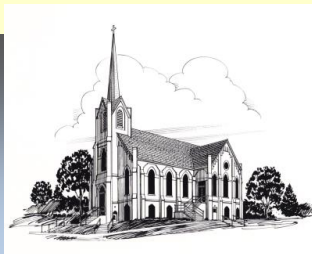


# THE SPIRE



March 2017  
Volume 5, Issue 3

First Ev. Lutheran Church, 201 N. Davis, PO Box 152, Oakland, NE, 68045  
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## Pastor's COLUMN

By Rev. Mark Eldal

In the gospel of John, Jesus is introduced by John the Baptist with these words, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." As we journey through this Lenten season perhaps there are no better words to remember than these words.

We remember at this time of year how Jesus would come humbly as a lamb and freely offer himself as an atoning sacrifice for your sins and mine. Even though he was and is King of kings and Lord of lords he would willingly lay down his life for us and then be raised on Easter morning.

He would do all of this so we might be forgiven and have eternal life.

This Lenten season may we live in loving awe of the Lamb who would give his life for us, and may we freshly claim the forgiveness and promise of eternal life he gives as we trust in him as our Savior.

God bless,

Pastor Mark



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### March 2017 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in March are:

- Ash Wednesday – March 1
- World Day of Prayer – March 3
- Girl Scout Sunday – March 12
- Daylight-Saving Time begins – March 12
- St. Patrick's Day – March 17, 2017
- First Day of Spring – March 20, 2017

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE** will be at Salem Covenant on Friday, March 3 at 9:30 am. There will be coffee and refreshments to follow.

**Enjoy a St. Patrick's theme luncheon this Sunday, Mar. 5th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Swedish Heritage Center. Free will donation.**

**Winter Coat Drive is suspended, as the Open Door Mission is not accepting any more winter clothing items. The Women of the Word (WOW) will be holding a summer clothing drive starting sometime after Easter.**

**If anyone would like to donate Thrivent dollars to First Ev. Lutheran Church, please notify Thrivent by the end of March.**

**During Lent, on Friday mornings, Men's Lenten Prayer Breakfasts are being held at the city auditorium from 6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.**

**Don't forget the annual East Oaks Pancake Feed, Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup> at City Auditorium in Oakland. Pancakes and all the fixings will be available from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Free Will Donation. This is the 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the East Oaks 4-H Club. Make plans to attend this fun 4-H food event!**

**Jean Richards turned 91 on February 24<sup>th</sup>, if you would like to send a card to help her celebrate, her address is: 1638 Harwood, Lincoln, NE 68502. Happy Birthday Jean!!!**

**The flowers at the front of the church on February 26<sup>th</sup> were in honor of LaVerne Osterndorff's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. There was an open house at the Golden Oaks from 2-4 on Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup>. Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday LaVerne!!!! WOW!**

**Please join us for Ash Wednesday Service March 1<sup>st</sup> - 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM (No Luncheon Following) and Lenten Services starting March 8 @ 6:30 PM (Luncheon will be served afterwards.)**

### LENTEN SERVERS

Mar 8 - Lenten Services— Executive WOW Group Serves

March 15- Lenten Services—New Group serves

March 22 Lenten Services— Ruth serves

March 29 Lenten Services—Hannah serves

April 5<sup>th</sup> - Lenten Services—Mary serves

### CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmands will meet after every Lenten service until 9 p.m.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who received their bibles in February were: Ethan Johnson, Piper Tanksley, Myesha Larson, Javar Larson, Caleb Bousquet, Mia Thomsen, Lyndsey Johnson, Carolyn Magnusson, Landon Ehlers, Colton Moseman, and Preston Rost. A supper and a celebration cake were provided. Families were invited. This is a huge milestone for our children. They were guided on how to read and reference the bible. We had great attendance!

Our Pay It Forward was \$442 in February. The money went to Don't Stress the Dress (DSTD) which was held on February 12. Seventy-six girls received a prom dress from the surrounding communities.

DSTD is an annual event where Northeast Nebraska juniors and seniors can shop for a prom dress and accessories at no cost. The program began in 2010 thanks to the vision of Shara Johnson and fellow educators and friends. Each year, nearly 100 girls are blessed by the program.

With the help of a personal consultant at the event, girls, are able to pick out donated dresses, jewelry, shoes and more at no cost. A seamstress is on-site to alter dresses and a Mary Kay representative will do makeovers. Johnson said the Mary Kay representative will send makeup home with the girls so they can replicate the makeover on prom night. Johnson estimates that to date the event has given away more than 750 prom dresses.

We also gave a donation to Heather Williams of Oakland. Heather has a son in the Oakland-Craig school district. Heather is a single mother and nursing student who was brought to our attention by a school employee.

