

# News & Views

First Lutheran Church

May, 2020



Hello First!

For those of you who have not received our daily emails, I wanted to share some of the faith practices that I have shared with the congregation. During this time of social isolation, we can remember our faith and our call as disciples through shared faith practices. Please encourage your household and other members to participate!

One of the key ways we can activate our faith is by journaling! Here are some of the journal prompts I shared with the congregation to help us get on the *same page*...

Find a piece of paper or a pen, or open a document on your computer, or a note on your phone. Take some time to make a list of the things we wish we could do out in the world, right now. *Do they include a resurrection life of serving our neighbors, enjoying creation, and sharing the gospel story? Are there things on your list you can actually do now, or prepare for in the future?*

Finally, tell someone about your list and ask them to remind you to follow through on 2 or 3 of the items you might need help with. Put the list up somewhere in your home as a reminder, or check back on the list in your phone or computer to keep you motivated to live an abundant life filled with the good news of Christ's resurrection.

## **YOUR WITNESS TO OTHERS:**

All Christians are called to be witnesses and ministers to the world, with the gospel message of Jesus Christ. God made us each unique. Each of us has unique gifts and perspectives and in life we each are given a story and a voice to witness to the gospel.

Follow these prompts to journal and/or talk to another person about witness!

When is a time you have witnessed to the good news of Jesus in your life?

What makes it easy or hard to do?

Think of a group of people or a person you interact with in life. What might you say to this group or person about Jesus?

What might you emphasize based on your knowledge of their life and perspective to help them understand what Jesus means for your life?

## **WITNESS FROM OTHERS**

While we carry and share Christ's mission to others, the mission of Jesus' disciples to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth now comes back to us as well. Please have this conversation with those in your home, a friend, or journal about the following:

Have you ever heard a witness of a Christian from a far-off place that brought the message of the gospel to you? What do you remember about that person and their witness?

Think about the Christian witness you have received through family, friends, strangers, books, and other media have influenced your faith. List as many as you can.

Which were most influential and why did those stories of faith have such impact?

## **REMEMBERING YOUR BAPTISM**

During Easter we are remembering our baptism. Easter is not just a day, it is a season that we will enjoy together as we remember baptism connects us to Jesus death and resurrection in our daily lives. What does that mean? Every day God calls us to die to some things (our fears, our frustrations, our sinful patterns) and we ask God to raise up new life in us that see the good, the peace, and the joy of Jesus new creation in us and our world. Stop your day today and make the sign of the cross on your forehead, with water with your finger as you say "I am a forgiven child of God. Lord, let your resurrection rise up in me today!"

*Pastor Josh*

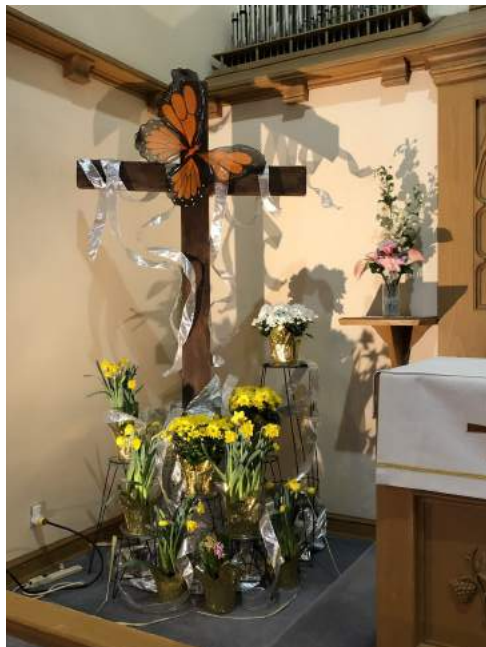
# Christian Life



As a community we pray for those with immediate needs of healing and strength:

Shannon Irvine, Carrie Pflugradt,  
Jan Stasiak and Rachel Tripi

We also give thanks for the renewed health of our organist, Gary Hanson, who returned to the organ for Easter Sunday worship.



