

March 2025 Newsletter



Lent



Call Committee Update

Chair: Donna Henkel, Secretary: Joani Swenson, Committee Members: Jeff Bressner, Mike Carlson, Dave Harding, Jeff Melvin, Julie Rapp, Wesley Sancken, Marion Willhoite and Council Representative: Bob Follmer.

Prayer will be as essential a part of our call process as everything the Call Committee does. Let us all be in prayer that God will be working in the heart and life of the pastor He wishes us to call as our next pastor and that the pastor be open to the working of the Holy Spirit.

If you would like more information about how the call process works, you may go to the website: thenalc.org then click on “**Ministry Discernment**”. In the dropdown menu, select “**Call Process**”.

Church Banner Group

Our church banners are in need of updating. Who has a creative talent for sewing, needlepoint, or other creative skills to update or create new banners for our sanctuary? If you have these skills and are interested in this service project, we would love to see a Church Banner Group formed to accommodate this need!

We will provide the group with all the materials, instructions, and patterns you'll need. In addition, think of the great fellowships and friendships this group can form as you work together.

If you are interested in being in this new group, please contact the church office for more details.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration!





March News at Noah's Ark!

We have filled our morning classes for this school year and are accepting students on our waiting list for opening up our second set of classes if needed! If you have any questions about classes or would like to be on the waiting list please feel free to email pontiacnoah-sark@gmail.com anytime for your questions.

We also offer the option of your 3 year old being enrolled the month AFTER they turn 3! We are so excited to have added this option to our classroom environment in 2021!

The 3-year-old classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15-10:15 am.
The 4-year-old classes are held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:15-11:15 am.

Our friends are all settled in and enjoying our classroom! We are continuing to work on our Letters, Numbers, Shapes and Colors for the school year! This past month our friends did Valentine's Day activities and learned more about kindness. This month we will hold parent teacher conferences so we will be doing some testing to see where our friends are landing on developmentally appropriate skills! Then at the end of March we will have Spring Break!

Registration has begun for 2025-2026 school year! Classes are filling up quick so please be sure to contact Mrs. Immke at pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com for information!

Noah's Ark also has interns from the LACC Child Development classes that joined our 4 Year old class that come observe and interact with our kiddos. We love being able to offer this opportunity to them to see a Christ centered preschool environment to encourage their love of children and work hands on with students before going off to college for their coursework in Early Childhood/Education.

As we move into the month of March we will focus on St. Patrick's day, and begin discussing Easter!

Our primary goal is to always 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 Note:

If you have submitted a name for the **Prayer List** and want that person to receive a **“Thinking of You”** card from the church, please provide the church office with a good address so the card will arrive at the correct address.

Also, please update the church office if/when a name on the prayer list can be removed, if there are any address changes, or if you want to submit a new name to the Prayer List. Thank you!



Thinking
of you

The First Lutheran Church **“Comforting Ladies”** are working on **Tuesdays at 1:00 pm** and **Saturdays beginning at 9:00 am.** We are FLEXIBLE! You can work during any of these hours, as your schedule allows. You do not have to work the same time every week and you do not have to work every week. If you are interested in joining our FLC quilting group and have any questions, please talk to Lynnette.



Need More Church Service Volunteers!

We truly appreciate those of you who have volunteered to fill in some of our empty church service slots! We are in need of more church service volunteers for Communion Assistants, Ushers, Greeters, and Altar Guild. Please prayerfully consider your calling for this very helpful ministry and then sign up on the service sheets distributed at each service. Thank you!



During the month of March, we will be collecting: paper products such as toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissues, toothbrushes, toothpaste, “pop-top” canned foods, canned “complete” meals (w/ meat), pop-top foods, complete pancake mix, syrup, feminine products, laundry detergent, and kid’s cereal. Most of these items can be purchased inexpensively at Dollar Tree or Dollar General. Please feel free to choose as few or as many items as you wish.

