



Palm Sunday March 24, 2024

#### Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church.

We worship God using the form of worship which has been used by Christians throughout church history, which is commonly called "liturgical worship." Liturgy is defined as the "work of the people," which means that this is a participatory form of worship for all people, whether leading from the front, or singing and responding as a part of the congregation.

In worship, we come out of the chaos of the world to prepare ourselves to meet God, who is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Through confession/forgiveness, prayer, and proclamation of the Word of God, we are led to the center of our worship which is the celebration of Holy Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or Eucharist). It is in that act of eating and drinking the true body and blood of Jesus in the forms of bread and wine, that we make a sacred connection with God. As our worship concludes, we are sent back into the world, as people who have been changed by an encounter with God, to be light in the midst of the chaos and confusion of the world.



An assistive listening system is available in our sanctuary.

You may select a receiver from the basket in the rear of the sanctuary, near the sound booth; please return it following worship.

# PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24, 2024 8:15 am & 10:45 am

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship, we are glad that God has brought us together today! If you are visiting us today, please fill out a card to receive more information about First Lutheran Church. The cards are in the narthex near the bulletins or from an usher or staff member.

#### NURSERY

Children 3 and under are invited to our staffed nursery.

#### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend Children's Church. Meet the leader at the back of the sanctuary. The children meet in the chapel and will return to the service just before Holy Communion.

#### (The procession begins outside.)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest.** 

#### PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1 – 11

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' ³4They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ¬Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ®Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. 9Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

<sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>11</sup>Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### **BLESSING OF PALMS**

(Raise your palm branches)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

Let us go forth in peace, in the name of Christ. Amen

#### PROCESSIONAL AND GATHERING SONG All Glory, Laud, and Honor

#### Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

- 1. You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son, now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*
- 2. The company of angels are praising you on high; Creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

- 3. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went; our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. *Refrain*
- 4. To you, before your passion, They sang their hymns of praise. To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*
- 5. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest.** 

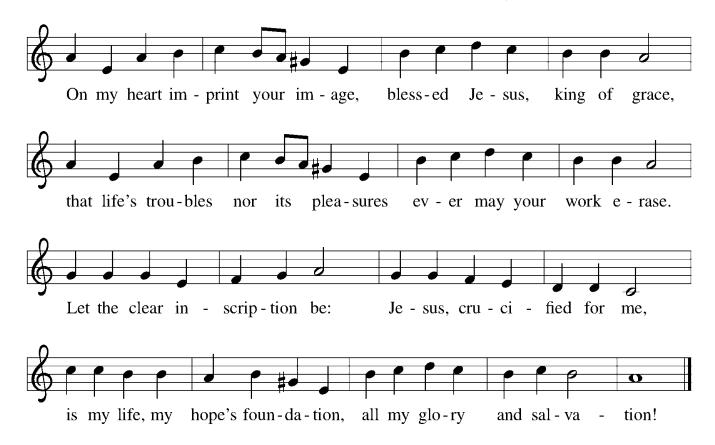
#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### **HYMN**

# On My Heart Imprint Your Image



#### **BLESSING OF THE LECTOR**

Let us pray.

O God of mercy, bless our lectors as they read and bless us as we listen to the words of the scriptures. May your Word touch our hearts and lead us to return to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4 - 9a

<sup>4</sup>The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—

wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious. I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup>The Lord God helps me: therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame: 8he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GoD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

#### SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5 - 11

5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
6who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
7but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
8he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
to that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

# THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO MARK: A DRAMATIC READING

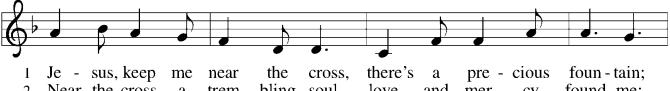
Mark 14:1 - 15:47

#### SILENT REFLECTION

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 335

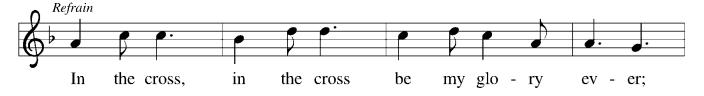
## Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



- 2 Near the cross, a trem bling soul, love and mer cy found me; 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop ing, trust ing ev er,



day help me walk from day with shad - ow o'er to its me. I reach till the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.