## **TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

While we're all maintaining safe distances from one another, you're welcome to join our Tuesday morning online Bible Study. If you're interested, contact the church office and we'll send you the information you'll need to sign on with us.

We're doing Bible Studies led by Pastor Josh based on the texts for the next Sunday. You can go to: [www.workingpreacher.org](http://www.workingpreacher.org) to find the texts, commentaries and other resources for future Sundays.



*"Bring them up in the training  
and instruction of the Lord"*  
Ephesians 6:4.

## **Sunday School**

As Sunday School teachers in First Lutheran Church's Children's Ministry we have had the opportunity to do as Jesus did, and to embrace children and bless them as he commanded. Our theme this year was "Builders in the Bible" focusing on Bible stories from both the Old and New Testament. Last year we started to incorporate the project based STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Model into the implementation of our weekly lessons along with crafts and music. Our Sunday School teachers researched Biblical stories that matched science, craft and music themes with Scripture passages.

Throughout the year Linda has taught 'The Lord's Prayer' action song, 'The Twelve Disciples' and 'Who's the King of the Jungle'. We created structures out of boxes, marshmallows and toothpicks, made boats that float, played Jenga and did a science experiment about weak and strong foundations while learning about the Tower of Babel, Solomon Builds the Temple and the Two Builders. The children made paper scrolls, created a shield, and went ice cube fishing, activities that helped us tell the stories of Jesus in the Temple, David & Goliath, Jonathon and his Armor and the story of the Fishes and Loaves.

Can you say hello in a different language? We can: Konichiwa, Ya at eeh, Shalom and Hola to name a few. If you would like to know more about this year's activities you can re-read our monthly articles in News and Views. During our "Safe at Home" break, beautiful Easter crosses were mailed for the kids to color.

On behalf of the Sunday School Staff we would like to thank the congregation and parents for enabling us to partner with you in the spiritual training of First Lutheran Church's children.

Submitted by : Linda, Lori and Greta

# First Lutheran Happenings



There's not much to report on as another month passes as we all experience "staying at home" but your Council continues to remain in contact with on-line meetings, emails and phone calls. I want to thank the following:

- Dave Grulke for his insight to change all church business transactions to on-line transactions which has greatly eased bill paying, payroll and monitoring the churches financial status.
- Barb Reed for all your efforts and hard work during these difficult times—you're the glue that keeps us all of together. You're loved and appreciated.
- Pastor Josh thank you for "jumping in" and taking such a strong spiritual lead. FLC is blessed to have you as our Pastor.
- On a personal note, thank you for all the prayers for my daughter Nicole. She continues to recover slowly but feels stronger every day and requested that I extend a thank you on her behalf.

As many of you know, I have been a nurse for nearly 40 years with 25 of those years as a Psych nurse. As a healthcare professional, I want to share some of my knowledge to support a healthy psychosocial well-being with managing stress, especially during these difficult times.

- Take breaks from watching TV, video chats, news reports about COVID-19 updates. Listen and learn what you need to know ONLY and switch to another channel for more enjoyable watching/listening. **Suggestion:** Re-watch FLC services for spiritual support.
- Connect with others. Talk to friends and loved ones. Check on your neighbors especially those that are alone/vulnerable. **Suggestion:** Share a meal, deliver a card or ring the doorbell and "wave".
- Take care of yourself. (This can sometimes be the most difficult for some of us). Take deep breaths—practice my "deep breath in for Jesus and then blow out the devil". Do this 3 times and I guarantee you'll feel better. Maybe stretch or meditate, read the Bible. Eat healthy meals, increase your fluid intake, exercise as able and get plenty of rest/sleep. Get out in the sunshine. **Suggestion:** Start a journal and only write down the positives and read your journal when feeling anxious or sad about life at this time. Maintain your mental health. Call for help/support as needed.
- Take time to unwind. Do those activities that you enjoy and have some fun. **Suggestion:** Finish a project that's been waiting for that rainy day, learn a new hobby/task/craft---don't be afraid to try something new. Self-gratification is motivating and brings those "warm, feel good fuzzies".

