March Happenings

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Mission Statement: A congregation of Christ’s baptized people being led by the Spirit to serve God within our broader community by: Celebrating the presence of God; Cultivating the spiritual growth of members; Caring for the needs of all people; and Communicating Christ to all.

Member Congregation—this congregation is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, the Heart of the North Conference, and is a companion synod with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi.
Lent begins. What an unusual and important thing Lent is. It is important because it is humbling. It is important because it restores us to a community and a base.

When I was in my first year at seminary the thirty of us who started together were a cocky, confident, divided bunch. The conservatives were so sure of their righteousness because they had won three presidential elections in a row and were dominating talk radio with a new star, Rush Limbaugh. The liberals were absolutely sure of themselves because eleven Reagan cabinet members had been federally indicted and the shelters and pantries were full of clients and the farm crisis was a sociological disaster. The professor who taught theology was incensed at how much time was being wasted in snarky and self-righteous sniping and interrupting and rudeness. He had a hole dug, 30 inches wide, 78 inches long, 72 inches deep, and we were compelled (as only a professor who controls your access to your desired future can) to lie in the bottom of that hole for an hour.

Nothing shakes your certainty and smugness like lying in a grave. None of us stopped being conservative or liberal but we did see each other compassionately - as fellow sufferers in this journey between the womb and the tomb. We were more respectful, more helpful, and no longer claimed to have cornered the market on Jesus. I remembered that theology professor, with his huge mop of impossibly white hair that had a life of its own, as he talked, saying, smugly, I may add, “Still think Jesus came to make people behave?! He came to beat up DEATH! PERIOD!”

When on Ash Wednesday we come and receive the ashes we receive also the words, “From dust and ashes thou camest and to dust and ashes thou shalt return.” Words that we all receive, a reminder to all of us that human suffering under the shadow of death is universal and inescapable. We look at each other as fellow sojourners on this trek through life and we find ourselves really focusing on Jesus’ journey to the cross and through the grave.

There is a culture war going on in our country where both conservatives and liberals are claiming the high ground. And woe betide anyone who is a moderate. Each side is trying to claim God is on its side and Jesus is their spokesperson. Jesus is not a spokesperson or a boy scout leader or a guru. Jesus is the Savior. Sinners who are dying are his clientele.

Come, meet the one who forgives sins. Come, meet the one who frees us from the shadow of death. Come, see in each other the treasure that God has made each and every one of us. Come, free yourself from this worldliness that absolutely does not bring the best out of us. Take the unusual and important journey that Lent represents.

In Christ,

Pastor Joel

PS: the special offering for this Lent season will be going to helping with the cost of theological education/debt reduction. Part of the reason for the shortage of pastors is that higher education has increased in cost at 2.5 times the rate of income. Its relative expense is making it beyond the reach of the many young people who would make great pastors. Please be generous.
Finance—Ron Kirchdoerfer reported that all church bank accounts are reconciled and match the financial reports. Debt has been reduced to $15,000.

Carol Nelson provided a list of members who have not communed or supported FLC in more than three years. A letter was sent in January asking if they would like to continue as members. Those not responding were placed on inactive status.

The ad hoc flooring committee was granted funds by the Memorial and Endowment committee to proceed with the flooring project. The project will begin after Easter Sunday.

Jane Wikum and Jim Onarheim were chosen by the council to serve and fill the vacated council positions until the annual meeting in July 2017. The goal is to have both installed before the March 13 council meeting.

A use of facilities was granted to John and DeAnna Jaeckel to use the kitchen, fellowship hall and narthex on August 25-26, 2017 for an ALS fundraising event.

Pastor Bacon will be installed on Sunday, March 26 at a 10:00am service, Assistant Bishop Greg Kaufmann presiding. A welcoming potluck luncheon will follow.

Jeanette Siemers was hired to be our staff Business Manager upon recommendation of the Personnel committee.

The next Church Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 14 at 6:00pm. Any items for inclusion in the agenda should be received in the church office by March 8.
March 17, 2017
Fellowship Hall
5:30—9:00 P.M.

