

**FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

526 South Olive Avenue
Sandpoint, ID 83864
208-263-2048

Office@FirstLutheranSandpoint.org

March 2024

Messenger

NEWSLETTER

Praising God | Nurturing Faith | Serving All

INTERIM PASTORS

Barbara Rolph
David Walker

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Lynne Campbell

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM in the Sanctuary
Online via YouTube by the next day

COMMUNION

Served first and third Sundays

COFFEE HOUR

Following Sunday worship

YOUTUBE

First Lutheran Church, Sandpoint ID

NEWSLETTER

Lynne Campbell

Office@FirstLutheranSandpoint.org

- Submit articles, ads, photos, etc., via email by the 5th of the month
- Use "Messenger" for the subject

PASTOR BARBARA'S MESSAGE

Dear First Lutheran Friends,
Our time together is drawing to a close. It has been two years of searching and praying together. We have laughed and cried along the way. Now is the exciting chapter as you begin a new phase of ministry with Pastor Duane Fister. May your time together be fruitful in the Lord.

It has been a privilege to serve you along with Pastor Amber, Pastor Steve, and Pastor Dave. What a blessed relationship we have had together. I came to you in the midst of turmoil in my personal life, and you affirmed me in so many ways both professionally and personally. For that I will always be thankful. Yes, I will come back and visit but not for a while. You need time to get to know Pastor Duane and Lynn.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Pastor Phil Misner, assistant to the bishop. He, too, has been helpful to this Presbyterian as she navigated the pathways of Lutheranism.

My next step is to relax a bit, finish up some loose ends at home. For April, I will concentrate on my project, Tools for Rebuilding. Spurred on by my late husband's unused tools, I am collecting for some businesses in Elk, WA that lost their equipment in last summer's fire.



Most importantly, my time with you has strengthened my faith. It has been good for me to reexamine scriptures, preaching, and living.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Barbara