The Church Council is here for you as needed and encourage your thoughts, suggestions and always prayers as we all go through this COVID-19 together as a caring congregation of sisters, brothers and children in Christ.

God's Blessings,  
Heidi Leiser, Church Council President



Keep watching for more information on the dates and times of our Vacation Bible School.....

**DARE TO CARE.....**

Thanks to everyone for supporting this year's Food Pantry Fundraiser, "Dare to Care" . Between January and Easter we have received \$2,231.69 to help with our food pantry ministry. Though we are not able to serve lunch at this time, we continue to provide bags of food to our clients to help them feed their families. We appreciate your continuing support either by check or using an easy link to pay online through First Lutheran's webpage at [www.firstlutheranelca.org](http://www.firstlutheranelca.org) by selecting the Food Pantry fund. Or, use this direct link and see information on the pantry <http://firstlutheranelca.org/on-going-events/food-pantry/>.



**Big Thank You!**

We can't thank enough our food pantry volunteers: Mike Plicka (left - unloading food from Feeding America), John Hrovat (center - taking a 'mask break' after distributing food bags) and Colleen Siarnicki (right - checking in with a client). Not pictured - Greta Plicka. All of these people have given their time to make sure our food pantry is running and helping those in need.

*Easter Fun With Eggs & Candy!*



Karlie & Samuel



Hazel



Eli

## Meet Our Members...

Shirley Jachem Armato's friend, Marilyn Filter Mutzenbauer, was a member of First Lutheran and invited Shirley to join the church in about 1985. She recalls that Henry Hammerling came to the house to welcome her and share information about our ministries. Shirley Jachem Armato grew up in Milwaukee. Her family later moved to 97<sup>th</sup> St. in West Allis. Her next door neighbor was Jackie Koski (Bayer), and the Bayer family (Ralph and Werner) lived the next house over. She graduated from West Allis Central and began work as a bookkeeper at Milwaukee County Bank on 70<sup>th</sup> and Greenfield. She worked a few other jobs and returned to the County Bank, working in the mortgage loan department. Shirley met her husband Joe in 1960 and married in 1962. Joe was a bartender at Kuglitsch's, she met him during league bowling. She worked as a bookkeeper for Polzin, who owned several service stations, until she retired. Joe retired from GE in the x ray division after 40 years. When they retired they bought a home in Vidalia, Florida and later moved to Haines City, Florida. They enjoyed the warm weather and lived a carefree life style for about 10 years, then moved back to Milwaukee due to Joe's illness. Over the years, Shirley has helped with VBS, is currently on Altar Guild (since Pastor Syre's call) and recently became a teller. Shirley has enjoyed "crafty" things such as ceramics, stained glass work & counted cross stitch. She has a "fur baby" named Gracie and enjoys doing cross word puzzles.



## Scholarship Fund....

Members of First Lutheran Church are eligible to apply for a Scholarship Grant. Grants are awarded to college students (priority given to accredited Lutheran Colleges), ELCA Seminary students and persons attending workshops, seminars, educational classes and other church related training opportunities. Scholarship Grant Guidelines and application forms can be obtained by contacting the First Lutheran Church office.

Remember to save your printer ink cartridges when you're done with them and bring them to the office. We receive \$2 each toward purchases at Office Depot - up to \$20 per month.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING

We accept monetary donations year-round, as well as the items needed to fill the stockings and bags distributed at Christmas. For a list of needed items, contact the church office. Thank you!



A big **THANK YOU** to our faithful Sunday School teachers:

Linda Grulke, Lori Marquez and Greta Plicka. They've done a fantastic job of being prepared each week, never knowing how many students they'd have, and teaching the story of Jesus in many interesting and fun ways. Thank you good and faithful servants!



