



French River Lutheran Church  
5310 Ryan Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Duluth, MN  
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**Address Service Requested**

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(please call before coming to the office)

E-mail: [FRLC5310@gmail.com](mailto:FRLC5310@gmail.com)

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

Pr. Kim Sturtz: [frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com](mailto:frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com)

ph: (218)393-7444; available Mo-Th Pr. Kim

will be in the office or parsonage,

depending on her schedule.

FRLC Mission Statement: "To live and love as God commands, accept His grace, and share the Good News."

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

 "Like us" on Facebook  Please recycle

See *The Parables* in color on-line at

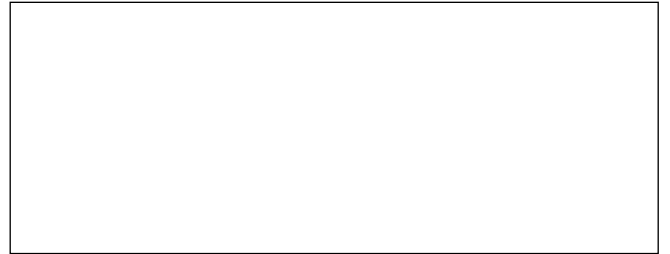
[www.frenchriverlutheran.org](http://www.frenchriverlutheran.org)

Please contact the office to if you would like to be removed from our mailing list.

See *The Parables* in color online at

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

**10 AM WORSHIP**



*THE PARABLES* † *March 2024*

**FRLC EASTER SERVICES**

**\*MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 28TH: 6PM  
FIRST COMMUNION/HEALING SERVICE**

**\*GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 29TH: 6PM  
PETER'S HOLY WEEK – STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**\*EASTER SUNDAY - MARCH 31ST: 7 AM & 10 AM  
\*JOIN US FOR EASTER BREAKFAST BETWEEN EASTER  
SERVICES 8-9:30 AM**



# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>3</b> <b>10a</b> Worship in-person/online <b>10:45a</b> Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Fellowship	<b>4</b>      <b>7p Exec. Council</b>	<b>5</b> <b>9a <u>Bulletin Deadline</u></b>   7p AA	<b>6</b>   <b>5:30p</b> Lenten Soup Supper <b>6:30p</b> Holden Eve. Prayer Service <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>7</b>     <b>5p</b> Riversong Rising <b>5:30-7P</b> First Communion Class	<b>1</b>     <b>8</b>	<b>2</b>     <b>9</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>10</b> <b>10a</b> Blended Worship in-person/online <b>10:45a</b> Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Fellowship	<b>11</b>     <b>7p</b> Finance	<b>12</b> <b>9a <u>Bulletin Deadline</u></b>   7p AA	<b>13</b>   <b>5:30p</b> Lenten Soup Supper <b>6:30p</b> Holden Eve. Prayer Service	<b>14</b>   <b>10:30a</b> W&M <b>1p</b> WELCA <b>5p</b> Riversong Rising <b>5:30-7P</b> First Communion Class	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>17</b> <b>10a</b> Contemporary Worship in-person/online <b>10:45a</b> Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Fellowship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>9a <u>Bulletin Deadline</u></b>   <b>7p</b> Council 7p AA	<b>20</b> <b>7a</b> D/NSSD <b>9a <u>Parables Deadline</u></b> <b>5:30p</b> Lenten Soup Supper <b>6:30p</b> Holden Eve. Prayer Service <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>21</b>   <b>1p</b> F.R. Readers	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Lent/Palm Sun.</b> <b>24</b> <b>10a</b> Worship in-person/online <b>Youth in Worship Day</b> <b>10:45a</b> Sunday School 11:15a Coffee Fellowship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>9a <u>Bulletin Deadline</u></b>   7p AA	<b>27</b>   <b>9a</b> Parables Assembly   <b>7p</b> Choir	<b>28</b> <b>Maundy Thurs.</b> <b>11a</b> Hospitality   <b>6p</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion/Healing Service	<b>29</b> <b>Good Friday</b>   <b>6p</b> Good Friday Service	<b>30</b>

<b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>31</b> <b>7a</b> Worship in-person/online <b>8a-9:30a</b> Easter Breakfast <b>10a</b> Worship in-person/online  <b>*The Easter breakfast proceeds will go towards the FRLC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!</b>	Date	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assist.*/Counter	Altar Guild
	<b>3</b>	Steve & Sue Baker	Steve Baker	ArMand Nelson*/Ann Rankila	Lynne Compton
	<b>10</b>	Chris & Ann Rankila	Kevin Stroom	Sandy Dahlberg*/Rolf Carlson	Heather Mindestrom
	<b>17</b>	Rex & Elda Hein	Joanne Kronstedt	Beth */Sue Baker	Rhonda O'Leary
	<b>24</b>	Wayne & Peggy Dahlberg	FRLC Kids	T.B.D.	Sue Baker
	<b>28</b>	Phil & Babs Strom	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
	<b>29</b>	Kevin S. & Jacquie E.	Joanne Kronstedt	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
	<b>31</b>	7AM/10AM Dick & Marilyn S.	Kevin Pettis	T.B.D.	Skipper Sironen
Prayer Chain: Babs Strom 218-525-6200    Coffee Fellowship: Bethlehem ~ Loren & Patti Slette 218-525-2914					