NOW SHOWING
“The New Land”
1971-1972 (color)
100 minutes
(films by Jan Troell)

“The Emigrants” is a trilogy: the departure from Sweden, the voyage overseas, and the journey to and settlement in Minnesota — “The New Land.” Though Minnesota’s winters and summers are more extreme than Sweden’s, the emigrants are rewarded for their hard work. They live a better life than they did in Sweden. Bad times also come. The Civil War begins and the Sioux Indians rise up against the white settlers.

Please sign-up at the announcement cart in the narthex if you plan to attend so that we know in advance how much food to order.

Pizza and beverages will be served for a suggested $5.00 free-will offering.

Host: David Van Landschoot

A Message from Pastor Roger Pittman

Thank You God for First Lutheran.

I give thanks to God for our ministry together these past four months. It was wonderful to “flunk” retirement again. I had missed being a pastor and sharing God’s love in and through Christ. You gave me the opportunity to preach, make hospital calls, do home communions, teach confirmation, and be a pastor again. But, as all this has been happening, I realized as the Priesthood of Believers, we all are doing these things together all the time. We all share God’s love and word, we all pray for one another, visit one another in times of need, sorrow, and joy. God has called us all to do His work wherever we are. I have realized for many years that members of the congregation do more work for the Lord than the pastor does. Pastors are seen by most people just on Sundays. You are seen every day by many more people. People see and hear the Gospel through you every day as you work, shop, play, travel, etc. They either learn about God and the Christian faith in you in a positive way or a non-positive way.

As you go forward in ministry with Pastor Bacon “greater things are yet to come, greater things are yet to be done.” So The Spirit Within group reminded us recently, at First Lutheran in Hayward. So, Dear Friends in Christ – People Loved of God – Invite, Include, Inspire one another to “greater things.”

You remain in my thoughts and prayers. God be with you till we meet again – and we will.

Pastor Roger
Music and Worship

**Choir Schedule**

During March the Choir will be sing at the following worship services:
- **Sunday, March 5 at 10:45 service**
- **Sunday, March 12 at 8:15 service**
- **Sunday, March 19 at 8:15 service**
- **Sunday, March 26 at 10:00 service (Installation Service)**

**Evangelical Minute**

**With Whom Do You Walk?**

Recently, one of the daily messages in *Christ In Our Home* centered on how we walk. For instance, it dealt with how our pace was influenced by what we had to do at the time, or whether we were alone or with others. The thoughts captured here were based on Scripture found in Micah 6:8,

“What does the Lord require of you but…
to walk humbly with your God.”

It provided an opportunity for food for thought to examine one’s personal relationship with others and most importantly, with our God. It provided that all encompassing assurance that God is always at our side as we journey through this life.

My thoughts, at first, went to the word, humbly. It is found elsewhere in Scripture. Unfortunately, humbling oneself is difficult for many, for societies messages hold out strength, fortune, status, etc. as things to aim for. Thus, there are temptations along our journey leading us astray. God is still there, ready to always take our hand and guide us the rest of the way.

With these reassuring thoughts in mind; what a perfect time to enter into the days of Lent leading up to the Resurrection of God’s Only Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Have you ever thought about the people living at the time of Jesus’ ministering among them? Some were able to observe His healing powers, many heard His teachings, many spread word about His miracles. Even in this day and age, scripture’s recording of the years of His ministerial work continues to amaze. As we begin once more the days of Lent, may we, Oh Lord, reflect the trust and assurance we have as your believers to others as we begin this year’s Lenten journey.

This prayer is shared with you for its beauty and thought. Author unknown.

**Lord Jesus, fill us with your grace, and tip us so it pours into the lives of others. Amen**

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**The Spirit Within**

The Spirit Within will play at the following worship services in March:
- **Sunday, March 12 at 10:45am service**
- **Sunday, March 26 at 10:00am service**

*The Spirit Within welcomes congregational comments—please see a member of the band or if you would prefer to write us a note, please sign the note and include your phone number so we can then get back to you personally. Thank you.*

...Shelley, Pete, Ray, Mike, Julie, Rhonda and Randy

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**March 2017 COMMUNION BREAD SCHEDULE**

- March 1 ............ Sharron Probyn (Ash Wednesday)
- March 4-5 ........... Shara Fredrickson
- March 11-12 ........ Dode Marquardt
- March 18-19 ........ Judy Harms
- March 25-26 ........ Pam Swanson
Plant your seeds now and trust in the Lord that these seeds will bear fruit even when we are gone.

