



First Lutheran Church and School

Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024

As Great Commission disciples of Jesus Christ, we will make disciples by
Growing Up...Reaching Out...and Walking Together with Jesus.

We will ***Grow Up*** by attaining to the full measure of
Jesus Christ through ***Worship*** and ***Teaching/Learning***.

Pastor:

Rev. Joseph Highley
flcsponcacity@gmail.com

Office Hours

Mon. 9-12, Tues. 10:30-12
Wed. 10:30-12, Thur. 9:30-11

Elders on Duty:

Don Young
Phil Abbuhl

Music Director:

Chris Schelp

Altar Guild on Duty:

Sherry Blubaugh, Ch.

Sarah Davis

Heather Flowers

Linda Lyons

Reader:

Sarah Davis

Acolyte:

Levi Chessher

Caylee Hurd

William Vaughan

Sunday – PALM SUNDAY

9:00am Divine Service

10:30am Sunday School

Monday – 9:30am Tai Chi (FH)

6:30pm Vespers

6:30pm Scouts (YH)

Tuesday –8:30am Coffee w/Jesus (FH)

8:30am Men’s Bible Study (BR)

9:30am Cup of Joe (FH)

6:30pm Vespers

Wednesday –7:00am PBJ

5:30pm – Handbells

6:30pm Vespers

7:30pm Choir

Thursday – 8:30am Chapel

9:30am Ladies Bible Study (FH)

3:30pm Tai Chi (FH)

4:30pm Lutheran Braille Workers (YH)

6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service

Friday – 6:30pm Good Friday Service

Saturday – 9:30am Atwoods - Youth Fundraiser

8:00pm Easter Vigil

11:00pm Easter Vigil

Sunday – *EASTER SUNDAY*

6:30am Easter Sunrise Service

7:00am Easter brunch

9:00am Divine Service

10:30am Easter brunch and Easter Egg Hunt

FH – Fellowship Hall BR – Board Room YH – Youth House

Attendance

March 17th - 122

Education Opportunities at First Lutheran

Adult Sunday School.....Pastor Highley.....Sunday 10:30 am (FH)

Psalm 41 Lent Series

New Member Class.....Janet Goll.....Sunday 10:30 am (Narthex)

FLY Sunday School.....Sunday 10:30 am (YH)

Children’s Sunday School.....Sunday 10:30 am (GYM)

Koinonia Group.....Dave Zimmerman.....1st & 3rd Monday 7:00 pm (FH)

1st and 2nd Thessalonians

Men’s Bible Study.....John Bley.....Tuesday 8:30 am (BR)

Understanding the book of Revelation

Coffee with Jesus.....Janet Goll.....Tuesday 8:30 am (FH)

Revelation Study

Thursday LBS.....Jan Pinnegar.....Thursday 9:30am (FH)

God’s Word for Today: Luke

YALL.....Jennifer Heitman.....Thursday 7:00 pm (YH)

Daniel

We will **Reach Out** by inviting those who do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, Lord, and Friend into a personal relationship with Him through **Witnessing** and by ministering to the human needs of people in our local community through lives of **Service**.

Prodigious Profession

I asked Tim, a new Christian, how God came to him. It started years ago, he said, when a guy helped him change a tire in the rain. “Why did you stop in the pouring rain?” he asked. They were both drenched. “God loved me and gave me the greatest gift ever, so I help others,” the fellow said. Tim said that thing haunted him for years. “God so loved the world...” Love is gut-level gospel. It’s so important that Jesus in Matthew 25 identifies serving others as serving Him in their place. Serving is not some sort of do-goodism that was a minor teaching. It’s the essence of God’s undeserved mercy toward us. Failure to comprehend and accept that is to promote selfishness in the rightful place of Jesus. Barriers between people outside the faith and believers are only broken down through love and sacrificial service. “They won’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”



LENT FOOD DRIVE
Fill the basket!

FOOD PANTRY

How can you help? There are several ways you can help show love to our neighbors:
DONATE CANNED GOODS • VOLUNTEER SHOPPER
MONETARY DONATIONS • RE-STOCKING SHELVES

Serving an average of 25-30 families per week!

Fill the Basket for Lent!

