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# March 2024 Newsletter



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## Pastor Carlin's Page

### + THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

One of the greatest gifts that God has bestowed upon mankind is prayer. However, this wonderful gift is one that has often been neglected by many Christians. We often forget the power of prayer and the effects it has on us as individuals and as members of the "Body of Christ."

The first mark of discipleship is to pray daily. Daily prayer is the foundation of a healthy Christian life and is most definitely a very vital means of becoming and remaining a follower of Christ Jesus. Often we just don't know how to pray, but fortunately for us Christ taught his disciples at their request a model prayer that is most familiar to us all, "The Lord's Prayer". We pray this prayer most every week, however, we seldom take time to reflect on these words of Jesus to us and what they mean in today's context.

The first words of "Our Father" remind us of just who we are addressing. They also remind us in the Post-Modern world that God the Father is the creator of us and that we are mere creation. In our Post-Modern world the pattern is to flip this relationship and let our experience dictate just who God is and what the parameters we will accept from Him are: thus, flipping the roles and mankind taking on the role of creator and God taking on the role of creation. Sounds crazy right, but this is exactly what we do when we fail to let God be God and except our role as creation.

"Who Art in Heaven" again, reminds us of who we are addressing and His place in the cosmos. God resides in the spiritual and perfect sphere and we reside on the earth surrounded by the imperfect and by sin and death.

"Hallowed be Thy Name" The Father is holy. He is to be praised and glorified merely because of who and what He is. As we begin to pray we should always enter it with praise, thanksgiving and supplications to the Father and His holy Name.

"Thy Kingdom Come" God's kingdom is something we should desire and pray for its entrance into our world of imperfection and sin. Jesus has said, "the kingdom of God is in your very presence." "The Kingdom of God is very near to you." You see the kingdom of God is not this far off place that we long for, that is Heaven God's residence. The kingdom of God is Jesus Christ. He represents all that the kingdom of God is and has for its people. Jesus lives a life according to how the Father desires all to live and His very Son Jesus Christ is the model of the kingdom.

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“Thy Will Be Done” Prayer is a time to seek God’s will and not our own. All too often in prayer we only think and seek for what we desire and the outcomes we want. Again, we must defer to the Father and His desires and His will over our own. God’s plans and desires are right for us and will never leave us wanting or in lack. God’s will for us will only lead to happiness, joy and the “life more abundantly” Jesus came to provide for us.

“On earth as it is in heaven” God is concerned with earth. The Father sent His Son to earth so that His will might be done here. The Father desires that none would perish so He sent Christ to redeem all through His sacrificial work on the cross. The Father also sent His Son as THE example of truth, morality and righteousness for all of humanity to follow. Christ calls all of His people to become disciples (followers) of His example of how to live on this earth. By following Christ in every aspect of our lives we are doing God’s will here on earth.

“As it is in heaven” heaven is God’s dwelling place and the epitome of perfection. He desires this state of existence for His creation here on earth although this will not be a utopia of human making, but will ultimately be ushered in by Christ Himself at the last day.

“Give us this day our daily bread” isn’t it interesting that Christ gives only one line to our daily needs as humans when we seem to spend every waking moment worried about our physical needs. This does not mean that we should not plan for the future or store up for a rainy day. However, this should not be our focus or primary worry. God knows what we need and has promised to provide those needs. After all, He is our creator and as such knows exactly what our needs consist.

This also has a dual meaning. We are to seek all of Christ each day as he is “The Bread of Life”.

“Forgive us our trespasses” Christ has removed the barrier that our father Adam set between God and man. We can now go boldly to our Father in heaven, with Christ as our mediator, and ask for forgiveness of each and every one of our sins knowing with confidence that He is willing to forgive us every time we come to Him.

“As we forgive those who trespass against us” God has forgiven us of so much and in like manner we need to forgive those who have wronged us. By doing this we are following Christ’s example of forgiveness and are truly His disciples. Christ throughout His ministry and primarily in His parables has explained this to us. Also, by forgiving others Christ has told us that the Father forgives us. If we who have been forgiven so much cannot forgive those who have harmed us then the Father (Christ’s words) will not forgive us or hear our prayer.