Memorial and Endowment Committee

Written funding requests can be directed to committee and left at the church office. Requests will be considered at the next committee meeting.

There are special envelopes at the wall desk in the narthex for memorials and special gifts to First Lutheran Church. Please designate your gifts for Memorial and/or Endowment Fund. If you have questions, please contact Kathy McCoy at: 715-462-3723 or email Kathy at kmccoyr@centurytel.net

FOR SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

i.e. World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief, Malawi, etc., make checks to “First Lutheran Church” with a memo notation of what they are intended for. Please do not include these gifts in the same check with your regular Sunday offering. All financial records are kept in the strictest confidence at the church office. Gifts to Habitat for Humanity and the Hayward Food Shelf can be given at First Lutheran but please make the checks payable to these organizations as these funds are not recorded in our financial records. The gifts are forwarded to the appropriate organization from the church office.

“Give to ... God
THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S.”
MARK 12:17, NRSV
Note from Your Youth and Education Director

I have a story for all of you, but first I would just like to say that March is such an exciting month for all of us here at FLC. To start off, we welcome Pastor Bacon to our church! I know all of you are just as excited as I am! Then, Lent starts (my son’s favorite season). And...the weather continues to bring Spring upon us (I know, I know, February felt like Spring as well). Finally, it is National Craft Month—and that means our students will have a great time making many different items for home and church! And, let’s not forget all the activities our youth will have coming up (check the Calendar of Events to mark your calendars).

We were driving home from our last basketball tournament of the season and in the distance my son notices the sunset shining through the clouds, thin white clouds with pink, red, and purple around them, and right at the clouds you could see the rays reflecting through. It was amazingly beautiful! And then he says something to me that put tears in my eyes. He says, “Mom, you know in the Bible stories when it talks about the skies opening up and angels coming down? Doesn’t it look like that?” I kept driving and didn’t know what to say for a while. Finally, I look over to him and tell him that he is right. That is exactly what it looked like. We spent most of the rest of the ride in silence, I really don’t know why, but I think we were just reflecting on the beauty. At bedtime, he asked me if I thought the angels were coming down to bring someone to Heaven. Again, I was in awe by his question. I told him that it was very possible that our Lord had sent his angels to bring one of His children to paradise, but it could also be possible that God was bringing angels down to bring something new and exciting to us. He smiled, hugged me, and went to sleep.

There are so many possibilities of what our Lord was up to at that moment, and most likely He was doing all of the above and even more than we can even think of. More specifically, I like to think that He was sending angels to us as we take our journey with Jesus this Lent season. During these next 40 days and 40 nights, as we sit at home, in our cars, driving down the roads, at church, and everywhere in between, remember that God is with you and His angels will help guide your ways. I ask all of you to embrace the season, reflect on the beauty, and look just beyond the horizon to see our Lord watching over you.

May the sun shine through your darkest days, may you feel the warmth Our Savior gives when you are cold, and may the strength of our congregation hold you tight when feeling weak. In Jesus name, Amen.

~Blessings~
Tiffany Chipman
Youth & Education Director

Terrific Tuesdays:
As the Lent season begins the students of Terrific Tuesday will continue to follow the lectionary through lessons, games, and activities. We are also looking at taking a couple trips this month: Joining our very own Pete Sievert in working on his maple syrup and heading over to Angler’s for an afternoon of bowling. We are looking at doing these items the last 2 weeks of March. More information to come as we get closer.

Wednesday Night Live:
Since Lent is now upon us, our worship services transition over to Lenten services. Following service, our confirmation students will meet in Fellowship Hall for further conversations with mentors. Our pre-confirmation students will meet in Room 4 (with family members) to enjoy some weekly devotions/conversations. Snacks will be needed for both groups (total of 40), and should be small/munchie type that can be set up on all tables and enjoyed while talking. Sign-up sheets are available on the Gold cart in the narthex.
Sunday school:

For our younger students, Lent can be a “weird” time of year, so what do we do…we take the time and teach “weird” lessons. That’s right…starting in March we will be discovering some of the “weirder” bible stories.

Also starting in March, our classrooms will be “revamped” a little.