Thanks for the support we receive from St. Luke's Lutheran. We received a check with this note enclosed:

*"I'm sorry we can't deliver any food from St. Luke's church at this time. Hope you can buy some needed items. Thanks for all you do and we will be back with food as soon as we can. Stay Healthy!"*

*Sue Milarch  
St. Luke's Greendale*

## Members send thanks to essential workers.....

Thanks to our daughter, Amanda, an LPN for Aurora.

Quan, caregiver and house parent at adult group home in Greenfield

Our daughter, Tracey, a medical staff assistant at a senior living complex in Virginia.

Friend Sheryl who is checking in Covid 19 patients at St. Mary's/Columbia.

Mike, Colleen, John and Greta for their work to get bags of food to our food pantry clients distributed outside every Friday

Zachary, a food distribution worker.

Friends Marie and Kerry, who are bedside nurses at St. Luke's

Friends Lynn, Loriann, Nancy, and Mary Jane are telephone triage nurses for Aurora

My friend, Sarah, a clinical support person for Aurora

Lora, a N.P. at a correctional facility in Wisconsin.

Beth, a nurse for Ascension in Steven's Point.

Rachel, in the heat of the battle working in the Covid intensive care unit at Froedert.

Carrie, a nurse at Froedert in the cancer care unit.

Carrie's daughter, a PT doing home care.

***May God keep all of these workers in his loving care. Amen.***

## May Birthdays

5/1 Judy Keene  
5/3 Jaqueline Bayer  
5/4 Daniel Sopa  
5/12 Justin Kocan  
5/12 Megan Rowe  
5/13 Heidi Leiser  
5/14 Jill Bayer  
5/14 Shirley Cogan  
5/14 Lori Marquez  
5/15 Amy Guthrie  
5/16 Jennifer Caras  
5/20 Jan Salek-Anderson  
5/22 William Hansen  
5/25 Stephen Andrade  
5/26 Jamie Schoberg  
5/27 Robert Gardner  
5/30 Patricia Zuback  
5/31 Jennette Sigler



## May Anniversaries

5/2 Mike & Greta Plicka 33 yrs.  
5/4 Dale & Sharon Phillippo 57 yrs.  
5/6 Mike & Megan Rowe 3 yrs.  
5/11 Earl & Jean Casto 52 yrs.  
5/27 Terry & Joyce Favre 42 yrs.



While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp – not following "proper" protocols. Who defended them?

- A. Moses
- B. Joshua
- C. Jethro
- D. The Lord



Answer: See Numbers 11:24-29

## CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIVITY

Pastor Josh discussed his first week here, and reported he's been participating in Zoom meetings and webinars.

Sexual Misconduct policy was adopted.

Discussions held re:

- Daily emails to members.
- Streaming worship services.
- Food pantry will not provide hot meals
- Food bag distribution
- Building use during "safer at home"
- Lenten services will not take place in person.
- Request to use building



*Friendly Reminders*

**Don't Forget** to notify the church office of any address, phone or email changes!

### Need pastoral care?

Please remember to notify the church office if you are ill or hospitalized so that we can offer prayer and support directly to you. If you have a pastoral emergency during non-office hours (death in the family, hospitalization, etc.) contact Pastor Josh at (414)476-4664, ext. 2.

First Lutheran Church  
7400 W. Lapham St.  
West Allis, WI 53214

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid

Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Permit No. 3633

Mailed on 4-24-2020

Electronic Service Requested

Dated Material  
Please deliver by 4-28-2020



## **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**

7400 W. Lapham St.

West Allis, WI

[www.firstlutheranelca.org](http://www.firstlutheranelca.org)

E-mail: [firstlutheranelca@att.net](mailto:firstlutheranelca@att.net)

Phone: 414-476-4664

**During "Safer at Home" restrictions,  
the church office will be closed and worship  
services will be available online.**

**Please call or email if you need assistance.**

*Worship With Us:*

*Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.*

*Sundays at 9:00 a.m.*

*Sunday School is at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays*

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9am to 12pm  
Office located at 7400 W. Lapham, West Allis  
(414)476-4664

