

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

+  
SAINT PETER

# FIRST OUT LOUD!

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

## Pastor Chris – The Gift of Praying the Psalms

*“O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hands are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.” (Psalm 95:1-7)*

During my sermon on April 16, I encouraged all of us to pray with the psalms. I advised that we pick one psalm a day to read slowly and deliberately and then use that psalm in our prayers that day. I did this because the psalms contain very powerful and authentic language that we can apply to our daily lives no matter if we are happy or sad, excited, or bored, scared, or confident, mourning a loss or rejoicing in God’s good and gracious care. If you ever struggle to find the words you need to tell God how you are feeling in your life, then turn to the psalms. The Book of Psalms will provide you with the language you need to deepen your prayer life and communicate well with our Holy God. There are 150 psalms in the Bible. So, pick one psalm a day and you’ll have enough to guide your prayer life for five months! I’m enjoying my prayer time and I pray that God will bless your daily prayer time as well!

I selected the first seven verses from Psalm 95 for this article because we will be blessed to celebrate several wonderful milestones in the life of our youth and their families this month. These are important moments in time for our youth and their families. They are also important events in the life of First Lutheran Church. So, I felt like it is time for us to come together to rejoice and sing God’s praises. Therefore, this month I invite you to come and join us as we celebrate Confirmation Sunday (May 7), First Holy Communion Sunday (May 14) and the Blessing of our Graduates (May 21). As Spring blossoms forth and we thank God for the gift of our mothers on May 14- there is a lot to thank God for this month! Join us in worship this month as together we come into God’s presence with thanksgiving and sing his praises!

*Pastor Chris*

**MARCH 31**

*Financial Report*

Income 150,396

Expense 113,913

Net Income \$36,483

## **Council President** – FLC’s Strategic Plan Framework in Action

Have you read the FLC Strategic Plan Framework 2023-2028? My message in the April “First Out Loud” newsletter included the Strategic Plan Framework as well as our new mission statement “God’s Work. Our Hands. To Serve ALL People”. The strategic plan task force also developed a vision statement and a list of core values. All of that can be viewed on the church website and we will be having a First Forum on April 30th to present the plan in person!



**NO MOW MAY  
ST. PETER**

**No Mow May...want to “bee” part of helping pollinators this spring?**

**Saint Peter residents are encouraged to participate in the “NO MOW MAY” program for May 2023. Registration is required and is available at either the Police Department (207 S. Front Street) or at Recreation and Leisure Services Office (600 S. 5 th St.) between the hours of 8:00a.m.-5p.m.**

**FIND OUT MORE ONLINE AT:**

**[HTTPS://WWW.SAINTPETER MN.GOV/536/](https://www.saintpetermn.gov/536/)**

One slight change to the Framework came about after our council retreat on March 25. To the core value “feeding our faith for growth and renewal” we added through excellent preaching and liturgical worship that reflects the Lutheran tradition so that core value now reads “feeding our faith for growth and renewal through excellent preaching and liturgical worship that reflects the Lutheran tradition. Additional wording was added to reflect the congregation’s value on excellent preaching and our identity as a Lutheran congregation while at the same time allowing for a more expansive expression by using the word “reflects”.

The next step in implementing the strategic plan is to form Action Plan teams for each of the three strategic priorities. Each team will have a leader or facilitator and we identified those people at the council retreat. They are as follows:

- “Engaging and Collaborating with the Community”: Mary Spear (majspear@gmail.com)
- “Providing Programs and Services Across ALL Demographics”: Dave Kennedy(davidrkennedy1985@gmail.com)
- “Having a Solid Financial Position”: Harry Hunt (hahunt@hotmail.com)

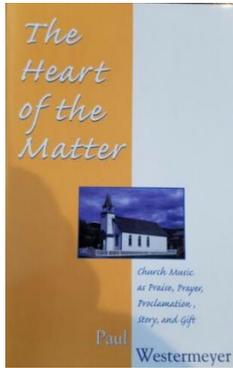
What we now need is YOU. You can be on one of these teams to help make these priorities come alive. If one of these priorities intrigues you, please contact the leader by email and get on board!