**"Virtual worship" is available by visiting [www.frenchriverlutheran.org](http://www.frenchriverlutheran.org)**

## A Message from Pastor Kim



Dearest French River Church Family. We are in the midst of Lent which for many is a time to recenter and yet we seem more busy than ever. To lean into Martin Luther's famous quotes, "Preach the Gospel, Use words if necessary..." So, for this month I am going to give you the gift of two little poems by the beloved Mary Oliver: One on Holy Week and learning to pray with simple words on our journeys of faith.

Enjoy and be blessed friends.

😊 Pastor Kim Sturtz

### **GETHSEMANE by Mary Oliver**

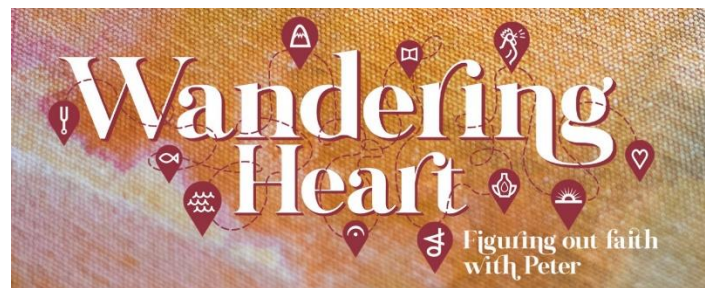
The grass never sleeps. Or the roses.  
Nor does the lily have a secret eye that shuts until morning. Jesus said, wait with me.  
But the disciples slept. The cricket has such splendid fringe on its feet, and it sings, have you noticed, with its whole body, and heaven knows if it ever sleeps. Jesus said, wait with me.  
And maybe the stars did, maybe the wind wound itself into a silver tree, and didn't move, maybe the lake far away, where once he walked as on a blue pavement, lay still and waited, wild awake. Oh the dear bodies, slumped and eye-shut, that could not keep that vigil, how they must have wept, so utterly human, knowing this too must be a part of the story.

### **PRAYING by Mary Oliver**

It doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones; just pay attention, then patch a few words together and don't try to make them elaborate, this isn't a contest but the doorway into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak.

*Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver (p. 131). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.*

## Lenten Services



### **Lenten Series Sunday Worship - Wandering Heart - Following in the Path of Peter**

- \***Third Sunday of Lent - March 3rd:** "Praise the mount" MATTHEW 16:13-20 | PSALM 19
- \***Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 10th:** "I'm fixed upon it" MATTHEW 16:21-23 | PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22
- \***Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 17th:** "Teach me" MATTHEW 18:15-22 | PSALM 119:9-16
- \***Palm Sunday - March 24th:** "Songs of loudest praise" JOHN 12:12-16
- \***Maundy Thursday March 28th:** First Communion/Healing Service 6pm
- \***Good Friday March 29th:** Peter's Holy Week – Stations of the Cross 6pm
- \***Easter Sunday - March 31st:** "And I hope" LUKE 24:1-12 ~ Services at 7am & 10am  
Easter Breakfast from 8 am to 9:30 am

### **Ways to Worship**

**FRLC offers in-person worship, as well as the option to continue to worship virtually.**

- To worship virtually, visit [www.frenchriverlutheran.org](http://www.frenchriverlutheran.org) or send your email address to our office, [frlc5310@gmail.com](mailto:frlc5310@gmail.com), and receive a weekly email to the direct link: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FrenchRiverLutheranChurch>
- Visit [www.frenchriverlutheran.org](http://www.frenchriverlutheran.org) **HOME PAGE** for a link to archived services.



## Recently at FRLC

### Ash Wednesday

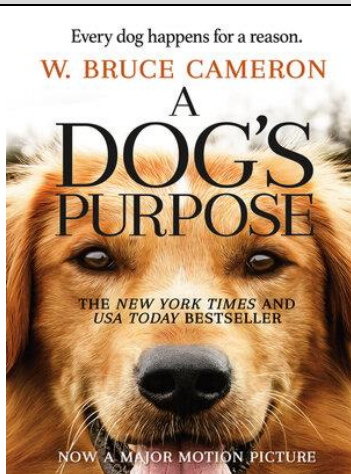
And so in recognition of our origin in the earth, acknowledgement of our finite days, we come to receive ashes to remember: dust we are, and to dust we shall return.



