

News & Views

First Lutheran Church

May, 2022



PASTOR'S CORNER GRATEFUL ALLELUIAS ABOUND!

Easter at First was truly a delight!

After shared services with Saint John's Lutheran on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, First Lutheran members were able to gather together in the sanctuary and see old friends and greet a few new ones. And having twice as many people as a normal Sunday service definitely felt like a full house!

Having the Sunday School teachers and kids open the service with a march to the front and the Alleluia announcement, even if we failed to spell it correctly, was such a fun experience to open this Easter Season! And the Thanksgiving for Baptism with the kids helping to splash reminders of baptism unto the congregation was an exciting way to get the kids and all of us to remember that the resurrection is for us!

I was grateful that Jesse offered to be a deacon during our April services so I have good company up front. And after a season where Dave ran audio through the soundboard and into the camera for online recordings, he took a well-earned break and Jesse has been helping to hone the audio quality through the old sound system again and the microphones have sounded great. Having coffee and refreshments again and seeing friends catch up on old habits and social subjects cheered me after the service as well.

I am finally getting to see the joy of this in-person congregation, that I have only gotten glimpses of in my first two years here. I hope that

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Father's Day CRAFT FAIR

**June 11th, 9am - 3pm
First Lutheran Church
7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis**

Something for everyone!



**Serving pulled
pork sandwiches
and hot dogs**

Handicap Accessible

A Few Updates

PASTOR'S CORNER CONT.

this Easter Season continues to cheer us up and cheer us into the mission God is calling us to, through renewed leadership on Council and a renewed call to the Mission Team. Our work is to continue dialogue with other churches and revitalize our mission and identity moving forward. In May we will meet with pastors and council presidents from Saint John's, Luther Memorial, and Saint Paul's on Wisconsin Avenue to discuss our shared interest in working more closely with other churches. We don't know whether more formal collaboration with these churches will be how God is calling us, but we are showing up at the table as we discern those possibilities together. Our team has also been assessing the appearance of the church, with an eye on how those not here yet may see us, as we contemplate our own identity and invitation to our community. It will take the whole congregation acting in faith, to make this work worthwhile. We need the whole congregation to participate and care about these efforts in order for us to prepare for our future together. We will need to see the world and our possibilities with the light of our Easter experience, giving us a picture of what a vital congregation can be.

Pastor Josh



FOOD PANTRY NEWS

On Friday, April 15, 2022 volunteers handed out hams to our Food Pantry clients. We hope that it provided a Happy Easter Celebration for their families.



We continue to be grateful for the support we receive from Festival Foods, Feeding America, Woman's Club of West Allis and donations in cash or food from area schools, churches and members of our congregation. We would not be able to operate without the help of our volunteers that pick up food and assist during our Friday operating hours. Thank you to Deb Johnson who is a new Food Pantry volunteer.

Members of the congregation are welcome to visit us on Friday mornings from 10:00-12:00.

Mike Plicka & John Hrovat

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Summer is right around the corner - a time to plan vacations with family and friends. Parents are trying to figure out activities for their children. Why not consider sending your child to camp, attend a Grandparent/Grandchild experience, or spend a summer weekend at one of the Lutheran Camps in Wisconsin. Some of the camps have cabin rentals for families. You can look up Lutheran Bible Camps or contact the church office. First Lutheran Church offers grants to help fund this opportunity; applications can be requested at the church office.

The following grant opportunity was added to the Scholarship application in March:

Provide funding for outdoor ministry opportunities offering year around faith-based programs for children, youth, families and adults at ELCA camps (example: Lutherdale and Crossways Camp Ministries).

If you have any questions about applying for a grant or offer ways to improve our Scholarship program please contact the First Lutheran Church Office.

Greta Plicka/Linda Grulke, Co-chairs



The Tuesday Morning Bible Study is enjoying watching “The Chosen” on our new big screen television.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



You really need to join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room or on Zoom! We’re watching the second season of “The Chosen”, the story of the life of Christ, as well as having interesting discussions about his disciples who WERE ‘the chosen’. New members are always welcome to join the study. You don’t need to have seen previous episodes to get something out of the discussions and movie. You ALL know Jesus’ story! It’s ALL fascinating! Contact Pastor Josh or the church office for more information.



The Sunday School class made Resurrection Rolls (left), rolls that start out filled with marshmallow and end up empty, like the tomb. They also decorated Easter cards for our homebound members.



ADULT EDUCATION AFTER CHURCH:

May 1st: Update on Mission Team—Looking at the responses to an assessment survey of First Lutheran, Saint John’s, Luther Memorial, and Saint Paul’s

May 8th: Mother’s Day! Why do we sometimes say “Mothering God” in church? What are the Biblical references to feminine qualities of God?

May 15th Council Meeting (open to all)

May 22nd Special Guest Speaker

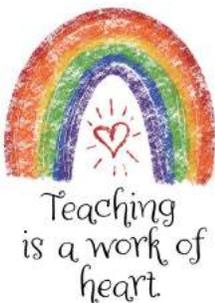
May 29th Memorial Day Remembrances of those who sacrificed their liv

May 29th Memorial Day Remembrances of those who sacrificed their lives for country and for their faith.



TEACHERS APPRECIATION WEEK!

May 2-6



We owe a lot to our two Sunday School teachers, Linda Grulke and Lori Marquez. They teach our students twice a month with Bible stories and crafts or experiments to bring the lessons to life. The next time you see them, give them a great big THANK YOU! Below they’re joined by our other great teacher, Pastor Josh, who maybe wasn’t super helpful spelling “Alleluia” at Easter but tries to help get the good news across to these kids!. Thank him, too!

