

Imitating The Master

You have heard it said that imitation is the greatest form of flattery. At the heart of that statement, idea, is the ancient practice of apprenticeship. An apprentice works alongside the master, imitating the master and learning from the master the skills necessary for the trade. When Jesus called his disciples, they began an apprenticeship that enabled them to learn the skills necessary to represent God's vision for God's world. We have a fancy word for that in the church: discipleship.

Discipleship assumes that we are students of the teacher, and as students we walk side by side with our Teacher, listening and watching him as he teaches through his words and actions. For us, however, as we learn what our Teacher desires to teach us, and we imitate him in his words and actions, we are doing that not out of a desire to flatter him, but out of the desire to be more like him. Discipleship. Apprenticeship. Imitating the Master, Jesus the Christ.

The season of Lent is a time that we, as a church, intentionally engage in the practices that help us deepen our relationship with Jesus; the spiritual practices of this apprenticeship that we are on. There is much that we can learn from the scriptures to teach us what this apprenticeship looks like, this discipleship looks like. I found a section in Romans that gives concise instructions for Jesus' disciples, and I think it is helpful for us as we enter into the season Lent:

- Let love be genuine
- Hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good
- Love one another with mutual affection
- Outdo one another in showing honor
- Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord
- Rejoice in hope
- Be patient in suffering
- Persevere in prayer
- Contribute to the needs of the saints
- Extend hospitality to strangers
- Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them
- Rejoice with those who rejoice
- Weep with those who weep
- Live in harmony with one another
- Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly
- Do not claim to be wiser than you are
- Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all
- If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all

That's a pretty great list from Romans 12:9-18, and it goes on. Reread that list and see in it the qualities of our Master, Christ Jesus. Then reread the list again and see in it a blueprint for you and I to faithfully follow Christ and represent God's vision for God's world.

Christ Jesus has called all of us to follow him, and where he goes is toward the full richness of life under the reign of God, eternal life, abundant life, true life.

Rev. D. J. Rasner, interim

CHURCH



COUNCIL

The church council held its monthly meeting January 12th in the fellowship hall.

Pastor reported that there has been requests for wine to again be part of the sacrament of communion and the council agreed. A safe way for distribution will be adopted.

The final job description for the position of Administrative Assistant was approved with the only change being the approximate weekly hours being raised from 10 to 15. It was also decided to have a paid part time position of Custodian.

Discussion turned to the annual meeting and it was decided to hold the meeting immediately following the Sunday service on February 7th. The agenda was discussed and approved and the budget, presented by the Finance committee, was also approved.

A special meeting of the council was held on January 19th. The main topics of the meeting included the future of Pastoral care for First Lutheran and the Administrative Assistant position. Pastor Rasner laid out several options for Pastoral care and the council will continue discussion of the options. It was decided to place ads in the Reporter again and post the position with the Iron County Economic Chamber Alliance for the Administrative position. The council approved the purchase of three video monitors to aid in the monitoring of the live feed to Facebook and control the in-church video stream and displays. A line item for the 2021 budget was also added for Technology.

Putting our trust in the Lord,
Gale J. Holm
Council President



Stewardship

Thanks to everyone for allowing me to support FLC as council member and treasurer over the past few years. I hope my tenure was as rewarding to the church as it has been for me. We have seen many changes in the past 6 years together and I am excited to see what the future has for us. One thing I know, the church needs you as much as you need the church, your help, your prayers and your financial support.

December income was up from prior year by \$2,229 due to memorial and facility improvement contributions. General income was however down from prior year by \$1,975. Supported by the special income and low expenses for December, income exceeded expenses by \$9,982. Thank you for your support through a challenging year.

	Income	Debits	Net
December	\$15,153.14	\$5,170.89	\$9,982.25

Technology

We continue to develop our understanding of streaming our Sunday services. We will be expanding our skills on this and other systems. Our broadcasting system will enable you to see into our sanctuary during services on Facebook. We continue to look for willing volunteers to assist with our service broadcasts.



February

Happy Birthday

Michael Dedo	February 2
Brenda Markkola	February 5
Jackson Secord	February 6
Ardis Gagnea	February 9
Joan Varney	February 9
Elizabeth Kempainen	February 9
Sandra Carlson	February 16
Sherry Garavet	February 18
Kyla Busakowski	February 18
Jon Ahlberg	February 19
Tracey Nelson	February 19
Alissa Porier	February 20
Sabrina Kempainen	February 20
Marla Busakowski	February 26
Kole Pollock	February 27

Happy Anniversary

Bruce and Ruth Nelson February 1

Our Sincere Condolences



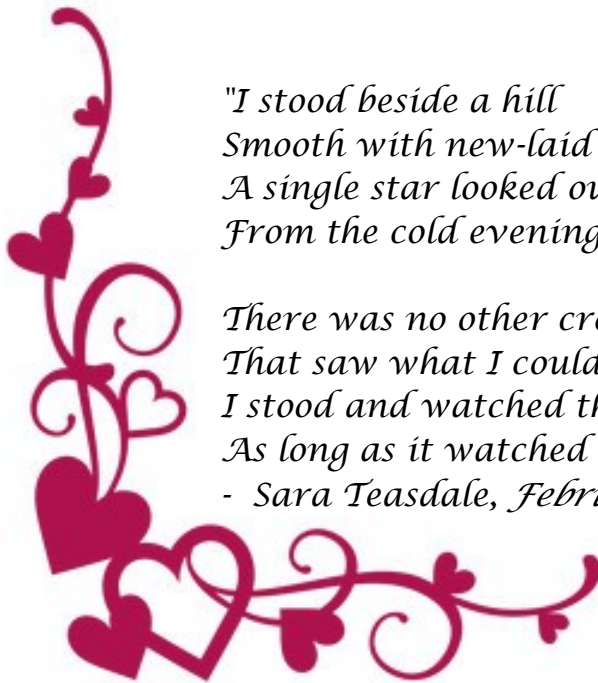
Jo Holm and her family on the death
of her brother.