Miss Emma:  Pre-K—Kindergarten
Miss Paige:  1st—3rd Grade
Miss Tiff:  4th—8th Grade

Please make sure your children can attend as much as possible.

Loose Coin offering will continue until Easter as well. The 3 classrooms are competing for who can fill their jugs up with coins first. I would have to say the 1st-3rd graders are in the lead at this time.

***Special Note:

There will be NO Sunday school classes on March 26th in lieu of Pastor Bacon’s Installment and potluck dinner.

Friday, March 31st, Grades K-5 are invited to join us for an overnight lock-in at the First! Like last year, this lock-in will be led by our amazing counselors of Luther Park. Doors will open at 5:00pm and lock at 7:00pm. Snacks, games, movies, and much more! Kids will be served breakfast Saturday morning and should be picked up at 8:00am SHARP!

♦ There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for all those interested. Please confirm by March 15th if you will be joining us so proper staffing and preparations can be done.

♦ PARENTS: I am in need of a few volunteers for this night. I will be staying with the kids, but will need at least 2 more adults to stay as well. Please let me know ASAP.

♦ Friday, April 28th, Grades 6-12 will take over FLC for an exciting evening! The theme this year is T.E.A.M.S. Please sign up in the narthex if you would like to join us. Invite your friends to come along as well. ***This event needs to have a minimum of 15 students to happen***

♦ Doors open at 6:00pm and will LOCK at 7:30PM. Pizza party and snacks will be provided. Breakfast will be served at 7:30am with pick up to be at 8:00am SHARP.

♦ Please sign up by April 10th for proper planning purposes.

YOUTH Lock-In

Grades 6-12

Miss Emma:
Miss Paige:
Miss Tiff:

Pre-K—Kindergarten
1st—3rd Grade
4th—8th Grade

Parents: I am in need of a few volunteers for this night. I will be staying with the kids, but will need at least 2 more adults to stay as well. Please let me know ASAP.

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# Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday (Lenten services and Mentor nights begin)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Luther Park Recharge (grades 3-12)</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>K-5th Lock-In sign-up deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>TT Bowling Party (Anglers)</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
<td>No Sunday School classes</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>TT Field Trip: maple syruping w/Pete Seivert</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>K-5th Lock-In (w/Luther Park counselors)</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>6th-12th Lock-In sign-up deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 10-16</td>
<td>Holy Week. No Youth Classes</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
<td>Easter Breakfast (Youth Fundraiser)</td>
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<td>April 28</td>
<td>6th-12th Lock-In</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Youth &amp; Congregation Luther Rose Lego Building Party</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>Thank You Parents Program</td>
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<td>May 23</td>
<td>Last day of TT</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>Last day of WNL</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 10-14</td>
<td>VBS Week (Grades K-5)</td>
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Youth Scholarships

HCS Educational Foundation Scholarships Available

Graduates of Hayward High School, currently attending a 2 or 4 year post secondary institution may apply for a Hayward Community Schools Educational Foundation Scholarship applicable to next year’s school expenses.

Applications will be considered from students who have completed at least one semester of courses and have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or better. Students are eligible for this award up to two times after their senior year.

Applications can be obtained from the Hayward High School guidance office or on-line by going to www.hayward.k12.wi.us > Quick Links > Scholarship Opportunities > Hayward Community Schools Education Foundation. On this page you can download an application. Applications should be submitted to the HHS Guidance Office by April 15th. A copy of a transcript through 1st semester of this school year must be included with the application. Questions can be directed to Kathy Pachal, HCSEF secretary. 715-634-3118. rkpachal@centurylink.net.
CARD LADIES
The Card Ladies meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30am.

We meet next on Tuesday March 7 at 9:30am at church

Card Ladies create new greeting cards out of donated birthday, anniversary, and sympathy cards (no Christmas cards please).

A display of our creations is located in the narthex near the main entrance. You will find the prices are very reasonable.

Please join us!

COVER GIRLS
The Cover Girls meet at 9:00am on the second and third Thursday each month in Fellowship Hall.

Our March meetings will be on March 9 & 16 at 9:00am

Our group makes quilts which are given to Lutheran World Relief, as well as to various needs within the Hayward community.