## Upcoming Events

### French River Readers

For March we have selected a Book Club in a Bag offering, A Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron. Books should be available by Sunday, February 18th. The bag will be on the ledge to the right of the upper doors of the church. Just sign your name next to the number of the book on the log sheet. If you're unable to get a book, contact Carol Surine (218-525-4426 or [carolsurine@gmail.com](mailto:carolsurine@gmail.com)) and she will make sure you get a copy.



The next meeting will be 1 PM on March 21st in the Fireside Room of French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Road. All are welcome, even if you haven't read the book, but beware there may be spoilers! Our host will be Skipper Sironen.

### Adult Bible Study

During Lent you are encouraged to attend mid-week studies and soup suppers on Wednesdays. Our weekly small group gathering will resume after Easter Sunday.

Do you have an idea for the next study? Run your thoughts past Pr. Kim!

### FRLC at the Food Bank

We often don't know what program we'll be volunteering for, whether it's assembling Backpack bags for children or creating commodities boxes for senior citizens, but it's sure to be a fast-paced two hours of volunteering at Second Harvest Northland. **French River Lutheran will supply a team at the food bank May 15 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** The food bank is located at 4503 Airpark Boulevard, Duluth, and our event will likely involve standing, bending, and lifting. After operating alongside one another for more than 40 years, Second Harvest Northern Lakes in Duluth and Second Harvest North Central in Grand Rapids merged in January to become Second Harvest Northland. Second Harvest Northland is now Minnesota's second largest food bank, the largest food bank being Second Harvest Heartland in Brooklyn Center, MN.



### Interested in helping on May 15?

Contact Sue Baker, 218.341.4181 or [drjockmock@msn.com](mailto:drjockmock@msn.com), with questions or to sign up as a crew member. Thank you!

*Lenten Soup Suppers*

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN LENT  
 FEBRUARY 21- MARCH 20  
 SOUP SUPPER 5:30-6:30  
 HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER  
 WORSHIP 6:30-7PM

*All ages welcome!  
 Please join us!*

**American Red Cross Blood Drive at FRLC**

**Not all heroes wear capes!**

**Help Others by  
Donating Blood at Our  
Spring American Red  
Cross Blood Drive!**



Our next FRLC Blood Drive is now ready for scheduling!

**Date:** Wed., April 24, 2024, from Noon to 6 p.m.

**Place:** FRLC Fellowship Hall

You can schedule your appointment by:

1. Going to RedCrossBlood.org and searching in our zip code for the French River Lutheran Church blood drive. You will need to create a profile with a username and password to schedule your time (if you don't already have one from donating previously).
2. Downloading the Blood Donor App by searching "Red Cross Blood" on the App Store<sup>SM</sup> or Google Play<sup>TM</sup> store.
3. Contacting Beth Luikart (218-525-1596, or e-mail her at bluikart@outlook.com).

This blood drive is for FRLC members AND members of our North Shore community, so if you know of anyone who would like to donate, please invite them to join us on April 24 to help ensure that blood is available for patients in need.

Covid-19 safety protocols will be followed during the blood drive.

**Interested in volunteering for a two-hour shift at the blood drive?** Contact Beth Luikart (218-525-1596; e-mail: bluikart@outlook.com). The Outreach Committee needs a couple of people each shift to help with registration and working in the canteen area. We appreciate your help!



**BABYSITTER CLASS**

**Saturday, May 11, 2024**

**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**French River Lutheran Church  
5310 Ryan Road, Duluth**

This course will provide you with the necessary leadership skills and equip you with the essential caregiving skills and safety prevention methods to be a top-notch babysitter, giving parents peace of mind when hiring a sitter.

Recommended for age 12 years or older; \$25/student, minimum of 10, maximum of 25 students. Open to anyone (you need not attend FRLC to participate). Participants need to follow the current Covid plan of the church at the time of the class; bring a mask in case it is needed.

Please bring a bag lunch.

Cash or check payment is due on the day of class.

Instructor: Michelle Libby.

Register: E-mail Drjockmock@msn.com no later than 4/29/24 ("Babysitter Class" in the subject line). If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail, please call/text 218.341.4181.



**FRLC Youth**

Here are some upcoming dates to note for youth.

- **Lenten Soup Suppers:** FRLC Youth and their families to serve soup supper on Wednesday, March 13th.
- **Palm Sunday** is March 24th. Kids will parade into the service with palm branches and participate in music and the readings.
- **Easter Sunday** is March 31st. FLRC Youth will serve Easter breakfast between Easter services from 8 am to 9:30 am. Proceeds will go towards the FRLC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!



**YOUTH ACTIVITIES THIS SUMMER!**

• **Vacation Bible School** is June 10, 11, and 12th from 9am-12pm. The program is geared towards age 3 (potty trained) to 5th graders (completed 2023/2024 school year). We could really use 6th graders and up as small group leaders! Please let Kim Marks know if your child would be interested in being a helper!