Sunday School will sing on Sunday, March 12. We will pass around the Pay-It-Forward Plate. Thank you everyone for the wonderful support. It truly is making a difference. God Bless, Angie

## **BIBLE STUDY NEWS**

**YOUTH GROUP** meets every Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm. A meal is provided. It is open to all current Junior High and Senior High students in the community. There is a sign-up sheet in the multipurpose room for anyone who wishes help serve or donate treats.

**FRIDAY NIGHT PUB.** We are looking for volunteers to help us chaperone. Please contact Connie Larson (402)380-5101 or Tess Johnson (402)380-5660, if you are interested.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 9:00 am.

**KOINOINA BIBLE STUDY** is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

**GROWING TOGETHER BIBLE STUDY** meeting times are TBD.. If interested please contact Nancy Johnson.



**WELCOME**  
TO THE  
**FAMILY**

**BAPTISMS**

We welcomed into membership Alivia Mae Bittner through holy baptism, February 11, 2017 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Her parents are Derek and Angela Bittner. Her sponsors are Jennifer & Thomas Maleshafske ad Deb and Kery Kopecky. Alivia was born October 25, 2016. She joins two sister, Clara and Adrianna. **WELCOME Alivia!!!**

We welcomed into membership Avery Shea Elsasser through holy baptism, February 11, 2017 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Her parents are Gerron and Kristin Elsasser. Her sponsors are Trent and Kiersten Elsasser. Avery was born December 5, 2016. Her grandparents are Gail and Gary Elsasser and Tina Mauch and Kit Wagner; **WELCOME AVERY!!!**

**PRAYERS OF CONCERN**

Donna Johnson, Dr. Charlie Seagren, Jason Penke, Gerald Benne, Millie Sandquist, Rosemary Anderson, Clara Frahm, Arla Jean Landholm, Lois Messerschmidt, Moe Johnson, Jack Carstensen, Sharlene Grindle (Keri Thomsen’s mom), Nancy Moate, Dean Brudigam, Stacy Long, Alissa Bousquet, Ron Badje, Arizona Riecken, Marilyn Bures, Lincoln Nobel Hangman, Andy Kruse, Landon Johnson, Delwin Benne, and Grace Meints, the family of Barbara Swanson, all of our servicemen and women, our shut-ins, and our youth ministry.



**First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Oakland, Nebraska**

The church council met January 22, 2016. The minutes were published in last months newsletter. There were no council meetings in February. The next meeting will be March 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions for meeting on March 6 -  
Communion Helpers - February 5 -  
February 6 -  
February 8 -

Mona Tanksley, Secretary

February Attendance	
4 & 5 .....	132
11 & 12.....	239
18 & 19.....	152
25 & 26.....	139

February Finances	
Regular	\$13,275.00
<b>Designated</b>	
Normil Found.	\$ 5,750.00
Anon/Bibles	\$ 215.00
Sunday School	\$ 31.00
Supplies	\$119.00
Memorial	\$ 0.00
Misc.	\$189.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,579.00</b>

JACQUE ELDAL and JULIE EASTON



SEWING MEETINGS EVERY MONDAY AND TUESDAY MORNINGS  
8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Dorcas Society - March 29<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 p.m.@ Oakland Heights



**-MARCH-**

March 1 .....Bingo @ O.H. 9:30 a.m..... Mary

March 3 .....World Day of Prayer

March 6.....Executive Meeting 9 a.m.

March 8.....Group Meetings 9 a.m., 2 p.m. 5 p.m.

