



The First Word is a
monthly
publication of:
**First Lutheran
Church**
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Rev. Dr. John M.
Medwid,
Pastor

Josef Markowski,
Council President

Susan B. Hale,
Director of Music

Julie Lind,
Parish Administrator

Kevin Taft,
Property Manager



Bowling for Beds Annual Bowl-a-Thon for the CACC Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter First Lutheran Church participants and friends (left to right) Ed Engelhardt, Kim Paonessa, Carol Engelhardt, Kevin Taft, Josef Markowski, Pastor John and Roger Minch.

Thanks to everyone for rocking the Bowl-A-Thon!!!!

With your help, we raised **\$10,504.15** for the Emergency Homeless Shelter at First Lutheran Church. The shelter has 19 beds and provides dinner, a bed, laundry facilities and breakfast for men in our community who need it most November through April!!!

Our hearty thanks to Del Lanes for hosting. Bill, the owner said he could give us an even better price if we held the event in the fall so plan now to make the change - I'll shoot you all a "save the date very soon"!

The pictures have been posted on our Cornerstone Facebook Page:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=10155708523848347&id=122388083346

Here's a breakdown by church:

Delmar Presbyterian	\$1,636.00
UMC Youth Unit	\$480.00
Trinity UMC	\$1,312.00
Emmaus Methodist	\$577.95
1st Church - Albany (RCA)	\$75.00
Holy Spirit Lutheran	\$815.00
St. John's Lutheran	\$303.00
	\$5,198.95
1st Lutheran	\$800.00
Guilberland Youth	\$150.00
Westminister Pres	\$1,229.00
Sojourner Truth AME Zion	\$500.00
New Covenant Pres	\$200.20
Jean Paul Salon	\$105.00
RPM's	\$240.00
Community UCC Clinton Hts	\$710.00
Journey UCC	\$1,371.00
	\$5,305.20
	\$10,504.15

WOW!!! Thank You!!!

Rev. Sandy Damhof
Protestant Campus Minister

We are a church that belongs to Christ. There is a place for you here.



“This is My Body!”

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As winter begins to loosen its icy grip on our landscape and as the season of Lent quickly heads toward the proclamation of the new life of Easter, we are invited to look at creation with new eyes and a new perspective. Theologian Sallie McFague invites us to look at creation as the body of God. Imagine for a moment the implications of this understanding. If creation itself is the body of God, then everything is sacred and holy. Incarnation (God joining with material reality) is not just an event that occurred 2000 years ago in the person of a Jewish rabbi named Jesus, but incarnation in its broadest sense began almost 14 billion years ago with the Big Bang. God then is a presence that lies not only at the heart of creation, but one that also pervades every facet and quark in the universe. If God is the “background” of reality, then everything is interconnected and interrelated. This is a vantage point that was common to many ancient indigenous religions that celebrated the sacred cycle of nature. It is also more in tune with an agrarian society whose life is lived in close proximity to this cycle of nature. Our modern, industrialized society has often lived alienated from and at variance with creation. Unfortunately, Christianity has often fed this sense of separation from nature. As human beings were exalted as the crown of creation, nature was seen as something extraneous that could be exploited for the benefit of the human masters. The influence of Greek philosophy on Christianity emphasized a body-soul (matter-spirit) dualism where salvation meant a personal experience of the soul getting to a place called heaven.

The notion of the universe as the body of God is an invitation to put a wide-angle lens on our perspective. It is an invitation to take off our shoes wherever we are because we are standing on holy ground. It is an invitation to see the web of life that unites all of us in a cosmic dance that celebrates both unity and diversity. “This is my body!” Perhaps these words that we hear each Sunday point to more than just the elements of bread and wine. Perhaps our celebration of the Eucharist is a proclamation of a reality that surrounds us every day and an invitation to embrace this new perspective in our daily lives. To reach out to the stranger and the immigrant, to care for and to heal all of creation, these are sacred tasks that the Holy One calls us to as we hear the words: “This is my body!”

Happy spring and happy resurrection!

Pastor Medwid

Church Council Highlights

February Meeting

1. The Council resolved to open an Amazon account for First Lutheran Church to be used for necessary purchases.
2. The Council approved a resolution whereas the \$50,000 Mission Investment Fund was earning 1.39% and is coming due in March and the Council resolved to withdraw the Mission Fund and use the proceeds to pay for monthly expenses, rather than withdrawing funds from the Morgan Stanley investment account.

2017 Year End Financials:

	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
Weekly Contributions:			
	\$112,081.92	\$115,000	(\$2,918.00)
Holy Day/Special Contributions			
	\$6,033.25	\$5,000	\$1,033.25

Total Assets as of 12/31/2017 \$640,078.84

Sunday Morning Discussion Group

For the season of Lent will focus on the book entitled "Inventing the Passion: How the Death of Jesus was Remembered" by Arthur J. Dewey. This book looks at the historical basis of the Roman means of capital punishment known as crucifixion and how Jesus' fate was interpreted in the early writings of his followers.

