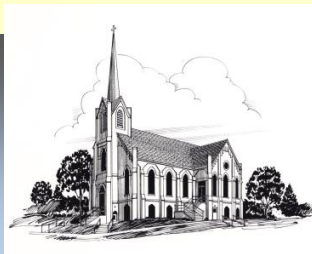


# THE SPIRE



March 2022  
Volume 10, Issue 3

First Ev. Lutheran Church, 201 N. Davis, PO Box 152, Oakland, NE, 68045  
[www.firstlutheranchurch-oakland.com](http://www.firstlutheranchurch-oakland.com), [firstlutheranchurch\\_152@q.com](mailto:firstlutheranchurch_152@q.com)  
(402) 685-5764

## Pastor's COLUMN

By Rev. Mark Eldal

I sometimes marvel at how nothing really explains our world better than our faith. This thought comes to me especially during the season of Lent.

We read in Scripture that when God created our world it was described as good, and we still see this goodness in the majesty of God's creation. Yet, Scripture teaches that when sin entered our world it became broken, and we see this every time we watch the news, especially recently. We also read in Scripture that this brokenness or sin cuts through each one of us, because we all sin.

This is where the wonder of what we believe enters in. For Scripture teaches that although made in the image of God, we are so broken with sin we cannot save or heal ourselves. We need someone to do it for us, and the one who would come to do this would be Jesus.

He would die on the cross to take the judgment for our sins upon himself and then rise from the dead to defeat death, so that as a gift we might be forgiven and receive eternal life. This gift is then received by faith.

As we embrace this gift in faith it becomes God's healing and salvation in our lives.

The salvation offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what we remember in Lent. This Lenten season may we delight in this saving and healing work which Jesus would come to bring as we trust in him.

God bless,  
Pastor Mark

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### MARCH 2022 SPECIAL DAYS

Some of the special days celebrated in  
March are:

- Ash Wednesday — March 2
- World Day of Prayer — March 4
- Girl Scout Day — March 12
- Daylight-Saving Time begins —  
March 13
- St. Patrick's Day — March 17
- First Day of Spring — March 20

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**If anyone would like to donate Thrivent dollars** to First Ev. Lutheran Church, please notify Thrivent by the end of March. If you have questions, you can contact Clare Wiltse.

**Please join us for Ash Wednesday Service** March 2nd - 7:00 PM (No meal Following) and **Lenten Services** starting March 9th @ 6:30 PM (a meal will be served afterwards.)

**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. **FELC Men will serve April 1, 2022 at 5:00 a.m.**

**World Day of Prayer** is Friday, March 4. Salem Covenant invites you to join them at 2:00 p.m. Please contact Robyn Johnson to R.S.V.P. (402) 380-9090.

**If you would like a complimentary bible**, please feel free to take one from the pew as a gift from First Ev. Lutheran Church.

**The 2022 offertory envelopes** are in the multipurpose room, please take yours home.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School will sing March 13, April 10<sup>th</sup> (**Palm Sunday**) and May 8<sup>th</sup> (**Mother's Day**).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!** **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be May 24-28<sup>th</sup>. We need leaders for the music program as well as helpers to assist the leaders, teachers, kitchen help and crafts. All help is greatly appreciated. If you have any further questions, please contact Tess at 402-380-5660.

## CONFIRMATION NEWS

**Confirmation** will meet on Wednesdays from 7:00pm (after the Lenten service)-9:00 p.m. A meal is provided after the Lenten Service.

## BIBLE STUDY NEWS

**Youth Group** will be meeting every Wednesday 7:00 p.m. (following the Lenten Service) A meal will be provided. It is open to all current Junior and Senior High students in the community.

**Men's Bible Study** is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM.

**Growing Together** – We meet at 11:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. We are looking at Genesis. For more information contact Nancy Johnson or Pastor Mark. Everyone is welcome.



**MARCH ALTAR COMMITTEE - JACQUE ELDAL and JULIE EASTON**

## SEWING MEETINGS

EVERY MONDAY AND TUESDAY MORNINGS

8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.