• **Grandma’s Marathon Concessions** is Saturday, June 22nd. We plan to have a lock-in Friday night for those interested. We will need youth to help with concessions, parking and monitoring restrooms/building. This is a great fundraiser for our youth programming and camps!

Thanks all!  
Kim Marks

**Sunday School:** Children stay with their families during Worship Service and then go down to Sunday School after communion until about 11:30 am.

**Fish Force & Confirmation Class:** Classes resume on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.  
Fish force ~ 5:30-6:30 pm  
Confirmation ~ 6:45-7:30 pm

**Take Note**

†Extending sympathy to the family & friends of Carol Pearson. Carol passed away on Sunday, January 28, 2024. A Celebration of Life was held at FRLC on February 24.

**Thank you**

On behalf of Alice Dahlberg, we wish to thank all of you, her church family and friends for celebrating Alice's 100th Birthday with all the well wishes and stories shared.

Sincerely,  
The Dahlberg Family

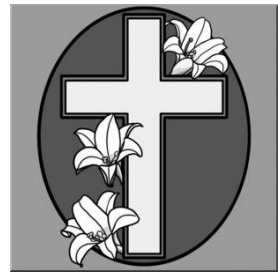


**“100 Gifts” Update**

We have begun the journey to our goal of 100 gifts given in thankful praise and gratitude for the 100 years we have served here in the community and on the shores of Lake Superior. As of February 18, we have had 9 gifts given to seven different charities! Keep your eye on the poster in the narthex - I'll keep listing the gifts given, and also make notations when there are matching opportunities.

We are so richly blessed - let us share those blessings! -Barb Jackson

FRLC Council has chosen to equally split our special Lenten and Easter offering to Second Harvest Northland and The Seafarers Center (Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers).



Thank you for your generosity.

(Please note: there are two opportunities for giving on March 31, those being the traditional Sunday offering and a special Easter offering. If using numbered envelopes, the distinction is already made. All other gifts should be designated accordingly. Thank you.

**MN FoodShare March Campaign 2024**



The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together organizations,

businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over \$18 million to March Campaign participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare FoodFund. 100% of donations received by Minnesota Foodshare during the March Campaign go into the FoodFund. This is the 43<sup>rd</sup> year of the campaign.

**The 2024 March Campaign will run February 26th – April 6th.**

This is just one idea of "how/where" a donation in honor of FRLC's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary could go toward. See the poster in the narthex for additional gift suggestions.

## FRLC Financial Facts

January offering \$19,079

January budget \$16,030



# WANTED

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## MAKE MUSIC WITH OUR CHOIRS!

Both the vocal and bell choirs invite you to join them in giving musical praise! The time commitment is low and flexible, and more members would create a fuller sound and allow for more options in musical selections.

Give one or both a try!  
Contact David Fiebiger (choir), Elda Hein (bells), or the church office with your interest.

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## Council News

The FRLC Council elected officers and assigned liaison officers to committees for 2024 during their February meeting.

Executive Committee	Pr. Kim Sturtz President – Rolf Carlson Vice-president – Beth Hendrickson Secretary – Sue Baker
Christian Life	Phil Jensen Adam Marks ArMand Nelson
Mission Life	Sandy Dahlberg
Operation	Dave Edblom Ann Rankila

Committee chairs, a reminder to contact liaisons to make sure they are aware of upcoming meetings/happenings and send committee minutes to liaisons so minutes can be forwarded to the council secretary for distribution to all council members.

## Service Teams

Everyone at FRLC is encouraged to participate on a Service Team. If you are not sure which team you are on, please contact the office. Teams serve a different month each year. The schedule for the next three months is:

Team	Captain	Month
Bethlehem	Loren & Patti 525-2914	Mar `24
Hebron	Lynne Compton 525-1226	Apr `24
Emmaus	Joan Kuettel 391-7680	May `24

A 2024 calendar is available for coffee fellowship sign-up. Look for it in the Welcome Center in the narthex.

See something wrong? Help update our records by contacting the office with changes.

If you know of someone who needs to be added or deleted from *The Parables* mailing list, please contact us.

Switching to receive by email is also an option!

Thank you.



