists	11 World Health at this time
12 <b>Easter Sunday</b>  <b>Celebrate the miracle of Easter with us on-line</b>	13 <b>Office Closed</b>  Those who live with Autism and Autism awareness	14 Women's Bible Study groups	15 Men's Bible Study groups	16 Hospice workers and staff	17 Karen Anderson and her missionary work in Chile	18 State governor and legislative leaders
19 Tina Goeman and the youth programs at First Lutheran	20 Protection from sexual assaults	21 Young children and their caregivers	22 Marilee Anderson and the music at First Lutheran	23 Those mourning for loved ones	24 Be aware of the Earth, plant a tree.	25 Those who are deaf
26 Pastor Arte Sharot and family	27 Prevention of animal cruelty	28 Those struggling with mental illness	29 Social workers	30 Nurses, doctors and other health care professionals		

**First Lutheran Church**

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**APRIL 2020**

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## **HAPPENINGS**

During this time we are reaching out as many ways as we can. We send weekly emails, if you don't get them contact the church office to get added to the list. [office@firstlutheranrw.com](mailto:office@firstlutheranrw.com) or 651-388-9311.

We also have a small group making calls to all of our members. Please let them know if there is anything we can be doing for you. Please contact us if you didn't get a call or if you know someone that needs a call.

We will continue to add information to our website and update you all as best as we can.

For those that do not have an email address or internet access we will be delivering a bulletin with the sermon and songs included so you can continue to worhsip on Sundays.

*Wash your hands and say your prayers because God and germs are everywhere  
- Author Unknown*