Can you help us restock our food pantry this Lenten season? We have a goal to FILL THE BASKET before Easter so we can keep providing for those in our community who are in need. Bring your items to First Lutheran Church and drop them in the basket. Thank you!

Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

LIFE NEWS—MARCH 2024

 **LUTHERANS FOR LIFE**

lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

On February 1, a Dutch law allowing the euthanasia of terminally ill children went into effect. The law legalizes the killing of children ages one through 12 who are deemed to be “suffering hopelessly and unbearably.” Previously, the country allowed euthanasia of children older than 12, along with infants under age one, who could be killed if their parents and doctors agreed and they faced an illness labeled as terminal or faced serious suffering. In 2023, lawmakers passed a controversial expansion of the eligibility guidelines to include children of all ages. According to reports, the new guidelines state that “the child’s opinion should be sought as far as possible in a way appropriate to the child’s understanding and age,” though parents can decide to have their child euthanized in conjunction with a doctor even if the child is unwilling or unable to consent ... Opponents are warning that there is nothing to keep this broadened rule from spiraling out of control. In an op-ed, Elise van Hoek-Burgerhart and Yvonne Gueze-van Horssen, both from the group NPV-Care for Life, warn that the “distressing” regulation has many flaws, including the fact that children are unable to consent to their own deaths ... “Children are impressionable and are (often) not mentally competent,” they wrote. (Source: Bridget Sielicki, LiveAction.org, 2/7/24)

Speaking up For Life

“But death isn’t a part of the life for which we were created—for we were created. You didn’t morph from pond scum into an intelligent hairless monkey; you were handcrafted by the Lord of the Universe.” Hannah Nissing, Bulldogs4Life, the Y4Life team at Concordia, Nebraska

“Despite the hardships we experience and the sin we face, God’s work submerges us in a pool of joy; through our Baptism, He daily refreshes us, strengthening our bonds to Him and to each other. Yes, we Christians are connected more deeply than participation in any march or gathering can offer. By God’s grace, we have become family. We share a home and a future.” Michelle Bauman, Y4Life

“The God who chose to give us life at the moment of fertilization is the same God who chose to rescue us and redeem us and give us salvation. And He did it by sending His Son, Jesus, to experience every stage of human life so we could be forgiven and given life everlasting with Him!” Rev. Craig Michaelson, Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada

lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes



ORDER LFL RESOURCES AT CPH.ORG



Lutheran Early Response Team

STRONG FAITH, FERVENT LOVE:

Providing Physical and Spiritual Care in the Wake of Disaster

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s (LCMS) Disaster Response ministry responds to immediate and long-term needs following natural and man-made disasters. Working through LCMS districts and congregations as well as with international Lutheran churches and other partners, LCMS Disaster Response builds capacity of the church’s partners to respond to needs with Christian care. The ministry reaches out to LCMS congregations and their communities with services that include on-site assessment, emergency relief and development grants, pastoral care for LCMS church workers and members, and other resources.

We will *Walk Together* by forming deep and abiding relationships with people in our Church/School community through *Stewarding* and *Fellowshipping* activities organized and designed for the mutual uplifting and consolation of the Saints of FLCS.

Faithful Stewards

Zechariah 9:9 – “Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” No king ever rode to war like this. But no king had ever come to wage battle by dying. In His Passion, our Lord Jesus gives everything He has and is; He does this to bring us from death to life, to make us His own people, and show us an example of self-giving love that we should follow.

BLESSINGS ON YOUR STEWARDSHIP JOURNEY!!

Stewardship Opportunity

SAME SPIRIT - SAME LORD - SAME GOD
1 Corinthians 12 : 4-7

All the members of this congregation have a gift unique to them. Everyone provides service as a reflection of the love Jesus has shown them. Each to their own way and the job gets done. Stewardship is needing 6 more people to count offerings. Are you good with numbers? It takes an hour and a half time commitment once a week. With enough people one would serve 4-6 weeks a year. Ron & Denise Roehl did it February and want a break after March. Is this your place in the workings of the church? There is a sign up sheet on the metal bookshelf of the info hallway, or contact Kathy (580)763-7440. Thank you.