**Happy Birthday**

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Saffia Buckley        | 20 Kirk Meierhoff-Anderson |
| 1 Lorrie Kinn           | 20 Andrea Hendricks        |
| 1 Amber Miltakis        | 22 Mathias Sorvik          |
| 1 Debbi Poe-Ruberg      | 23 Keely Anderson          |
| 1 Coral Rippberger      | 23 Rich Hoeg               |
| 2 Laura Herzog          | 24 Brady Darsow            |
| 3 Alexa Hill            | 24 Terri Ruberg            |
| 3 Andrea Libby          | 26 Isabell Garnatz         |
| 4 Gerald Jackson        | 27 Dick Story              |
| 4 Michelle Libby        | 28 Ryan Endicott           |
| 4 Ryan Maki             | 28 Cheryl Moe              |
| 5 Nicole Cook           | 30 Gerri Fuentes           |
| 5 Anna Hendrickson      | 30 Mary Johnson            |
| 5 Lauryn Klos-Maki      | 31 Jennifer Anderson       |
| 5 Devon Ruberg          | 31 Alyssa Hastings         |
| 7 Gary Baker            | 31 Alan McNickol           |
| 7 David Lukkonen        |                            |
| 8 Brandon Sorvik        |                            |
| 9 Marty Emeott          |                            |
| 10 Rodger Winter        |                            |
| 13 Shannon Baker        |                            |
| 13 Toni Fladmark-Foster |                            |
| 14 Adrian Gledhill      |                            |
| 15 Elizabeth Aug        |                            |
| 15 Gary Dickmeyer       |                            |
| 15 Charlane Ramnes      |                            |
| 16 Lars Fladmark        |                            |
| 16 Kim Marks            |                            |
| 17 Sara Haveri          |                            |
| 17 Allen Olson          |                            |
| 18 Matt Peterson        |                            |



**Happy Anniversary**

- 1 David & Annalise Fiebiger
- 6 David & Kathryn Pierson
- 11 Zach & Tressa Clement
- 16 Stan Aldrich & Wendy Meierhoff-Aldrich
- 22 Mark & Jo Johnson
- 24 Michelle Martin & Sue Oberg-Martin
- 31 Rex & Elda Hein
- 31 Pam & ArMand Nelson



**Stewardship**

Merriam-Webster’s dictionary defines “website” as: *a group of World Wide Web pages usually containing hyperlinks to each other and made available online by an individual, company, educational institution, government, or organization.*

Have you ever looked at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) website? It contains main headings -- About the ELCA, Faith, Find a Congregation, Resources, News, and Our Work – and within each of those are additional subpages providing a plethora of information. If you cannot find what you’re looking for, the “search” box on the upper right of the page will likely bring up results.

Learn, stay informed, find resources and so much more at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

**Lessons This Month**

**March 3 – Third Sunday in Lent**

[Exodus 20:1-17](#); [Psalm 19](#); [1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#); [John 2:13-22](#).

The third covenant in this year’s Lenten readings is the central one of Israel’s history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God’s liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

**March 10 – Fourth Sunday in Lent**

[Numbers 21:4-9](#); [Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22](#); [Ephesians 2:1-10](#); [John 3:14-21](#).

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today’s gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like



## French River Lutheran Church

the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

### March 17 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#); [Psalm 51:1-12](#);  
[Psalm 119:9-16](#) (alternate); [Hebrews 5:5-10](#)  
[John 12:20-33](#).

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

### March 24 – Palm Sunday

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#); [Psalm 31:9-16](#); [Philippians 2:5-11](#); [Mark 14:1--15:47](#); [Mark 15:1-39](#) [40-47] (alternate).

This week, the center of the church’s year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark’s gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ’s suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God’s salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God’s astonishing work.

### March 28 – Maundy Thursday

[Exodus 12:1-4](#) [5-10] 11-14; [Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19](#); [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#); [John 13:1-17, 31b-35](#).

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ’s

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last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples’ feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

### March 29 – Good Friday

[Isaiah 52:13--53:12](#); [Psalm 22](#); [Hebrews 10:16-25](#); [Hebrews 4:14-16](#); [5:7-9](#) (alternate);  
[John 18:1--19:42](#).

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John’s passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ’s death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

### March 31 – Easter Sunday

[Acts 10:34-43](#); [Isaiah 25:6-9](#) (alternate);  
[Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#); [1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#);  
[Acts 10:34-43](#); [Mark 16:1-8](#); [John 20:1-18](#)  
(alternate).

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ’s death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God’s unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!



## CHUM News

Thank you to all who have been leaving non-perishables in wicker baskets located in the church narthex. FRLC has a goal of donating 100 Ramen Chicken Noodle Soup packages per month to Chum. After falling short in late fall 2023, we stepped it up in December with 166 packages and kicked off the new year with 149 packages in January 2024. Way to go!



So, what is CHUM? From their website ([www.chumduluth.org](http://www.chumduluth.org)): "Chum is a 501(c)(3) organization whose programs serve more than 8,000 low-income, homeless, hungry, isolated, or otherwise marginalized community members in Duluth, MN each year. Chum was founded in 1973 when 10 churches in Duluth's Central Hillside neighborhood pooled their resources to meet the needs of the neighborhood's many low-income residents. We are now the largest service safety net in Duluth, MN for those experiencing homelessness. We provide the basic needs that everyone has and help our guests move forward to begin to prosper."