## Women Of the Word (WOW)

March 2 ..... Ash Wednesday  
 March 4 ..... World Day of Prayer @ Salem Covenant @ 2:00 p.m.  
 March 7 ..... Executive Meeting—9:00 a.m.  
 March 9 ..... Group Meetings— 9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.  
                   ..... Lenten Services—Hannah Serve  
 March 16 ..... Lenten Services—Young Adults Serve  
 March 23 ..... Lenten Services—Ruth Serve  
 March 30 ..... Lenten Services—Hannah Serve  
 Clean Kitchen ..... Hannah



*Women of the Word*

**IN OUR PRAYERS OF CONCERN PLEASE INCLUDE:** Marshall Tofte, Ethan Johnson, Jim Nelson, Mona Tanksley, Ron Nelson, Mike Hillgren, Elfie Nelson, Janelle Dirksen (**Greg Doffin's mother**), Arlene Carper, Aaron Anderson, Teresa Egbers, Connie Peterson, Larry Starman, John Mead (**Hilda Benne's nephew**), Barbara Ashton, Laurie Canarsky, Paul Anderson, Haylee Werth (**Doc & Bev Peterson's Great Granddaughter**), Denise Hall Salzbrenner, (**Phil and Judy Hall's daughter**), Landon Johnson, Jane Stucky, Jackie Kirkpatrick (**Julie Gershon's mother**), Bill Dix, Deloris Nielsen, Tony Kochel (**Hilda Benne's nephew-in-law**), Stacy Long, Lincoln Nobel Hangman (**Julie Gershon's nephew**), the families of Janice Johnson, Stan Pearson, Angie Harney and Dr. Richard Mulder (**Rick Mulder's dad**), our service men and women and all those deployed to foreign countries, rescue workers, and law enforcement officers and our shut-ins, and our youth ministry.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 – Teresa Egbers, Cynthia Johnson, Eric Miller, Mollie Kate Blanc  
 2 – Nancy Wonka  
 3 – Ruth Wallerstedt, Herb Brader  
 4 – Clendon Rost, Kiersten Elsasser  
 5 – Ron Brudigam, Charles Seagren  
 7 – James Unwin  
 8 – Spencer Bromm  
 9 – Heath Anderson, Oliver Elsasser  
 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, Emma Wallerstedt, Gloria Wedegren  
 16 – Scott Lindstrom, Susie Nelson  
 17 – Lee Peterson  
 18 – Jeff Nelson  
 19 – Baker Blanc, Hayden Johanson  
 20 – Linda VonEssen  
 21 – Mike Denton, Dan Kahlandt  
 22 – Dolores Bailey, Vern Jensen  
 25 – Dexter VonEssen, Don Wallace  
 26 – Connor Guill, Kent Johnson, Richard Strom, Henry Unwin  
 27 – JoAnna Going  
 28 – Mary Alice Pearson  
 29 – William Akingbade, Cheryl Denker, Don Wolf  
 30 – LeighAnn (Blomenkamp)McCartney, Richard Mulder, Eric Easton, Mallory (Blanc) Rybak  
 31 – Judy Troupe

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

7 – Jay & Diane Lindstrom  
 15 – Kaleb & Luryn Andersen  
 17 – Gary & Joann Powell  
 18 – Merle & Karen Karstens  
       Mike and Karen Blanc  
 24 – Andrew and Stephanie Brudigam  
 27 – Mike & Janna Kloth



**First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Oakland, Nebraska  
Annual Meeting  
January 30, 2022**

The annual meeting of the congregation of First Evangelical Lutheran Church was held January 30, 2022. President Nathan Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. noting that a quorum was met with 53 members in attendance. Pastor Eldal gave his opening devotions and began by noting, "We have a God that can bring healing and restoration to congregations and to our individual lives and I think we have seen this in the last eighteen months as we have recovered from the pandemic."

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and a motion was made by Amy Rost to approve them. Motion was seconded by Melinda Johnson. Vote taken and the motion carried.