“And lead us not into temptation” we need to pray that God will direct us away from all things that will lead to our detriment. God does not tempt us, however, in His knowledge He ultimately knows what the future holds. We are to pray, God will lead us into His paths and not those we or the enemy (Satan) have devised. These paths lead to destruction, but God’s to life, peace, truth and finally to everlasting life.

“Deliver us from evil” again, God knows what is best and we in our limited knowledge do not. We need to pray that the Father will guide us from the evil that Satan and his kingdom would set upon us. God is our shelter against every storm and our strength. We rely on God’s understanding and not our own.

“For thine is the power, and the glory, forever and ever,” this ending is one that reminds us who has all power and who all glory belongs and that would be the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The ONE God who is everlasting.

“Amen.” Means truly or I concur. This states our agreement with all that Christ has given for us to pray for and about.

Grace and peace to each of you!!

Pastor Carlin



## March at Noah's Ark

We have had 2 NEW students that we have added to our 3-year-old classroom and 1 NEW student in our 4 year old room!

We still have room for more students, in the 4-year-old PM class and 3-year-old MIDS so please tell your family and friends, we can add students any time during the school year!

The 3-year-old classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15-10:15 and 10:30-12:30.

The 4-year-old classes are held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:15-11:15 and 11:45-2:45.

The 3-year-old classroom has been doing Valentine and heart themed activities this month! They have been hard at work continuing to learn the letters of the alphabet and focusing on the letters specifically in their name. The class has also worked on counting hearts and correlating the numbers to the amount of hearts they have. We have talked a lot about kindness and how we can show the kindness Jesus shows us to others! They did a great job passing out their Valentine cards to their friends and they also smiled big for our class photos!

Our 4 year olds have been working hard on writing their names and remembering the correct letters in preparation for Kindergarten! They have mastered much of the alphabet already! The 4 year olds have also loved all of our different Valentine activities! They have enjoyed the red, pink, purple, and white pom pom balls in the sensory table! They have used different cups and tongs to pick them up and make various coffee items ☺. We have also read lots of different Valentine books in both classes.

We have continued working on our Calendar binders, inside they trace the number for the day (which is our date), and they chart what our weather is outside that day! This helps them see data and which has more/less (sunny, cloudy, rainy, snowy or windy).

We will be starting on learning about St. Patrick's Day, and Easter since they are both in March this year!

*Our primary goal is still to ensure the safety of our students; parents and teachers while at the same time promote a **positive and fun** preschool experience*

*Thank you for your support here at Noah's Ark!*

*Breanne Immke  
Director of Noah's Ark Preschool*

*Please contact me at [pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com](mailto:pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com) for any questions!*

*Check out our Facebook page too!*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Nursery through adult meets at 9:15 each Sunday.

**COMFORTING (QUILTING) LADIES:** meets to "work" downstairs in the large Sunday School room on Saturdays from 9 am—5 pm. Come and go as needed.

**ANNA CIRCLE:** Will meet on Thursday, March 7, 2024, @ 1 pm in the Munson Room. We will continue with our Bible study, The Women of Easter,. We will be choosing our next Bible study. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us on the 1st Thursday afternoon of each month. If you have any questions—please call Lynnette @ 815/796-3216.

**KNITWITS:** *Knitwits has resumed on most Tuesdays from 9:30—11 am*

**JOYFUL WOMEN:** Joyful Women started a new Bible study on Sunday, Feb. 4. It is a 6 week book entitled, "Who is the Holy Spirit". We will meet in the Munson Room at 6:30 pm. Joyful Women invites all women of First Lutheran (& their friends) to join us. We will complete one lesson weekly and then spend time in fellowship. Books will be available for purchase 2/4. Hope to see some new faces. If you have any questions, please call either Vicki Day @ 815/844-5420. or Sue Hiatt @ 815/844-7933.

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### Please Note:

If you have submitted a name for the prayer list & would like them to receive a "Thinking of You" card, please provide the church office with a good address so that the volunteer coordinator can mail the card to the proper address.

Also, please update the office if/when the name on the prayer list can be removed (or any "address" changes).

Thank you.