Chum has four main areas (examples in parentheses): *1. Stabilization Services* (emergency shelter program, homeless street outreach, Chum Drop-In-Center, Chum Clinic, family and individual case management, employment services, and benefits advocacy); *2. Distributive Services* (two emergency food shelves, start-up assistance from shelters to permanent housing, and Chum 2 GO); *3. Congregational Outreach, Advocacy and Organizing* (advocating for policies and funding at local and state levels); and *4. Housing Services* (Steve O'Neil Apartments and St. Francis Apartments, both longer-term housing for those transitioning from homelessness).

Chum is governed by a Delegate Assembly composed of up to three representatives within [40 member congregations](#) as well as up to 40 at-large representatives. **FRLC does not currently have a delegate.** What better way to learn more about Chum than by attending the next assembly: March 12, 6:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 5454 Miller Trunk Highway,

"The Parables" † March 2024 † page 10  
Hermantown. RSVP at [2024 Winter Assembly \(tfaforms.com\)](http://2024.Winter.Assembly.tfaforms.com).

Please contact our church office if you would like to represent FRLC as a delegate.

Getting back to those baskets in the narthex—the need for food continues in 2024. A recent Chum newsletter reported, "The biggest hit the Food Shelf took in 2023 was in the number of pounds donated: our community donated 460,351 pounds of food---that is almost 50,000 pounds less than last year!" The most needed food items are coffee, canned products (chili, beef stew, pork and beans, baked beans, Spaghettios, ravioli, fruit, vegetables, noodles, soups, chunky soups, Spam, tuna, chicken, tomato products), peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, rice, and boxed potatoes. Please remember to check expiration dates.

A poster for a "New York, New York Themed High Tea Silent Auction Raffle". The poster features a black and white silhouette of the New York City skyline, including the Freedom Tower, set against a white background. The text "NEW YORK NEW YORK" is prominently displayed above the skyline. Below the skyline, the text reads "Themed High Tea Silent Auction Raffle". The event details are listed below: "Saturday May 4, 1pm", "Doors Open at 12:15", "Our Savior's Lutheran Church", "4831 Grand Ave, Duluth". It also states "A Benefit Commemorating CHUM's 50th Anniversary". At the bottom, it says "Advance Sales Only: \$25 Proceeds for CHUM" and provides contact information: "Call Kris (218) 590-3256 or Beth (218) 624-7007". The entire poster is framed by a decorative border of swirling patterns in gold, silver, and black.

# French River Lutheran Church

## MEETING MINUTES – February 13, 2024

*"To live and love as God Commands, accept His Grace, and share the Good News"*

2022-2025		2023-2026		2024-2027	
Sue Baker	P	ArMand Nelson	p	Sandy Dahlberg	P
Rolf Carlson	P	Dave Edblom	P	Ann Rankila	P
Phil Jensen (1 year)	P	Adam Marks	P	Beth Hendrickson	P
<b>Outgoing Councilors</b>				<b>Others</b>	
Sheila Laiti	P			Pastor Kim Sturtz	P
Ken Peterson	P			Barb Jackson	P
Haeli Pettis	XX				
Loren Slette	XX				

*P-Present      XX-Excused      MSC-motion made, seconded, carried      ➔-Action Item*

### 1. Call to order @ 7:01 PM by Rolf Carlson

### 2. Devotion: Pastor Kim

### 3. Adjustment to the agenda

### 4. Devotions for council

- A. Mar – ArMand
- B. Apr – Beth
- C. May – Adam
- D. Jun – Sue
- E. Jul – Sandy
- F. Aug – Dave
- G. Sep – Phil
- H. Oct – Ann
- I. Nov – Rolf
- J. Dec – Pastor Kim
- K. Jan – ArMand
- L. Feb – Pastor Kim

### 5. Offering Counters: \*helps with communion

- A. Feb 11 – Haeli\*/ArMand
- B. Feb 18 – Rolf\*/Phil
- C. Feb 25 – Sue\*/Dave
- D. Mar 3 – ArMand\*/Ann
- E. Mar 10 – Sandy\*/Rolf
- F. Mar 17 – Beth\*/Sue

### 6. Financial Report – Loren

- A. Adam will reset the code on the lock box inside the office.
- B. Approved the January 2024 financial report. MSC (Beth/Ann)

### 7. Secretary's Report:

- A. Approved the January secretary's report via email on January 14th. *(majority of council members approved plus the president)*

### 8. Pastor's Report – Highlights for past month

- ✓ Sabbatical January plan 3.0 - Solo trip to Stockholm Sweden(Visited in my Sabbatical 1.0 plan)
- ✓ Sabbatical Weekly Pastoral Care For Pastor Kim's Sabbatical Part 1 (hospital visits, funerals, pastoral needs) Pastor Liz Davis jumped in and helped with one family and church member while I was away. Thanks to Pr. Liz
- ✓ Scandinavian Dinner Fundraiser - Great turn out and money raised
- ✓ Lent is coming - Feb 14 Ash Wednesday —Lenten Soup and services set up
- ✓ Pastoral Visitations /Hospital or Home Visits: 11 by Phone or in Person