#### **NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

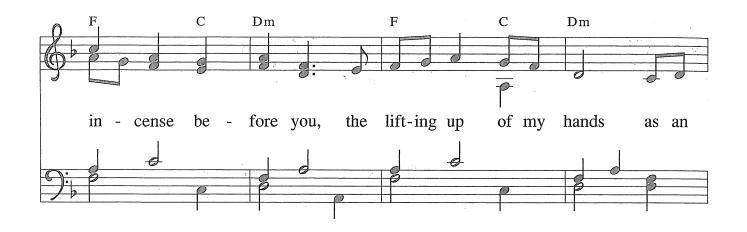
#### **HYMN**

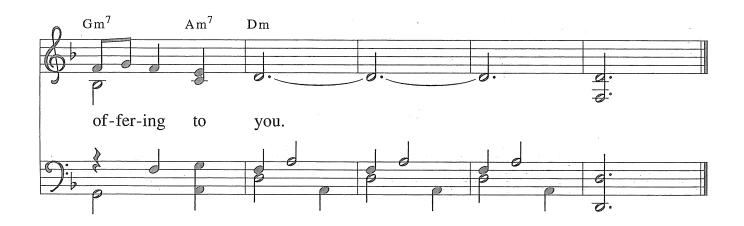












#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition ends with: Lord, in your mercy Congregational response: Hear our prayer

Receive our prayers...in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen



Please be seated.

OFFERING ANTHEM T

The Holy City

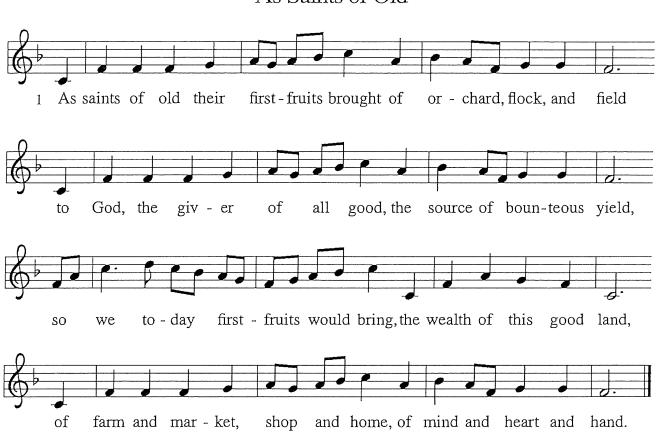
The Chancel Choir with Jimmy Bruno, Soloist

Please stand.

#### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

As the gifts are presented, the congregation sings.





#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

#### Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.

Amen.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

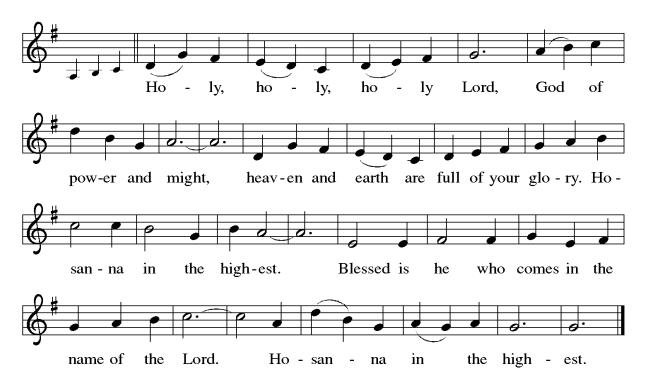
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn.



#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. . .

Please be seated.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. We teach that Holy Communion is a celebration of the real presence of Christ under forms of bread and wine. For those who prefer, cups in the center ring of the tray are filled with white grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing, signal this by crossing your arms against your chest.

#### **COMMUNION SONG**



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS ELW 350

# They Crucified My Lord



- 1 They cru ci fied my Lord, and he nev-er said a mum-ba-lin' word;
- 2 They nailed him to a tree, and he nev-er said a mum-ba-lin' word;
- 3 They pierced him in the side, and he nev-er said a mum-ba-lin' word;
- 4 The blood came stream-in' down, and he nev-er said a mum-ba-lin' word;
- 5 He hung his head and died, and he nev-er said a mum-ba-lin' word;



they cru - ci - fied my Lord, and he nev-er said a mum-ba-lin' word; they nailed him to a tree, and he nev - er said a mum-ba-lin' word; they pierced him in the side, and he nev - er said a mum-ba-lin' word; blood came stream-in' down, and he nev - er said a mum-ba-lin' word; his head and died. and he nev-er said a mum-ba-lin' word; he hung

