

Sunday, February 21, 2016

Second Sunday in Lent

**FIRST READING. Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

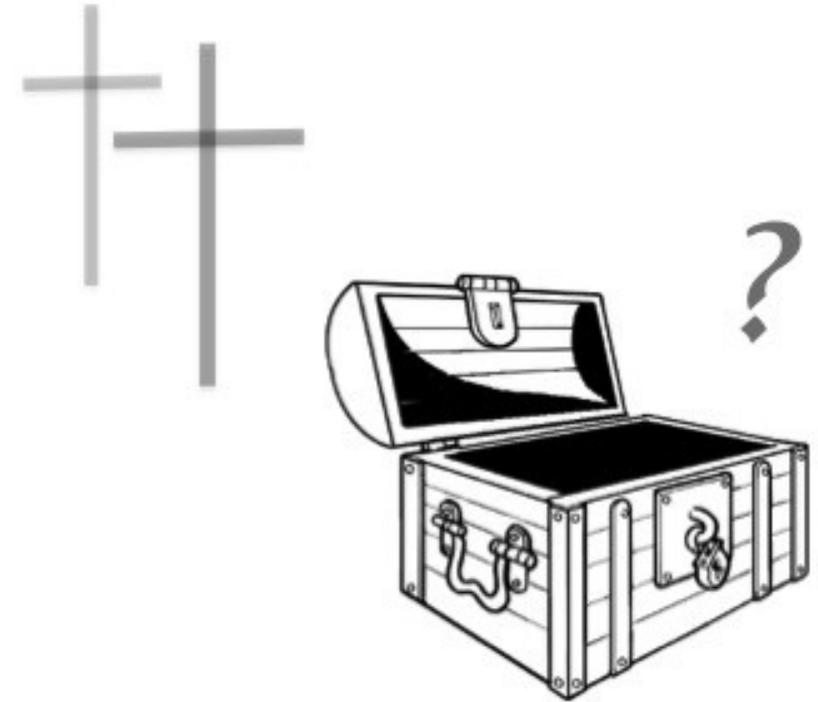
**SECOND LESSON. Philippians 3:17-4:1**

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

**GOSPEL. Luke 13:31-35**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

## *Lent: Discovering the Treasure*



**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT  
FEBRUARY 21, 2016**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

February 21, 2016  
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

First Lutheran Church  
Fergus Falls, Minnesota  
(218) 739-3348

Website: [www.firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org)

Email: [firstlc@live.com](mailto:firstlc@live.com)

Online  
Giving  
(QR Code)



**Donut Drive-thru** - Homemade Buttermilk Donuts will be sold by the First Lutheran Youth this Sunday from 9:30AM-12:00PM. A drive-thru lane will be available in the lower parking lot. Proceeds support this summer's trip for grades 8-12 to Outlaw Ranch Bible Camp in Custer, South Dakota! Half Dozen: \$5 / Full Dozen: \$10 Thank you for supporting the First Lutheran Youth!

**Big Thank you to Tag Up for making the big poster for our youth to use today!**

How many stars are in the sky? Our universe is vast, huge, and amazing. Today, childless Abram is promised descendants as many as the stars. What a promise! Today we join in thanksgiving to God for the treasure of God's good creation.

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**\* Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,  
**We confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,  
By what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin  
And to serve you in the newness of life. Amen**

By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth,  
and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
God forgives us all our sins.  
Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness  
and keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

**\* Opening Hymn**

***God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens***

**ELW 771**

**\* Apostolic Greeting**

ELW Page 138

**\* Kyrie**

ELW Page 138

**Large Print Edition** of the order of worship, the lessons, and the hymns for today are available. If you would like copies for worship, please ask an usher.

**Visitors!** If you didn't get a "Visitors Bag" when you came in this morning please pick one up on your way out after worship. You'll find them in a basket located on the small table on the ramp coming up from the narthex into the sanctuary.

**Altar Flowers** are in celebration of Tom & Jane Willet's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on February 25<sup>th</sup>, given by their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**Lenten midweek worship will be Wednesdays at 12:10 and 7 pm Vespers.** A homemade soup lunch will be available after the mid-day worship and will be served in the narthex or you can get soup in a cup with buttered bread and a bar, **TO GO!!** **Reminder to Confirmants: ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED.**

**Swedish Meatball Dinner Fundraiser** – Today from 5-7 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church. \*free-will offering\* Proceeds support the youth skiers of the Otter Tail Nordic Ski Association. (Fergus Falls High School and Hillcrest Lutheran Academy)

**Family Ministry Board game night** – is tonight! Please come join First Lutheran families for a fun night of board games from 5-7 p.m. tonight. Bring a few board games and drinks for your family – pizza summer will be provided. All are welcome!

