

April 2019

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Easter Baptisms!

For members of the early church, being Christian was counter-cultural. Having been raised in the Jewish faith or as dedicated Roman citizens, they were choosing something radically different when they chose to become Christian. Instead of worshipping the Emperor as the Son of God, they would worship Jesus as the Son of God. With that choice came a different set of values and practices. Because of this, there was an extensive time of preparation- as long as three years- to learn about and practice this new way of being in the world.



The Lenten season of their final year of preparation was a time of intensive instruction. They memorized the Lord’s Prayer and Creed. They participated in exorcisms. They walked this journey with their baptismal sponsor, asking questions along the way. This all culminated with them being baptized in the early hours of Easter morning. The baptism rite included three yes’s and three no’s, oil, water, and light (as it still does today).*

This year, we will be witnesses to at least two baptisms on Easter (I am waiting to hear back from some more who are interested). Baptisms are always special, as we welcome someone into the body of Christ. Having a baptism on Easter connects us with the early church practice and adds to the joy of the day. Please be in prayer for those who are preparing for their baptism or the baptism of their children at FLC and elsewhere this Lenten season.



**Much of this information can be found in “Water Washed and Spirit Born: A Baptism Manual for Youth and Adults” by Daniel Erlander. For a great graphic of the preparation for baptism and to learn more, I recommend reading this book!*

Prayer Concerns

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The list below is for recent needs:

- Paul Baumgartner •Myrene Bunge (mother of Marcia Bunge) •Barb Wilkinson
- All those we continue to include in our personal prayer petitions

We also ask for your continued prayers for the below listed people with long-term or chronic needs:

- Marie Benson •Abigail Christenson (daughter of Kathryn Christenson) •Dorothy Eliason
- George Fasnacht (father of Vicki Demers) •Betty Gustafson •John Hall •Stephen Hilding
- Stuart Johnson •Wayne Johnson •Mike Jones (uncle of Pastor Gwen) •Joan Kudla (sister of Sue Peterson) •Lee Landgrebe •Elgene Lund •Tom Michels (son-in-law of Betty Gustafson)
- Dick Muesing •Doreen Pehrson •Tim Salmela (brother of Cheryl Kautt) •Bev Wetherill



Family & Friends of those who have recently died:

- Forest Chaffee •Ruth Hall •Ray Kienlen (father of Tim Kienlen) •Marolyn Kleinert
- Nancy Roberts •Gregg Voss (brother of Diane Block) •Merwin Williams

To request being on either our current or long term prayer lists (or to be taken off), please discuss with Pastor Gwen, contact the church office at 934-3060 or flcstpoffice@gmail.com, or go to our website at www.flcstp.org and click on the “Request Prayer” button on the homepage.

Calendar Highlights for April

Community Worship at Christ Chapel

April 28 at 10:30 a.m.
(no 10:30 Worship Service at FLC)

Holy Week

April 14—Palm/Passion Sunday
Worship at 8:15 and 10:30

April 18—Maunday Thursday
Worship at 7:00 p.m.

April 19—Good Friday
Piano Recital at 12:00 p.m.
Worship at 7:00 p.m.

April 20—Easter Vigil
Worship at 8:30 p.m.

April 21—Easter
Worship at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.



*What's happening
this month at First
Lutheran?*

Cemetery Cleanup

April 26: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
April 27: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

From the Cantor

Holy Week 2019

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14, will involve the Bonse Aba Singers, the Sunday School children and other youth, and take us through the first part of the Passion of Christ leading up to his death. Services are at 8:15 and 10:30. Bring your World Hunger Boxes!



Maundy Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m., will introduce the practice of "hand washing" (optional participation), remembering Christ's Last Supper with his disciples, and conclude with the Stripping of the Altar in preparation for Good Friday.

Good Friday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m., will continue the Passion Story and be organized by a Stations of the Cross liturgy. Taize music will accompany the service, and each station will represent an issue of social justice in our world. Some of the topics are intense and/or represent violence, which may be triggering. If you would like to see the topics in advance, talk to Pastor Gwen or Emily, and attend the First Forum on Palm Sunday for an overview of the Social Justice Stations of the Cross.

Easter Vigil, April 20 at 8:30 p.m., will conclude the Three Days, beginning at dusk outside by a fire and journeying through Hebrew Scripture toward the risen Christ.