Our group meets on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the library. All are welcome



Palm Sunday Breakfast

Hosted by FLC Church Council

**March 25th
9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
Wittenberg Hall**

Please sign up (on the bulletin board or by calling the church office) if you plan on attending!

Reducing Gun Violence

On **Sunday, March 11** at 11:30 a.m. at First Lutheran, Ruth Senchyna and Kathryn Lonergan from Moms Demand Action/Everytown for Gun Safety will lead a discussion about the organization's upcoming Advocacy Day at the NYS Legislature on Wednesday, 3/21/18, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Information will be shared about proposed state legislation aimed at reducing gun violence, including (1) Extreme Risk Protection Order and (2) Gun Violence Research Institute; as well as about opportunities to get involved.

Even if you are unable to attend the Lobby Day, come anyway to learn about other volunteer opportunities aimed at reducing gun violence in our communities through political action and social change. All are welcome.

Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins
colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer
confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns
cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil

E N A M E S H T E G R L W Y
C L E U X B M T H B U C W B
N R I K Y P A T E T I Y X Y
A V J G A L B R E Y A R P B
N G N L I S N L A I N E D X
E W M P R V R D H B N R D F
P S O G O L G O T H A B S C
D L N R O C O N F E S S I K
O T H T C P E K W U O U N D
M N S H N P W E D R H F S K
U N F O E T K Y C S G F O E
H E C R E V L I S W Q E C M
H V H N C X S O C C J R L O
F Q E S U D S H C A A Y M C
C R U C I F I X I O N S R V

March/April Cluster Outreach Collection

We are collecting items for the St. Francis and St. John/St. Ann food pantries.

Items that people cannot purchase with food stamps but need:

- Bar & Liquid Soap
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toilet Paper
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Disinfecting Wipes

There is a bin in the church office designated for this collection. Please bring your items in on Sunday mornings and thank you again for your generous donations.



Cantus

Discovery of Light

Sunday, March 11, 2018
3:00 pm

First United Methodist
Church
603 State Street
Schenectady

Acclaimed as “the premiere men’s vocal ensemble in the United States” (*Fanfare*), Cantus engages audiences in a meaningful music experience and ensures the future of ensemble singing by mentoring young singers and educators. Cantus is acknowledged around the world for their programmatic versatility, artistic excellence and charismatic personality.

The Concert Series is free and all are welcome. The series is funded through the generosity of the church’s Ida Hill Dalton Fund and our Patrons.

The fall of this year marks the beginning of our year-long celebration of the 40th anniversary of the church’s Concert Series. Presented as an outreach of the church’s music ministry, the Concert Series was established as an opportunity to present free concerts of world-class musicians as a gift to the community.

Calling All Easter Breads Bakers!!



We are looking for donations of “Eastery” goodies for this year’s reception on Sunday, April 1st

Pastries, Breads, Cookies, Cupcakes, Brownies, Cakes, Chocolates and more! All you have to do is bring them to the kitchen before worship on Easter Sunday.

Dear Friends at First Lutheran,

On behalf of Cornerstone Campus Ministry, I want to thank you for your help in our Bake Sale Fundraiser on February 25th. We raised a total of \$1,664.21. You helped our students raise a total of \$312 of the \$1,664.21! Please extend our thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success.

The money will be used to fund our various programs and ministries at the University at Albany including worship. Bible Study, Food and Faith, Java and Justice and community service projects.

We thank you for partnering with us to make our ministry possible.

In Christ.
Rev. Sandy J. Damhof

****IMPORTANT NOTE****

Due to Holy Week this dinner has been moved back one week to MARCH 19th!! Volunteers, please note this on your calendar!!



**Come to the next FREE
community dinner!**

**Monday, March 19th
6:00 p.m.**

Chili, Salad, Bread & Dessert

First Lutheran Church — 181 Western Avenue, Albany

Call 463-1326 for more information

www.FirstLutheranAlbany.org

thank you

The Logan family would like to thank everyone who sent us cards of sympathy upon the death of their Mom, Gramma and Great Gramma.

Mildred was a wonderful women throughout her life and we will always miss her. We greatly appreciated your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

God Bless You All,
Sandy O'Connor

Dear FLC Friends:

Thank you for your continued support during my recent stay in the hospital and rehab. Your prayers, cards, gifts, visits and flowers have brightened my days. They were greatly appreciated.

I am now home and continue with rehab, which is a slow process. Special thanks to Pastor Medwid for his frequent visits and bringing me communion.