STAFF & CONTACT US

Pastor

Barbara Rolph
208-597-5422

David Walker
509-995-6582

Church Office

Lynne Campbell
Administrative Assistant
208-263-2048

CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Committee

Ray Yaw *President*
208-290-3880

Walter Ebel *Vice President*
509-951-4182

Sharon Roget *Treasurer*
208-263-2610

Trish Thurston *Secretary*
208-255-6885

Members at Large

Marianne Foster
208-946-6369

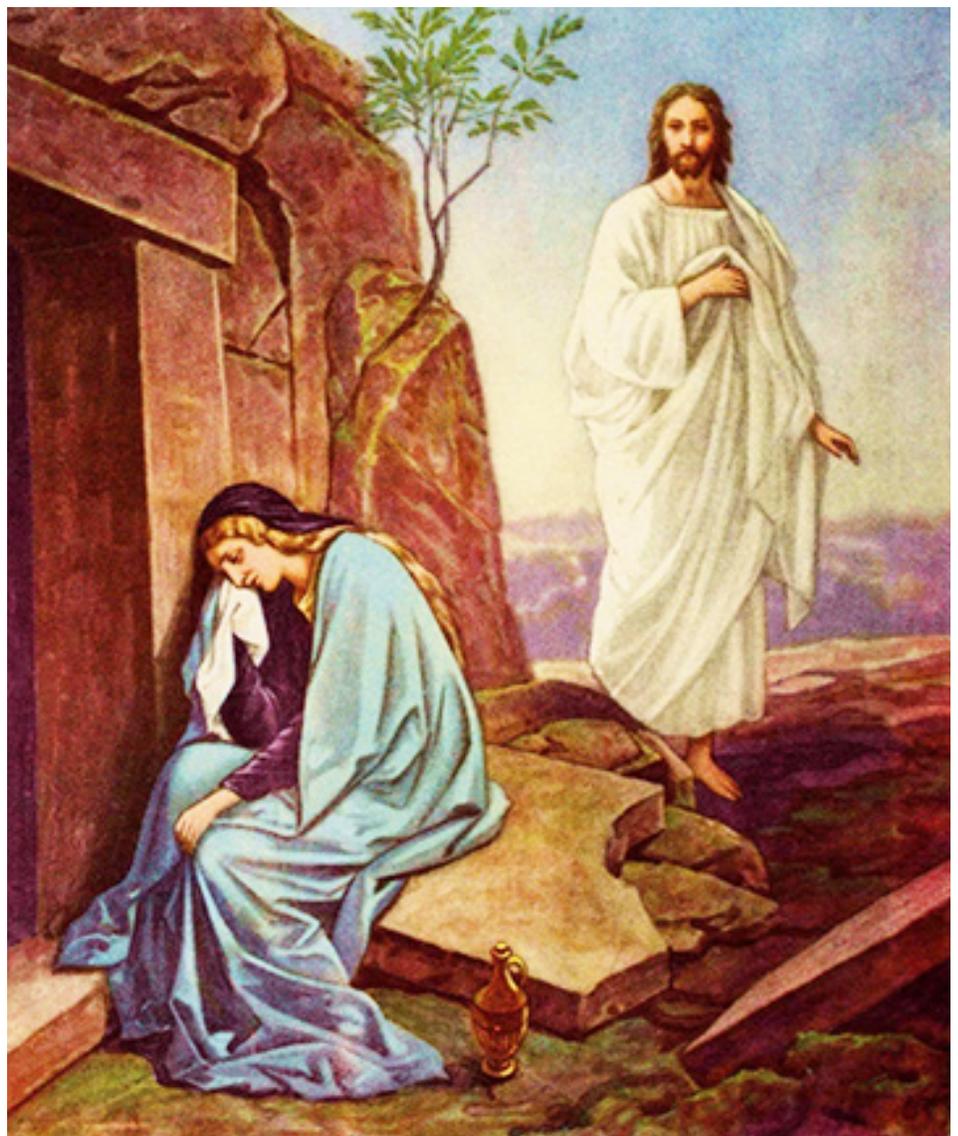
KarenMarie Moran
503-522-1599

Lila Petersen
208-263-2058

Linda Lacy
208-290-8884

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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, 3-13-24

Good Friday/Easter Service:

Easter Service will be at 9 AM followed by a potluck brunch. Pastor Dave will not be here on Palm Sunday and will leave before communion on Easter. Pastor Barbara and Pastor Braatz will conduct a Good Friday Service at Luther Park at 1:30 PM with communion.

2nd Harvest Mobile Market: The Food Truck event will be on 9/23 not on 9/10.

Teen Center Banner: The Teen Center has been authorized to place a 3'x7' banner on the west fence by the play area.

Scholarship for Bennett Moran: Bennett is preparing for the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 16-20. The church will pay \$1,000 from the Scholarship fund to help defray his costs.

Church and Parsonage Maintenance: The Property Committee will develop a spring and fall maintenance list for the Church and the Parsonage. Repairs are progressing.

Revisions on Facility Use Agreement: The newly revised Facilities Use Agreement was finalized.

Door Issue at Luther Park: The door issue at the end of the Sunday School addition to Luther Park is being addressed.

Next Council Meeting: The next council meeting will be on April 10, 2024. Pastor Fister will be invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Thurston

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Thursday	7 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	12 - 3 PM	Silent Meditation in the Chapel
	1:30 PM	Good Friday Service - Luther Park
Sunday	9 AM	Easter Service
	10 AM	Potluck Brunch

SUNDAY READINGS FOR MAR/APR

Mar 24..Palm Sunday
Isa 50:4-9a
Ps 31:9-16
Phil 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47 or
Mark 15:1-39(40-47)

Mar 28...Maundy Thurs.
Exod 12:1-4 [5-10]
11-14
Ps 116:1-2,12-19
1 Cor 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Mar 29...Good Friday
Isa 52:13-53:12
Ps 22
Heb 10:16-25 or
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1-19; 42

Mar 30...Easter Vigil
N/A
N/A
Rom 6:3-11
John 20:1-18

Mar 31...Easter Day
Acts 10:34-43 or
Isa 25:6-9
Ps 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Cor 15:1-11 or
Acts 10:34-43
Mark 16:1-8 or
John 20:1-18

Year B 2024
Church Year Calendar





THANK YOU FROM THE SYNOD

FLC received a letter of thanks from the synod for its gift of \$6,999.96 for “Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and churchwide ministries of the ELCA.”