Notification was received that there is a **desperate** need for the following items (CANNED only, please—NO glass): **Soups**, especially *Cream of Mushroom*, *Cream of Chicken* and *Tomato* and **Canned Pasta Sauces**. The Food Pantry has not been receiving as many of these items from the food banks and has found themselves having to purchase food for their shelves.

In light of this updated need, monetary donations are certainly welcome! The Food Pantry also accepts donations of unopened, non-perishable food and supplies.

The church is open Mon-Fri from 8:00 am—1:00 pm. Grocery carts are located in the Fellowship Hall & by the ramp door and a red wagon is located in the Narthex for your item donations.

I truly appreciate the support members of First Lutheran have given to this ministry for so many years! Thank you, also, to all who have helped transport the donated items to the Food Pantry!

—Chris Lauritzen

March Birthdays

Roger Becker	3/4	Kellin Ours	3/21
Nancy Fienhold	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



Offering Contributions

REMINDER—If you wish to make a contribution to the church and are uncomfortable or unable to attend services in person, you may mail it to the church or drop it off at the church between 8:00 am & 1:00 pm.

Church Directory Update...The final step is completed. Our church directory has been sent for printing. We should have our directories by the end of March! Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Communion Changes

We will be communing at the rail weekly (except for Christmas Eve and Easter services). We will again offer intinction (as well as individual cups). With the return of intinction, we will again need TWO communion assistants, so please sign up accordingly. Thank you.

Prayer Works



**Please Pray
for our
Members &
Friends**

Diana Becker, Ellis Diemer, Kerry Foster, Roger Henkel, Darrel Johnson, Mary Ann Johnson, Marcia Legner, Cindy Rodriguez, Cindi Arnold, Kate Cashmer, Betty Edwards, Melissa Hoerner, Joni Koch, Chris Ross, Anita Sands, Gail Shaffer, Dave & Carol Tharp, & John Winchester.

CHILDREN: Elliot Buchheit, Lucy McKinley & Josh Sphrepfer.

Let us also pray for these following members:

*Evenglow Lodge (Tjardes Health Ctr):
Harley Mayer, Cheryl Weber*

The Lodge @ Evenglow: Jean Hoover

*Goldwater Care (formerly Good Sam):
Steve Croft, Kerry Foster, Dave & Carol Tharp*

IL Veteran's Home, LaSalle: Jim Jones

Luther Oaks, Bloomington: Harold Willke

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 3 & 17
Euchre @ 6:30 pm**

**Thursdays
Comforting Ladies @ 1 pm
Choir @ 6 pm**

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

**Saturdays @ 5:30
Worship Service**

**Thursday, Mar 6 @ 1 pm
Anna Circle**

**Thursday, Mar 6 @ 7 pm
VBS Planning Meeting**

**Saturday, Mar 8 @ 8 am
Church Council Retreat**

**Monday, Mar 10 @ 6:30 pm
Memorial Meeting**

**Tuesday, Mar 11 @ 7 pm
Church Council**

**Friday, Mar 21
Newsletter Deadline**

**Saturday, Mar 22 @ 1 pm
Congregational Workshop**

**Monday, Mar 24 @ 4 pm
Mission/Social Committee**

**Tuesday, Mar 25 @ 7 PM
Worship Committee**

**Wednesday, Mar 26 @ 5:30 pm
CEO Group @ Café Fontana**

**Friday, Mar 28 @ 9 am
Newsletter Assembly**

**Thursday, April 3
VBS Planning Meeting**



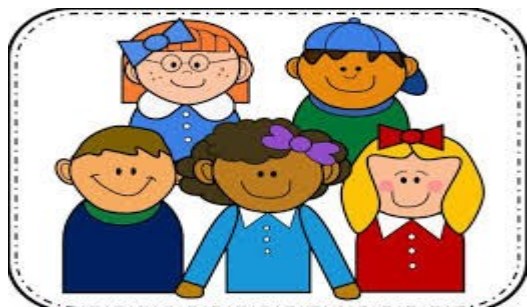
CEO's GROUP

The CEO Group will hold their 11th fellowship meal on **Wed, March 26 at 5:30 pm at Café Fontana.**

The CEO signup sheet is located on the bulletin board across from the church office.

