

Lutherans for Life: Life Thoughts

March 3 – Lent III – The Lord God closely associates life and family. He stands commands about parenting and marriage on either side of the prohibition against killing (Exodus 20:12-14). He holds human life as highest priority and will not accept any other creatures as replacement (John 2:15-16). Body and sexuality serve to enrich life – our own as well as one another’s – and not to eliminate it.

March 10 – Lent IV – Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis come with risks and costs. But as with the ancient Israelite serpent infestation, the real enemy is neither one’s neighbor nor the Maker (Numbers 21:8). Only impaling the snake (not terminating each other) brought deliverance, and the antidote called for faith instead of death. Christians insist God has sent us His Son for extending lives and not ending them (John 3:17).

March 17 – Lent V – Jesus Christ embodies the God who abides beside us in our ailments and frailties. Our incarnate and crucified Savior suffers with and for those who cannot sustain or save themselves. He regards even human beings beset by weakness or sickness high enough to take on our condition Himself (Hebrews 5:7-9). The Gospel just leaves no room for abortion or assisted suicide.

March 24 – Palm Sunday/Passion of Our Lord – Sinful nature prizes popularity, property, and power. It despises dependence and discards aging or gestating neighbors because of it. But Jesus proves that God has designed humankind to rely on Him and each other. His salvation comes about by humbly and happily entrusting oneself to an Almighty Father (Philippians 2:6-8). We need not take life and death into our own hands when we can rest upon His.

March 31 – Resurrection of Our Lord – The Scriptures do not limit the sanctity of human life to a few isolated passages. Almighty God has made survival and salvation, abundant and everlasting, the point of the whole story. He intends His resurrection to encompass and affect every member of our race and every moment of our existence, from fertilization to forever. This is nothing less than the Gospel of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)!

April 7 – Easter II – How remarkable that our Lord’s beloved Apostle St. John describes the Gospel of Jesus Christ as “the Word of Life” (1 John 1:2). He also declares all believers qualify as “little children” (2:1). And he proclaims that God has given His Son to redeem “the whole world” – every member of the human race, no matter what age, appearance, or ability. Even personal choice or political controversy can’t keep us quiet about it!

April 14 – Easter III – With St. Peter and the Pentecost Apostles, we confess Jesus Christ alone as “Author of life” (Acts 3:15). This means no one else has right or responsibility to decide what kind of life a neighbor may have or when any human life ought to end. Rather, we rejoice to repeat the message of repentance and forgiveness (Luke 24:47) for every sinner and every sin – abortion and assisted suicide included.

April 21 – Easter IV – The Gracious Savior brings a delightful clarity to life-and-death issues and situations. Killing and destroying belongs entirely to the work of the devil (John 10:11). The people of God advocate and extend abundant, everlasting life to the Lord’s every last little lamb. Unto all our neighbors,

with both our voice and our goods (1 John 3:17), may we “come that they may have life and have it abundantly!”

April 28 – Easter V – It is anxiety and fright that drive folks to pursue abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and other measures that view death as a solution. Fear likewise bullies the sanctity of life into silence. But the Lord’s perfect love puts all fear to flight (1 John 4:18). In surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis, we and our neighbors need not independence and empowerment but the presence, promises, and compassion of the Father Almighty.

Sanctuary Cleaning:

Saturday, March 23rd 9:00 a.m.

We will be cleaning the Sanctuary again as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Donuts and coffee/tea will be available for those who would like to enjoy them.



* Chili Cook-off

Maundy Thursday,
March 28th 5:30 p.m.

Bring your favorite HOMEMADE chili. We will be enjoying a light meal at 5:30 p.m. before the Service begins at 7:00.

Moving Forward

If you have noticed, there are two tables at the end of the hall just before you enter the parlor. These tables have various items on them from week to week. Joan Heierding is cleaning out some of the items First Lutheran Church has held on to for decades in some cases. You are invited to please peruse the tables and see if there is something you would like. If there is, please feel free to take it. If you see something you feel the church should hand on to it, please remove it from the table and put it in Joan H.'s Sunday school classroom with a note explaining why you feel it should be held on to. There is a small note pad and pencil taped to the wall at the end of the table. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Joan H. and speak with her.

March Prayer List

James tells us in James 4:2 that ***we have not because we ask not.*** Let us not be guilty of not asking for the blessings of our Lord for our family and friends:

Sharon Billeg: Health Issues.

Suzanne and Amber Borum: Healed Relationship.

Vern Fahrni: Companionship.

***Susan Leatherwood:** Broken bones – healing.

Gary Jo Lee: Relief from sciatic pain.

Carolyn Lewallen: Health & Memory Issues.

***Trent Mitchell:** Health Issues.

***Layna Shockley:** 5 years old – fighting Leukemia. (Not going great)

Jim Wackerly: Relief from Chemo side effects.

Laura Waller: Relief from pain.

Claudia Wright: Healing from a broken leg.

Unsaved Loved Ones

(*Trent Mitchell is Laura Waller's adult grandson, and Layna Shockley is Gary Jo's sister's granddaughter. Susan Leatherwood is a friend of Penny Lee's.)

Important Dates

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME:
March 10



SPRING AHEAD
ONE HOUR

Saturday, March 23

Church Cleaning 9:00a.m.

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, March 24th

Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Children's SS 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Chili Cook-Off* 5:30 p.m.

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31 Service 11 a.m.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP HOUR 9:00 A.M.

NO CHILDREN'S SS

If you would like to begin bringing lilies to the church Maundy Thursday for Easter Sunday, that would be greatly appreciated.

March 2024

- 3 The Grays
- 10 The Lees
- 17 Joe Glass/Gary Jo Lee
- 24 The Wackerlys
- 28 The Heierdings
- 31 The Grays

Communion Deacon: Chuck Gray
Alternate: Bill Heierding

Happy Birthday:



- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 6 Hayden Mathis | 8 Karen Rogers |
| 12 John Horn | 19 Sharon Billeg |
| 31 Mattie Monroe | |

April 2024

- 7 The Lees
- 14 The Heierdings
- 21 The Wackerlys
- 28 Joe Glass/Sue Wackerly

Communion Deacon: Bill Heierding
Alternate: Chuck Gray

Happy Birthday



- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 9 Michelle Brennan | 15 Mary Forsberg |
| 19 Elaine Chard | 22 Matthew White |
| 23 Haliegh Kiene | 30 John Ray |

First Lutheran Church

1300 N. Robinson Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
(405) 235-1013

Rev. John Brennan – Pastor

Adult Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Children’s Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Worship Service	11:00 a.m.

Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays monthly

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Service	11:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 p.m.
Good Friday Service	7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday Service	11:00 a.m.
(Adult Fellowship Hour	9:30 a.m.)