March 1.....Ash Wednesday

March 8..... Lenten Services—WOW Executive Officers Serve

March 15.... Lenten Services—Young Adults Serve

March 22... Lenten Services -Ruth Serves

March 29.....Lenten Services—Hannah Serves

Clean Kitchen ..... Hannah



The WOW Groups received a letter from Stuart Embrey thanking them for their generous donation in 2016. He went on to let them know 100% of their contributions are being used for worthwhile, sustainable projects in Haiti. Burnell Pudwill continues to travel to Haiti to drill wells, repair pumps, provide medical care, and work with school and church construction. Our Missionaries in Haiti are funding the construction of a new church, a new high school up near the Dominican border which will have 24 rooms. They are funding a feeding program that feeds 400 adults and children daily. This is often the only meal of the day for these people. They are sponsoring a Christian school, and helped to put a new roof on the church and school. They continue to sponsor a family of children who became orphans from the devastating earthquake. Last, their organization provided funding to help Missionary Flights International to purchase a DC-3, one of 3 already purchased. These planes are a vital link for the missionary communities.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Teresa Egbers, Cynthia Johnson, Eric Miller, Mollie  
Kate Blanc
- 2 - Nancy Wonka
- 3 - Ruth Wallerstedt
- 4 - Clendon Rost
- 5 - Ron Brudigam, Charles Seagren
- 7 - James Unwin
- 8 - Spencer Bromm
- 9 - Heath Anderson
- 10 - Connie Anderson, Julie Jones
- 11 - Teigan Case, Rylee Stevenson, Landon Johnson
- 13 - Alexis VonEssen
- 14 - Russell Peterson, Laura Schnoor,  
Garrison Dodge, Shirley Lowe
- 15 - Scott Krutilek
- 16 - Scott Lindstrom, Earl Miller, Susie Nelson
- 17 - Lee Peterson
- 18 - Jeff Nelson
- 19 - Baker Blanc, Hayden Johanson
- 20 - Marlene Lindstrom, Linda VonEssen
- 21 - Mike Denton, Dan Kahlandt
- 22 - Dolores Bailey, Bonnie Goodrich, Vern Jensen
- 23 - Delwin Benne
- 24 - Roger Maller
- 25 - Dexter VonEssen, Don Wallace
- 26 - Connor Guill, Kent Johnson, Richard Strom, Henry Unwin
- 27 - JoAnna (Lierman)Going
- 28 - Mary Alice Pearson
- 29 - William Akingnbade, Cheryl Denker, Don Wolf
- 30 - LeighAnn (Blomenkamp)McCartney, Richard Mulder, Eric Easton, Mallory Blanc
- 31 - Judy Troupe

*Birthdays  
& Anniversaries  
to Celebrate*

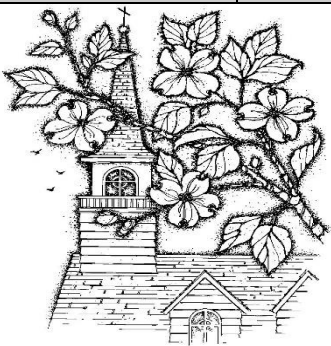



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 - Jay & Diane Lindstrom
- 12 - Richard & Marcee Tomasek
- 15 - Kaleb & Luryn Andersen
- 17 - Gary & Joann Powell
- 18 - Merle & Karen Karstens  
Mike and Karen Blanc
- 27 - Mike & Janna Kloth



# March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1</p> <p>9:30AM BINGO @ OAKLAND HEIGHTS</p> <p>10:00 AM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</p> <p>6:30PM -8:30 P.M. YOUTH GROUP</p> <p>7:00 PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:00PM N.A. MEETINGS</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 - 7:30 A.M. MEN'S LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST @ City Auditorium</p> <p><b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</b> @ Salem Covenant Church @ 9:30 am</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30PM COMMUNION SERVICE</p>
		<p>5</p> <p>9:30AM COMMUNION SERVICE</p> <p>10:30AM FELLOWSHIP &amp; SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30AM SEWING GROUP</p> <p>7:00PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30AM SEWING GROUP</p> <p>7:30PM A.A. MEETING</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9AM 2 PM, 5PM WOW GROUP MEETINGS</p> <p>6:30PM LENTEN SERVICES</p> <p>7:15 PM -9:00 P.M. YOUTH GROUP &amp; CONFIRMATION</p> <p>8:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00 PM N.A. MEETINGS</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:30AM PRAISE SERVICE</p> <p>10:30AM FELLOWSHIP &amp; SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30AM SEWING GROUP</p> <p>9AM WOW EXECUTIVE MEETING</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30AM SEWING GROUP</p> <p>7:30PM A.A. MEETING</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>6:30PM LENTEN SERVICES</p> <p>7:15 PM -9:00 P.M. YOUTH GROUP &amp; CONFIRMATION</p> <p>8:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00 PM N.A. MEETINGS</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00 - 7:30 A.M. MEN'S LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST @ City Auditorium</p> <p><b>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b></p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:30AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE</p> <p>10:30AM FELLOWSHIP &amp; SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:30AM SEWING GROUP</p> <p><b>FIRST DAY OF SPRING</b></p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30AM SEWING GROUP</p> <p>7:30PM A.A. MEETING</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30PM LENTEN SERVICES</p> <p>7:15 PM -9:00 P.M. YOUTH GROUP &amp; CONFIRMATION</p> <p>8:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00 PM N.A. MEETINGS</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00 - 7:30 A.M. MEN'S LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST @ City Auditorium</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE</p> <p>10:30AM FELLOWSHIP &amp; SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30AM SEWING GROUP</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30AM SEWING GROUP</p> <p>7:30PM A.A. MEETING</p>	<p>29</p> <p>2:00PM DORCAS SOCIETY MEETING @ O.H.</p> <p>6:30PM LENTEN SERVICES</p> <p>7:15 PM -9:00 P.M. YOUTH GROUP &amp; CONFIRMATION</p> <p>8:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00 PM N.A. MEETINGS</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:00 - 7:30 A.M. MEN'S LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST @ City Auditorium</p>	