Did You Know?

When you sponsor Altar Flowers, you are welcome to take them home with you after the second service on Sunday or sometime during the week. They will be sitting on the kitchen counter.



Looking for Pictures...they are coming in! Thank you! Stop by the photo bulletin board to see who you may know! It's amazing how much we have all changed! Please be sure to put your name and phone number

on the back of your picture so that they can be returned to you. The pictures can be of past or current events.

VANCO Mobile App—is a new way you can support our church ministries, make one-time gifts/donations or set up recurring donations online. From your Vanco Online account, you can review your giving history, manage recurring donations and update payment information. Check with any of our Tech Committee Members for more details: Mike Carlson, Joseph Durbin, Christine Brown, Bob Follmer or Andrew Kelly.

Come join the fun every other Monday night!



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

Doors open 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 3 & 17

Apr 7 & 21

May 5 & 19

June 2 & 16

HOW TO WATCH OUR CHURCH SERVICES ONLINE:

YOUTUBE: 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!

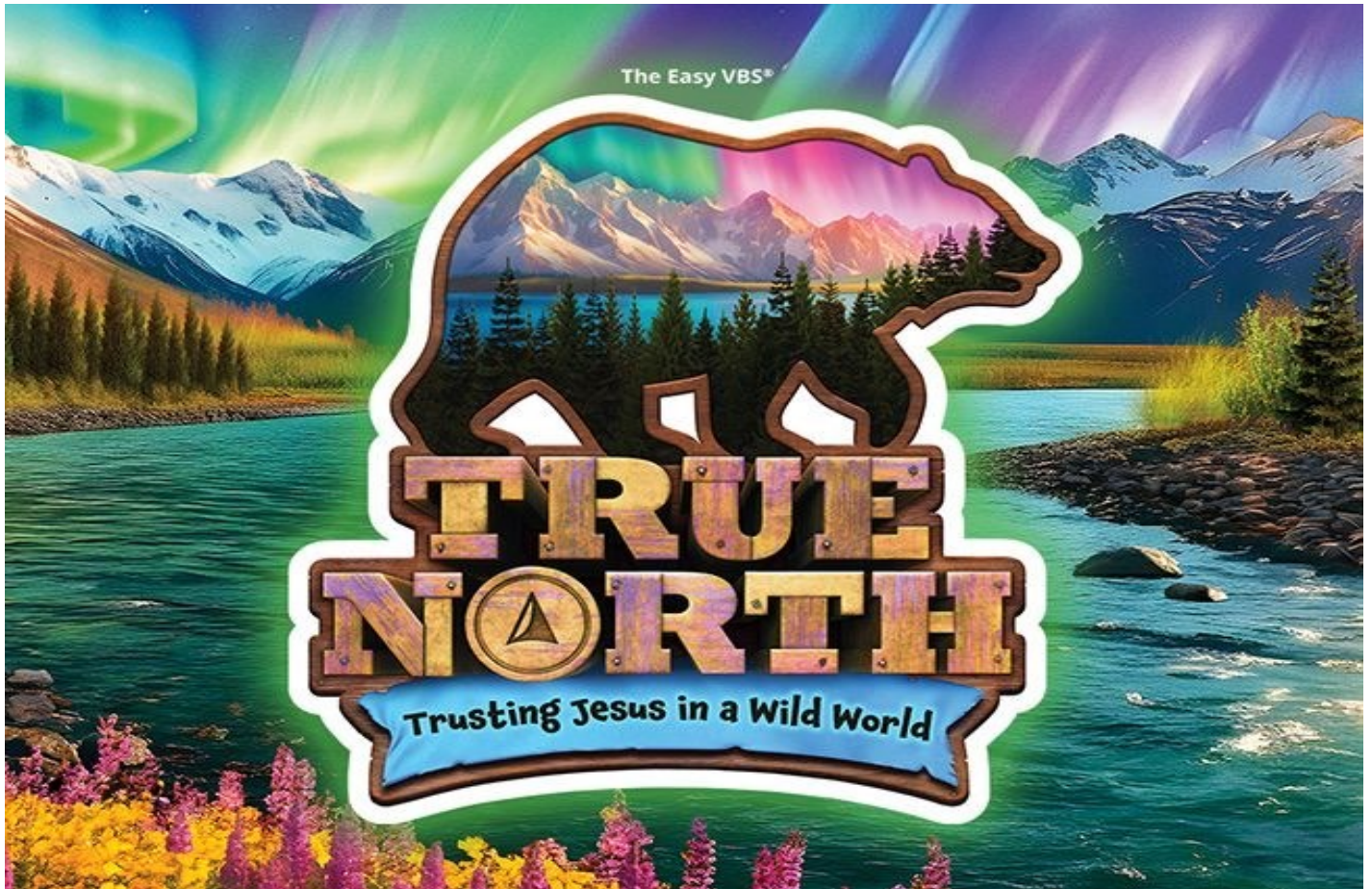
TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/FirstPontiac>

