

News & Views

First Lutheran Church

May, 2024



A Word from Our Pastor

Praying with Our Eyes and Ears Open!

As we form our Mission Listening Team to follow up and complete the work that our Mission Team started in 2021, it is a good time to be reminded of where we left off that work. The Mission Team explored the history of First Lutheran, reminding us of a positive culture and the values that have defined it. We learned more about the changing context around us at First and how we might engage organizations, individuals and other churches. And we listened for how God might be calling First to lead and engage our time and the world around us in a unique way.

This led to the adoption of a new mission, vision and values statement that helped us in the last year define our work as a congregation, our identity among other churches, and our invitation to the world around us.

Our mission is spoken at the end of every worship service, claiming that we are “Inspired and called into action”. We had a chance to go deeper into the five values that we named as defining our community now and in the future (Inclusive and Kind, Generous, Creative, Collaborative, and Transformative) during our Lenten services last year. Our Rejoice Sunday conversations helped shape the ideas and energy from our members in our mission, vision and values.

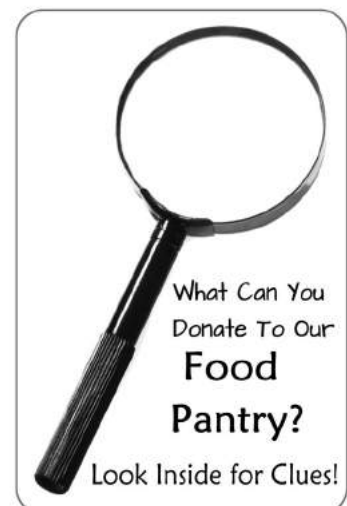
Our vision has been less public thus far, but as we live into this next step we will be talking about it more and living into it: **“We will be seen as a vibrant and imaginative congregation and a resource in many communities and networks, as we connect with our neighbors locally and worldwide”.**

A vision outline that was presented as a guiding document to the council listing the next steps in making that vision a reality, including the formation of a LISTENING TEAM:

Continued on p. 3



**Join us on May 1st
at 6:00 p.m.**



What's Been Happening Here!



Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make our Easter Egg Hunt a success (above and right). St. Luke's in Greendale made and distributed Easter bags for our food pantry clients (L).



Our Easter service was enhanced by trumpet music from Harold Kacanek and a puppet skit for the children present done by Laurel and Pastor Josh.



From the Pastor

Cont. from p. 1

“As we seek to serve in our community, gather a team with a process for listening to our neighbors and local partners to identify what activities are already happening in our community that we could join and what new ministries might be most valued by our neighbors including several possibilities identified by the mission team:

- Creation care and environmental stewardship activity
- After-school program or educational opportunities
- Warming room and expanded ministry for homeless
- Support and programs for families of all shapes and sizes and single parents
- Creative space and resources for artists, craftspeople and musicians
- Stronger affiliation with collaborative ministry organizations like Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAHA), Reconciling in Christ (RIC), Outreach for Hope, and/or a Milwaukee Mission Partner Church through the Synod.

Now is the time when we move from these being ideas to actually finding out what God and our community are calling us to. It is an exciting time and process. We are also working with the Greater Milwaukee Synod’s Director of Evangelical Mission Rev. Matt Short who preached and presented at FLC on March 17th. First Lutheran is interested in working with a Mission Coach from the Synod in a Faithful Innovation process that could be aligned with our previous work while being open to what God may have in store for us as we listen and talk with our neighbors.

This is an exciting time when the disciples of First Lutheran will actively live into the values and vision we have put forward for ourselves like this one, “As 21st Century disciples we carry on the voice of the prophets, Jesus and courageous Christians when we believe God can use us to change lives, communities, institutions and systems by reflecting and promoting the counter-cultural values and practices we learn from Jesus” (FLC’s “Transformative” Value).

This is a journey that we are on together, and a movement that we are all invited into. If you feel called to this type of mission work, we hope you will consider a role on the Listening Mission Team! --Pastor Josh



Clue #1

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Our Tuesday morning group is now watching Season 4 of The Chosen. It’s not available yet for streaming, so this would be a good opportunity for you to watch and discuss it. You know the story of Jesus, so it’s easy to pick up wherever we’re starting.