The family of Dale Purkey.

The family of Rose Johnson.

*"I stood beside a hill
Smooth with new-laid snow,
A single star looked out
From the cold evening glow.*

*There was no other creature
That saw what I could see--
I stood and watched the evening star
As long as it watched me."
- Sara Teasdale, February Twilight*



Lay Readers Needed

Please consider signing up to be a lay reader. We need volunteers! The readings are sent to you the Tuesday before you read, so you will have plenty of time to become acquainted with the lessons. Thank you to those who have helped in the past. Sign up is on the bulletin board by the Secretary's office.

Men's Group

The Men's group met on January 15th and discussed the world problems over coffee. 😊 We have been working on publishing a capital "Wish List" on our website. Look for it next month.

Our next meeting will be Friday, February 19th at 8:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Topic of discussion: *The Post Quarantine Church - Six Urgent Challenges & Opportunities* by Thom Rainer (about 120 pages). A few copies of the book will be available in the church office for sharing.

FLC Quilters



First Lutheran Quilters have been active for many years. The current group went on a "Cleaning Bee" and emptied all the boxes and baskets that had been at church and came across some quilt tops and pieces of tops such as the one shown above. These are from a time when the marking was done in pencil and cut with scissors. Our goal is to finishing these and send to Lutheran World Relief. Some of the early members included: Clovis, Jane, Joan, Marge, Lila, Esther, Mavis, and many more. Thanks Ladies for getting us started.

First Lutheran Church 2021 Time and Talents

Name

Address

Preferred Phone #

Email

Please circle areas that you would be able to assist with or would like to join.

Lay Reader

Usher/Greeter

Cleaner

Nursery care

Audio/Broadcast

Alter Guild

Youth group

Choir

Outreach/social gatherings

Shut ins/communions

Quilter Kitchen crew if not already on a list

CREW teacher

Confirmation class assistant

Snow-walk way shoveling

Custodial/repair help

WELCA/MENS group

Acolytes

Newsletter folding/envelope stuffing/Bulletin folding

CHRIST on TRIAL

A Lenten Service Series

Please join us starting **February 17th**
Wednesday's @ 12:00 pm
First Lutheran Church

Christ most certainly WAS on trial. Two thousand years have come and gone since Caiaphas and Pilate passed judgment on Jesus in Jerusalem. And though the verdict passed down at that trial was a miscarriage of justice, the result fulfilled God's purpose: to save the world by sacrificing his Son.

Christ most certainly IS on trial. His saving act, his being in the world, his radical teachings all demand a reaction. Every human heart must wrestle with questions like: Who is this Christ? Is he who he claims to be? If so, what does he mean for me and my living? Christ demands a reply. Daily, Christ is on trial.

He IS on trial again this Lent. Scriptural evidence is analyzed each service, and eye witnesses share accounts of their encounters with Jesus:

- We hear a **Lawyer's** opening statements as to who this Jesus is, and who will be on the witness stand in the coming weeks.
- **Matthew** speaks of Jesus' scandalous association with the seedier side of society
- **A former cripple** is, herself, evidence of Jesus' loose interpretation of Sabbath Law
- "Jesus, Disturber Of The Peace!" Is it true? Prominent Jewish leader **Nicodemus** weighs in.
- Evidence that Jesus is a self-elected "Judge and Jury" is offered by a **woman caught in adultery.**
- Are charges of cannibalism true? A young man named **John** is called to the stand.

Christ On Trial examines evidence that demands a verdict: Who is this Jesus...for you?

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:00 Quilters 12:00 Worship and Music	3	4	5	6 
7 10:00 Service Rev DJ Rasner communion 11:00 Annual Meeting	8 11:00 WELCA	9 9:00 Quilters 10:00 Finance 6:00 Council	10	11	12	13
14 10:00 Service Andy Hill 	15	16 9:00 Quilters	17 12:00 Ash Wednesday Service Rev DJ Rasner	18	19 8:30 Men's Group	20
21 10:00 Service Rev Doug Johnson Communion Noisy Offering	22	23 9:00 Quilters	24 12:00 Lenten Services	25	26	27
28 10:00 Service Lori Ward						

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
235 E GENESEE STREET
IRON RIVER MI 49935

«Household Name»

«Address1»

«City», «State/Province» Postal/Zip code»

Official Notice
First Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 7, 2021
10:45 AM, following the 10:00 service

Broadcast WIKB 99.1 FM

Phone: 906-265-9518

Secretary, Jill Poulos

Phone (906) 231-4905

Interim Pastor, DJ Rasner