

News & Views

First Lutheran Church

April, 2021



SUNDAY IS COMING!

As we move into the bright light of Easter in April, we look at our journey to get here. Both the forty day journey of Lent and the year we have been through.

Last year at this time as we prepared to record our Easter Service in the sanctuary, having quickly learned how to worship online during that first month of Covid, my worship assistant got a phone call with the first news of its kind in our congregation. Her daughter likely had covid. After praying, she went home to quarantine and I stayed and recorded the service on my own.

There has been much difficult news and sacrifice during this last year. Not worshipping together or using our church building actively for the last year has been a challenge to our membership and small community. These experiences were definitely on my mind and I know yours in our Lenten journeys this year. In the Bible studies I led on Wednesdays, I chose Biblical stories of LIGHT. As we leaned into the original meaning of Lent as a "lengthening" of days in the spring, We were able to appreciate the days getting lighter and brighter. Through our Lenten journey in Scripture, we learned more about who we are and who God is while we lean into the light of Christ and celebrate his resurrection with the Easter sun!

I'm reminded of the photograph I brought home from my pastoral internship year in Hawaii. It's of an Easter Sunday in Honolulu in the first half of the 20th Century of the famous outdoor sunrise service people drove to at the top of the Punchbowl volcano crater that sits above the city (see picture on p. 2). We are living into that same light of Easter, and hoping for an end to the pain of this long Friday.

Continued on p. 2

WORSHIP SCHEDULE Holy Week and Beyond

Services at Luther Memorial are
Parking Lot Services

April 1 - Maundy Thursday

8:30am - 12pm - You're invited to come to the sanctuary and take some time to walk around, looking at the windows which display the life of Christ. Sit and pray in preparation for Good Friday and Easter. Members are asked to call the office to reserve a time slot of 1/2 hour.

6:00 p.m. - Worship at Luther Memorial

April 2 - Good Friday

12-3 p.m. - You are again invited to come to the sanctuary for prayer. Call the office to reserve a time.

6:00 p.m. - Worship at Luther Memorial

April 4 - Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Worship at Luther Memorial

April 11

Synod Virtual Worship
Pastor Josh will be on vacation

When I think about this last year, I remember hearing the evangelical preacher Tony Campolo say the famous line, "It's Friday, but Sunday is coming!" when I heard him speak at the church around the block from the church I served in Honolulu. This year has been a long Friday, (as in Good Friday), when we remember that Jesus is in the mire with us, and that while we have hopes and expectations for change, sometimes we don't get to see them through the clouds and shadows of affliction and disappointment.

The promise is of course that Sunday is coming, and now we see it here at First Lutheran and in communities around the country, as numbers have dipped down and more people have become vaccinated. We still have a way to go and can't pretend this threat has disappeared in a matter of weeks, but I think we are so used to being in the dark of bad news that the good news may blind us to the continued reality of the pandemic here and around the globe. We do need to keep an eye on virus variants and not put others at risk as more of us feel protected. But the sun of hope is shining as things seem to get a little safer and better each day.

At the church we are cleaning up and moving some things around in anticipation for members returning to this space that they love dearly. As of this printing, we don't know of the news if there is a date and a plan to open yet, but we lean into the light, recognizing the lessons we have learned during this Friday and waiting to see the sun of the Easter morning and the hope it brings in Jesus Christ, and our lives together.

Pastor Josh



Bible Quiz

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas

Answer: See Luke 24:18



From the Council President

WHEN WILL WE RETURN TO WORSHIPING INSIDE THE SANCTUARY AT FLC?

From now through the month of April, Sunday worship services will continue to be held outside in the parking lot at Luther Memorial at 10 a.m. On Sunday, May 2nd, we will return to FLC for either an indoor or outdoor service 10 a.m. The decision as to indoors or outdoors will be based on information available to us in the middle of April. Note that the time of the service may be changed, based on input from the congregation.

It is important that we all realize that worshipping in the Sanctuary in the early post Covid days will not look the same as pre-Covid worship. In all probability, we will have to wear masks, maintain social distancing, and singing may not be possible.

This has been a very challenging year for all of us, and your Church Council appreciates your patience as we make decisions based on information which is changing daily.

Earl Casto, Council President

Christian Life

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



Early in March, the Sunday School kids celebrated Angel's outside by remembering some things angels do: Angels protect things that are good, Angels are messengers (they decorated the sidewalk congratulating Pastor Josh and Sarah and they made a poster), Angels praise God (they learned Hallelu/Praise ye the Lord) and Angels protect us (they played balloons in the yard and no one got hurt).

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



With our Lenten Study ended, we'll be returning to the book "BIBLE WOMEN All Their Words and Why They Matter" and continue studying women in the New Testament.

