

Preparation for Worship: As days grow longer and we continue to celebrate your light this Epiphany season, dear Jesus, help us spread kindness and compassion in ever-widening circles as testimony to you.

Please stand as you are able **Bold Items read in unison*

GATHERING - We come together to worship God

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation/Call to Worship: **[This is what the LORD says,] “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.”**

Opening Prayer (Isaiah 43:1)

* Opening Hymn – *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* Red **#97**

Confession of Sin: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ’s sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Response: (sung, #398, Rock of Ages, v.2) **Not the labor of my hands, Can fulfil Thy law’s demands; Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow, All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

Declaration of Grace

Prayers of the Church (P: Lord in Your mercy C: **Hear our prayer.**)

WORD – We seek guidance from God’s Word

Genesis 45:3-15 Old Testament

1 Corinthians 15:12-26 Epistle

* Luke 6:17-26 * Gospel

* Confession of Faith (Apostles’ Creed): **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* Gloria Patri: (sung, p. 4) **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

*Offertory (sung, p. 33 for melody) **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation: and uphold me with Your free Spirit.**

Children’s Sermon

Hymn – *God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage* Red **#258**

Psalm 103:8-13 Responsive Reading

Sermon – *True Compassion* Pastor Barry Nelson

SENDING We go out to live in & share God’s Word

* Closing Hymn – *Saved by Grace* Red **#626**

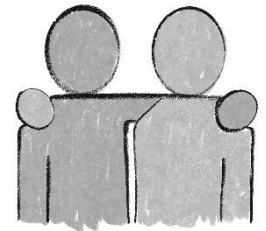
* Lord’s Prayer: **Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

* Benediction & Doxology: (sung, p. 24 for melody) **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here be-low; Praise Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.**

* Dismissal L: Go in Peace, and Serve the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

“I Am Here”

In Bread for the Journey, theologian Henri J.M. Nouwen calls consolation — from “to be with” (con-) “the lonely one” (solus) — “one of the most important ways to care.” He writes, “Life is so full of pain, sadness and loneliness that we often wonder what we can do to alleviate the immense suffering we see.”



Although consoling doesn’t necessarily remove someone’s pain, Nouwen notes that it serves a deeper purpose: To console means “to be there and say, ‘You are not alone, I am with you. Together we can carry the burden. Don’t be afraid. I am here.’ That is consolation. We all need to give it as well as to receive it.”

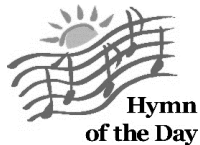
This Week in the Parish - February 23 – March 2

TODAY!	7:00 pm	Men's Choral Festival at Verdigre, NE
WEDNESDAY	5:00 pm	Confirmation at Hope
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Hope Worship with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	First American Sunday School
	10:00 am	Hope Sunday School
	10:45 am	First American Worship with Holy Communion

Rejoicing in your presence & gifts – February 16, 2025

First American: General—\$1880. Benevolence—\$35. Noisy Offering for Lelund Schoon Family—\$150.58. Budget per Sunday—\$2023.19.

Welcome to worship. Friends, we welcome you to this time of worship, faith education and Christian fellowship. May the Word of God nourish you for your life and ministry in the days to come. Guests, please sign the book in the narthex.



God's Word Is Our Great Heritage was chosen by Kyrie Nelson. "This hymn reminds me of our time in Williston. The congregations were so dear, and Pastor Wellumson always picked good hymns, like this one, for the responses."

Our time of prayer during our corporate worship service is very important. To maintain a current prayer list, requests for non-members will be printed in the bulletin for three weeks. For additional time, please send an update to Pastor Barry. New additions will be underlined, and those scheduled to come off the next week will be in italics.

Health Needs of our Members: Sandy Baier. Doug Bitterman. Allan Hale. Dawsyn Johnston. Bob Kurtz. Sue Neumeister. Steve Permann.