*Submitted by Mary Spear*

## Academic Study - Part 4: Church Music as Story

*The Heart of the Matter: Church Music as Praise, Prayer, Proclamation, Story, and Gift*

by Dr. Paul Westermeyer



So many of our scripture passages are songs. Whether literal songs like the psalms, or people that burst into song because they could not contain the emotion they were feeling, these are all parts of the greater story. As I learned many times from Dr. Westermeyer in seminary, when we sing a hymn, we sing the whole story of Christ. This is one reason that it is rare for me to select one or two stanzas to sing; it is important that we include this whole story and not just the “relevant” parts. Westermeyer says of the church’s hymnody: “It is partly praise, prayer, and proclamation, to be sure. But it is perhaps more profoundly story. If you lay out the hymns of almost any standard hymnal in a sequential fashion, you find the entire story of God’s mighty acts there...” What a powerful and important part of our lives as worshipping Christians!

Westermeyer explains that many scripture passages are like our own lives: in the middle of a particular story, time, and place. In the midst of all of that, “[f]or the Christian, the event of Jesus stands at the center of the story and is its key.” In the church, singing is the way that we retell this story, which helps commit it to memory. Music is a metaphor for worship and for a story; it “spins itself out through time,” making it a most appropriate vehicle for our worship and for storytelling.

What does this mean for the church musician? At its most basic, the musician is charged with making sure that the congregation sings the whole story. Westermeyer indicates that “[t]he preacher is always compelled to apply the story to us in this moment... The cantor is more specifically responsible for the context and the fulness of the story.” I appreciate Westermeyer’s next section, where he says that the congregation should sing the whole story within a year. “This means that doing the same six or ten hymns over and over does not serve the people well; it keeps them from singing the whole story and omits much of the context the preacher requires for his or her words.” Finding the balance between variety and familiarity is very central to what I do on a daily basis.

Finally, Westermeyer believes that “the church musician is the one who controls the pace and the shape and flow of a service more than anyone else.” Through preludes, the hymns at the beginning, middle, and end, the communion music, the postlude, and the liturgical elements (both sung and spoken), the church musician takes great care and concern for the flow of worship and accompanies the people’s song, enabling them to tell the story.

*Emily Bruflat, Director of Music*

### Invitation to Upcoming Organ Recital – New Gustie Grad!

Sophie Martinez, our Gustavus music scholar, will be giving her senior organ recital on Friday May 26th at 3:00pm in Christ Chapel. Please join her for a program that includes works of Franck, Buxtehude, and more!

### The National Lutheran Choir’s Celebration Weekend

Join the NLC this May for the conclusion to its 37th season with a Hymn Festival, the annual Gala, and Spring Concert! This weekend of events will celebrate everything the NLC has accomplished under David Cherwien’s leadership as he completes his tenure with the choir.

- **Hymn Festival: God Has Called Us;** 7:30pm on May 5th at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church in Bloomington, MN
- **Annual Gala: From Strength to Strength;** 2:30pm on May 6th at The Westin Galleria in Edina,
- **MNSpring Concert: Ventures Known and Unknown;** 4:00pm on May 7th at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, MN (Tickets at [NLCA.com/Spring-Concert-2023](https://www.nlca.com/spring-concert-2023). Free-to-all livestream is also available!)

# Youth & Family - Out Loud!

## May Youth Worship Services:

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Sunday, May 7th<br>10:00am  | <b>CONFIRMATION SUNDAY SERVICE</b><br>(see student spotlights below)                          |
| Sunday, May 14th<br>10:00am | <b>FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY SERVICE</b><br>(see student spotlights below)                  |
| Sunday, May 21st<br>10:00am | <b>HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023 RECOGNITION SUNDAY SERVICE</b><br>(see student spotlights below) |

## May Family Fun Event:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Friday, May 19th<br>6:30pm | <b>Campfire and Songs - Youth and Family Night!</b> |
|----------------------------|---|

## High School Youth Group:

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Wednesday,<br>May 3rd<br>7:30pm-<br>8:30pm | Our combined High School Youth Group will be gathering for food, fun, and games at First Lutheran Church this month! |  |
|--|--|---|



