



Preparation for Worship:

If there is any hardness in our hearts today, Lord, please remove it from us. We desire to have hearts ready to fully receive your grace and mercy. Amen.

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

GATHERING We come together to worship God

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: **The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?** - Psalm 27:1

Opening Prayer

* Opening Hymn – *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* Red #68

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.**

Kyrie (sung, p. 3): **O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us! O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us! O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon 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

- Isaiah 42:14-21 Old Testament
- Psalm 142 Responsive Reading
- Romans 5:8-14 Epistle

* 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 – *Open My Eyes, That I May See* Red #124

* John 9:1-7,13-17,34-39 * Gospel

Sermon – *Only Jesus Provides Eternal Life* Pastor Barry Nelson

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

* Closing Hymn – *Be Thou My Vision* Red #607

* 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. 205 for melody) **Give to our God immortal praise! Mercy and truth are all His ways; Wonders of grace to God belong: Repeat His mercies in your song.**

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

When Life Needs a Little Wind

Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves.

Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances. —Jane Truax



Today’s Noisy Offering will be given to Drake & Jessica Johnston for the continued health needs of their daughter, Dawsyn.

This Week in the Parish - March 15 - 22

TODAY	7:30 pm	First American Council Meeting
TUESDAY	7:30 pm	First American WMF – Lessons 1-2
	7:30 pm	Hope WMF – Lesson 2
WEDNESDAY	3:45 pm	Confirmation at First American
	6-7 pm	Soup Supper at First American
	7:30 pm	Joint Lenten Worship at First American
SUNDAY	9:00 am	First American Worship
	9:30 am	Hope Sunday School
	10:00 am	First American Sunday School
	10:45 am	Hope Worship
MONDAY		Newsletter Deadline!

Rejoicing in your presence & gifts – March 4 & 8, 2026

First American: General—\$1220. Benevolence—\$60. Lent-Pickerel Lake Camp—\$440. Sunday School—\$24. Budget per Sunday—\$2068.

Welcome! “Come and see the works of the Lord... the Lord Almighty is with us!” (Psalm 46:8a, 10a, NIV). We rejoice that you are here today! Let us join together in praising God and witnessing His goodness through Word and Sacrament. To our visitors, your presence brings us special joy—please come again soon!. Guests, please sign the book in the narthex.

Prayer in our corporate worship service is very important. To maintain a current prayer list, requests for non-members will be 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: Mike Fechner. Allan Hale. Dawsyn Johnston. Bob Kurtz. Robert Kurtz. Norma Mogck. Sue Neumeister.

Health Needs: Shane Dukat (friend of Craig & Becki Hauser). Mike Kumm (brother of Tammy Ziegler).

Sympathy: Prayers of comfort for the family & friends of Elvera Friederich (member of First American), Richard Kurtz (brother of Robert Kurtz), LaVerna Magstadt (former Tripp Community) and Rodney Schempp (grandfather of Matt Schempp).

Birthdays: 16 Myra Weber. 17 Brice Caery. 18 Brayden Ziegler. 19 Steve Permann.

AFLC Churches: Calvary Free Lutheran, Eben Junction, MI; Grace Free Lutheran, Maple Grove, MN; Trinity Free Lutheran, Minnewaukan, ND.

Mission: Matthew & Edna Abel, AFLC missionaries in Paraguay

Prayer for military personnel:

Andrew Hanson: Hope member. Stationed in Kentucky; Army.
Austin Lien: nephew of Glenn & Tammy Ziegler. Stationed in Japan; Navy
Dalton Fischer: brother of Malorie Walz. Stationed in Germany. National Guard.

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: firsthope@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 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Old Testament

Isaiah 42:14-21

“For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant. ¹⁵ I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools. ¹⁶ I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. ¹⁷ But those who trust in idols, who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’ will be turned back in utter shame. ¹⁸ “Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! ¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the LORD? ²⁰ You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen.” ²¹ It pleased the LORD for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious.

Psalm 142

¹ I cry aloud to the LORD; I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy.

² I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble.

³ When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who watch over my way. In the path where I walk people have hidden a snare for me.

⁴ Look and see, there is no one at my right hand; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life.

⁵ I cry to you, LORD; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”

⁶ Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need; rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.

⁷ Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name.

Then the righteous will gather about me because of your goodness to me.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

Gospel

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. ¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” ³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”



Our Lenten theme this year is entitled, “40.” Each of our round-robin speakers will focus on an event that centers around a period of either 40 days or 40 years.

Wednesday Lenten Services (7:30pm):

Noah’s Flood – Pastor Barry Nelson

David & Goliath – Darold Bitterman

Life of Moses – Maurice Bueber

Jonah and Nineveh – Keith Sprecher

Elijah

First American: March 18 – Del Neumeister

Temptation of Jesus

Hope: March 25 – Pastor Kevin Czymbor

Lenten Offerings:

First American – Pickerel Lake Lutheran Bible Camp near Grenville, SD. Easter offering will go to the Free Lutheran Bible College.

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):

Hope Supper will be loaded baked potatoes on March 25. A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex for volunteers to help with this meal.

First American Soup Suppers will be March 18th. There is a signup sheet in the narthex for soup and bread volunteers.

Thank you to all who wish to help out!

John 9:1-7,13-17,34-39

“Only Jesus Provides True Sight”

March 15, 2026

1. Sight of the Blind Man

2. Blindness of the Pharisees

3. Sight of Faith