**Opportunity to Serve:** Are you looking for a great way to learn about the "behind-the-scenes" aspect of worship? As a Sacristan, you get to help the Pastors make sure everything is in its place before worship begins. This includes (never all at once) bringing the cross & bible into the Conference Room, helping acolytes & other worship leaders get robed, lining up the processional parties. Seeing to these details can go far in helping provide for a meaningful worship experience for all who come. Please call the church office at 739-3348 if you are interested in learning more about being a Sacristan.

**LAST CHANCE** – Make a \$5.00 donation to the First Lutheran Relay For Life Team and you will receive a community days coupon book from Herberger's. A team member will be here between services to take donations and hand out books at the info counter.

**Attention High School Seniors:** Scholarship Application forms for the 2016 ELCA \$1,000 Scholarship have been mailed to your homes. Applications must be completed by April 15, 2016

**Fergus Falls Blood Drive** – at First Lutheran Church on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 1-7 p.m. Appointment info: 1-800-RED-CROSS (733-2767) or [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) **March is Red Cross Month. Every donation you give helps us do more of what we do.**

**This Week at First Lutheran:**

Today: 8:30 & 11 am Worship/**1st Grade Milestone Blessing**  
**9:30-Noon Donut Drive-Thru Fundraiser for Outlaw Ranch Youth Trip**  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
**5-7 p.m. Family Ministry Game Night**

Monday: 9:00 a.m. WELCA Love Days  
5:00 p.m. Al-Anon  
5:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday: *MESSENGER DEADLINE*  
9:30 a.m. Al-Anon  
**9:30 a.m. Sarah's Circle @ Pioneer Pointe**  
10:00 a.m. AA  
**12:10 p.m. Lenten Worship & Lunch in Narthex**  
**1:00 p.m. Hannah's Circle @ Church**  
3:45-4:30 Children's Choir  
4:30 p.m. FLY K4  
**7:00 p.m. Lenten Vespers – Confirmation students required to attend**  
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir (following Vespers)  
7:30 p.m. Senior FLY (following Vespers)

Thursday: 8:45 a.m. Morning Watch – Substitute – KBRF AM 1250  
9:45 a.m. Sr Coffee & Bible Study (Conference Room)

Friday: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**Next Sunday, February 28:**

8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study

**\* Prayer of the Day**

P Let us pray ...  
C Amen

**1st Grade Milestone Blessing**

**First Lesson**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

*God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a son, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.*  
(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God.**)

**Second Lesson**

Philippians 3:17-4:1

*Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.*  
(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God.**)

**\*Lenten Sentence**

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

(After Gospel is announced, congregation says, **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

**Gospel**

Luke 13:31-35

(Congregational response after Gospel is read: **Praise to you, O Christ.**)

**Sermon**

**Count the Stars**

Pastor Jennifer Rose

**Hymn of the Day**

**Great is Thy Faithfulness**

**ELW 733**

**Children's Event**

Pastor Jennifer

**\* Apostles' Creed**

Inside back cover of the ELW Hymnal

**\* The PEACE is shared**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

**Offering**

**\* Offertory**

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**\* The Prayers**

P ...Lord, in your mercy,

OR

P ... Let us pray to the Lord,

C hear our prayer.

C Lord, have mercy.

**\* 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

**\* Benediction**

**\* Three-Fold Amen**

**\* Blessing and Sending** (Congregational response: "Thanks be to God")

**\* Closing Hymn**

*How Great Thou Art*

**ELW 856**

**\* Postlude**

\* indicates where to stand

**1st Graders receiving their Milestone Blessing:**

John Abrahams, Riley Anderson, Olivia Bernstetter, Gabe Carlson, Laila Charles, Tally Clark, Destiny Eckley, Nolan Felstul, Noah Frank, Zachary Johnson, Ty Jyrkas, Ean Knutson, Zane Kollman, Brody Krein, Jaden Kwapinski, Evelyn Meldahl, Aiden Neubauer, Anja Rajaniemi, Henry Rose, Anna Sem, William Vaughn, and Kaelyn Walls.

The purple banner hanging above the pulpit and the purple Altar Paraments the Altar Guild puts up during Lent was given to First Lutheran by Dorwin & Lorelee Hansen.

Senior Pastor:

Saul Stensvaag

Associate Pastor:

Jennifer Rose

Visitation Pastor:

Stan Satre

Sunday School Superintendent:

Cindy Larson

Council President:

Elizabeth Abrahams

Organist:

Keith Melberg

Greeters:

8:30- Joe Ellig & Kelsee Macintosh-Ellig  
11-Boy Scouts from Troop #304

Lectors:

8:30 – Missy Mattson 11-DeAnna Hurley

Acolytes:

8:30- Matthew Oehler 11-Nycole Mouritsen

Cantor:

Diane Boen

PA operator:

8:30-Kevyn Heck 11-Margaret Ness-Ludwig