Looking toward summer, plan to enjoy a variety of Biblical discussions, check out some different books, watch a movie or two and entertain some visiting speakers.

If you have any suggestions for topics, be sure to let Pastor Josh know. New members are always welcome to join us on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Contact the church office if you're interested.



The Plague Olympics

Later in March, the Sunday School held the "Plague Olympics" with a frog race (right), locust tag, blowing bubbles for the flies and plague of skin sores. They shot rockets to remember the Angel of Death passing over the houses and had a "Let My People Go" obstacle course. Pastor Josh attempted to turn a snake into a rod (top right). Oh, and red juice for the water turning into blood, of course. They'll remember the plagues, but won't be scared by them. They had a blast!



10 ANCESTRAL TEACHINGS

We're sharing a bit of Native American wisdom with you today.

Which of these teachings resonates with you? How do they relate to the Ten Commandments given to Moses?

“Like many of the teachings that come from indigenous culture, the 10 virtues below are intended as a roadmap for living a more balanced and connected life. The beauty of these ancient pillars of existence is that they always remain relevant, regardless of how evolved or learned we think we've become.

- 1) The Earth is our mother, care for her.
- 2) Honor your ancestors through your actions.
- 3) Open your heart and soul to the Great Spirit.
- 4) All life is sacred; treat all beings with respect.
- 5) Take from the Earth what is needed and nothing more.
- 6) Put the good of all before your own interests.
- 7) Give constant thanks for each new day.
- 8) Speak the truth; but only of the good in others.
- 9) Follow the rhythms of nature; rise and retire with the sun.
- 10) Enjoy life's journey, but leave no tracks.

They seem so simple right? But somehow these core concepts are easy to forget or take for granted when life gets challenging.

I hope you find benefit in these native commandments.”

From Nick Polizzi, Founder of The Sacred Science



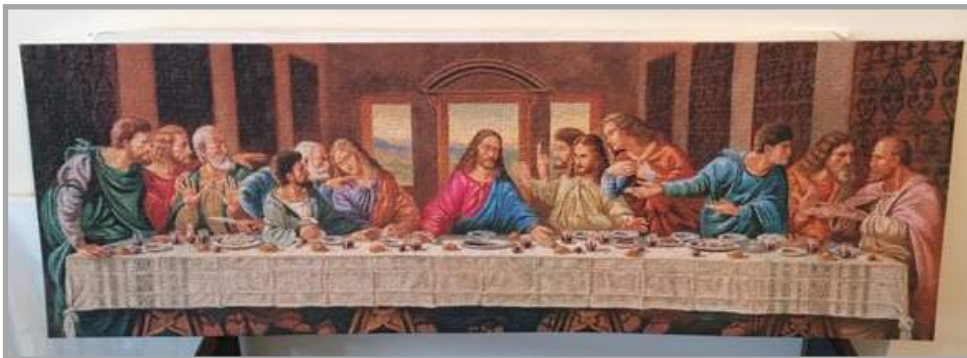
We appreciate the generous donations of food from St. Luke's Lutheran in Greendale and the West Allis Women's Club. We also have other faithful donors who drop off food regularly at church, or bring it to the Sunday worship services at Luther Memorial. Thank you!

Faithbook Quips:

Don't forget God
when you get
what you pray for...

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd

The earth is the LORD's
and all that is in it, the world,
and those who live in it;



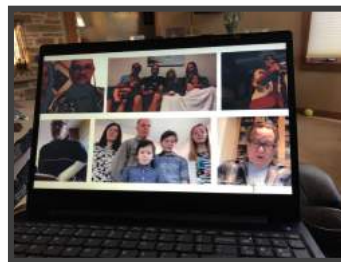
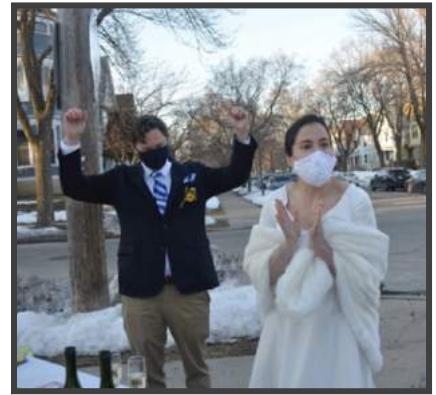
BEATING THE WINTER DOLDRUMS

Jeanie Stummeier kept busy this past winter completing a 1,000 pc. jigsaw puzzle of the Last Supper. She's going to have it framed and donate it to First Lutheran.



***Blessings!
to Pastor Josh,
Sarah and Paul!***

Pastor Josh and Sarah were married on Tuesday, March 2nd in a ceremony that was streamed live to family and friends. We rejoice with them and look forward to celebrating their marriage with a reception at First Lutheran in the future.