FLS CARDINAL CLASSIC

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL FUNDRAISING 4-PERSON SCRAMBLE

WHERE:
WENTZ MEMORIAL GOLF COURSE
CALL KRISTA @ (580) 761-7510 TO REGISTER

WHEN:
FRIDAY, April 5, 2024

TIMES:
8:30 - REGISTRATION
9:00 - SHOTGUN START
LUNCH AND PRIZES IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

PRIZES:
1ST, 2ND, 3RD + INDIVIDUAL PRIZES!
Entry fee includes green fee, cart fee, lunch, and 2 drink tickets

**\$100 per golfer
\$400 per team**

80% of the money raised will go to the First Lutheran School technology fund.
20% of the money raised will go to the FLS student's Washington D.C. account who secured the sponsor.



27 volunteers from First Lutheran Church have been trained for the Braille Ministry. Thank you to all who have volunteered!

To God be the Glory!



Cup of Joe with Pastor Joe

Tuesday, March 26th, 9:30am
Fellowship Hall

Bring your questions about life, being a Lutheran, the sermon, relationships, marriage, raising a family, the Bible, the Large Catechism, or anything else that is on your mind. Coffee and dad jokes guaranteed.



OKLAHOMA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD
1924 - 2024



Established in 1924, we are thankful to celebrate our centennial year in 2024. Our 100th Anniversary Celebration will take place May 19th, 2024 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Okarche, Oklahoma. If you'd like to attend this celebration please sign up in the Narthex. Space is limited! *attendees may appear in district photos and videos

SUNDAY, MAY 19TH

Divine service 4:00pm Meal 5:30pm

RSVP's due no later than March 28th
FINAL WEEK TO SIGN UP!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The Board of Property Management is looking for volunteers to help maintain our beautiful campus grounds. We're asking for all able bodied people, late teens and up, to help with mowing, edging and weed eating. You may set your own schedule and use the church's equipment. Please contact Chris Mudd (580)761-1212 or Steve Gales (580)763-2421 for details and to add your name to the list.

General Announcements

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Thursday 8am – 12pm

Afternoon appointments are available

WE'RE HIRING We currently have an opening for Church office secretary. If you or someone you know are interested, email a resume to flcsponcacity@gmail.com.

YOUTHLEAD Our youth are looking for sponsors to get to YouthLead this summer! Can you help? See the sponsor forms in the information hallway.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS Do you know about Thrivent Choice Dollars? If you have a Thrivent product, you probably have Choice Dollars. Those dollars are already set aside by Thrivent on your behalf to be designated for your favorite charity (maybe FLCS?). ***They need to be designated by the end of March.*** If you have not yet done so, please do. If you need help call the church office for assistance.

JUNE FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY The 5th Sunday in June we will have a potluck meal. As part of that Fellowship Activity, we are planning a Bible Verse Bee in which participants will be invited to recite Bible verses with citation. Please brush up on your memory work now so you will be ready to participate.

GREAT DAY OF SERVICE is less than one month away. Do you have projects that you need our help? Or are you willing to help someone with physical service on Sunday - April 7 (or another day of your choosing)? Please contact David Birnbaum.

EASTER EGG HUNT We will have an Easter Egg Hunt for kids ages 1 – 10 directly after the service. We will not have Sunday School this morning; we will hunt Easter eggs instead. We will meet in the Narthex directly after service, where we will exit after the eggs have been hidden. Kids will be divided into groups based on their age. We will have bags available for anyone that does not have a basket. Please come and join us in the fun and fellowship of rejoicing in our **RISEN KING!!!**

*****CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 1ST*****

Hymn Corner

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (LSB 443)

(main text by David H. Reed)

Director of Music, Chris Schelp

The author of this hymn, Jennette Threlfall (1821-80), knew deep childhood sorrow, for she was orphaned at a young age. Accidents imposed upon her crippling injuries that impaired her for life. Nevertheless, the Gospel of Christ was joy for her even in the midst of pain. Though confined by physical disability and pain herself, her Christian faith is unrestrained. In the preface to the collection where this hymn was first published, Threlfall expressed her desire that all "may possess that Sunshine which brings no shadow with it." Written specially for children, "Hosanna, loud hosanna" projects the simple exuberance fitting to all who happily call to the Son of David, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." But where for them sadness is overcome by the joy of Jesus' presence, with Jesus it is the opposite: the triumph of Palm Sunday is followed by the anguish of the cross. For our bliss, He endured grief; to answer our "Hosanna," He suffered death. Hosannas, from the beginning of the hymn, are placed into the mouths of little children. Saving faith is a divine gift independent of one's age or competence. It should be no surprise that children praise Jesus, for it is neither intellect nor fluency of voice that inspires their song, but the presence of the Lord. Their song, and the song of all who believe, will never cease as all God's children rejoice eternally in His blissful presence.