### 9. Standing Reports: \*reports submitted

- A. Approved standing committee reports. MSC (Pastor Kim/ArMand)
- B. Christian Life (*liaison: ArMand Nelson, Adam Marks, Phil Jensen*)
  - i. Faith Formation (Youth/Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Education/Bible Study)
  - ii. Hospitality (Compassion/Care\*: Prayer Shawls, Wellness/BP Screening, Sunshine Ministry, Scrap Happy Quilters)
  - iii. Long Range Planning
  - iv. Memorial
  - v. Worship/Music (Altar Guild)
  - vi.



- C. Mission Life Committees (*liaison: Sandy Dahlberg*)
  - i. Outreach\* (Seafarers; Scholarship; Compassion/Care: CHUM, MN Foodshare, Days for Girls)
  - ii. Stewardship (Eco Faith)
- D. Operations (*liaisons: Dave Edblom, Ann Rankila*)
  - i. Audit (*Carol Surine, Carolyn Marino, Kim Marks*)
  - ii. Finance\*
  - iii. Property\*
- E. Women of French River\* (WOFR / WELCA) Auxiliary
- F. Executive Committee (Pastor, President, VP, Secretary)
  - i. Mutual Ministry (Pastor, President, Steve Berntson, Carol Surine, Kim Burke, Ken Peterson)
  - ii. Staff Relations

## 10. Correspondence

## 11. Old Business

- A. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Saturday, September 14, 2024
  - i. \$4,700 raised so far (expense receipts pending).
  - ii. Saturday's dinner was a success.
  - iii. Kate and Barb will be meeting and sharing upcoming meetings.
  - iv. Booklet: Barb and Pastor Kim
  - v. Chairpersons: Barb Jackson and Katie Edblom
- B. Timber Frame Use Policy
  - i. Outreach committee reviewed on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Suggestions will be considered and policy will be updated.
- C. Mutual Ministry – Feb 27 at either 6:00 or 7:00
- D. Photo directory should be going to print soon.

## 12. New Business

- A. Approved donating our Lent and Easter offerings equally be Second Harvest Northland and Seafarer's Ministry. MSC (Pastor Kim/Sheila)
- B. Letter to Vanco – tabled until next month
- C. 2025 Nominating Committee (Peggy Dahlberg, Phil Strom, Haeli Pettis (alternate: Loren if needed)
- D. Approved the following slate of officers for 1-year term. MSC (Sheila/ArMand)
  - i. President - Rolf
  - ii. Vice President - Beth
  - iii. Secretary - Sue
- E. Assign committee liaisons
  - i. Christian Life (*liaisons: ArMand Nelson, Adam Marks, Phil Jensen*)
  - ii. Mission Life Committees (*liaison: Sandy Dahlberg*)
  - iii. Operations (*liaisons: Dave Edblom, Ann Rankila*)
- F. State annual if any signers change for accounts – white ballot or changes?
  - i. Approved to white ballot the signers for financial accounts this year. MSC (ArMand/Beth)
- G. Easter Breakfast will be held between the 2 services. The WELCA group is interested in helping. Will ask help from others who normally help. The Easter egg tradition will be paused this year.
  - i. Pastor Kim will apply for the Thrivent grant to cover the cost of groceries.
  - ii. Need a few people to setup on Saturday.
  - iii. Pastor will talk to the youth group.
  - iv. Money raised will go to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration fund.
- H. Soup suppers – 3 people from council will serve and others will clean up on 2/28
  - i. Soup (Dave/Katie, Phil, Sue)
  - ii. Bread (Ann)
  - iii. Check fridge and buy milk if needed (Dave)
  - iv. Treats (Ann)
- I. Next month: Kindred Paths check in

## 13. Upcoming

- A. Council Meeting minutes email approval by Sunday, February 17th

B. Parables Deadline —February 21, 2024

C. Executive: Monday, March 4, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.

D. Finance: Monday, March 11, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.

E. Council: **Tuesday, March 19, 2024** @ 7:00 P.M. (moved due to Township elections 3/12)

14. Meeting adjourned at @ 8:42 P.M. MSC (Beth/Adam)

15. Closing with The Lord’s Prayer

Submitted by Sheila Laiti, Secretary



### The 2024 Easter Altar Garden



To recognize a person or group this Easter, please complete the form below and send it along with **\$10** to the church office (can be put in the drop box by lower doors as well) or place in the offering plate.

**Anyone dropping forms off at the FRLC office, please place all forms in the folder on the office door to ensure non are missed.**

To have names printed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin, please hand in **no later** than **Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**.