I look forward to the time when I can join you again.
Janice Logan

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all the encouraging prayers, cards, calls, emails and letters throughout Matthew's illness and after his death on February 9th. Your faith-filled thoughts meant the world to all of us during this difficult time in our lives.

Clara & Mark Wentland



We continue to
keep in prayer...

Joyce Aiello, Elga Alksnis, Faith Beebe, Gary Carlson, Peter Christoph, John Clemmer, Jane Culver, Luther Dyer, Ruth Dyer, Terry Engelhardt, Trudy Fedden, Jan & Bob Frost, Evelyn Gordon, Judy Greenwood, Susan Harper, Beverly Ann Kurtessis, Clara LeBaron, Janice Logan, Ginny MacVittie, Barbara McGuinness, Eve Norton, Peter Robbins-Klaus, Laura Shufelt, Tom Salzer, Geri Saulpaugh, Daniel Smith, Ed Vining, and Charlotte Wolffe.

Our Friends, Neighbors & Family:

- Greg Backus: son-in-law of Laura & Bill Shufelt
- Dan Brodax: brother-in-law of Anne Erling
- Luke Brodax: cousin of the Erling-Colafati family
- Dotty Burger: friend of Kim Paonessa
- Evelyn Casler: mother of Michael Casler
- John Casler: brother of Michael Casler
- Janette Coluccio: friend of Liz Peters
- Chris Cymenman: friend of Barbara McGuinness
- Marie Delorenzo: friend of Sue Harper
- Alison Dignan: daughter of JoAnne Evans
- Brion Ebert: nephew of June & Cliff Danielson
- Marilyn Erling: mother of Anne Erling
- Rachel Evans: granddaughter of JoAnne Evans
- Diane Frost: sister-in-law of Bob & Jan Frost
- James Gordon: son of Evelyn Gordon
- Peggy Grayson: friend of Liz & Chuck Peters
- Maria Groff: daughter of Sal Paonessa
- Kathy Horner: sister of Judy Carlson
- Roberta Jakubiak: sister in law of Susan Harper
- Jan Kaliski: friend of Elga Alksnis
- Michael Kilmade: friend of the O'Connor family
- Gail LaPlante: mother of JoAnne Evans
- James & Barbara Lasher: parents of John Lasher
- Gloria Mangano: sister of Joyce Aiello and her sisters
- Darlene Martel: niece of Karen Moore, Bev Hazzard & Joyce Aiello
- Joan Miller: friend of Pastor Hunter
- Kristen Ng: daughter of Jan Kaliski
- Blaine Vance Palmer: 4 yr old cousin of Brian Franz
- Pamela Petersen: niece of Joan & Judy Greenwood
- Lois Phelps: sister of Clara LaBaron
- Neil Rosen: friend of Pastor Hunter
- Luigi Rottella: cousin of Sal Paonessa
- Robert Schoneman, III: great-nephew of Joan & Judy Greenwood
- Melissa & Amanda Sippel: granddaughters of Barbara McGuinness
- Mira Sonders: friend of Geraldine Saulpaugh
- Tim & Vicky Staup: cousins of Faith Beebe
- Gregg & Michael Taft: brothers of Kevin Taft
- Janice Tate: sister of Clara LaBaron
- Rev. Giles Van Wormer: friend of Joan and Judy Greenwood
- Alyson Ward: daughter of Barbara McGuinness
- Matthew & Michael Ward: grandsons of Barbara McGuinness
- Josephine Warren: niece of Geraldine Saulpaugh
- Gary Wilkie: nephew of Eve and Lyle Norton
- Amy Woods & Ben Woods: cousins of John Lasher
- Jennie Zwick: friend of Kim Paonessa

Our Men and Women in Uniform:

- Major Rob Crudden: Afghanistan, friend of Pastor Hunter
- SSgt. Taylor Engelhardt: grandson of Ed & Carol Engelhardt

Our Wider Mission Concerns:

- For Jo Page, Dean of the Hudson Mohawk Conference
- For John Macholz, Bishop of the Upstate NY Synod
- For Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA



Serving in March

Please let Julie know of any schedule changes that you make between yourselves so that the Sunday bulletin will be as accurate as possible. Many thanks.