Everyone is welcome to join our group. You don’t need to be a seamstress — if you can tie a knot and enjoy fellowship, you can be a Cover Girl!

Everyone is welcome!
Donations of thread and yarn are greatly appreciated.

PURLS OF PRAYER
Purls of Prayer is an ongoing outreach ministry for those in need of comfort and prayer, or are celebrating a special occasion.

We knit or crochet prayer shawls from yarn that has been donated to us. These beautiful creations are then blessed and given to friends and relatives so that they may feel the love of our Lord and Savior.

We will meet on Saturday, March 18 at 9:30am in the church Library.

Nancy Woodbeck is the hostess and Kay Sieh will provide devotions.

Everyone is welcome to join us!
Notes from FIAT Meeting
February 1, 2017

Present: Carol Nelson, Bonnie Larson, Linda Euneau, Betty Beckman, Nels Beckman.
Absent: Laurie Jacobs

Items discussed:

Fair Trade Coffee, chocolate, etc. has been well received. Bonnie has been selling the products at all three service, when she can. Would like another person to help her.

Wednesday Night Suppers — continues to be going well. People are signing up to serve and we are serving around 80 people. Wednesday night leaders are planning the celebration of 20 years of serving and never missing a meal. We have Thrivent money ($250) to help cover the beginning cost and the rest of the money will come out of Wednesday Night Supper funds.

Paper Products Collection — We have decided that another paper and detergent collection should take place on April 23 & 30 and May 7th. In our meeting in April we will set up temple talks. Betty will prepare the plastic totes for collection and get an article in First Word and the bulletin on Sunday.

Carol Nelson and David Van Landschoot put together bags of hygiene products to be use by NorthLakes Clinic. They made up 15 adult and 12 children bags. Cover Girls made and donated 11 adult and 8 children bags.

Memory Kits — Betty mentioned that the public library now has memory kits available to check out. These are to help start conversations with home bound members. They are available for one week. Betty also informed us that the visitation ministry people will be making small baskets to take to our regular visited members at Easter. Thrivent money will be used to make these.

There will be no FIAT meeting in March.

We are still looking for more members and hope a new council member will join our group.

Meeting adjourned.

20 Years
Of Serving
Wednesday Night Suppers!

JOIN US on Wednesday, March 22nd as we celebrate 20 years of serving Wednesday night suppers — never missing a meal and having served over 1,040 meals! What an amazing accomplishment!

THANKS to all that have worked the Wednesday night suppers over these past 20 years. You are all blessings to our community!

Worship Assistants — check out the sign-up sheets on the burgundy bulletin board cart in the narthex to place your name on an available time for weekend services: Assisting Ministers, Ushers, Greeters, Communion Assistants, Video Recorders, Projectionists, Acolytes, Altar Guild, as well as Coffee Hosts. Please talk to Carol Mooney Williamson in the church office or Patty Treland, Volunteer Coordinator, if you have questions.
A community meal is served in Fellowship Hall here at First Lutheran Church every Wednesday evening at 5:00pm. The meal is free of charge, or if you wish, you may make a free will donation. The meals are nutritious and are prepared and served by volunteers from the church congregation, as well as volunteers within the community.

If you wish to help in this important ministry, please look at the sign-up sheets on the cart located left side of the church as you enter. See who is in charge for the month and give them call or sign-up to help. There are four months of sign-up sheets posted on the cart, so one can plan around other activities. Many hands make the service easier.

Thank You to Sherry Beckman for overseeing Wednesday night suppers for the month of February!

FIAT (Faith In Action Team) is asking for donations of paper products and detergent to be delivered to the Hayward Food Shelf and Indianhead Community Action Agency. Last year we collected over 350 items and both food shelves were so grateful for these items. Legally, the food shelves cannot spend money it receives on anything but food so they can greatly use these donations. Please bring these items: Toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex and napkins, laundry detergent and dish soap on April 23, 30, and May 7th. Every little bit helps someone in need. Thanks to those who have donated.

We are still in need of members to join Faith In Action Team. If you are interested please let the church office or Betty Beckman know. Thanks for considering this important mission of our church.

A food donation bin is located in the narthex at all times and the food is picked up each Monday morning. Your food or monetary donations would be greatly appreciated. Please note that monetary donations for the food shelf should be brought to the church office.