If you haven’t been a part of our study group in the past, you’re welcome to join us! We meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.



Our dedicated teachers continue to work around everyone’s schedules to find dates for **Marvelous Mondays**, our children’s education classes. We continue to talk about the attributes of God. Lori illustrated that by making slime and comparing it to a big rock, because God is our Rock.

The following week we talked about the wise builder and the foolish builder. The kids continue to teach the lesson back by playing charades. They enjoyed an Easter egg hunt in church.

Mark your calendars for this summer’s Vacation Bible School on July 20th! Watch for details in our June issue.

A NEW MEMBER CLASS!



Have you been thinking about becoming a member of First Lutheran? If you have, we'd love to have you join in the ministry of our church and find your fit at First! We're going to be forming a new member group. Please contact Pastor Josh if you're interested.



Clue #2

OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING



Remember that we collect stocking items all year. Lists of needed items are located on the welcome table in the narthex. Donations can be left in the barrel in the narthex or dropped off in the Church Office. Keep a list with you for whenever you're at the dollar store, or see a good sale.

Philadelphia 3-Step Crème DeMenthe Cheesecake

Recipes from Matt



- 2 pkg. (8-oz. each) Philadelphia cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 4 tsp. green crème de menthe
- 1 Oreo pie crust (6 oz.)
- 1 tsp. green cake decorating crystals or colored sugar

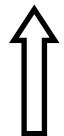
Preheat oven to 350°. Beat cream cheese, granulated sugar and vanilla with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Add eggs, mix well. Stir in crème de menthe. Pour into crust. Bake 40 min. or until center is almost set. Cool. Refrigerate 3 hrs. or overnight. Sprinkle with decorating crystals just before serving. Store leftover cheesecake in refrigerator.

How to make shamrock decoration:
Use a 2" heart-shaped cookie cutter and place it just above the center of the chilled cheesecake. Sprinkle green cake decorating crystals in the cookie cutter. To maintain heart shape use a light touch when sprinkling crystals. Remove the cookie cutter and place it directly to the right of the heart you made with the bottom points touching. Repeat sprinkling the crystals. Next, make a third and last green heart on the left side of the center heart; again, bottom points touching.



What is this?

This is our new Automatic Electronic Defibrillator located in the narthex by the stairway leading up to the choir loft.



Sundays at 11 a.m.
in the Fireside Room



Clue #3

A WORD FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

With spring comes new life and new beginnings. One new beginning for First is the formation of a Mission Listening Team.

When the Mission Team needed to discover the values that inspired the congregation, it celebrated a Rejoice Sunday family gathering to listen to church members and hear their stories. From these stories, the Team learned what had inspired the Church, and what had changed and enhanced members' lives. From these things, we could understand what challenges our people had faced, where they found joy, and what values they held dear.

Now, the Mission Listening Team is being formed to take this same energy into the community around us. We want to listen to our neighbors, learn about their challenges, and hear about their life transforming experiences. We want to learn about where God is touching their lives and where God is calling us to help them.

What a wonderful opportunity to share God's love with the people around us!

Sincerely,
Gayle Falk, Council President

*“Walk lightly in the spring;
Mother Earth is pregnant.”*
—Native American proverb



Clue #4

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS MAY 2024

The defibrillator has been installed in the narthex on the east wall going up to the choir loft. Please make yourself familiar with where it is located in case of an emergency.

First Lutheran Church offers a variety of opportunities for congregation members and their families to apply for scholarships. You might be interested in taking a class in cooking, gardening, art/music and dance. Share your experience and tips in our monthly newsletter.