The report of the nominating committee was given by Amy Rost who was filling in for Darrell Denker. Amy began by thanking the council members for their time and dedication to the church. Present church council member tenures were discussed noting that at the end of this church council year we would have to be looking for three nominations for council. Amy also covered Outreach Members noting that Dr. James Unwin and Melinda Johnson's terms would be expiring. Amy added that the outgoing Council and Outreach members agreed to reinvest their time and run for another term.

Nathan opened the floor up to nominations for either the Council or Outreach committee. No further nominations were made. Sharon Peterson motioned those nominations cease. Dr. Jon Seagren seconded. Vote taken and motion carried.

Nathan called for a show of hands to vote on accepting Council and Outreach nominees. Vote taken and show of hands was unanimous.

The report of the auditing committee was given by Mike Blanc who reported that the Auditing Committee met on Jan 23, 2022 with Nathan Anderson, Scott Gatewood and Mike Blanc in attendance. Mike reported that a thorough review was conducted, and all was found to be in good order. Mike thanked Audrey Unwin for her work as church treasurer making the work of the Auditing Committee so easy and straight forward. A motion was made by Travis Thomsen and seconded by Sandra Johnson to approve the Auditing Committee report. Vote taken and motion carried.

Prior to discussing committee reports, Nathan thanked Lela Heineman and the Dorcas Society for their contributions to the church. The Dorcas Society was disbanded due to aging membership and the effects of COVID.

Pastor Eldal provided his Pastor's Report and began by expressing his thanks. He noted that we were having a generational change to the council members stating that most members were middle aged, like himself. Pastor Mark stated that we would be starting to take attendance again following the setting aside of attendance during COVID. Pastor Mark concluded his report by thanking the congregation for allowing him to be our pastor.

Nathan noted that committee reports were available for review in the annual report. Reports addressed in session:

1. The Outreach Committee report was given by Dr. James Unwin. Dr. Unwin noted that the Outreach had \$47,916.34 in funds to distribute. Two categories were added this year, Hi-League and Pay-it-Forward. Dr. Unwin noted that the rent from the farm ground this year was a big help in adding to the funds for distribution.
2. The Financial Secretary and Treasurer's Report was given by Audrey Unwin. Audrey noted that we had a very good year and we continue to receive a lot of offerings directly into our account through online giving. Audrey noted that education expenses were down due to the costs of vacation bible school being shared with other congregations participating in the community vacation bible school.

Old Business: None presented.

New Business: Benevolence and Mission Support – It was reported that the church council has recommended that \$12,000 be equally divided between the LCMC, Oakland Ministerial Association,

Oakland Food Bank, Dr. Stuart Embury and Lutheran Family Services. A motion was made by Dr. Jon Seagren, seconded by Brad Bousquet to distribute the money as recommended by the board. Vote taken and motion carried.

Nathan reviewed the 2022 budget and began by stating that there were not a lot of changes from last year with this year's budget proposal increasing by only \$500. Included in the new budget were cost of living increases for Pastor Mark and the staff. There being no further questions raised on the budget, a motion was made by Clendon Rost, seconded by Keri Thomsen to approve the budget. Vote taken and motion carried concluding the new business.

Open Discussion: Sandy Husar asked if another committee was being formed to assume the funeral luncheon duties that the former Dorcas Society managed. Nathan pointed out that the annual report included a Funeral Luncheon Committee with Janice Case and Sandy Slatt listed as points of contact. Pastor Mark stated that there would have to be some further discussion on this. Tess Johnson recommended consulting with Lela Heineman.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Dr. Jon Seagren to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Amy Rost. Vote taken and motion carried.

Prior to the adjourning, Nathan stated that offering plates were available and the annual meeting offering would go to the Oakland Ministerial Association.

The traditional soup lunch was omitted due to COVID safety concerns however rolls and coffee were available. An organizational meeting of the new council would follow the annual meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Blanc

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Oakland, Nebraska**

**Council Meeting Minutes for Meeting following Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022**

The church council met at 11:23 a.m., January 30, 2022, following the annual church meeting. In attendance were Pastor Eldal, Nathan Anderson, Mike Blanc, Brad Bosquet, Kathy Pearson, Keri Thomsen, Susan Mulder, Melanie Johanson, Scott Gatewood and Clendon Rost.