Peace Circle will meet this month on Tuesday, March 14 at 9:45am in church library.

Hostess: Carol Nelson
Leader: Linda Gordon

Jubilee Circle will meet this month on Tuesday, March 21 at 6:00pm in church library.

Contact Rhonda Passolt at 715-634-1062 with any questions. Hope to see you there!
New Coffee Company

First Lutheran Church is now purchasing their coffee from The Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee Company.

The money to purchase this coffee goes to Lutheran World Relief which in turns shares the money with the farmers and other things. The coffee is more expensive than purchasing from our local grocery store but the idea is to help Lutheran World Relief instead of Folgers or any other company we buy from our local grocery store. With that said, we all need to be conscious about the amount of coffee we make and try to cut down on waist.

The following is a guideline we will post on the cabinet where the coffee is kept in the kitchen. If you find you are still throwing a lot of coffee out, then please reduce the amount you make, and make a note of it on a piece of paper and tape that paper to Ray’s janitor door. We will make the necessary changes to the guidelines once we see a pattern – if at all. If you find you are running out and need to make more, make note of that as well. This is a “work in progress” system but the goal is to not throw coffee out. Thank you for caring about this program. Please let Ray know if you have any questions. We will reevaluate after a year.

Coffee Guidelines

In Between Services: 
12 cups of DE Café, 24 cups of Regular

Wednesday Night Supper: 
30 cups DE Café, no Regular

Men’s & Women’s Bible Study: 
30 cups Regular

1 cup of grounds = 20 cups of coffee

Thank you for your cooperation.
Blessings to you!

Update on New Flooring

YAY!!

I am happy to announce FLC will be putting in new flooring in the main areas of the church in the very near future.

I would like to give a huge thank you to my flooring committee, the Memorial and Endowment committee, and everyone who has contributed to the Memorial and Endowment funds. This would not have been possible without you. As of now, the plan is to start the project after Easter. I will keep you updated as this project proceeds.

At this time we are in need of storage space for the moveable panel walls from the fellowship hall until the floor is completed. If you have or know of any space available for some or all of these panels, please let me or any of the church staff know.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Ray Austin
Building and Grounds Coordinator

Many First Lutheran members sponsor the “Day 1” weekly segments on radio station WRLS-FM (92.3). These segments air at 8:30am every Sunday.

“Day 1”, a voice of mainline Christian churches, presents messages by clergy representing mainline Christian faiths, including those of the ELCA. Peter Wallace, host for each broadcast, facilitates discussion with clergy on timely topics. This radio ministry reaches our shut-ins, visitors to the area, and others for whom regular worship and church affiliation are not a part of their daily lives. The cost per broadcast is $30.

The sponsorship of a broadcast may be in honor of a person, or special occasion, or in memory of a loved one and is open to all.
We are excited to announce several new ways to contribute to First Lutheran Church ministries.

**E-Giving**
We have now set up an online giving portal on www.firstlutheranhaywardwi.org
You are able to use your debit/credit cards to set up a one time donation or automatic scheduled payment by clicking on the GIVING tab.

**Give+ Mobile**
The Give+ Mobile app offers you a way to make convenient credit or debit card donations quickly through your Apple phones.
(Android phones ready by Easter)

The Give+ app is free, secure and easy to use. Simply go to the App Store and search for “give plus church” to download and start donating today.

**QR CODE**
Scan our image on your smartphone. This will connect you directly to the mobile version of the giving page.

If you need assistance, please contact the church office and we will be happy to help you.

If you do not have a QR scanner on your iPhone, go to the App Store and download the app “QR Reader.”

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**First Lutheran Website News**
Be sure to continue to visit First Lutheran’s website for the latest in events that can be found in the box titled “Coming Up!” on the home page at: http://www.firstlutheranhaywardwi.org

Also on the home page there is a new devotional every day sponsored by Luther Seminary titled God Pause Daily Devotion. Clicking on the devotion box will take you to the entire devotional.

If you have additional ideas for our website or updates, please contact Sue Reinardy at sreinardy@centurytel.net

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**PRAYER REQUESTS**
From time to time the office staff receives requests from members of the congregation and community to include people in our church’s Sunday prayer petitions, bulletin and/or prayer chain.

