

Preparation for Worship:

“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you. . . . Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you” (Psalm 63:1, 3, ESV).

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: **Now this I know: The Lord gives victory to his anointed. He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand.** (Psalm 20:6)

Opening Prayer

* Opening Hymn – *Jesus, Wonderful Lord* Red **#60**

Confession of Sin: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Kyrie (sung, p. 3): **O God the Fa-ther in heav-en, have mer-cy up-on us! O God the Son, Re-deem-er of the world, have mer-cy up-on us! O God the Ho-ly Ghost, true Com-fort-er, have mer-cy up-on us!**

Declaration of Grace

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

WORD – We seek guidance from God’s Word

Ezekiel 33:7-11 Old Testament

Psalm 85 Responsive Reading

* Luke 13: 1-9 * 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 of the Day – *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore* Blue **#784**

1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 Epistle

Sermon – *History Lesson* Pastor Barry Nelson

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

* Closing Hymn – *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* Red **#71**

* 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 crea-tures 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.**

On the Path to Victory

After moving to a college town, Kendra Thompson learned about the athletic phenomenon known as March Madness. And after a nondenominational upbringing, as a young adult she learned about Lenten traditions.

Lent and the NCAA college basketball tournament, which usually coincide, both point to the divine, Thompson argues. “In Lent, with each day we are drawn closer to the crushing reality that we’ve crucified our God. And yet we are also faced with an impossible victory: that death did not win, that our God is raised in Jesus Christ,” she writes. “Likewise, watching college basketball invites us into a season of hoping in unlikely possibilities, marveling at upsets, and giving thanks to God for the connection we find as his people.”

Like fans swept up in high-stakes games, Jesus’ disciples abandon everything to follow him. Lent might be “holy madness,” Thompson muses. It’s “an opportunity to ‘feel’ our religion, not just in our heads but with our skin, our voices, even in the anxieties of our prayers.”

This Week in the Parish - March 23 - 30

TODAY!	6:30 pm	Community Youth Group at First American
MONDAY		Newsletter Deadline!
WEDNESDAY	5:00 pm	Confirmation at First American
	6-7:00 pm	Soup Supper at First American
	7:30 pm	Joint Lenten Worship at First American Leader: Pastor Barry Nelson
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Hope Worship
	9:30 am	First American Sunday School
	10:00 am	Hope Sunday School
	10:45 am	First American Worship

Rejoicing in your presence & gifts – March 16, 2025

First American: General—\$2445. Benevolence—\$86. Sunday School—\$15. Noisy Offering for Dennewitz Cemetery Fence Fund—\$3762.05. Budget per Sunday—\$2023.19. **Dennewitz Cemetery Fence-Fund** Total: \$4750.05

Welcome! Isaiah announced God's invitation: "Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink ... it's all free!" (55:1, NLT). Are you thirsty for good news, peace, hope, love? Christ is the water of life. Welcome to worship. Guests, please sign the book in the narthex.



You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore was chosen by Willmer Herr. "I like the melody. It reminds me that Jesus comes to us, no matter where we are... He calls us by name and asks us to use the talents that God has given us to spread His message of Love and Salvation to other people."

Prayer in 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 will be in italics.

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

Health Needs: *Richard Jones* (father of Melissa Schmidt). Barry Strombeck (former Tripp community). Jeanette Tiede (sister of Lila Fechner).

Sympathy: Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of *Sandy Baier* (member of Hope) and George Verzani (former Tripp Community).

Birthdays: 25 Ryder Wynia. 26 Jodi Fuerst. 27 Norma Mogck. 28 Blake Caery, Theresa Faas. 29 Jerry Albrecht.

AFLC Churches: Triumph Lutheran, Ferndale, WA; Our Saviour's Lutheran, Zumbrota, MN; Center Free Lutheran, Salem, SD.

Mission: Zion Lutheran Church, Delmont, SD.

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

March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

Old Testament

Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ⁹But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved. ¹⁰“Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’ ¹¹Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’

Psalm 85

- ¹ You, LORD, showed favor to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- ² **You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.**
- ³ You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.
- ⁴ **Restore us again, God our Savior,
and put away your displeasure toward us.**
- ⁵ Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
- ⁶ **Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?**
- ⁷ Show us your unfailing love, LORD, and grant us your salvation.
- ⁸ **I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—but let them not turn to folly.**
- ⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ **Love and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- ¹¹ Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.
- ¹² **The LORD will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.**
- ¹³ Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

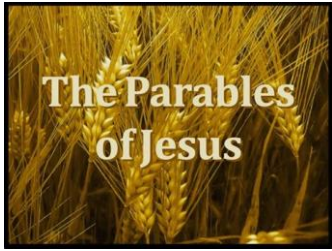
For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” ⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. ¹¹These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. ¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! ¹³No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” ⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’” ⁸“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

Lessons – March 30, 2025 Old Testament – Isaiah 12:1-6 Psalm 32:1-7
Epistle – 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Gospel – Luke 15:1-3,11-32



Our Lenten theme this year is entitled, "The Parables of Jesus." Each of our round-robin speakers will focus on a different parable of Jesus. Our round-robin series will conclude with our Good Friday service.

Wednesday Lenten Services (7:30pm):

The Parable of the Sower

Darold Bitterman

The Parable of the Foolish Builders

Maurice Bueber

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

First American: March 26 – Pastor Barry Nelson

The Parable of the Great Banquet

Hope: April 2 – Del Neumeister

The Parable of the Minas

First American: April 9 – Pastor Kevin Czymbor

Lenten Offerings:

First American – All Nations Family Center on the Rosebud Reservation. This is the ministry served by Johnny and Heidi Wade. Heidi is the daughter of Jan Jerke.

Hope – Split equally between Southeastern South Dakota Lutherans for Life ultrasound fund (which supports the ultrasound ministry of the Alpha Center in Sioux Falls) and the Douglas County Food Pantry.



Lenten Suppers (6-7pm): 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 will serve soup suppers on March 26 and April 9, and Hope will be serving tacos on April 2.

The **First American FLY** (Free Lutheran Youth) is selling Easter Lilies, in memory or in honor of your loved one, as a fundraiser. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex of First American. The cost is \$20 per lily. Deadline to order is **TODAY!**



1 Corinthians 10:1-13

"History Lesson"

March 23, 2025

1. United with the Past

2. Mistakes of the Past

3. Learning from the Past



SATURDAY
APRIL 5TH
9-NOON
at First American

Workshop:
Keys to Home Discipleship

Our sessions will focus on the keys to discipleship, both in the home and in the congregation. We'll look at how intergenerational ministry plays a vital role in discipleship, especially in the church.

The target audience includes parents with children of all ages, grandparents, anyone in the church who is looking to be a disciple maker in the congregation, and those who are interested in intergenerational ministry.



Speaker: Daniel Keinanen

Daniel has been in ministry leadership for 30 years. He served as youth director for his congregation for nearly 20 years, and now serves as chairman for the same church. He has served in leadership with his church body's national youth convention since 2001.

Daniel currently serves with BeLED Family, where his main focus is training churches in intergenerational ministry and equipping parents for lifelong discipleship relationships with their children. Daniel is married with 4 children, ages 16 to 9.

Registration is free, but please let us know you are coming by signing up in the narthex or register online at:

www.FAHope.org/BeLED

or use QR code



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