Bishop Manlove also writes in part: Thank you so much for the Mission Support given to the synod all year long and for helping us end the fiscal year well. We can celebrate so much from 2023, like continuing to lift up and equip candidates for public ministry, supporting Lutheran Campus Ministry on state university campuses, strengthening Community Services Northwest, and digging into what it means to be a Lutheran Christian in the Mountain West. I know that so many of our congregations also support our vital Lutheran Outdoor Ministry sites, ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Diasater Response, and hundreds of local nonprofits. Thank you!

We know that the ELCA Lutherans across the synod want to be connected to the synod office and to one another. As staff make visits online or on Sunday mornings we seek to nurture our connectedness to one another and to the Triune God we worship. Travel and technology are also possible because of the Mission Support given by you. Thank you, once again, for your generosity!

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

Dear Beloved Siblings in Christ,

I am Lisa Therrell, your new synod vice president. I attend Faith Lutheran Church in Leavenworth, Washington. What I want to share with you today are my thoughts on the importance of being a welcoming and invitational church as guests arrive through our doors.

First a confession. I am an introvert! When I attend a new church, I enjoy worship, but afterwards, I want to rush to my car and drive away. I work to channel my more gregarious friends in new social settings. When visitors come to our churches, put yourselves in their shoes and remember how hard it is to interact with a group of strangers.

As your VP, I have enjoyed visiting more ELCA churches in our synod, especially in the Lewis Clark Valley which is near my family farm; however, in some churches, no one even takes the time to introduce themselves. In one church, a lady invited me to come next door for coffee but then immediately rushed away. In another, I have been there about five times, and they still don't recognize me, so I reintroduce myself, even though the first time they were very friendly. In another, I went to the coffee hour, searched for a table where there was an extra chair, and I thought the people looked friendly. They said I could join them but then proceeded to chat as if I was invisible. I will admit, I am testing for hospitality. Finally, some teenagers came and sat beside me. I turned to them, introduced myself, they introduced themselves, we shook hands, and FINALLY, the rest of the family introduced themselves. It goes better if I show up early, tell those around me that I am their synod VP, and then I am well received. But what does this say about how we treat the stranger in our midst?

When in my early twenties, I worked at a nature center in rural Pennsylvania. One beautiful Sunday morning I rode my bike for about twelve miles to get to the nearest church which was out in the country. I arrived in time for Sunday School and then worship. A young family invited me to come to their farm for Sunday dinner! I accepted the invitation. I played with the kids and helped the dad put together a mechanical swing to rock their baby. We ate and enjoyed fellowship. Then I began the long bike ride home. I am so grateful for those instances in life where hospitality is extended, and I have taken the time to receive that gift.

At Faith Lutheran we have lots of tourists joining us. Even though I know I will probably never see them again, I set aside my inner introvert and make sure they are welcomed and invited next door for coffee. After my own experiences, I am modifying my line to this, “You are welcome to come next door AND JOIN ME for coffee.” In that way, they know they are accompanied, not set adrift in a sea of strangers who are more interested in catching up with each other.

“...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...” Matthew 25

We lament that many of our churches are in decline. So let's open up our Lutheran arms to receive and welcome the stranger. Think of a few conversation starters and be invitational. Blessed be.

Lisa Therrell

ELCA BLOG: Introduction to the Three Days

Simply defined, The Three Days (Triduum in Latin) are the three days of Holy Week which focus intensely on Christ's passage from death to life: Maundy Thursday evening through Easter evening.