## Summer Programming Opportunities:

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Monday, June 12th<br>6:30pm at FLC    | <b>MONDAY FUNDAY: SUMMER FAMILY NIGHTS AT FIRST</b><br><i>Kickball &amp; Treats</i>  |
| June 27th-30th                        | <b>Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Trip</b><br><i>8th-9th Graders</i>  |
| Sunday, July 9th<br>5:05pm Game       | <b>Mankato Moondogs: Faith Night Groups</b><br><i>Cost: \$10 per tickets (stadium seats and meal included)</i><br><i>Must register through the office!</i> |
| Monday, July 10th<br>6:30pm at FLC    | <b>MONDAY FUNDAY: SUMMER FAMILY NIGHTS AT FIRST</b><br><i>Bingo &amp; Treats</i>   |
| Monday, July 24th<br>6:30pm at FLC    | <b>MONDAY FUNDAY: SUMMER FAMILY NIGHTS AT FIRST</b><br><i>Christmas in July</i>  |
| Sunday, July 30th<br>5:05pm Game      | <b>Mankato Moondogs: Faith Night Groups</b><br><i>Cost: \$10 per tickets (stadium seats and meal included)</i><br><i>Must register through the office!</i> |
| August 6th-10th<br>@ Trinity Lutheran | <b>FLC &amp; TLC Summer Vacation Bible School</b><br><i>Registration is Open!</i>  |
| Monday, August 14th<br>6:30pm at FLC  | <b>MONDAY FUNDAY: SUMMER FAMILY NIGHTS AT FIRST</b><br><i>Fire, S'mores, &amp; Songs</i>   |

## Congratulations Brenda McHugh!



### ***Theodore U. Larson Award for Distinguished Service in Christian Education 2022-23 Recipient Recognition Service - Sunday, May 7th***

Brenda was nominated for this award because of her longtime service to our youth education programs, as well as her welcoming presence to the children and youth of First Lutheran. Over the years, she has been a Sunday School music teacher, Sunday School teacher, Senior Recognition Prayer Shawl Coordinator, Confirmation Guide, and active member of our Lifelong Learning Committee. We are so grateful for the multiple roles she plays in our church's community. Thank you, Brenda! We have been blessed by your dedication and service.

## Congratulations Raina Roemhildt!

### ***2023 Recipient of Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Scholarship***

Raina Roemhildt was awarded a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship worth approximately \$200,000.

While the Navy awards thousands of NROTC scholarships every year, Roemhildt was awarded the Immediate Scholarship Reservation (ISR) scholarship. The scholarship is awarded by U.S. Navy unit commanding officers and is only given to a select few applicants.

“This is a huge accomplishment for Raina,” said Cmdr. John Allen, commanding officer of the Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Northern Plains. “She, without a doubt, embodies our Navy’s core values and represents the quality of our nation’s future Navy leaders, innovators and warriors. It is an absolute honor for me to be offered the privilege to recognize her hard work and dedication through the awarding of this selective scholarship.”



Congrats Raina! First Lutheran is so proud of you!

*Calleigh Carlson, Lifelong Learning Committee Member/Director of Youth & Family Ministries*

## **Worship & Arts Committee –Lectionary Notes Added to Sunday to Bulletins/Music Ministry Outreach in April**

Have you taken note of some changes to our Sunday bulletins? Since her return from sabbatical, Emily has begun adding side notes again on our bulletins. These notes serve to pull our service together by providing some background information about how the readings, the hymns, and prayers are connected.

With the return of offering weekly communion, this has required more folks to help in many ways - from bread baking to serving and preparation. We would like to thank the many people who have volunteered to help in these ways!

Recently Emily led a First Forum session providing a review of “A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church” by Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney. She also presented this at the Worship and Arts meeting in January. This lectionary pulls in many different bible passages to expand biblical knowledge outside of the normal three-year Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) cycle. It follows the same format as the RCL. At both meetings, this lectionary was well received. She was encouraged to present this to other groups at First to familiarize more people with it. Feedback was shared with thoughts about possibly trying it out a few times this year. This lectionary is more inclusive than what many of us have become accustomed to - with passages including women and minorities. What a wonderful way to promote inclusivity in our church!