Next Gen News

For the Lord is good; His steadfast loves endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. - Psalms 101:5

get  CONNECTED



Jennifer Heitman Next Gen Coordinator

flcsnextgen@gmail.com

Celebrating 5 years of our NextGen Ministry!

F.L.Y.
FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH
WEDNESDAY
NIGHTS LENT HOURS
5:15-7:30
First Lutheran Church



This year the Schatte Memorial Cookoff, to be held May 4th, will have a large focus on Outreach to the Ponca City community. We are asking for our church members, groups, boards, and committees to all get involved. This is a great opportunity for us to spend time face to face with those in our community! The opportunities are endless – greeting, hosting a booth for kids, card making station, setup/cleanup crew, socializer... whatever your skills are we can use you! Help us make this event a success! There is a signup sheet in the Narthex.



April 26-28

Camp Lutherhoma

Youth Retreat \$50/person

Contact Diana Vaughan to register

 **YouthLead**
FUNDRAISER

Saturday, March 30th

10am-2pm

ATWOODS
Ranch & Home



401 E Prospect Ave, Ponca City

Come by Atwoods and get
2 hot dogs and a water for

ONLY \$1!

Check out our **BAKE SALE**
items just in time for Easter!

*All donations will help send our youth to a youth leadership training in
New Orleans this summer! Thank you for your support!*

Sermon Notes

Philippians 2:5-11



Attendance

Share the good news

Have any news to share with us?
We'd love to hear! Email us at flcsponcacity@gmail.com
or call us at (580)762-1111.
**Please send announcements in by 8:00am Wednesday mornings.*

Connect With Us!

<https://flcspc.360unite.com/home>
www.facebook.com/FirstLutheranPoncaCity
Email: flcsponcacity@gmail.com
Call us: (580)762-1111
Oklahoma District LCMS
www.oklahomalutherans.org

Prayers for Our Church

Heavenly Father, forgive us for the selfish divisions we have brought to Your Church and world.
Unite us by Your Spirit so we walk with the grace of Christ. In His name, Amen



Those with chronic illness and their families: Rachel Hawkins, Britney Duff, Becky May, Saxxon Loret, Marietta Kengle, JoAnn Ward, Svetlana Mayer, Heather Hoecker, Glenn Bacher, Jill Wright (*daughter of Jessie Peck*), JV and Jessie Peck, Gery and Marilyn Pralle, Lois Bintz, Sam and Caitlyn Meserve, Lyndsie Collins (*granddaughter of Lenora Veloz*), Lori Kelly, Buddy McCoy, Trudi Stigge, Julian Aguilar, Lou Ann O’Neill, June, Don Young, Norma Tucker (*wife of custodian, Lane*), Geri Ayers (*sister of Jodi Cline*), Rita Rains (*wife of Pastor Butch Rains*), those with dementia and their caregivers, Ann Ozbun

Those suffering from cancer and their families: Carol Rackley, Darla Hays, Debbie Deleon, Anastassiya Shvilko (*daughter of Lucy Rule*), Don Riley (*formerly on the Oklahoma District Board of Directors*), Elliot Strutton (*grandson of Rev. David Thompson, First Lutheran, Chickasha, retired*), Michelle Bodenstein (*daughter-in-law of HD and Carla Bodenstein*), Pastor Mozeik and Barb, Leah Stewart (*great-niece of Glenn and Becky Bacher*), Lisa Jacobson (*friend of Gary and Sandy Sibley*), Carol Davis, Bruce Ayers (*brother-in-law of Jodi Cline*), Phil Johnston, Margaret Burkhart (*sister of John Bley*), Leslie Waite, Karen Runsy (*wife of Rev John Runsey, Guthrie*)

Those whose needs are known to God: Julie (*daughter of Jessie Peck*), Joni Paynter, Carolyn Goldsberry