Church council officers were solicited. Current church council officers agreed to remain in their positions with Nathan Anderson-President, Susan Mulder-Vice President and Mike Blanc-Secretary. The board provided unanimous consensus of the council officers.

**New Business:**

1. Discussed procuring a new soundboard and wireless system. The council agreed to getting a quote and procure the needed items
2. As announced in the annual meeting, the DORCAS Society was dismantling. Concerns were raised on how to proceed with funeral service luncheons. Susan volunteered to talk with Lela Heineman for recommendations.
3. Pastor Mark discussed the Evangelism Committee's recommendation that a Vision Committee be formed to determine ways that our church can best serve the community.

Next meeting designated for Mar 7, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

February Communion: Clendon Rost

March Devotions: Mike Blanc

March Communion: Melanie Johanson

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 with Pastor Mark praying.

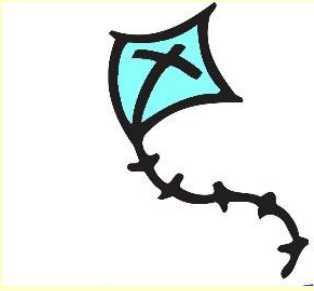

Mike Blanc, Secretary

<b>FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE</b>	
5 & 6.....	133
12 & 13 .....	166
19 & 20 .....	121
30 & 1 .....	119

<b>FEBRUARY FINANCES</b>	
Regular	\$14,100.00
<b>Designated</b>	
Sunday School \$	10.00
Wed.NiteYouth \$	90.00
Supplies	\$ 106.00
Memorial	\$ 250.00
PayItForward	\$1,340.00
Misc.	\$ 96.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,892.00</b>



# March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	2 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES 7:00 PM -9:00 P.M. YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION	3 7:30PM N.A. MEETING	4 6:00 - 7:30 A.M. MEN'S LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST @ City Auditorium <b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</b> 2:00 PM @ SALEM COVENANTANT	5 5:30PM COMMUNION SERVICE
	6 9:30AM COMMUNION SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP& SUNDAY SCHOOL <b>CHOIR SINGS</b>	7 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:00PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING	8 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	9 6:30PM LENTEN SERVICES 7:00 PM -9:00 P.M. YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION	10 7:30PM N.A. MEETING	11 6:00 - 7:30 A.M. MEN'S LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST @ City Auditorium
13 9:30AM YOUTH SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP& SUNDAY SCHOOL <b>DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME</b> Sunday School Children Sing	14 8:30AM SEWING GROUP	15 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING 	16 9:00AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM LENTEN SERVICES 7:00PM -9:00 P.M. YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION <b>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b>	17 9:00 AM LOGAN VALLEY QUILTERS MEET 7:30PM N.A. MEETING	18 6:00 - 7:30 A.M. MEN'S LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST @ City Auditorium	19 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE  <b>FIRST DAY OF SPRING</b>
20 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP& SUNDAY SCHOOL	21 8:30AM SEWING GROUP	22 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 2:00 PM LOGAN VALLEY QUILTERS MEET 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	23 6:30PM LENTEN SERVICES 7:00 PM -9:00 P.M. YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION	24 7:30PM N.A. MEETING	25 6:00 - 7:30 A.M. MEN'S LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST @ City Auditorium	26 5:30PM WORSHIP SERVICE
27 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM FELLOWSHIP& SUNDAY SCHOOL  <b>CHOIR SINGS</b>	28 8:30AM SEWING GROUP	29 8:30AM SEWING GROUP 7:30PM A.A. MEETING	30	31 7:30PM N.A. MEETING	1 6:00 - 7:30 A.M. MEN'S LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST @ City Auditorium <b>FELC MEN SERVE</b>	2 5:30PM COMMUNION SERVICE