~Beth Ray~





# Food Pantry Needs

Thank you to all who have continued to generously donate food and supplies to the

Livingston Area Food Pantry during the coronavirus pandemic. The pantry has remained open with limited hours and drive-through pick ups to ensure the safety of the workers and clients. The mission and social committee continues to monetarily support the pantry, especially during these difficult times when so many are unemployed and money is tight. During the month of **February** we will collect (especially personals) **laundry soap, dish soap, bar soap, female hygiene products (sanitary napkins & tampons), toilet paper, facial tissues, paper towels, COMPLETE pancake mix, syrup, kids' cereal, canned "complete" meals (w/ meat), pop-top foods.** And, as always, any food or "non-essential" item is appreciated. All donated items should be **NON-PERISHABLE & NOT OUTDATED**, please. The Pantry is **CURRENTLY** in need of **EVERYTHING** (except canned vegetables and peanut butter).

I realize the list is long. Please feel free to choose as few or as many items as you wish. Moreover, the pantry encourages us to purchase items inexpensively at Dollar Tree and Dollar General.

The church is open daily (M-F) from 8:00 am-3:30 pm. The grocery carts are located in the fellowship hall & by the ramp door, and I check them weekly to make deliveries to assist in feeding our community members. I truly appreciate the support members of First Lutheran have given to our pantry for so many years. Bless you all for your generous and giving hearts! ~~Chris Lauritzen~~

## **COMFORTING LADIES**

The Comforting Ladies are once again meeting on Tuesday & Thursday afternoons beginning at 1 pm as well as their weekly Saturday get-togethers.

If you have any questions about quilting, please talk to Lynnette (815) 796-3216

# March Birthdays

|                 |      |                  |      |
|-----------------|------|------------------|------|
| Nancy Fienhold  | 3/3  | Kellin Ours      | 3/21 |
| Roger Becker    | 3/4  | Julie Ahern      | 3/22 |
| Lyle Leach      | 3/4  | Larry Graves     | 3/22 |
| Dee Dee Raube   | 3/5  | Michelle Janssen | 3/22 |
| Carl Schade     | 3/7  | Blair Barton     | 3/24 |
| Trina Whittle   | 3/9  | Amanda Krueger   | 3/24 |
| Tina Barton     | 3/14 | Brooks Lawrence  | 3/26 |
| Marlon Eilts    | 3/16 | Dave Morgan      | 3/26 |
| Caryl Barling   | 3/17 | Shirley Trainor  | 3/28 |
| Debra Crull     | 3/20 | Trevor Brown     | 3/29 |
| Finley Lawrence | 3/20 | Mary Ann Hill    | 3/31 |



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## 2023/2024 CONFIRMATION CLASS

*There are 5 students in the 8th grade class and 4 students in the 7th grade class, along with an older student who is interested in being confirmed.*

*Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) will be at the 8 am service on Palm Sunday, Mar. 24th*

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REMINDER—If you wish to make a contribution to the church and are uncomfortable/unable to attend in person, you may mail it or drop it off between 8 am & 3:30 pm

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## ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COMMUNION CHANGES**—We will be communing at the rail weekly (except for Christmas Eve and Easter services). In December, we will once again offer intinction (as well as individual cups).

With the return of intinction we will once again need TWO communion assistants, so please sign up accordingly. Thank you.

**GRIEF SUPPORT**—Pastor Ours has introduced an outreach program for grief support. It is open to ANYONE who may be grieving in ANY way (not just the loss of a loved one). Please share the notifications of these meetings. Thank you.

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## Prayer Works



## Please Pray for our Members & Friends:

Robbie Becker, Phyllis Bradley, Ron Cox, Al Fahsbender, Kerry Foster, Terri Heins, Shelly Hodgson, Jim Jones, Cindy Rodriguez, Cheryl Weber, Stephen Weber, Cindi Arnold, John Clardy, Betty Edwards, Katy Edwards, Frank Giovanini, Katherine Harding, Jenni Kindermann, Joni Koch, Bill Liptak, Owen Lyons, Ariel Mattingly, Tim Mehn, Jakob Miller, Rochelle Nolan, Michael O'Shea, Chris Ross, Anita Sands, Gail Shaffer, Kathy Telford, Dave & Carol Tharp, John Turner, Gavin Wallace, Carol Wilson, John Winchester, & Tiffany Wubben.

**CHILDREN:** Elliot Buchheit, Able Fuchs, Lucy McKinley, & Jalene Woolford

### *Let us pray for the following members*

*Evenglow Lodge: Harley Mayer*

*Goldwater Care (formerly Good Sam):  
Ron Cox & Kerry Foster*

*IL Veteran's Home, LaSalle: Jim Jones*

**HIPAA Laws...**Because of the HIPAA Laws, if you would like the Pastor to visit you in the hospital, **you must call the church office** (or have the Chaplain at the hospital call the office).