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





**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 2—6, 2025**

We will guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As the kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward JESUS, "True North" VBS shows them that He is a faithful friend we can always trust. He is our True North!

**Registration will begin on May 1st,
but mark your calendars now!**

Congregational Workshop!

Day/Time TBD

Dear Members and Friends of our FLC Congregation:

We are taking an important step on our journey to call our next pastor—and we need your voice! We plan to gather for a Congregational Workshop, a time to prayerfully reflect on who we are as a church and how God is calling us forward.

This workshop isn't just a meeting; it's a spiritual check-in and an opportunity for every member to help shape the future of our congregation.

Here's what we'll be up to:

- **Digging into Scripture** – We'll form small groups to reflect on Bible passages that reveal our shared calling as Christians. Together, we'll discern how God's Word speaks to the qualities we need in our next pastor.
- **Assessing Our Ministry** – We'll take an honest look at our strengths, growth areas, and current reality. By naming and celebrating what we're doing well—and learning from what needs work—we'll set the stage for a healthy ministry partnership with our future pastor.
- **Fostering a Covenant Relationship** – Calling a pastor isn't the same as "hiring an employee." It's more like a marriage, rooted in covenantal commitment. We'll discuss how we can strengthen our unity, cooperation, and mutual support as we embark on this new relationship.

Visioning for the Future – The **North American Lutheran Church (NALC)** encourages congregations to be:

- ◆ **Christ Centered**
- ◆ **Mission Driven**
- ◆ **Traditionally Grounded**
- ◆ **Congregationally Focused**

We'll explore practical ways to embody these core values together and ensure that our congregation is ready to welcome and work alongside our next pastor.

Gathering Input – From discussing leadership models to conflict resolution and discipleship initiatives, your insights matter. We'll brainstorm the top ministry needs we have for our next pastor and narrow them down to a clear, prayerful vision.

At the end of the workshop, we'll compile a summary for all participants, so we can continue the conversation in the days and weeks to come. This is your chance to ask questions, share hopes and concerns, and pray together for the future God has in store for us.

We urge everyone—from council and call committee members to long-time and new congregants—to join us. The more voices we hear, the better we can discern where God is leading our congregation.

Together, let's seek God's will for our next pastor and the future of our congregation. We can't wait to see you there!

First Lutheran Church Call Committee

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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www.firstlutheranpontiac.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*March
2025*

“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:

Office Admin: Mary Ann Johnson

Acct: Angel Hall

Custodian: DeAnn Dennis

Choir Dir: Joseph Durbin

2025 Congregational Council:

Christine Brown, President

Liz Diemer, V. President

Stephanie Durbin, Secretary

Diane Sancken, Treasurer

Steve Ray, Fin. Secretary

Mary Lou Jones

Gail Smythe

Al Fahsbender

Dawn Graves

Roger Henkel

Marcie Trainor

Bob Follmer