Historical Background

The keeping of The Three Days has its roots in springtime rituals and in the Jewish celebration of the Passover. The Jewish people observed the passage from winter to spring by slaughtering a lamb and sharing a meal. This meal recalled the saving power of God and their thankfulness not only to have survived winter but to have been freed from slavery.

Christians layered onto this practice the observation of the death and resurrection of another lamb, Christ, the Lamb of God. The date for this observation coincided with the Jewish Passover.

In the second and third centuries, this festival continued to evolve. Pascha (from the Greek, meaning "passage," as in Christ's passage from death to new life) became not only linked to the Passover as described in Exodus, but also to the waters of Baptism. Individuals or families were baptized at this time of the year. Thus what began as a Jewish celebration of the Passover became an annual celebration of the Resurrection (see *Keeping Time: the Church's Years*, by Gail Ramshaw and Mons Teig, page 94).

This annual celebration had become a three-day observance by the fourth century. After a period of preparation, Christians were welcomed into the church through baptism at the Vigil of Easter. Although Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and The Vigil were observed on three days, the event was regarded as one ritual with a dismissal given only at the Easter Vigil.

Over time, the practice of keeping The Three Days waned and other Holy Week rituals developed. Only in the twentieth century has the church witnessed a renewal of this feast.

Current Practice

Some Lutheran congregations have an established practice of keeping The Three Days while others have only begun to learn about the practice. ELW is the first Lutheran worship book to include the service. (LBW included this in the Ministers Desk Edition only). Introducing The Three Days into an assembly's life takes careful planning and preparation as well as education, especially because the involvement of congregational members in leading, music, reading, art, and other roles greatly enriches the keeping of The Three Days. See the Worship Guidebook for Lent and the Three Days for additional insights, images, and practical tips to help deepen your congregation's worship life during the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter.



MARCH / MID-APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3/3	Darlene Harms
3/9	Samantha Bjorkquist
3/9	Jim Carlson
3/9	Sonya Nordgaarden
3/15	Dick Neuder
3/28	Corky Sanborn
3/28	Carson Shadel
3/29	Scott Youngren
3/30	Jackie Owens
4/2	Eric Schneider
4/4	Lori Bilodeau
4/8	Linda Ingham
4/11	Frank Cafferty
4/14	Milt Jacobs

MORE TO COME

Pastor Duane Fister has accepted the call from FLC. We're so pleased to welcome him and his wife Lynn as they move from Western Washington to Sandpoint. More about the Fisters to come in the April edition of the *Messenger*.

All are invited to attend Bible Study in the conference room with Pastor Dave on Thursdays at 1 PM. Look for a message from Pastor Dave in the April *Messenger* as he prepares to leave First Lutheran.





WHY I SUPPORT 2ND HARVEST: A DONOR'S STORY



A note from Second Harvest: Neighbors who generously donate time, money and food to serve people facing hunger are the heartbeat of our mission. One of our neighbors recently invited us to share his reasons for supporting Second Harvest and asked to remain anonymous. We hope you enjoy his story.

SUPERHERO SHEPHERD'S PIE

INGREDIENTS:

2 large baking potatoes, peeled and diced
1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1/2 cup non-fat or 1% milk
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp pepper
1 pound lean ground beef (15% fat)
1 tsp onion powder (optional)
3 Tbsp flour
4 cups frozen mixed vegetables
1 tsp or cube beef bouillon
1 cup water

DIRECTIONS:

1. Put diced potatoes in saucepan; add enough water to barely cover. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, until soft (about 15 minutes).
2. Drain potatoes and mash. Stir in milk, cheese, salt and pepper; set mixture aside.
3. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
4. Brown meat in a large skillet. Add onion powder, if using. Stir in flour, and cook for 1 minute, stirring constantly.
5. Add vegetables, bouillon and water. Cook 5 minutes until bubbly.
6. Spoon vegetable mixture into 8 inch square baking dish. Spread potato mixture over vegetable/meat mixture.
7. Bake 25 minutes, until hot and bubbly.

YIELD: 10 cups

I wish that Second Harvest and their steady stream of emails would go away.