Our music ministries went on the road this spring! First Lutheran musicians visited a few of the senior living centers to sing and make music for (and with) residents from Ecumen Sand Prairie, Ecumen Prairie Hill, and Benedictine Senior Living Community. Thank you to Handbell Musicians, Singers, Kelly Harrell, and Emily Bruflat for leading the singers and providing accompaniment.

*Michelle Doose, Worship and Arts Committee Chair*

### **Fourth of July Parade – It’s a BIG Deal**

For several years now, FLC has had a nice large presence in the 4th of July Parade sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Please save the date and plan to participate if your family is in town!

### **Yes! A New FLC Church Directory is Coming!**

Photography dates: September 26th-30th Look for further details in the coming months!

### **Live Nativity Returning – The Time to Prepare is NOW!**

CCM is excited about the return of Live Nativity. Live Nativity happens over several days during advent in the FLC parking lot. This is a church-wide event and involves as many committees and people as possible. Here is a brief list of tasks/roles that will be needed leading up to and during Live Nativity:

- Actors
- Food for actors - Fellowship/Bakers - also need preparers and servers.
- Costume Prep and repair - Mary Long will ask the quilters if they would like to oversee this activity that could take place during the summer; we will report back to you. This is a CCM team.
- Dressers and prop managers for the Actors
- Interior set-up of the dining room and hallways
- Technology and Sound - (Would building and grounds do this or can the Tech Committee assist.)
- Livestock obtainers/providers
- Livestock handlers.

*Please contact the church office if you would like to be involved in the return of this lovely Christmastime tradition!*



## Celebrate FLC's 2023 Confirmation Class



**Name:** Lathe Ansel Dommer Bly

**Baptismal Date:** 2-24-2008

**Parents:** Kaari & Galen Bly

**Godparents/Sponsors:** Lynda & Ken Koppelman, Erin Roggenkamp, Kaia Paquin

**Memorized Scripture:** Isaiah 41:10

*"I enjoy spending time at youth group and helping the community."*



**Name:** Malcolm Roy McHugh

**Baptismal Date:** 8-17-2008

**Parents:** Brenda & Tom McHugh

**Godparents/Sponsors:** Betsy Geer, Lindsey Scott, Kelly Priadka

**Mentor:** Galen Bly

**Memorized Scripture:** Psalm 91:9-10

*"My favorite memory at FLC thus far has been our High School Youth Group. "*



**Name:** Rebekah Leilani Roemhildt

**Baptismal Date:** 9-29-2008

**Parents:** Mark & Gabriela Roemhildt

**Godparents/Sponsors:** Terry & Deb Roemhildt

**Mentor:** Emily Bruflat

**Memorized Scripture:** Matthew 11:28

*"My favorite memory at FLC thus far was the first time I sang 'Silent Night' at the Christmas Eve 10pm service in 2019."*



**Name:** Kallie Stadick

**Baptismal Date:** 6-29-2008

**Parents:** Cory & Jessica Stadick

**Godparents/Sponsors:** Jake Kienlen, Laura Thomas

**Mentor:** Rylee Stadick

**Memorized Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 16:14

*"I really enjoyed the variety of service activities throughout my time at FLC. I have especially liked ringing bells for the Salvation Army, making tie blankets for Benches, delivering pies to members of the congregation, and singing carols at the local nursing homes."*



**Name:** Amelia Staples

**Baptismal Date:** 4-6-2008

**Parents:** Jason & Deanna Staples

**Godparents/Sponsors:** Curt Person & Amanda Staples

**Mentor:** Mary Spear

**Memorized Scripture:** Isaiah 40:29

*"My favorite memories at FLC were when I delivered pies/flowers to members of the congregation and when I helped at The Kitchen."*



**Name:** Samuel Douglas Szybnski

**Baptismal Date:** 10-12-2008

**Parents:** Mark & Rachel Szybnski

**Godparents/Sponsors:** Matthew & Nicole Szybnski

**Mentor:** Bob Stenson

**Memorized Scripture:** 1 Samuel 17:45-47

*"My favorite memory at FLC was working with Bob and other members at The Kitchen!"*