Flowers will be placed on the altar Easter Sunday and may be picked up after the 10:00 a.m. service.

\*Extra forms are available at the ushers stand in the Narthex.

In **memory of** or **honor of**  
*(circle one)*

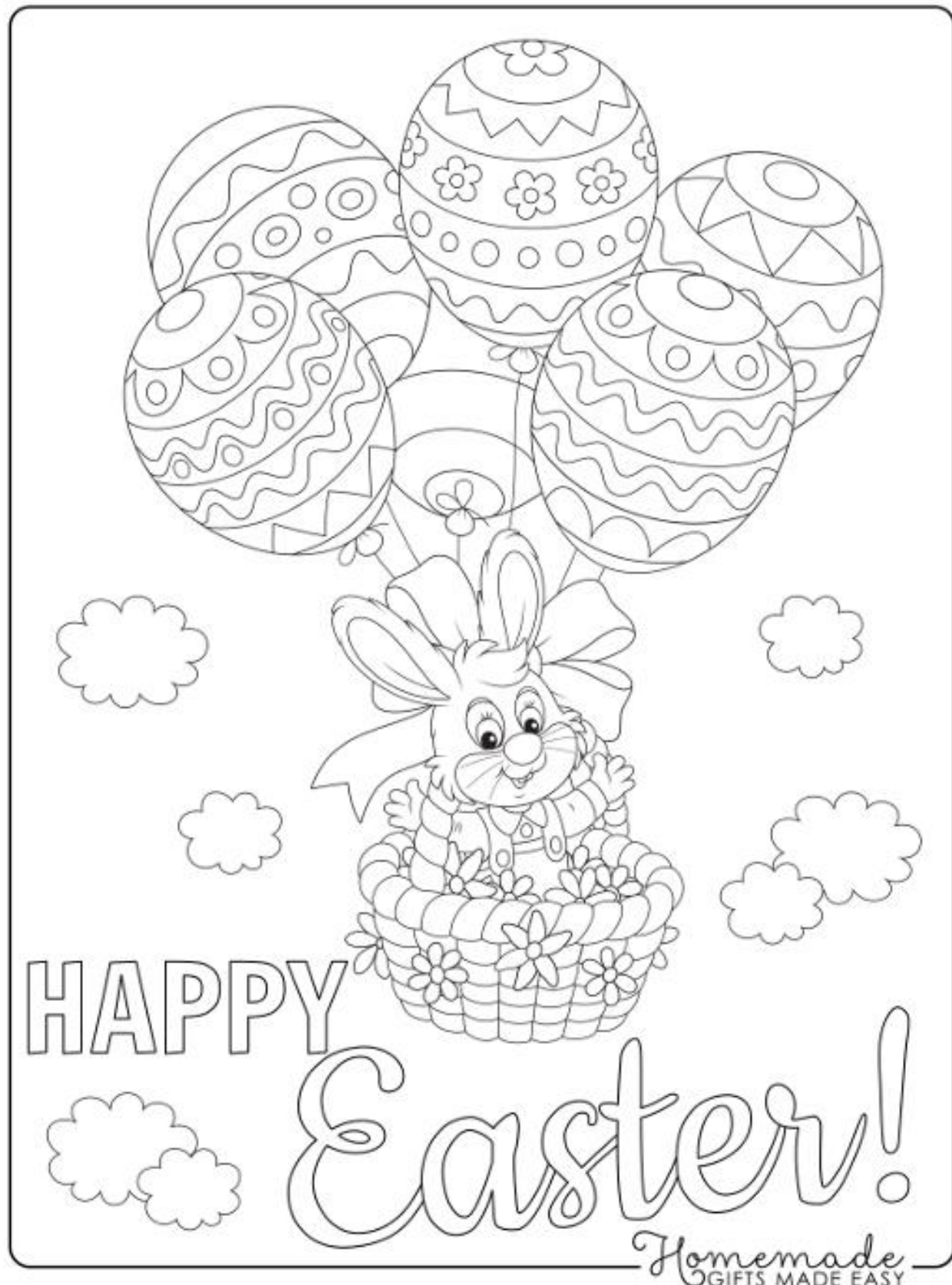
Name of recipient(s) on the line above

Given by (please include your phone number)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ cash or check \_\_\_\_\_ (check number)

THANK YOU for adding to the beauty of our church during this festive celebration!

-- **FRLC Altar Guild**



Please contact the office with any inquires. If you call and reach voicemail and need quicker assistance, please email the FRLC office.

In case of an emergency please contact Pr. Kim Sturtz at 218.393.7444 or [frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com](mailto:frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com)

**FRLC office: [frlc5310@gmail.com](mailto:frlc5310@gmail.com) 218.525.5659**

**French River Lutheran Church † 5310 Ryan Road † Duluth, MN 55804**