Easter Sunday, April 21 will celebrate our risen Savior, making a joyful noise with bells, strings, brass, choir, organ, and of course, the voice of the congregation! Services are at 8:15 and 10:30 with an Easter breakfast served in between. The 10:30 a.m. service will include baptisms!

Holy Week Choir

Yes, we will have a Sanctuary Choir for Holy Week! Rehearsals will be **April 10 and 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary**, and we will sing for the 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service (April 18) and on Easter Sunday (April 21) at both services. All are welcome!

Good Friday Piano Recital

You are invited to a piano recital 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. on Good Friday, April 19. Emily will give a recital of music written for piano by women composers. Come for reflection and meditation - all are welcome.

Bonse Aba Singers

Emily is still looking for more treble singers to join the new Bonse Aba group! It is open to all ages and abilities, and we are already having a fun time together creating a new community. Please come and check it out on April 7th at 11:40 after the second service!

Global Music Sunday!

On April 28, we only have one service at FLC since the 10:30 service will take place as a community worship service at Gustavus. Come to the 8:15 service for our second annual Global Music Sunday. We will explore hymns and songs of praise from around the world in our continued celebration of Easter!

Christian Education

Adult Bible Study (9:30 a.m. Mondays)

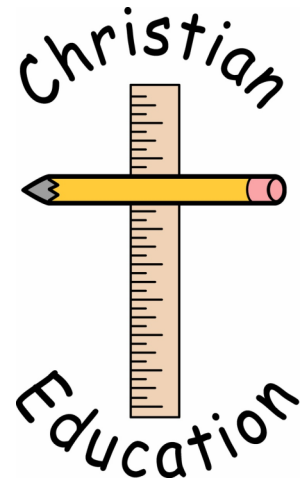
We will review the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday in the Conference Room:

April 1: Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

April 8: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14--23:56

April 15: Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26,
Luke 24:1-12

April 22: No Adult Bible study



First Forum Schedule (9:30 a.m. on Sundays)

First Forums during Lent are all about spiritual practices! Pastor Gwen and other leaders will introduce spiritual practices and then invite you to try them out. Please come for these engaging and inspiring topics:

April 7: Metta (Loving-kindness) Meditation with Will Friert

April 14: Praying the Stations of the Cross with Pastor Gwen

April 21: No First Forum (Easter Sunday)

April 28: No First Forum (Community Worship at Gustavus)

FLC Day Camp! June 24-27.

Mark your calendars for Day Camp at FLC! Counselors from Shetek Lutheran Ministries will be at First Lutheran hosting this fun and rewarding experience. Days are filled with crafts, music, and activities to learn about God. The camp will be for children entering Kindergarten through Grade 7 in Fall 2019. FLC members and friends are welcome! More info about cost and registration will be coming soon!

Sunday School Music


The Sunday School children and other youth are coming together on April 14th to sing a song and play instruments for the 10:30 Palm Sunday service. Please mark your calendars now and make sure the children arrive by 9:30 for a practice that Sunday!



Service Project

On March 20, the youth in grades 5-8 made 55 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief and 27 Birthday Kits for the St. Peter Area Food Shelf. Way to go kids! A special thanks to Angie Buffington for coordinating the personal care kits, Amy Pehrson for organizing the Birthday Kits, and to the many adults who helped on the 20th!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
	1. 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer in Chapel 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Solar Spectacular	2. 10:00 a.m. Funds Management	3. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:15 p.m.
7. <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Worship	8. 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer in Chapel 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study	9. 1:00 p.m. Green Committee	10. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:15 p.m.
14. <i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i> 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Youth Leadership Team	15. 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer in Chapel 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Christian Education Committee	16. 7:00 p.m. Council	17. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m. No Faith
<i>Holy Week</i>			
21. <i>Easter</i> 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Fellowship & Easter Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Worship	22. Office Closed	23. 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Blood Drive 1:00 p.m. Cemetery Committee	24. 9:00 a.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:15 p.m.
28. <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Global Music Sunday</i> 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Community worship at Christ Chapel in Gustavus (no 10:30 service at FLC)	29. 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer in Chapel 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study	30. 1:00 p.m. Resurrection Cemetery Committee	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Men's Conversation (GAC) Visitation for Nancy Roberts Funeral for Nancy Roberts Soup Supper Handbells Fellowship Committee Adult Education Faith Formation (Gr 5-6) Confirmation (Gr 7-9) Worship (Sanctuary)	4. 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	5.	6. 10:00 a.m. Visitation 11:00 a.m. Funeral for Forrest Chaffee
Men's Conversation (GAC) Staff Meeting Worship and Arts Committee Holy Week Choir Adult Education Faith Formation (Gr 5-6) Confirmation (Gr 7-9) Worship (Sanctuary)	11. 8:00 a.m. Finance 9:00 a.m. Stewardship	12.	13. 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 Scout Pancake Breakfast 2:00 p.m. Backpack Group Hike
Men's Conversation (GAC) Staff Meeting Brass Rehearsal Holy Week Choir Formation/Confirmation	18. <i>Maunday Thursday</i> 7:00 p.m. Worship	19. <i>Good Friday</i> 12:00 p.m. Piano Recital 7:00 p.m. Worship	20. <i>Easter Vigil</i> 8:30 p.m. Worship 
<i>Week</i>			
Men's Conversation (GAC) Faith Formation (Gr 5-6) Confirmation (Gr 7-9) Worship	25.	26. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cemetery Cleanup	27. GACAC Annual Meeting 9:00 a.m. Mission Quilters 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Cemetery Cleanup