Health Needs: *Mary Bartunek* (Tripp community). *Phyllis Friederich* (daughter-in-law of Peggy Friederich). Richard Jones (father of Melissa Schmidt). *Kathy McCracken* (former Tripp Community) and *Karen Tegethoff* (mother of Scott Tegethoff). Bobbi Toole (sister of Lila Fechner).

Sympathy: Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Bonnie Bueber (former member of First American).

Birthdays: 23 Dale Herman. 24 Joel Vetter. 25 Kelsey Bietz. 28 Scott Schelske, Jace Ziegler.

Anniversary: 26 Elmer & Carol Bietz.

AFLC Churches: Crown of Life Lutheran, Tomball, TX; Word of Life Free Lutheran, Upsala, MN; Ortlely Free Lutheran, Ortlely, SD.

Mission: Zachariah and Carey Ritland of Radcliffe, Iowa: lay missionaries in Paraguay, starting March 1, 2025.

Tripp-Delmont Parish + Association of Free Lutheran Churches Pastor Barry Nelson

First American Lutheran Church
300 S. Carpenter PO Box 459
Tripp, SD 57376
Parish office: 935-6941
Parish Email: firstthope@santel.net

Hope Lutheran Church
200 S. Wilson PO Box 127
Delmont, SD 57330
Parsonage: 935-6942
Parish Website: www.FAHope.org

Today's Readings

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament

Genesis 45:3-15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!" ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. ¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.' ¹² "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³ Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly." ¹⁴ Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:12-26

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For

since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 6:27-36

²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

** Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord. * C: Praise to You, O Christ.*

Sermon Text:

Psalms 103:8-13

⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
⁹ **He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;**
¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ **For as high as the heavens are above the earth,**
so great is his love for those who fear him;
¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
¹³ **As a father has compassion on his children,**
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.



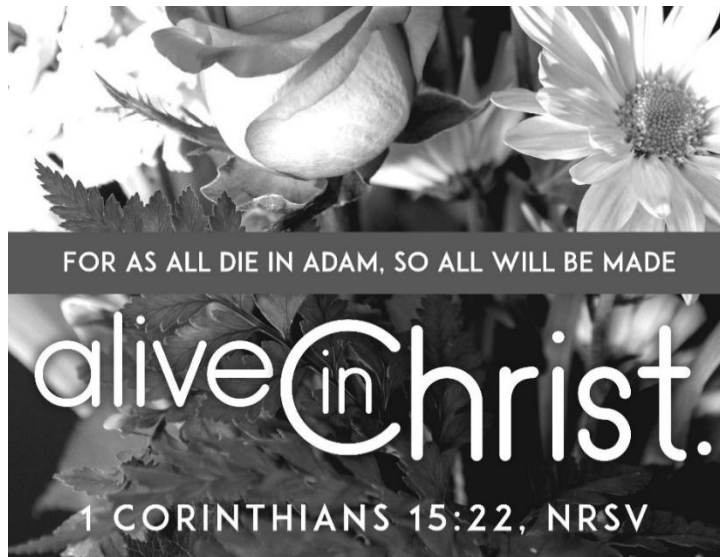
Lenten Suppers: There is a sign-up sheet posted in the narthex of both congregations asking for volunteers to help with preparing and serving the Lenten meals. First American serves on March 12, 26 and April 9, and Hope will be hosting on March 19 and April 2.

Leave it to God

Fourth-century theologian Augustine urged again and again that we focus on practicing love in the here and now, not on worrying about our lives in the hereafter.

In *Beautiful Bodies*, Margaret Miles writes that especially regarding complicated doctrines like predestination and challenges like “The one who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 24:13), we can’t do anything but leave those to God. It’s impossible for humans to take responsibility for ourselves in such matters. If we could determine our afterlife destiny by means of effort, persuasion or bribery, self-pride would surely be the accompanying sinful result.

“In fact,” Miles writes, “preoccupation with one’s eternal destiny distracts from a Christian’s present business. ‘Leave it to God,’ St. Augustine said, and place your attention on living lovingly in the body of Christ here and now.”



Psalm 103:8-13

“Our Father”

February 23, 2025

1. Slow to Anger

2. Great in Mercy

3. Full of Compassion