Meet Our Members...

When Joyce and Bob Gardner moved to the West Allis area they visited First Lutheran, met Pastor Overdier, enrolled their children in Sunday school and decided to make First Lutheran their church home. They each were active members, Joyce taught Sunday School and ran the church dinners such as the confirmation dinner. Bob served on the Council, was an usher and sang in the choir. They also both served as youth group leaders and food pantry volunteers. Joyce grew up in West Allis and Bob in Bayview. They met at work at the Granada Theatre on Mitchell St. when they were 16. Bob was an usher and Joyce was the ticket cashier. After graduation, Joyce entered the workforce and Bob enlisted in the Air Force. Bob and Joyce have been married for 63 years and have two children Patrick and Donna, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Pastors Hammerling and Syre performed the marriage ceremony for their daughter Donna and son-in-law Rev Chris Manke, Executive -Director of Outreach for Hope Ministries in Milwaukee. Joyce retired from the VA Medical Center and enjoys reading in her spare time. Bob is retired as an entrepreneur and owner of many different businesses. He continues to work part time in maintenance at St Matthews Church and enjoys woodworking, fishing and reading. Bob and Joyce spend summers at their home in Wild Rose Wisconsin. They enjoy summers filled with weekend visits by family, kids and dogs!



ENCOURAGE WONDER

For a new perspective on Bible accounts you’ve heard over and over, play “I Wonder” with children and adults alike. Similar to “I Spy,” it encourages a deeper dive into familiar passages. Simply explore ideas that aren’t detailed in the Bible, starting with the phrase “I wonder.” For example:

- I wonder if any Roman soldier was standing in the back *not* mocking Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31). If so, what was he thinking as others threw about insults?
- I wonder how long it took Joseph of Arimathea to cut his own tomb out of the rock (Matthew 27:57-60). What did he think about as he worked?

The day after Jesus’ ascension, I wonder which disciple spoke first at breakfast — and what he said. Scholars may have chimed in on some of these ponderings, but there’s likely no right answer. Playing “I Wonder” can help you slow down to really pay attention and experience more of a Bible passage — especially one you seem to know by rote.

Add meaning to this year’s Easter celebration by letting your wonder wander during Holy Week. Then continue the practice whenever you’re eager to gain new insights on the “old, old story ... of Jesus and his love.” —Janna Firestone

PUZZLE

EASTER MORNING
message

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.

LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV

Believe!

In the words of Madeleine L’Engle (*The Rock That Is Higher*): “The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.”



The earth
laughs in
flowers.”
—Ralph Waldo
Emerson

This 'n That Around Here

April Birthdays

4/6 Kevin Lone
4/9 Janell Cyrus
4/9 Skylar Fox
4/13 Sandy Wymelenberg
4/14 Louis Cyrus
4/18 Jennifer Herbert
4/20 John Bennethum
4/22 LaVerne Williams
4/26 Terry Favre
4/29 John Dixon
4/29 Colleen Siarnicki



April Anniversaries

4/27 Werner & Jackie Bayer 64 yrs.



Be sure to "Like" First Lutheran on **Facebook** and share with your friends!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING

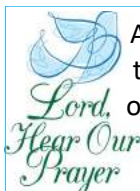


Lists of needed items are available from the church office.



MEET YOUR COUNCIL

Earl Casto (President), Colleen Siarnicki (Vice President), Dave Grulke (Treasurer), Lori Marquez (Secretary Pro Tem). Other members are Janell Cyrus, Gary Hanson, Heidi Leiser and Sue Winter. Thank you to these members for their commitment to our church community.



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

Carleen Erickson, Diane Gallegos, Dale Hedman, Joan Hirschinger, Dawn Lychwick, Ben Miller, Jan Pleur, Billie Tripi, Rachel Tripi, Kimberly Zappa and Becky.

Friendly Reminder

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.

What's NEW?

There have been a lot of new businesses moving into West Allis since we've been closed. Some of them are:

Piece of Love Arrangements
6788 W. Lincoln Ave.
Bakery, floral and gifts.

Camino - West Allis
7200 W. Greenfield
Craft beer bar and American pub food

Barbie's 2nd Time Around
1412 S. 73rd St.
Buying and selling quality used furniture

Carrie's Crispies
7133 W. Becher
Gourmet rice crispie treats

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 3-24-21

Electronic Service Requested

Dated Material
Please deliver by 3-29-21



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

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West Allis, WI

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Phone: 414-476-4664

***Worship With Us Online at:
www.firstlutheranelca.org***

Please check our website for information on
our weekly worship services.

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



If you no longer wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please contact the church office.