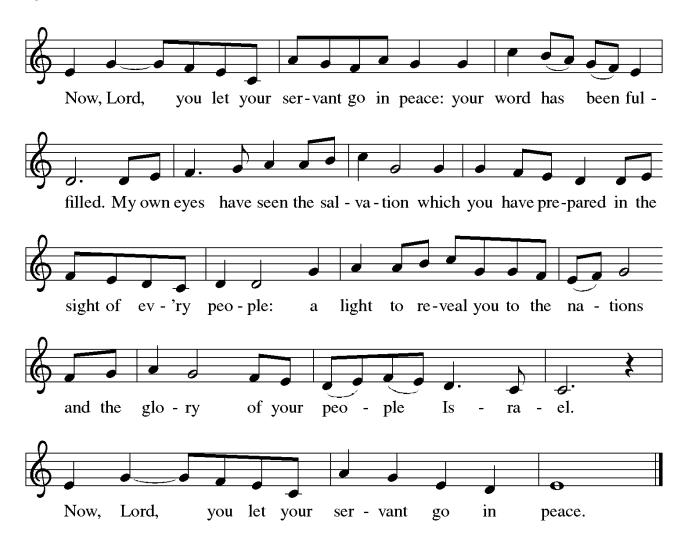




#### Please stand.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace. **Amen.** 

## **CANTICLE**



#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

#### **BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace. **Amen.** 

SENDING HYMN ELW 338

### Beneath the Cross of Jesus



Go in peace. We are formed and loved by Christ to live!

#### Thanks be to God!

#### **POSTLUDE**

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#### LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK:

Monday, March 25	Tuesday, March 26	Wednesday, March 27
9:30 am Staff Meeting	9:30 am Friendship Circle	10:00 am Quilters
<b>6:00 pm</b> 3 B's for Men	3:30 - 5:30 pm Success	5:00 – 6:00 pm Dinner for
6:00 pm Bunco	Center	everyone!
	5:30 pm Fitness Class	5:15 pm Bell Choir
	6:00 pm Book Club	5:45 pm Mentoring Plus
	<b>6:30 pm</b> Spiritual Journey	6:15 pm Worship
		7:00 pm Youth Group
		<b>7:00 pm</b> Choir
Thursday, March 28	Friday, March 29	Saturday, March 30
3:30 – 5:30 pm Success		
Center		
5:30 pm Fitness Class		
6:30 pm Council Meeting		
Sunday, March 31	Volunteer Schedule	Volunteer Schedule
	this week: March 24	next week: March 31
8:15 am Worship with Holy	Lector:	Lector:
Communion, and Children's	8:15 am: Carolyn Ramirez	<b>8:15 am:</b> Ed Bero
Church.	10:45 am: Vivian McElligott	10:45 am: Belinda Walenta
9:30 am Bible Study	Communion:	Communion:
<b>9:30 am – 10:00 am</b> Prayer	Set up: Ed Bero	Set up: Gloria Bero
group	Clean Up: Leslie Jenkins	Clean Up: Eva Touchstone
10:00 am Choir Rehearsal	Offering Counters:	Offering Counters:
10:45 am Worship with Holy	Mike Gentsch & Kyle Lybarger	Cole Paschall & Rachel
Communion, and Children's		Grundmann
Church.		
6:00 pm Bible Study		

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



#### **Schedule**

March 28

**Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm** 

March 29

**Good Friday Worship with Holy Communion 12:00 pm** 

**Good Friday Worship 7:00 pm** 

March 31
Easter Sunday Morning

Flowering of the Cross at 8:00 am and Worship at 8:15 am

Flowering of the Cross at 10:30 am and Worship at 10:45 am



Saturday March 30 at 10 am

It is requested that **all Altar Guild members** meet at the church for set up and cleaning in preparation for Easter Sunday Morning!



Flowers are given today in honor of Brian Potichko's birthday and his and Cathleen's wedding anniversary.



# Concert Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm FLC Sanctuary



Those who want to help with our Campership Fund for kids going to Camp Chrysalis please use the blue envelopes in the hymnal racks in each pew.

# A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



Stepping into God's will and purpose for your life

TUESDAYS 6:30 PM Join us in taking steps that can help develop a healthy, peaceful, and harmonious relationship with God, with others, and with yourself.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can, & the wisdom to know that one is Me. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus Christ did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that Jesus will make all things right if I surrender to His will. So, that I may be reasonably happy in this life & supremely happy with Him forever & ever in the next! Amen!

SERENITY PRAYER

First Lutheran Church

3901 Bill Owens Parkway Longview, Texas 75605

(903) 295-7423



#### **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

# The Leo & Melba Sparkman Memorial Scholarship

In honor and memory of Leo and Melba
Sparkman, an annual college scholarship has
been established for members of First
Lutheran Church who are high school
students planning to attend college upon
graduation.

