

Preparation for Worship:

As we continue through Lent — which means “spring” — prepare our heart-soil, dear Jesus, to sprout with new life and blossom in faith. Amen.

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 – *Blessed Assurance* Red **#511**

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

[First American] Special Music – *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* - Brileigh Ziegler

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

WORD – We seek guidance from God’s Word

Isaiah 12:1-6 Old Testament

Psalms 32: 1-7 Responsive Reading

*Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 * 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 – *Hallelujah, What a Savior!* Red **#84**

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Epistle

Sermon – *New Sight* Pastor Barry Nelson

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

* Hymn of the Day – *Here I Am, Lord* Blue **#752**

* 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.**

The Lenten Desert

During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, “O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.”

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. “This is what Lent is meant to be,” writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. “Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other.”

This Week in the Parish - March 30 – April 6

WEDNESDAY 5:00 pm Confirmation at Hope
6-7:00 pm Soup Supper at Hope
7:30 pm Joint Lenten Worship at Hope
Leader: Del Neumeister

SATURDAY 9:00am-Noon BeLED Workshop at First American
12:30pm-1:30pm Teacher/Youth Leader Session at FA

SUNDAY Guest Speaker (Both services): Daniel Keinanen, BeLED Family
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 23, 2025

First American: General—\$1681. Benevolence—\$20. Sunday School—\$38. Noisy Offering for Dennewitz Cemetery Fence Fund—\$25. Budget per Sunday—\$2023.19. *Dennewitz Cemetery Fence-Fund* Total: \$4775.05

Welcome! Like a loving father welcoming a prodigal child home and inviting the other to join the feast, God welcomes us all. Let us celebrate such amazing grace. Guests, please sign the book in the narthex.



Here I Am, Lord was chosen by Sherry Friman. This hymn is inspired by Lord's calling of Samuel (1 Samuel 3:4) and Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8). It challenges us to be willing to answer that we, too, are ready to go where the Lord would call us.

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: *Barry Strombeck* (former Tripp community). *Jeanette Tiede* (sister of Lila Fechner).

Sympathy: Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Denise Speigel (sister-in-law of Michelle Kurtz) and George Verzani (former Tripp Community).

Birthdays: 30 Joelyn Orchard. 31 Jacey Friman. 2 Andrew Hanson. 4 Karen Just.

AFLC Churches: Our Redeemer Lutheran, Kirkland, WA; Bethany Lutheran, Viborg, SD; Living Word Free Lutheran, Sioux Falls, SD.

Mission: Jeremy & Lacey Crowell, Mission Aviation Training Academy (Arlington, Washington).

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 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Old Testament

Isaiah 12:1-6

In that day you will say: "I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation." ³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

Psalm 32:1-7

¹ Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

² **Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

³ When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."

And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

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

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ¹¹ "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields

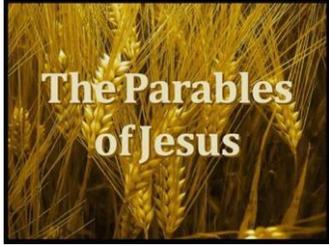
to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. ²⁵ Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

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

Sermon Text: Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



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

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. Hope will be serving tacos on April 2 and First American will serve soup on April 9.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

"New Sight"

March 30, 2025

1. Seeing the World Anew

2. Seeing God Anew

3. Seeing Our Role Anew



SATURDAY
APRIL 5TH
9 am - 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.

There will be a **bonus session from 12:30-1:30** that will be geared toward those who work with the youth of the church including youth workers and Sunday school/VBS teachers.



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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