## CHURCH DUTIES – APRIL 2022

### Sunday, April 3, 2022 - Communion

Coffee, Greeting & Usher - Gary & Gail Elsasser and Trent and Kiersten and Oliver Elsasser  
 Head Usher - Sam Schmidt and Roger Moderow  
 Reader - Sandy Husar  
 Broadcast - Lillian Ehlers  
 Screen - Sonia Bedrnicek  
 Sun Morning Accomp. - Bryan Bohn  
 Sound - Dan Tanksley  
 Acolyte - Colton Tanksley  
 Sat. Night Pianist -

### Wednesday, April 6, 2022 Lenten Service

Head Usher - Clare Wiltse  
 Acolyte - Brody Tanksley  
 Screen - Colton Tanksley

### Sunday, April 10, 2022 Palm Sunday

Coffee, Greeting & Usher - Scott, Lisa, Grady and Rachel Gatewood  
 Head Usher - Larry Johnson  
 Sound - Tess Johnson  
 Acolyte - Caleb Bousquet  
 Sat. Night Pianist - Ruth Wallerstedt  
 Reader - Sandra Johnson  
 Broadcast - Gretchen Seagren  
 Screen - Landon Ehlers  
 Sun Morning Accomp. - We The Many

### Thursday, April 14, 2022 Maundy Thursday

Head Usher - Brad Bousquet  
 Acolyte - Landon Ehlers  
 Screen - Lyndsey Johnson

### Friday, April 15, 2022 Good Friday

Head Usher - Clare Wiltse  
 Acolyte - Lyndsey Johnson  
 Screen - Javar Larson

### Sunday, April 17, 2022 Easter

Coffee, Greeting & Usher - Jarvis, Amy, Connor, Corbin and Victor Guill  
 Head Usher - Brad Bousquet  
 Sound - Dan Tanksley  
 Acolyte - Javar Larson  
 Sun Morning Accomp. - Bryan Bohn  
 Reader - Beverly Peterson  
 Broadcast - Tess Johnson  
 Screen - Myesha Larson



Coffee, Greeting & Usher -  
 Head Usher - Larry Johnson  
 Reader -  
 Sound - Tess Johnson  
 Acolyte - Carolyn Magnusson  
 Screen - Lyndsey Johnson  
 Sun Morning Accomp. -

**Thank you for your help in these important areas!**  
**If you can't be here, please find someone to take your place.**

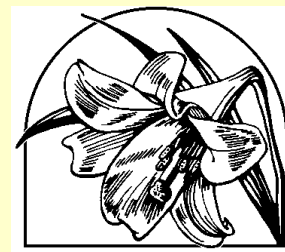


## “Church Duties” sign-up sheet.

As we start to prepare for the assignment list of “church duties” from May 2022-August 2023, we would like to give you an opportunity to help us develop this list. If you have specific dates that you would like to serve, please complete the following information and turn it into the church office by May 1<sup>st</sup>. It is anticipated that everyone will need to assist once or twice a year, so please provide two dates that work for you.

NAME	DATE #1
	DATE #2

### ORDER FORM - EASTER LILIES TO DECORATE THE CHURCH



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please give this form to Tess in the office or leave in the offering plate on Sunday morning with \$17 if you wish to order the lily from Simple Blossom flower shop. If you wish to purchase a lily elsewhere and bring it to the church, please attach this form to the lily. Thank you!

# CHRISTIAN HUMOR TO TICKLE YOUR LIFE



First Ev. Lutheran Church  
PO Box 152, 201 N. Davis  
Oakland, NE 68045

Phone:

402-685-5764

Fax:

402-685-5183

E-Mail:

[firstlutheran152@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutheran152@gmail.com)

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

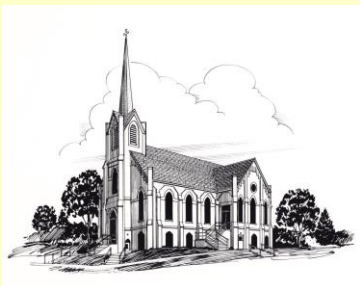
*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit  
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Permit No. 11  
Oakland, NE  
68045



March 2 - 7:00 PM - Ash Wednesday Service  
March 9, 16, 23 & 30 - 6:30 PM - Lenten Services