Scholarship Grant Guidelines:

- Scholarship grants are meant to strengthen and encourage Lutheran higher education and ELCA professional ministry in particular, including the ordained ministry, ministry of music, youth ministry and ministry to FLC.
- Applicants shall be limited to active members and/or employees of First Luther Church: active membership shall be as defined by the Church Constitution.
- Grants shall be awarded according to the following priorities:
 - +College students:
 - *ELCA Seminary students
 - *College students (priority given to accredited Lutheran colleges).
 - +Persons attending workshop, seminars, educational classes and other Parish training opportunities.
 - +Vocational Programs/Apprenticeships Programs:
 - *Two year College requiring certification or diploma.
 - *Trade/Apprenticeship Programs requiring certificate programs.
 - +Provide opportunities and support for students/adults with physical and intellectual disabilities.
 - *Think College
 - *Transition and Post-Secondary Programs (Details of these programs can be found on the U.S Department of Education and Think College websites.)

This 'n That Around Here



What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?

- A. Nile
- B. Yangtze
- C. Jordan
- D. Tigris
- E. Ganges
- F. Euphrates



Answer: See Genesis 2:10-14



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

Adam Bilgo, David Frailey, Deb Johnson, Janet Kramer, Lavone Reis and Bob

DATES TO REMEMBER!

- 5/1 - Wednesday Evening Worship at 6pm
- 5/19 - Pentecost Sunday - Think Geraniums! and WEAR RED!
- 7/20 - Vacation Bible School

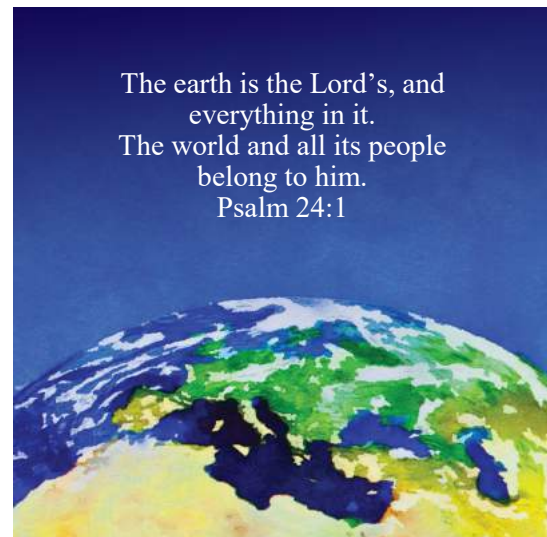


Birthdays

- 5/3 - Jackie Bayer
- 5/4 - Dan Sopa
- 5/12 - Linda Newton
- 5/13 - Heidi Leiser
- 5/14 - Shirley Cogan
- 5/14 - Lori Marquez
- 5/15 - Amy Guthrie
- 5/16 - Jenny Caras
- 5/26 - Jamie Schoberg
- 5/27 - Robert Gardner

Anniversaries

- 5/1 - Deb & Steve Johnson - 31 yrs.
- 5/2 - Mike & Greta Plicka - 37 yrs.
- 5/4 - Dale & Sharon Phillippo - 61 yrs.
- 5/27 - Terry & Joyce Favre - 46 yrs.



Clue #5

Don't Forget! Remember to bring in your empty ink cartridges when you replace them.

Please check the sign-up sheets in the narthex: Altar Flowers, Eternal Light, Sunday Volunteers, etc!

Remember to notify the church office of any address, phone or email changes!

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.



May 6-10 is Teacher Appreciation week. We especially need to thank our children's teachers, Linda Grulke and Lori Marquez, for their dedication to the children of First Lutheran.

What We've Been Doing



The Marquez family took a trip to Mammoth Caves. The Grulkes vacationed in NM and stayed in an Air-stream camper (R and below)



Our quilters held a quilting bee on April 13th which was a huge success. Several guests came and all had a lot of fun while tying 10 quilts!



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:

Sundays at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, May 1, at 6 p.m.

Fun & Faith for Children

Mondays, May 6 & 20

from 5-6 p.m.

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9am to 12pm

Office located at 7400 W. Lapham, West Allis

(414)476-4664

Food Pantry Hours:

Fridays, 10 a.m. - Noon



*“Love
each other
as I have
loved you.”*

JOHN 15:12, NIV



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