While we are more than happy to solicit prayers for those in need, please understand that for privacy purposes we are unable to include submitted names without permission from the individual or from one of their immediate family members.

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**VISITATION MINISTRY**
If you are homebound and would like to receive a visit and holy communion from one of our visitation ministers, please contact the church office and a visit will be arranged for you.

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**WORSHIP SERVICE DVDs**
DVDs of First Lutheran worship services are available! Call the church office if you would like to receive a DVD each week.
12th Annual Regional Hospice

Polar Plunge
March 11, 2017
Registration at 2:30
Jump at 3:30
At Comfort Suites
Hwy B on Lake Hayward

Please Call Regional Hospice at 715-634-6433 to obtain registration and pledge forms.
Regional Hospice Services

12th Annual Polar Plunge
Saturday, March 11, 2017
Comfort Suites in Hayward

Regional Hospice Service’s annual Polar Plunge is coming soon! We would like your congregation to have the opportunity to be one of the many sponsors in our community of this fun event. As you know, Regional Hospice provides quality, compassionate care and support for people who are living with a terminal illness as well as to their loved ones.

Regional Hospice Services

To get started with your JUMP packet, please go to our website at wwwRegionalHospiceorg to request your pledge sheets and registration form. You can request through the “Contact Us” page of the website. You may also call our office and request a packet by calling 715-634-6433.

See you at the Plunge!
As I begin my March musings I would like to say welcome to Pastor Joel Bacon. We are so glad you accepted God’s call to come to Hayward and to First Lutheran Church. May your time here be a blessing to us and to you. We have been praying and waiting patiently for God to send us a Pastor, and we are so pleased you will begin your ministry with us as we begin Lent, “Jesus’ Journey to the Cross,” together.

Our Bible Study this month is again from the book of Galatians, **CHRISTIAN FAITH and CHRISTIAN FREEDOM**

“And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Galatians 4:6

Paul again enforces that they are children of God’s family because of God’s gift and promise, and not because of whether or not they obey God’s law. And in chapter four he continues to reinforce this understanding. Martin Luther enforces the case that we are like adopted children. In adoption the parent chooses the child and so it is true with God. He chose us, not we chose God. We are part of God’s family by God’s choice. Enjoy the lesson. I invite anyone to join us. You can get a copy of the lesson in the church office.

**Circles meet on Tuesdays**

**Peace Circle**
March 14 at 9:45am
Hostess: Kathy Rasmussen
Leader: Barbara Klippel

**Faith, Hope & Love Circle**
March 14 at 1:30pm
Hostess: Maxine Poppe
Leader: Vivian Melby

**Jubilee Circle**
March 21 at 6:00pm
Leader: Rhonda Passolt
They will study their DVD “Lives of Jesus”

**February General Meeting:**
I hope you were able to attend our general meeting and had a part in voting the designations of where our love gifts were sent. Thank you Maxine Poppe for presenting the program on Human Trafficking. We hear about it but are not as aware as we should be that it is happening in our area as well as all over the country. We are glad that Lutheran office of Public Policy in Wisconsin is working on legislation to ensure the passage of safe harbor laws in our state.

**Thankoftering Service:**
I hope that you were able to attend one of our services February 18 & 19th. I want to thank all the women who took part and especially Betty Beckman who gave the message. I want to thank all the women of First Lutheran for all they do during the whole church year. You are a vital part of this church. We see the evidence in all the areas of our church life. God bless all of you.

**Up coming events:**
**Walking Together** March 18th
UW-Eau Claire Davies Center.
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cost $20.
Send checks to NW Synod of WI, 944 241/4th Street, Suite 2 Chetek, WI 54843

**Ladies** we are always looking for new members for the **Card Ladies, Cover Girls, and Purls of Prayer**. Come and join these informal groups. You are always welcome to help with the gifts they produce for others. Look for times in the bulletin.

**Pastor Pittman** you have been such a blessing to our church and you will be missed. Thank you for your wonderful messages, your visits to our members, the thoughtful services you gave for our loved ones. You became a part of us and we are so grateful. You more than filled a need, you guided us through the call process and kept us grounded in Christ through it all. May God bless you always and keep you in His loving arms. Come visit often.