Youth Leadership Team

Room 8 (the northeast corner room) has received a makeover from a Sunday school room to the official **Youth Room**. The youth have painted it, started looking to add furniture and artwork, and will soon be making it their own. Come check it out! The room in the basement will continue to be used for Sunday school, confirmation and for other large groups.

For those of you who ordered **Butter Braids** from the youth, they will arrive at the church on Wednesday, April 10 and will be available for pick up after Lenten worship. Thank you for supporting our youth!

Save the Date! **High School Senior Blessing** will be held on Sunday, May 12 at 10:30 a.m. Please plan to join us that day for a special time during service in which they will receive their prayer shawls and for fellowship after worship. We are asking for a few pictures of the Seniors for the display. Please send them to Mark in the office.

Resurrection Cemetery Committee

Resurrection Cemetery clean-up days will be Friday, April 26 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and again on Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please come and help tidy up the cemetery! Please bring gloves, rakes, and clippers. This is a great service activity for families and confirmation students to do with their mentors! Refreshments will be served.



April Service List

Coordinators: Rich and Nancy Helgeson

Keith & Bobbi Blank	Andreas & Eva	Jerry & Shanon Nowell
Eric & Heidi Christensen	Hendrickson	Paul & Lynn Rislove
Derek & Vicki Demers	Helen Ihrig	Betty Rohloff
Josh Drinkell & Joy Reese	Jan Jensen	Clayton & Sheryl Strand
Scott Emich	Bruce Johnson	Shirley Strand
Larry & LaVonne Enz	Ryan & Allison Kuhlman	Glen Stryker
Randy Frey-Hawkins	Carol Lager	
Donna Green	Steve & Julie Lobb	
Scott & Jill Grill	Marsha LoFaro	
Jan Hamilton	Shannon Nimps	

Green Committee

As we all emerge from the snow drifts, most of us are looking forward to spring. It seems to a bit strange to see all that brown out there--some of us may have forgotten that there was something under the snow.



In a few weeks, the Green Committee will be waking up the Food Shelf garden. As we look forward to warmer days with green replacing the white (and now brown), it is a good time to reflect on why we have the Food Shelf garden.

Obviously, it is about growing food for the Food Shelf and making fresh produce available to people who need food in addition to the packaged. And that we do, providing lettuce and green beans as well as other vegetables, and adding to the fresh produce delivered to the St. Peter Food Shelf by Second Harvest as well as other area gardeners (some who are First Lutheran members, by the way). But the food is only one part of the story.

You may have noticed that almost every Sunday during worship, the intercessory prayers include some reference to creation, be it the waters of the Minnesota River (not too much, now, please...) or growing crops, or the welfare of other creatures. By those prayers we are acknowledging that while we are creatures of the Spirit, we are also physical creatures created by God who live here and now, part of and dependent on a created world that are loved by its Creator. Our world is not just a blank canvas or stage for a spiritual drama, but a living part of God's care and love for us and all the world.

So another way to think about the Food Shelf garden that it is as a daily extension of those prayers, "spoken" everyday by our efforts to tend the garden. With this garden, we acknowledge our Creator and what has been created, and say with our actions what we sometimes say in with our mouths in worship: "Hear us, O God, your mercy is great."