Prayer Requests

- ❖ ***For those healing and recovering from illness, injury, or surgery:***
 - Ann Ozbun, upcoming surgery
 - Becky Bacher, recovering from a fall
 - Frances Brackett, recovering from surgery
 - Olivia Goldefen, (*1 year old family friend of Nita Ports*), recent diagnosis of cancer
 - Christy Cofelt, former member of FLCS, in hospital on life support
 - Bryan Vincent, suffering from shingles
- ❖ ***For those grieving the loss of loved ones***
 - Family and friends of Mike Wright (*son-in-law of JV and Jessie Peck*)
- ❖ ***For those seeking guidance and discernment:***
 - Jeremy & Sarah Brey, as they deliberate their calls to where they will serve next school year
- ❖ ***Prayers of Thanks and Praise***
 - Thanks be to God for the clear pet scan for Chris Mudd showing no cancer!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Holy Week is a time to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We hope this schedule helps you plan to observe these important days, both on your own and with others. May you have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.



Monday, March 25, 2024

6:30pm Vespers

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

6:30pm Vespers

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

6:30pm Vespers

Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024

6:30pm Maundy Thursday

Good Friday, March 29, 2024

6:30pm Good Friday

Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024

8:00pm Easter Vigil - Service of Light, Readings, and Baptism
11:00pm Easter Vigil - Service of Prayer

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

6:30am Easter Sunrise - Service of the Word & Sacrament
9:00am Easter Divine Service
Easter Brunch: 7:00-8:30 and 10:30-12:00
Easter Egg Hunt 10:30



3/24 Emma Bickford (17)
3/28 Brady Gentry
3/28 Rita Nalepa
3/28 Joy Schelp (7)
3/30 Angela Correll
3/31 Gery Pralle (82)
4/1 Aubrey Hercyk
4/2 Renee Young
4/4 Alyssa Dooley (15)
4/5 Caitlin Bohon
4/8 Chase Cargal
4/9 Jessie Peck (83)
4/9 John Turnipseed
4/9 Don Young
4/10 Jacob Birnbaum
4/11 Ron Geiser



4/4 Ron & Denise Roehl (37)
4/9 David & Shirley Zimmerman (48)
4/19 Jeremy & Aprile Hunter (21)
4/20 Christopher & Jessica Barnard (18)
4/24 Fred & Jane Miller (59)

March Baptism Anniversaries



3/1 James Smith
3/1 Lenora Veloz
3/2 Gary Sibley
3/6 Jeremy Brey
3/7 Charity Felton
3/9 Lorene Stalcup
3/11 Chivas Fuller
3/11 Holly Fuller
3/11 Presley Fuller
3/11 Riley Fuller
3/11 Savanah Fuller
3/11 Shelly Schatte
3/12 Molly Carter
3/12 Gary Horton
3/12 Kyle King
3/12 Susie Klufa
3/17 Finley Kinkaid
3/18 Elaine Duff
3/22 Bethany Avila
3/24 Eileen Hinman
3/25 Bob Prescott
3/26 Janet Pinnegar
3/26 Dylan Powell
3/29 Lola Cawley
3/29 Sandy Sibley
3/31 David Birnbaum

HONORING OUR MILITARY

Bryan Davis :: US Army, son of Glenn and Becky Bacher
Jake and Cindy Williamson :: US Navy, niece and nephew of Paula Ingmire
Lt.Col. Angella Mudd :: US Air Force, daughter of Chris Mudd
Major Nicholas Meier :: USMC, brother of Katie Schelp
Osei Asante :: US Navy, great nephew of Paula Ingmire
Andy Talbot :: Navy Pilot, grandson of Luella Seeliger
Aidan Davenport :: US Air Force, son-in-law of Aaron and Nikki Cawley
Brooke Lyons :: US Army Reserves, granddaughter of Mike and Linda Lyons
Korben Loret :: US Army, stationed in Alaska
Andrew Hanson :: US Army, great nephew of Doug and Barb Hanson
Carter Postier :: US Air Force, Little Rock, AR, nephew of Melinda McCormick
Alex Kramer :: US Air Force
Jason Highley :: US Navy, brother of Pastor Highley
Caitlynn Doan :: US Army PFC3, daughter of Amanda Carrigan
Maverick Sutton :: US Air Force, great-great nephew of Dolores Barnhart