Be present in our lives oh Lord, be here and everywhere adored, your mercies bless and grant that we may rest in paradise with thee. Amen

**Linda Gordon**
President of FLCW
### March 1, 2017
**Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter.**
As we hear in today’s readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God’s mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

- **Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**
- **Isaiah 58:1-12**
- **Psalm 51:1-17**
- **2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10**

### March 5, 2017
**Today’s gospel tells of Jesus’ temptation in the desert.**
His forty day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God’s mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

- **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**
- **Psalm 32**
- **Romans 5:12-19**
- **Matthew 4:1-11**

### March 12, 2017
**During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil.**
In today’s gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as daughters and sons of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God’s love for all the world.

- **Genesis 12:1-4a**
- **Psalm 121**
- **Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**
- **John 3:1-17**

### March 19, 2017
**In today’s gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God.**
Jesus offers living water, a sign of God’s grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God’s mercy and forgiveness.

- **Exodus 17:1-7**
- **Psalm 95**
- **Romans 5:1-11**
- **John 4:5-42**

### March 26, 2017
**Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment.**
The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God’s beloved sons and daughters. As David was anointed king, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

- **1 Samuel 16:1-13**
- **Psalm 23**
- **Ephesians 5:8-14**
- **John 9:1-41**
Country Capers

14-DAY VOYAGE OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

Join us on our 14-day voyage of the Midnight Sun on the beautiful MS Rotterdam of Holland America Line. Depart USA May 18, 2018 — June 2, 2018. The most beautiful part of the voyage is the coast along Norway during the spring.

Friends have already made reservations as this is a very popular itinerary. Brochures are also available in the church office. Please contact me if you would like more information on our next memorable journey.

Jan Wege
10254N Sunrise Road
Hayward, WI 54843
Tel. 715/634-8101
Email: muskymania@centurytel.net
Caring and Sharing

**In Our Thoughts and Prayers**

**CHRONIC/LONG-TERM ILLNESS**
John Jaeckel, May Farley, Ed Braun, Brad Johnson, Art Saxum

**ILL / RECOVERING**

**CARE CENTERS**

**Golden Living Center**
10775 Nyman Avenue
Hayward, WI 54843
- Bob Woodbeck

**Water’s Edge**
11044 N State Rd 77
Hayward, WI 54843

  - **Care Center**
    - Irene Byerly, Ralph & Carol Cornell, Jane Hoivick, Don Jacobson, Colleen Moreland

  - **Assisted Living**
    - Frank Grebner, Vi Jacobson, Arliss Nichols, Paul Pedersen

**Aspen Acres**
10214 Rock Creek Rd
Hayward, WI 54843
- Irene Ahrenkikel
- Marlen Kaiser

**Care Partners Assisted Living**
15497 Pinewood Drive
Hayward, WI 54843
- Edna Wittmus

**Sympathy**
The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Shannon White and her family and friends on the death of her mother, Beverlee White.
If anyone is in Christ...

We are deeply rooted. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is still comparatively new as a church body, and yet our roots are much deeper than our 25 years together. The taproot of our life extends through the histories of predecessor churches in the United States, through the formative witness of the 16th century evangelical reformers and their confessional writings, to the Scriptures and the word of Christ. Our life is in Jesus Christ. We are deeply rooted in his word of forgiveness and the promises of God’s steadfast love and mercy. The word of Christ dwells in us richly. God nourishes us as one body in Jesus Christ with companions from around the globe who meet us at Christ’s table of grace.

...there is a new creation

We are being made new every day. In Jesus Christ we are not unchanged. What God does in Christ is as radical as the death and resurrection of baptism, where new creatures in Christ rise to live “no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.” God is bringing that new creation to life among us in the ministry of reconciliation. In that service we no longer see each other as we did before. We are no longer strangers, competitors or enemies to each other. We are beloved companions in one body, restored to a communion where the rich diversity of our experiences, wisdom and abilities serve the common good in Christ. The new creation in Christ rises to life among us every day.
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Worship With Us!
Saturday—5:00pm
Sunday—8:15 & 10:45am
Everyone is Welcome!
10680 Main Street
Hayward, WI
715-634-2141
firstlutheranhaywardwi.org