I mean it. But perhaps not in the way you might think. For if our region's crucial safety net for the food-insecure were to disappear, it would mean that we will have solved Spokane's and the Inland Northwest's hunger issues once and for all. However, the brutal reality is that isn't going to happen any time soon, if ever.

My wife and I started supporting the Spokane Food Bank, as it was known way back then, soon after we arrived in town in 1983. We did so for two simple reasons. First, we believe that nobody—anywhere, any time—should have to go hungry, especially in a community like ours with an abundant food supply. Second, we donate what we can of our resources to organizations or individuals who are doing what we cannot do. My wife and I cannot feed Spokane schoolchildren who start their day without breakfast or whose parents can't afford to send them to school with a packed lunch. Nor can we connect with that single mom, working two jobs at a minimum wage, struggling to afford wholesome food for her two preschoolers. However, Second Harvest, with its staff and 8,000 volunteers, can do what we cannot.

In brief, that's why we have nongovernmental organizations like Second Harvest. They are our proxies, doing the hands-on work of meeting all kinds of needs in our community. Whether it's refugee resettlement, tutoring struggling schoolchildren, or addressing healthcare needs, these nonprofits all do important work, enabling our neighbors in need to have richer lives—or at least less burdensome ones.

But vital though these agencies are in addressing our community's needs, nothing is more important than having food on the table. To state the obvious, food—like shelter—is something without which we cannot survive. Second Harvest thus quite literally provides a lifeline for those whom my wife and I cannot feed directly. And it has done so for the nearly 40 years that we have supported Second Harvest. During this period we have seen not even a hint that their mission is diminishing in importance. On the contrary, the organization seems to be throwing out more and more lifelines to those in our midst who are in danger of sinking.

So, now that I think about it more, my wish that Second Harvest and their emails would go away is quite unrealistic. Yes, we can dream of a day when all in our community will be prosperous enough to fully cover their own grocery bills and food insecurity will be but a memory. But until then, we urgently need Second Harvest to keep throwing out those lifelines that will enable more dinner conversations to be interrupted by someone saying, "Please pass the potatoes."

As coordinator for Samaritan's Purse, Tina Sundquist would like to thank the congregation for its participation this year.

The funds are earmarked for the building of Helping Hands Healing Hearts' Good Samaritan Inn. By eliminating rent, while providing more room on one level with adequate parking and indoor storage, it will greatly improve HHHH's ability to serve the needy in our community.

Tina is still waiting to hear what the FLC total contribution turned out to be, but she will get that information to you all once it is available. Thanks, again, everyone.

QUILT FOR PR. DAVE

During the March 3 service, Pastor Dave was surprised when during a "Moment of Appreciation," he was presented with a quilt, pictured here with Lynn Youngren and Judy Payne. Thank you, Pastor Dave, for all you done for us while at FLC.



FOOD BANK DONATIONS

In February, Marianne Foster reports that she was able to deliver food and \$120 cash to the Bonner County Food Bank as well as food and \$120 cash to Helping Hands Healing Hearts.

March's contributions will be collected on the 31st.

Please give cash donations to Marianne Foster or to Lynne Campbell in the church office.

Food, household, and personal items that are especially needed are listed above the Bags of Blessings box outside the Fellowship Hall.

Thanks, as always, for your participation!

LWR QUILT UPDATE

The next quilt shipping date is May 5. We will also be shipping as many Personal Care Kits and Baby Care Kits as we can put together. You can contribute any of the following items to add to the kits:

Personal Care Kits

- Heavy duty combs
- Fingernail clippers
- Individually wrapped, soft, toothbrushes
- Bath towels 20"x 40" up to 27" x 52" dark colors
- 4 ounce bars of soap