### Meetings in March

**Mondays, Mar 4 & 18**  
Euchre @ 6:30 pm

**Mondays, Mar 4 & 18**  
Bible Study @ The Pointe @ 9:15 am

**Wednesdays @ 9:30 am & Thursdays @ 6:30 pm**  
Adult Bible Study

**Wednesdays @ 6 pm**  
Confirmation

**Wednesdays @ 7 pm**  
Lenten Services

**Saturdays @ 9 am**  
Comforting Ladies (Quilters)

**Thursdays @ 6 pm**  
Choir

**Thursday, Mar 7 @ 1 pm**  
Anna Circle

**Thursday, Mar 11 @ 6:30 pm**  
Memorial Committee

**Tuesday, Mar 12 @ 7 pm**  
Church Council

**Tuesday, Mar 19 @ 7 pm**  
Worship Committee

**Saturday, March 23 @ 10 am**  
Easter Egg Hunt

**Sunday, March 24 @ 8 am**  
Affirmation of Baptism @ Palm Sunday Svc

**Monday, Mar 25 @ NOON**  
Newsletter Deadline

**Thursday, Mar 28 @ 7 pm**  
Maundy Thursday Service

**Friday, Mar 29 @ 9:00 am**  
Newsletter Assembly

**Friday, Mar 29 @ 7 pm**  
Good Friday Service

**Friday, Mar 29 @ 9 pm—Sat, Mar 30 @ 5 pm**  
Prayer Vigil

**Sat., Mar 30 @ 5 pm & Sun, Mar 31 @ 8 am & 10:30 am—Easter Services**

## **IN HONOR OF JESSE AND SERVING OUR VETERANS**

When the Ours family joined us at First Lutheran in Pontiac on 1/1/2020, we learned the story of Jesse Ours, his service in the Army, his experience in Iraq and the pain he suffered mentally from that. In his service he paid for our freedom with his life. Since that time we have broadened the focus of our church mission efforts to serving veterans in honor of Jesse. To that end, for two years we had Jesse's Ride for PTSD and last year, in lieu of the ride, we began taking advantage of a program offered through RADA Cutlery which allow us to raise funds from sales from their catalog. With these funds we have donated gift cards for groceries and essential supplies to our Livingston County Veteran's Office, as well as sent a donation to the "Lutheran Military Veteran's and Families Ministries, Inc. in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Additionally, we have supported the LCC Comfort K-9's AND the Pontiac Jr High comfort dog, Mason who is handled by school counselor Marci Hunt.

Since 1948 RADA Cutlery, all made in the United States, gives a significant portion of their sales profit back to the sponsoring group in fundraising. Purchases are made online using our First Lutheran Church link, then our profit will be shared with our designated recipients.

As we grow nearer the holiday season and start looking for the "perfect gift" for family and friends, you might want to consider an item from the RADA Cutlery catalog. (A personal favorite in our house is the tomato knife). Purchases are shipped directly to the purchaser. You may pick up a catalog in the church narthex or the east transept.

You may go to [www.RadaFundraising.com](http://www.RadaFundraising.com) and search for "Jesse's Ride for PTSD (Pontiac, IL)" or you may try the link below:

***"<https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=5277177.b98beb>"***

This link is also available on the Jesse's Ride for PTSD Facebook page. If you have any difficulty placing your order, please give Beth (in the church office) a call for assistance. All orders are sent directly to the address you designate or to your home.

If you feel that you do not need any of the products that RADA offers, but would still like to make a donation, you may use the designated envelopes in the pews to support these two organizations. Please make checks out to: First Lutheran Church, with a designation in the "notes" of Jesse's Ride. Thank you.

Members of the Mission/Social Committee

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### **WATER MISSION INTERNATIONAL**

Beginning on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) and going until Palm Sunday (Mar. 24), the Mission/Social Committee has designated Water Mission International as our highlighted mission. We have supported them for three years and their work is far from complete. Their mission is to build safe water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions in developing countries and disaster areas worldwide. They are a non-profit Christian-based organization that shares the love of Christ in every mission effort. Please watch for more information upcoming in the weekly bulletins, Facebook and temple talks.

