

March 2021

The Messenger

Called by God, we are Christian gathered and sent to serve our church, community and the world in the name of Christ.

A Message from Pastor Brenda

Dear Friends,

We are fully into the season of Lent. The season of Lent is 40 days long and doesn't count Sundays. It began on Ash Wednesday and will end on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. In the bible we find the period of 40 days many times in the bible. The first Sunday in Lent, we heard about Noah and the 40 days in the ark and the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness,

Historically Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to take on a new devotional practice.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays on bulletins and other documents.

So during this season, how are you going to spend your time this year? If you are in need of any resources, please feel free to reach out to me or to Vicar Andrew. We will also be posting things on the church Facebook page and on our YouTube page throughout the season.

Pastor Brenda

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Special points of interest

- Midweek Lent Services will be Online only. The second Sunday service will continue to be on Wednesday Nights
- Easter Flower order form

A Message from Vicar Andrew

Since March is when we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, I wanted to pique your interest about the life of St. Patrick because it is a rather interesting – and mysterious – story that you may not have heard. For instance, St. Patrick was not actually Irish but was born sometime late in the 4th century in Britain. Born to wealthy parents, he was captured by Irish raiders around the age of sixteen. He was carried off to Ireland and spent the next six years in captivity working as a shepherd. During his captivity he spent much time in isolation and so turned to his faith for solace.

After six years, St. Patrick tells us in his own writings that a voice he believed to be God came to him in a dream saying it was time to leave Ireland by heading south where a ship would be waiting. Traveling roughly 200 miles to the southern coast where, sure enough, there was a ship allowing him to escape and return to Britain. After years studying Christianity at a monastery, St. Patrick returned to England as a priest. Upon return-

ing, he had another vision in a dream of an angel telling him to return to Ireland.

Legends abound of St. Patrick's ministry that are impossible to authenticate, but we can say that St. Patrick incorporated the traditional ritual of the Irish people in his lessons on Christianity without eradicating their customs. For example, today what is called the Celtic cross is the sun – a powerful Irish symbol – superimposed on the cross of Christ. St. Patrick became the patron saint of Ireland after he died on March 17, 461.

I hope you'll take the time to read more about this fascinating character of Christian history who certainly lived a life dependent on faith in our God!

Peace to each of you during this season of Lent,
Vicar Andrew

Choice Dollars

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars® have until March 31, 2021, to direct last year's, 2020, Thrivent Choice dollars. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to First English Lutheran Church. Go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. For any other questions give Tim Zauche a call at 608-340-3040.

Sponsorships

Help needed:

There are still plenty of open weekends for Altar Flowers, Sanctuary Candle, radio broadcasts and bulletins. If you would like to sponsor any of them, please call or email the office (or sign up on the kiosk).

Altar Flowers Sponsors

March 7- Diana Blindert -In Memory of Jess and Joshua Brunton

March 14-No Sponsorship

March 21-John and Nancy Hammermeister

March 28-Palm Sunday

Sanctuary Candle/ Radio Broadcast

March 7- Sanctuary Candle-Radio Broadcast -Joci Grinde -In honor of Taya & Waylyn Leix -4th Birthday

Children's Bulletin

March 7,14,21,28 -Children's Bulletin-Joci Grinde-In honor of Taya and Waylyn Leix-4th Birthday

A Note from the Council

The council met yet again via zoom, on 2/9. The primary focus during this meeting was the budget to be approved. Kerwin Killian & Lisa Hartz have spent a lot of time reviewing where we currently stand with expenditures and our current incomes. The council approved a preliminary budget, as there were a couple of questions yet to be answered. This budget will be lower as compared to the recent past couple years budgets. The PPP loan that we had, certainly helped last year. One of the main concerns going forward is incoming offerings. Obviously, last year did not have a concerted effort regarding stewardship (in particular pledged offerings). We would ask that the congregation do some prayerful thought as what could be possible. We need to re-define, for the budget, where we stand going forward and the stewardship team will be meeting to decide what information to be requested concerning this. A copy of the budget will be included with the stewardship letter & quarterly reports.

On a more snowy note, I was recently approached by an acquaintance, regarding snow on the sidewalk. This individual helps the lady south of the church, and understands we incur the same issue; being plowed over after clearing it the first (or 2nd, etc) time. It's obvious numerous people in town have the same issue, so we're just reaching out in some way to see if there might be any kind of way to have this alleviated. Ken, from a council standpoint, would you have any thoughts regarding this. Thanks for any thoughts you might have.

Stay well. Blessings, Greg

ALTAR GUILD UPDATE

Mary Jo Kramer has worked with the Altar Guild for many years. Her knowledge and help were indispensable. Thank you, Mary Jo, for all your help to keep the altar ready for service each week.

Fern Nall has agreed to fulfill the chairman position. She was previously the co-chairman, so she has knowledge of the duties needed. Pam Stark has volunteered to help as Co-Chairman of the altar guild going forward. Thanks to her for her willingness to learn the ropes of keeping the committee functioning.

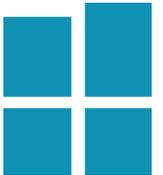
The members of the guild will receive updated information regarding changes to altar guild duties in the mail as things evolve due to Covid-19 and the church services change. Thanks to all of you for volunteering to serve.

We can use help with the making of the communion bread. There is a calendar in the office to sign up to make bread. You can call the office at 608-348-3022 to volunteer, there are many dates open after the 28th of March. If you need a recipe, we can get one for you.

Fran and Ron Sime's niece has medical equipment available at a reasonable price, including a Lift Van, Small Scooter, 2 folding wheelchairs one without foot rests, and a step lift (manual). Contact Barbara Brown at 713-504-2872

February Birthdays

Leix Taya B.	3/1
Leix Waylyn B.	3/1
Christiansen Michelle	3/2
Strange Eleanor L.	3/2
Welp Amber	3/2
NOBLE Macie R.	3/3
Urness John	3/5
Ellingson Deb	3/6
Edge Ethan	3/7
Witz Chuck	3/7
Ayres Emma L.	3/9
Jentz Merv	3/10
Masbruch Carolyn	3/10
Kies Lucille	3/12
Neuser Suzanne	3/13
Rath Alex	3/13
Blevins Alyssa	3/13
Blevins Donovan	3/15
Barracough Nora C.	3/16
Kasper Hans J.	3/16
Cummins Isaac	3/16
Willis Bill	3/17
Baehler Bob W.	3/18
Jenkins Parker	3/18
Hammermeister Grace	3/19
Schewe Jerry	3/19
Kliebenstein Luann	3/21
Leahy Katherine	3/21
Meylor-O'Malia Logan	3/22
Calvert Chelle	3/22
Mattoon Judy	3/23
Blackbourn Darlene	3/23
Wells Naomi	3/23
Christiansen Cal R.	3/24
Kieler Leah Elaine	3/25
Armstrong Samuel T.	3/25



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March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1. Numbers 30	2. Numbers 31	3. Numbers 31	4. Numbers 32	5. Numbers 33	6. Numbers 34	
7. Numbers 35	8. Numbers 36	9. Mark 9	10. Mark 10	11. Mark 11	12. Mark 12	13. Mark 13
14. Mark 14	15. Mark 15-16	16. Mark 9	17. Mark 10	18. Mark 11	19. Mark 12	20. Mark 13
21. Deuteronomy 5	22. Deuteronomy 6	23. Deuteronomy 7	24. Deuteronomy 8	25. Deuteronomy 9	26. Deuteronomy	27. Deuteronomy
28. Deuteronomy	29. Deuteronomy	30. Deuteronomy	31. Deuteronomy			