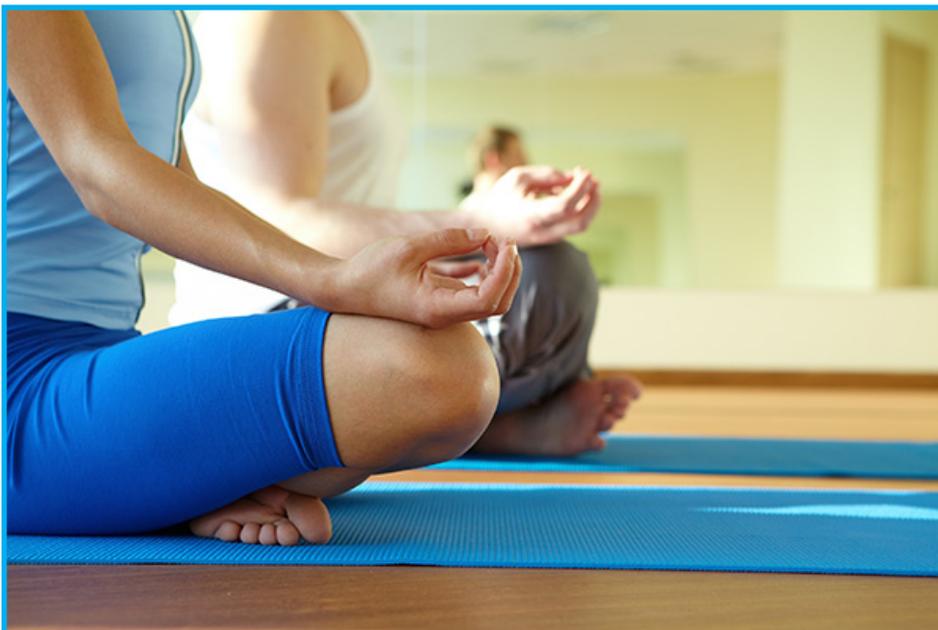
Baby Care Kits

- Light weight T-shirts
- Night gowns or sleepers without feet – they will accept T-shirt and pants.
- Receiving blankets
- Jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with hood or baby cap
- Cloth diapers
- Baby socks
- 4 ounce bars of gentle soap – Ivory or Dove
- Diaper pins
- Dark color hand towel

Last year Lutheran World Relief distributed 194,000 quilts, 190,000 school kits, 124,000 personal care kits, and 35,500 baby care kits to 13 different countries.

Many of the items can be purchased online in bulk. I can send you some website information or I will accept money and order for you.

Sharon Roget



Yoga Ministry

Classes designed for “Late Bloomers” are held weekly in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:15 to 9:15 AM. Contact Judy Payne at 208-263-3564.

At FLC: Community Organizations

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild (non-profit)

Second Tuesday each month, Fellowship Hall. Providing education, enjoyment and social exchange for those who enjoy the art of quilting. For questions or more information...

Contact: Linda Oldridge
208-597-1598

Teen Center

Teens will be using the Fellowship Hall, kitchen and game room on schooldays from 2:30 to 5:30 PM (1:30 to 5:30 on Fridays).

Contact: Joan Avery
208-946-1087

Music Together

Music classes in the nursery for families with children, newborns to 8 years old.

9 AM, Tuesdays
Contact: Emily Bond
262-402-8295

Quilting Groups

Bosom Buddies

Third Monday each month
9:30AM-12PM, Fellowship Hall.

Contact: Linda Aavedal
208-610-6565

Lutheran World Relief

Wednesdays, 1:00 PM,
Sunday School Quilting Room.

Contact: Sharon Roget
208-610-9005

Stitches of Love

Currently on hiatus

Contact: Brigette Sanborn.
If you know of someone in the FLC congregation who would benefit from a tangible gift of love and caring through a handmade quilt, please contact Brigette at 208-263-8120.

Women’s Circles

Phoebe / Faith Bible Study

Fourth Tuesday each month,
1:00 PM, Conference Room.

The Phoebe and Faith Bible Study groups have combined and are studying the Book of Ruth. *Gather Magazine* may be used.

For more information, contact:
Judy Payne at 208-263-3564 or
Sharon Roget at 208-610-9005

Mary’s Circle

Each meeting arranged

Contact: Jean Cafferty
208-263-4942