Melba loved to encourage young people to pursue further education after high school, so her memory will be honored in this scholarship through the generosity of friends and family who contributed to the memorial fund. Applications are available through the church office. These must be returned by May 17 with a transcript, teacher recommendation, statement of needs and future aspirations.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send all prayer requests and updates to the church office at: <a href="mailto:prayerchain@firstlutheran.us">prayerchain@firstlutheran.us</a>

#### **FLC Members**

The family of Carolyn Fuehr who died March 4, 2024.

Larry Graham is recovering from a broken hip.

Carl Landinger is recovering from pneumonia and has a tumor in his kidney.

Carmen Hohlt is undergoing cancer treatment.

Pray for church growth, numerically and spiritually.

Pray for wisdom and direction for our church leadership.

Pray for the homebound of our church and their caregivers.

Jane Bailey Michael Fuehr Debbie Graham
Mary Ann Gamel Paula Kaplan Robert Kohnfelder
Carl Landinger Patty Lowe Leta Meyerdirk
Bob Mueller Johnnie Owens Jewel Reuther

Bruno Schueler Durwin Sewell

#### Family and Friends of FLC Members

Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers.

Those who are imprisoned.

The homeless

#### Members Serving in the Military

Eric Jenkins – Air Force, Seoul, South Korea Terrina Anderson – Army, Ft. Huachuca, Az Timothy Martin – Navy Hannah Perry – Army, San Antonio, Tx



#### **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

#### March 24, 2024

#### The Heart of the Story

Martin Luther called the Psalms a "little Bible." He wrote that all the rest of the Holy Scriptures could be found in them. Luther went so far as to suggest that in the Psalms the church can glimpse the death and resurrection of Christ. In these ancient songs and prayers of the Hebrew people, every human emotion is laid bare: joy and contentment, anger and sorrow, hope and despair. The Psalms give voice to the wide spectrum of experiences that mark our human lives. This is their power—they speak the heart's language, turbulent as our hearts may sometimes be.

In a similar way, Holy Week places us at the center of the whole story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. From the "hosannas" of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the seeming abandonment of the cross, emotions run high this week as the story of Christ's passion reaches into the depths of our human experience. The palm and passion stories are themselves a "little Bible" of salvation for the church within the wider story of God's saving love for all.

As we gather to hear the story of Christ's passion anew, the words and rituals of the church's worship life invite us to feel our way into this story from the inside out. We hear the shouts of blessing and come to the Passover in quiet hope. We follow to Gethsemane and to the cross, with mixed emotions. What does betrayal feel like in our bodies? What about amazement? Fear? How have we experienced ridicule or shame? How have we ourselves dismissed or derided others?

The palm and passion stories offer us a chance to contemplate Christ's sufferings and meditate on our salvation—to come side by side with Christ's passion and so to know and access our own. We are invited to honestly glimpse the workings of our own hearts. Nothing is off limits to God's grace. No human experience is untouched by the story of God's redemptive love.

**Assisting In Worship Today** 

**Celebrant:** Jeffrey Borgwardt

Musicians: Donna Ashby, Pat Mueller

and The Chancel Choir

Live Stream: 8:15 am Deb Butts

10:45 am: Diane Borgwardt

Lectors:

8:15 am: Carolyn Ramirez

10:45 am: Vivian McElligott

Flowers: Kathleen Bullock & Patti Meyer

**Church Staff** 

Jeffrey E. Borgwardt, Pastor

Donna Ashby, Director of Music

John Parsons, Dir. of Youth and Family Min.

Tina Sewell, Secretary

Teresa DeShazer, Bookkeeper

2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Mike Gentsch (President)

Kyle Lybarger (Vice-President)

Rachel Grundmann (Secretary)

Ranette Carter (*Treasurer*)

Lakeita Walker (Relationship with God)

Gayle Poland (Relationship with Community)

Peri Topel (Relationship with One Another)

3901 Bill Owens Parkway

Longview, Texas 75605

903-295-7423

churchsecretary@firstlutheran.us

www.FirstLutheran.us

We receive gifts for the mission of the congregation and the Church in the world. An offering plate is available in the back of the sanctuary. If you prefer to give by credit card you may do so at <a href="https://www.firstlutheran.us/donate">www.firstlutheran.us/donate</a> or by



FLC regularly supports the work of the following ministries of our denomination and community with financial, volunteer, and food offerings:

Longview Community Ministries

Newgate Mission

scanning the QR code below

Living Water International

Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran Disaster Response

For more information on how to get involved contact the church office (903)295-7423.