As we do every year, we are inviting FLC members to help us care for the garden. This is a varying task. Some weeks it is dry and the garden needs watering. Other weeks it is wet and the weeds are growing fast. And as the summer goes on, there will be vegetables to harvest. Stay tuned for an invitation to pray with us.

Submitted by,
Jim Dontje

News and Notes

Update on Director of Lifelong Learning

We have narrowed our search to three candidates out of an amazing pool of applicants. The search committee will complete face-to-face interviews with the candidates early this month. Members of the Director of Lifelong Learning search committee include: Tami Aune (from Staff Support), Laura Boomgaarden (from Christian Education), Megan Berglund (from Youth Leadership Team), Josh Drinkall (from Council), Jaden Neubauer (Youth), Anja Bunge Dulin (Youth), and Pastor Gwen Hermanson. Please keep this group in your prayers as we seek a good match for First Lutheran.

Update on Intern

We are moving forward with the internship program, trusting that the congregation will meet the remaining financial obligation of \$14K. We'll find out who our 2019-2020 Intern will be later this month!

Looking for a Photographer: Do you have a cellphone that takes photos? Do you come to church regularly? If both are true, would you be interested in taking photos of our worship services? We'd like to post more photos on Facebook so that those who are not able to attend worship in person can still feel connected. You don't have to commit to taking photos every week. Contact the office if interested.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Our soup suppers on Wednesday evenings continue throughout Lent. The remaining schedule this year is as below:

April 3: Building & Grounds, Fellowship, and Welcoming

April 10: Greens, Social Ministry, Resurrection Cemetery

Updated Service Booklet

The 2018-2019 Service Booklet has been updated! First, a special "thank you" to Carol Solberg and Betty Thompson who volunteered to be funeral coordinators. They will help provide consistency for funeral receptions held at First Lutheran as well as to help the monthly coordinators with whatever they need. The new booklet also updates monthly services lists, reflects a few changes to monthly coordinators, and clarifies the food items to be brought in. The revised booklets will be sent to the monthly coordinators, who are listed below. Thanks to everyone who helps with these special events!

January: Mary and Gordon Long

February: Douglas and Susan Peterson

March: Tim and Dawn Kienlen

April: Rich and Nancy Helgeson

May: Betty Thompson

June: Diane Sammelson and Mary Thompson

July: Bruce & Sue Gray, and Jack & Mary Spear

August: David and Judy Fienen

September: Mary Ann Scharf

October: Carla Demers and Carol Solberg

November: Barbara Wilkinson

December: Paul Aasen and Cindy Rasmussen

BLOOD DRIVE

JUST
1 DONATION
SAVES
3 LIVES

Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, April 23. 12:00-6:00 p.m. at First Lutheran

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit
RedCrossBlood.org and enter: First Lutheran to schedule an appointment



Has it been awhile since you have assisted in a worship service, or maybe you never have but would like to give it a try? Please check your calendar and find a role that fits! Check out our easy sign-up site:

[Worship Assistant Sign Up](#)

Help End Hunger

50 cents provides a pound of seed to grow food. \$1 adds a chick to a family's egg business., \$10 provides a fruit tree seedling, and \$40 offers a month of meals for an orphan. There are "Feed the World" boxes in the Gathering Space into which you can place donations. Please return the boxes on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14.

Financial Notes:

Through February 28, 2019

Income	\$71,642
Expenses	\$77,558
Balance	(\$5,916)



2019 Congregational Council

President: Shanon Nowell
Past President: Paul Haukoos
Vice President: Dave Ribar
Treasurer: Ken Westphal
Secretary: Cheryl Kautt

Other Members:

Josh Drinkall, Tyler Erickson, Mary Gaebler
Gordon Long, Cindy Nadeau, Mary Thompson, Carolyn Trnka

Renewed by Christ in Word, water, bread and wine, we serve the community and the world

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Address Service
Requested



Welcome to First Lutheran Church

**Public Access Channel 7
TV broadcast**

6:00 p.m. Monday
8:00 a.m. Tuesday
11:30 a.m. Sunday
3:00 p.m. Sunday

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:15 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship
9:30 a.m. Education
10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday Morning Prayer

9:15 a.m. (Chapel)

Wednesday Worship

5:15 p.m. Soup Supper (last one is April 10)
6:15 p.m. Education
7.15 p.m. (Sanctuary)