## Celebrate FLC's 2023 First Holy Communion Class



**Name:** Asher Dale Hoenke

**Parents:** Shawn & Jessica Hoenke

**Godparents:** Vern & Rachel Brown, Jonathan Hofland

*"My favorite thing about FLC is talking about God."*



**Name:** Liam Leonard Hoenke

**Parents:** Shawn & Jessica Hoenke

**Godparents:** Derrick & Darcie O'Donnell, Aaron & Kristin Helland

*"My favorite thing about FLC is Sunday School"*



**Name:** Harper Dean Honetschlager

**Parents:** Rachel & Chad Honetschlager

**Godparents:** Logan & Lucas Hickey

*"My favorite thing about FLC is the communion classes."*



**Name:** Rogen Kuhlman

**Parents:** Ryan & Alli Kuhlman

**Godparents/Sponsors:** Sarah & Nathan Rolling, Laurie Schultz, Luke Arnold

*"My favorite thing about FLC is learning the stories of the Bible and the songs we sing at Sunday School!"*



**Name:** Ambriela Emily Linsmeier

**Parents:** Brandon & Angie Linsmeier

**Godparents:** Jesse & Tammy Samuelson, Pete & Shannon Fay

*"My favorite memory at FLC thus far is the music and singing!"*

## Dates for May Celebrations

*May 7 Confirmation Sunday*

*May 14 First Holy Communion*

*May 21 Graduate Blessing*

## Celebrate FLC's Graduating Class of 2023



**Name:** Isabel Hope Avant

**Parents:** Monique Sebring

**Plans after graduation:** I strive to make a positive impact in the world. I am committed to U of M, Duluth and am excited to pursue a social work career. I am a highly empathic person, and my goal is to work in the mental health field. Learning from other perspectives and other disciplines would boost my capacity to help others, aid in personal and community growth!

*"Playing music with Emily, Bob Ross painting with Calleigh, Wednesday Soup suppers and volunteering at the Kitchen are favorite FLC memories!"*



**Name:** Sam Buffington

**Parents:** Angie & Bryan Buffington

**Plans after graduation:** Attend University of North Dakota for Commercial Aviation!

*"My favorite memories at FLC were the candlelight Christmas services."*



**Name:** Alex Davig

**Parents:** Marty & Bonnie Davig

**Plans after graduation:** Attend Minnesota State University - Mankato for Computer Science!



**Name:** Eleanor Fu Sha Kennedy

**Parents:** Dave Kennedy and Paula Eickman

**Plans after graduation:** I plan to attend Columbia College Chicago for a BA in musical theater!

*"My favorite memories from FLC have been participating in any music related activities/ensembles!"*



**Name:** David Marlow

**Parents:** Richard & Kristen Marlow

**Plans after graduation:** I plan on attending the University of Minnesota Twin Cities with a major in Pre-Law and a minor in Theatre!

*"My favorite memory has been performing trumpet and piano in the church, including both solos and ensembles."*



**Name:** Daisy Pehrson

**Parents:** Denise Pehrson

**Plans after graduation:** Attend Minnesota State University - Mankato for Dental Hygiene!

*"My favorite memory at FLC was lighting the candles in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve!"*



**Name:** Natalie Petersen

**Parents:** Brett & Linda Petersen

**Plans after graduation:** Attend St. Thomas University and major in Psychology!



**Name:** Maya Adelia Pettis

**Parents:** Darrell & Bonnie Pettis

**Plans after graduation:** I will be attending Michigan Technology University to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering!

*"My favorite memories at FLC included WOW after school on Wednesday's and playing games with everyone and going to Shetek."*



**Name:** Raina Roemhildt

**Parents:** Mark & Gabriela Roemhildt

**Plans after graduation:** Attending the University of Washington to earn her degree as a civil engineer. She will be part of the Naval ROTC program and will join the Navy post-graduation!

*"My favorite memories at FLC have been Wednesday night dinners before confirmation!"*

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## Non-Profit Organization

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## Snapshots of FLC in Action!

WOMENS RETREAT, NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, BOB ROSS PAINTING CHALLENGE, SOUP SUPPERS