**MARCH 2017 USHERS**



- Mar 1<sup>st</sup> Ash Wed: Jacob Deemer and Josh Deemer
- Mar 5<sup>th</sup>: Sam Schmidt, Roger Moderow, Tom Eckhart and Kevin Wuestewald
- Mar 8<sup>th</sup>: Jonathon Dixon and Conner Guill
- Mar 12<sup>th</sup>: Norm Case, Clare Wilste, Dan Tanksley and Nathan Anderson
- Mar 15<sup>th</sup>: Ellen Magnuson and Mia Linder
- Mar 19<sup>th</sup>: Norm Case, Larry Johnson, Jim Von Essen and Cal Anderson
- Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>: Carson Thomson and Colton Thomson
- Mar 26<sup>th</sup>: Norm Case, Charlie Seagren, Brad Bousquet and Ian Lundquist
- Mar 29<sup>th</sup>: Aiden Jorgenson and Ayden Lierman

**MARCH 2017 GREETERS:**

- Mar 5<sup>th</sup>: Linda Von Essen and Julie Wuestewald
- Mar 12<sup>th</sup>: Mona Tanksley and Jennifer Noah and Ivy Anderson
- Mar 19<sup>th</sup>: Tammy Von Essen and Sara Anderson
- Mar 26<sup>th</sup>: Alissa, Emmy, Megan, Carter and Caleb Bousquet



<u>March</u>	<u>ACOLYTE</u>	<u>VIDEO</u>
(Ash Wed)	1 - Aiden Jorgensen	1 - Carly Stewart
	5 - Ayden Lierman	5 - Aiden Jorgensen
(Lent)	8 - Mia Linder	8 - Ayden Lierman
	12 - Ellen Magnusson	12 - Mia Linder
(Lent)	15 - Carson Thomsen	15 - Ellen Magnusson
	19 - Jonathan Dixon	19 - Carson Thomsen
(Lent)	22 - Ashten Rennerfeldt	22 - Jonathan Dixon
	26 - Marissa Mulder	26 - Ashten Rennerfeldt
(Lent)	29 - Carly Stewart	29 - Marissa Mulder
<b>April</b>		
	2 - Connor Guill	2 - Carly Stewart
(Lent)	5 - Aiden Jorgensen	5 - Connor Guill



- 1 - Bryan Bohn
- 5 - Bryan Bohn
- 12 - Billye Pearson
- 19 - Ruth Wallerstedt
- 26 - Bryan Bohn
- 8, 15, 22- Bryan Bohn



- 1 - Dan Tanksley
- 5 - Tess Johnson
- 12 - Dan Tanksley
- 19 - Jim/Dan Tanksley
- 26 - Jim Pelan
- 8,15,22 - Tess Johnson

**COFFEE SERVERS**

<u>COFFEE SERVERS</u>	<u>DATE OF SERVICE</u>
Betty Dixon & Julie Easton	Sunday, March 5, 2017
Teresa Egbers & Julie Ehlers	Sunday, March 12, 2017
Jacque Eldal & Tess Johnson	Sunday, March 19, 2017
Judy Groene & Vivian Forks	Sunday, March 26, 2017
Lela Heineman & Amanda Huntington	Sunday, April 2, 2017

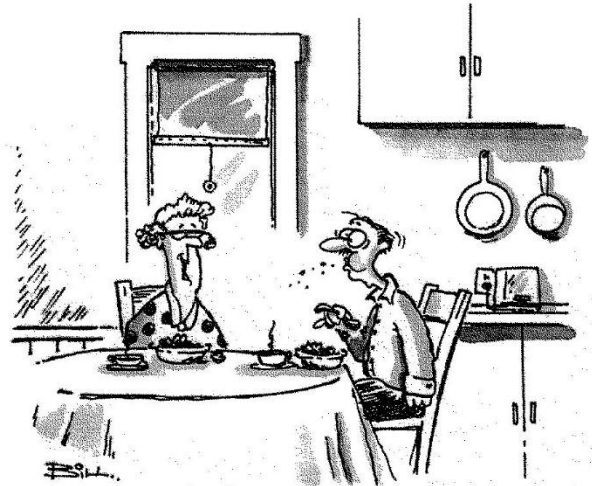




# CHRISTIAN HUMOR TO TICKLE YOUR LIFE



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."



"I thought I'd surprise you with something different this morning...John the Baptist Oatmeal! I've wanted to make it for some time, but you wouldn't believe how hard it is to find locusts."

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We are committed to providing  
 spiritual enrichment to ALL who  
 seek the Lord.



March 1 - 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service  
 March 8, 15, 22 & 29 - 6:30 PM - Lenten Services



*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.firstlutheran-oakland.com](http://www.firstlutheran-oakland.com)