Date of Worship	Assisting Ministers	Lectors	Communion Assistants	Ushers	Counters	Altar Guild	Fellowship Hour	Drivers
March 4	Michael Casler		Colin McKnight Karen Lapierre Abby Brousseau	Joe Markowski Roger Minch	Joe Markowski Shawn Brousseau	Colin McKnight	Kim Paonessa	Paul Hyde
March 11	Judy Carlson	Amelia Colafati	Judy Greenwood Paul Lapierre Megan Brousseau	Ed & Carol Engelhardt	Elizabeth Katagiri Karen & Paul Lapierre	Clara DeMarco Elizabeth Katagiri	Sara Carlson	Paul Hyde
March 18	Judy Greenwood		Barbara McGuinness Paul Hyde John Lasher	Cliff Danielson Elizabeth Katagiri	Elizabeth Katagiri JoAnne Evans	Judy Carlson	Judy Carlson	Cliff Danielson
March 25 PALM SUNDAY	Colin McKnight	Cara Brousseau	Judy Carlson Amelia Colafati Ingrid Colafati	Karen Moore Joyce Aiello	Joe Markowski Susan Harper	Sandy O'Connor	Palm Sunday Breakfast hosted by Church Council	Cliff Danielson
April 1 EASTER	Michael Casler		Judy Greenwood Liz Peters Sydney Mack	Cliff Danielson Karen Moore JoAnne Evans Joyce Aiello	Elizabeth Katagiri Sara Carlson	Colin McKnight	Festival of Easter Breads	

The Memorial Flowers in March are given to the Glory of God and . . .

- March 4 In loving memory of her husband Albert and her son, Gerry by Marcia Hoyt; and in loving memory of Frederick D. Norton and Samuel Maytan by the Norton family
- March 11 In honor of their granddaughter Abigail Claire's birthday and her parents Betsey and Brian Franz by Sandy and Neil O'Connor; and in loving memory of Adolph J. and Anna Reinhart Harden by Robert C. and Carolyn Stowell Harden and family.
- March 18 In loving memory of loved ones by Faith Beebe; and in loving memory of Carol Haberman by the Hackney Family
- March 25 In loving memory of her husband Ervin by Clara DeMarco; in loving memory of George C. and Dorothy Mills by the family.

Any new requests, questions or changes call Liz Peters, 869-0387 or email mommy5853@aol.com

Altar vase - \$25.00 Sanctuary vase - \$27.50

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div> <div>      </div> <div> <h1>MARCH 2018</h1> <div> <div>First Lutheran Church</div> <div>Facebook.com/FirstLutheranAlbany</div> <div>(518) 463-1326</div> </div> </div> </div>						
4 The Third Sunday of Lent 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship Hour	5 7:00 p.m. Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal	6 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	7  Good Shepherd Lutheran <i>Bible Story: Samaritan Woman at the Well</i> 6:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	8 7:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	9	10 12:00 p.m. NA Speaker Jam
11 The Fourth Sunday of Lent 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship Hour 11:30 a.m. Gun violence discussion for Legislature Advocacy Day	12 7:00 p.m. Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal	13 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	14  St. John's-On-Sand-Creek <i>Bible Story: Zacchaeus</i> 6:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	15 7:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	16	17
18 The Fifth Sunday of Lent 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship Hour	19 6:00 p.m. FREE Community Dinner Chili, Breads, Salad & Dessert 7:00 p.m. Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal	20 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	21  Good Shepherd Lutheran <i>Bible Story: Ruth</i> 6:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	22 7:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	23	24
25 The Passion of Our Lord Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Breakfast in Wittenberg Hall 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Sunday School	26 Monday in Holy Week 7:00 p.m. Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal	27 Tuesday in Holy Week 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	28 Wednesday in Holy Week 3:00 p.m. Chrism Mass with Bishop John Macholz 6:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	29 Maundy Thursday  7:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion	30 Good Friday  The Way of Sorrows: A Tenebrae Service for Good Friday 7:00 p.m.	31



Holy Week at First Lutheran Church - All Are Welcome!

March 25th

Palm Sunday Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.
Passion Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.

March 28th

Chrism Mass with blessing of oils with Bishop Macholz 3:00 p.m.

March 29th

Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.

March 30th

The Way of Sorrows: A Tenebrae Service for Good Friday

April 1st

The Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship reception following worship

Visit our Facebook page & “like” us ... <https://www.facebook.com/firstlutheranalbany>

First Lutheran Church

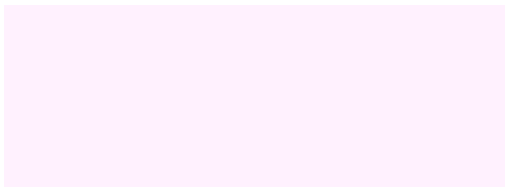
The Oldest Lutheran Congregation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Dated Material: *Please deliver promptly!*

Current Resident or



**2018 Mid-Week Lenten program for
the Albany Lutheran Cluster
congregations**

**Wednesday Evenings
6:00 soup/7:00 service**

March 7th – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Presider: Rev. Edwina Landry

Preacher: Rev. Jo Page

Bible Story: *Samaritan Woman at the Well*

March 14th – St. John's-on-Sand-Creek

Presider: Rev. Jo Page

Preacher: Rev. David Preisinger

Bible Story: *Zacchaeus*

March 21st – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Presider: Rev. Edwina Landry

Preacher: Rev. Lori Kochanski

Bible Story: *Ruth*