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## Come join the fun every other Monday night



Mark your calendars for the first and third Mondays of the month. Spread the word. .

We will open doors at 6 pm, play begins at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$4/person

We want everyone who attends to feel safe and comfortable. Please do not attend if you do not feel well . If there are any questions, please direct them to Fred Shirley.

Mar 4 & 18    Apr 1 & 15    May 6 & 20    June 3 & 17

### HOW TO WATCH OUR CHURCH SERVICES ONLINE:

**YOUTUBE:** [www.firstlutheranyoutube.org](http://www.firstlutheranyoutube.org)

*You can also subscribe to our YouTube channel by going to YouTube and searching for "Pontiac First Lutheran"*

**OUR CHURCH WEBSITE:** <https://firstlutheranpontiac.org/live-stream/>

**APPLE TV & ROKU:** *Download an app called "Box Cast" and search for a channel called "Pontiac First Lutheran" Once you find it, make it one of your favorites and you can watch from your tv or phone!*

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pontiacfirstlutheran/>

*Go to this link and request to be added to the group. Once you are added you will get notifications of our next service and see past services!*

**TWITTER:** <https://twitter.com/FirstPontiac>

*If you have the twitter app, search for "First Pontiac" and you can 'follow' us on Twitter!*



**First Lutheran Church**  
Worshiping Christ - Serving Our Neighbor



# EASTER EGG HUNT!



**The members of First Lutheran Church** invite all children ages three through fifth grade, from our church and Noah's Ark to an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m. Please bring your own basket.

**We would greatly appreciate your help with donations such as inexpensive prizes, Easter candy, or CASH donations. Please have your donations at the church by Friday, March 15.**

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## Easter Egg Hunt Sign-Up

**To give us an idea of how many to plan for, please fill out this form and return it to the church office by Sunday, March 17**

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

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please plan to attend and be sure to invite others to attend our Lenten and Easter services in March . The schedule will be as follows:

### **Wednesdays, Feb 28 & Mar 6, 13, & 20**

Church Service @ 7 pm

### **March 23, Saturday**

Easter Egg Hunt @ 10 am

Traditional Service @ 5:30 pm

### **March 24 - Palm Sunday**

Regular Services w/Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) at the 8:00 am service  
(Cake reception during Fellowship time)

### **March 28 - Maundy Thursday -**

7 pm service

### **March 29 - Good Friday –**

7 pm Service

9 pm – Prayer Vigil begins

### **April 30 - Saturday -**

5 pm - Prayer Vigil Ends

5:30 pm - Traditional Easter Service

### **March 31, Sunday**

Easter Services @ 8 and 10:30 a.m.

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
311 W GROVE ST  
PONTIAC, IL 61764**

Phone: 815-844-3695

Fax: 815-844-7580

Email: [info@firstlutheranpontiac.org](mailto:info@firstlutheranpontiac.org)

Pastor Carlin: [carlinours@gmail.com](mailto:carlinours@gmail.com)

704/775-9823

[www.firstlutheranpontiac.org](http://www.firstlutheranpontiac.org)

*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*



**MARCH**  
**2024**

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**“Worshiping Christ, Serving Our Neighbor”**

**Weekend Worship Schedule**

**Sat. 5:30 pm**

**Sun. 8:00 am**

**Sun. 10:30 am**

**Sunday School 9:15 am**

**Our Staff**

**Pastor:** Carlin Ours  
**Office Admin:** Beth Ray  
**Acct:** Angel Hall  
**Custodian:** DeAnn Dennis  
**Vol. Coord:** Beth Ray  
**Choir Dir:** Joseph Durbin

**2024 Congregational Council:**

|                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Jim Drengwitz, President</b>    | <b>Stephanie Durbin</b> |
| <b>Jeff Bressner, V. President</b> | <b>Al Fahsbender</b>    |
| <b>Cathy Robinson, Secretary</b>   | <b>Dawn Graves</b>      |
| <b>Elizabeth Diemer, Treasurer</b> | <b>Marcia Legner</b>    |
| <b>Steve Ray, Fin. Secretary</b>   | <b>Julie Rapp</b>       |
| <b>Christine Brown</b>             | <b>Gail Smythe</b>      |