First Lutheran's Future



FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

After a month's delay we held our annual congregational meeting in March at which time we voted in a new church council. We have a few people who carried over from last year which will ensure continuity, and a number of new people which will give us renewed enthusiasm which I am excited to be a part of.

Under Pastor Josh's leadership we are trying to work closely with the Mission Planning Team to reach out and partner with neighboring churches as well as other ELCA churches in our area. We are hoping that through partnerships we can accomplish things that we are not able to do alone. Some pastors and council presidents are going to meet with Pastor Matt Short of the Greater Milwaukee Synod at the synod office on May 2nd to explore some of the possibilities.

We have a team voted in place to begin a physical sprucing up of our building and grounds, similar to a much needed Spring cleaning. Watch for the transformation!

All of our council members are assigned to at least one of our standing committees and hopefully we can create a vibrancy in the congregation through planned activities.

We will continue to talk about the number and times of our services as well as how this will affect our long running Coffee And... service handled so well by Carolyn Moncher for so many years.

We hope to be as transparent as possible and invite your questions and participation in the coming year.

Werner Bayer, Church Council President

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11*



Our church council was installed on March 6th. Pictured (L to R) are Werner Bayer, Marie LePage, Deb Johnson, Gary Hanson, Steve Oakland and Pastor Josh. Seated: Jeanie Stummeier & Cooper. Not pictured: Janell Cyrus, Gayle Falk & Lori Marquez





From Alcatraz with love from Pastor Josh and Sarah (L)



Pastor Josh, Sarah and Paul enjoyed a much-needed vacation in San Francisco. Pastor Josh & Paul (R) are in front of the Peace Pagoda in Japantown. Paul is taking pictures while standing inside a giant Redwood Tree in Muir Woods (upper left). Our quilters made a special Greeter vest for Cooper to wear on Sundays (L).



Mother is a verb. It's something you do, not just who you are... Cheryl Lacey Donovan

Take time this Mother's Day to remember not only your own mother, but those who have been like a mother to you or nurtured you as you grew.



PRAY FOR UKRAINE

I want to remind our members to pray for the citizens of Ukraine, their leaders, and the millions of refugees that have been forced from their homes by attacks by the Russian military. Please also pray for those who are doing the attacking and the leaders in Russia who are using lies and propaganda to convince their people that this violence is somehow justified. We pray for a change of hearts and tactics and relief for those who are targets and recipients of this senseless violence.

Celebrating Easter!



Colleen Siarnicki created a new Easter lily arrangement for our cross to compliment our other Easter flowers (L). Sam Guthrie celebrated Easter with his two cousins (R). Our Sunday School students spelled out ALLELUIA to begin our Easter worship service (Below).



The Bayer family (Below) celebrated Easter together. L-R: Craig, Jodi, Kristin, Jackie and Werner. They also celebrated Werner and Jackie's 65th wedding anniversary (bottom left).



Matt & Eli Grulke had a fun visit with the Easter bunny (above & left).

This 'n That Around Here

May Birthdays



5/1 Judy Keene
 5/3 Jackie Bayer
 5/4 Daniel Sopa
 5/13 Heidi Leiser
 5/14 Shirley Cogan
 5/14 Lori Marquez
 5/16 Jenny Caras
 5/20 Jan Salek-Anderson
 5/26 Jamie Schoberg
 5/27 Robert Gardner
 5/30 Patricia Zuback

May Anniversaries

5/1	Steve & Deb Johnson	29 yrs.
5/2	Mike & Greta Plicka	35 yrs.
5/4	Dale & Sharon Phillippo	59 yrs.
5/11	Earl & Jean Casto	54 yrs.
5/27	Terry & Joyce Favre	44 yrs.



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

Marie Branscomb, Austin Cyrus, *Tim Clark*, Amanda Davis, Scott Ehlers, Warren Hirschinger, Samantha Logston, John Oakland, Roger and Tina Ritz, Sandy Wymelenberg, Becky, Mike, Steve, Curtis and Margie

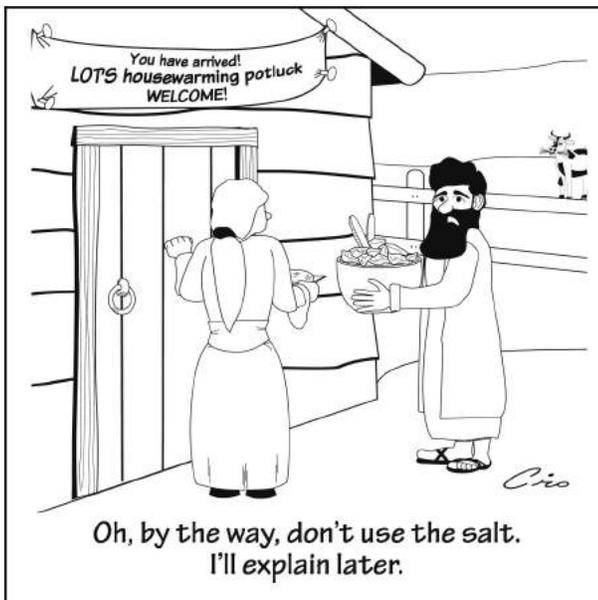


When Moses was on the mountain for a long time, who made a golden calf for the people of Israel to worship?

- A. Joshua
- B. Levi
- C. Caleb
- D. Aaron



Answer: See Exodus 32:1-6



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.

A FEW REMINDERS:

- Next Mission Team Meeting is May 4th at 1:00 p.m.
- Next Church Council Meeting is on May 15th after church
- Father's Day Craft & Vendor Fair is June 11th. Watch for information on how you can help!

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

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI

E-mail: firstlutheranelca@att.net
Phone: 414-476-4664

Worship With Us:

In Person every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

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.