APRIL MESSENGER

First Lutheran Church—Fergus Falls, MN

A NOTE FROM PASTOR STAN SATRE

innie said,
"Christopher Robin;
will you kindly shake your
umbrella and say, 'tut-tut, it
looks like rain."

I love Winnie-the-Pooh; reading about him to my children and grand-children. It's April, the month of showers that bring May flowers. It's a fresh, beautiful and hopeful time. It begins with a joke; April Fool's Day, and then rolls delightfully forward into what lies ahead.

We need rain and we'll welcome it to moisten the soil and fill the lakes and rivers. Winnie once said, "the river knows this; there is no hurry. We shall get there someday." One of our pastors mentioned in a recent sermon that several years ago the First Lutheran Lenten theme was "Rivers in the Desert; From Desert to Garden." And, behold, a river ran through the chancel on Easter Sunday.

One thing a river does is to draw our attention downstream to what lies ahead. What's next? In April we're looking forward to new life. In Ecclesiastes

3 we read, "For everything there is a season; a time to plant and a time to harvest." It's planting time. What's next for First Lutheran?

In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:45) Jesus says, "Because you are children of the Father pray for those who persecute you. You know that your Father sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous". It means that he loves everyone equally, shows no partiality and neither should we.

A couple of weeks ago, during the Week of Christian Unity, as Pope Francis met with leaders of the Eastern Orthodox Church, he prayed for mercy on divided Christians and apologized for times when Catholics may have hurt members of other denominations. He appealed for forgiveness for un-Gospel like behavior of Catholics. Our pastors at First Lutheran responded by accepting

the appeal for forgiveness, acknowledging that Lutherans have also been guilty of un-Gospel like behavior and by pledging to walk and work together with our Catholic brothers and sisters at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church here in Fergus Falls. Last week Father Alan Weilinski and the council of OLV sent a letter thanking our pastors and council for their friendly action and welcoming the opportunity to walk together. Pope Francis put it this way; "... as each person draws closer to Christ we find each other there."

That's one of the exciting things that's next for First Lutheran. April is fresh and beautiful. "Tut-tut. It looks like rain." "I walk down the lane, with a happy refrain, just singin', singin' in the rain."

Pastor Stan

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Vacation Bible School



Start checking out your favorite salad and bar recipes that you plan to donate for the Luncheon and/or baked goods for the sale. Sign-up sheets for salad, bars and volunteers to help that day will be available in the Narthex on April 3rd through April 17th. Please sign-up early! Plan to attend and taste all these wonderful salads and bars, and pick up your homemade bakery items. THANK YOU!

WORSHIP THEMES

April 3— "Easter Joy"

Text: John 20:19-31

How many Lutherans does it take to screw in a light bulb? None. Lutherans don't believe in change. The ancient church celebrated "Bright Sunday" on this Sunday after Easter - a day to celebrate the joy of the resurrection. Today we celebrate Holy Humor Sunday and gather to celebrate the joy that we find in the risen Christ.

April 10— "Christ Have Mercy

Text: John 21:1-19

Peter was no doubt filled with shame and remorse after he had denied Jesus 3 times, even though he had pledged to follow him no matter what. And yet, after Easter, when Peter met Jesus on the beach, Jesus didn't rebuke him; he offered him breakfast, and another chance.

April 17— "Hearing the Shepherd's Voice"

Text: John 10:22-30 and Psalm 23

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful sheep to springs of the water of life. We, Christ's sheep, follow the shepherd's voice and celebrate the gift of new life, eternal life, which is the gift of the risen Christ. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

April 24—"Loving One Another"

Text: John 13:31-35

Today, we hear again the words Jesus spoke to the disciples at the Last Supper: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." Wow! How can we hope to love others as Jesus loved us?

APRIL SERVICE UNITS

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE IN THIS UNIT PLEASE SAY "YES" WHEN YOU ARE CALLED TO HELP

Bruce & Wendy Anderson	Dan & Michelle Lembcke
David & Jeannie Anderson	John & Darlene Mandelke
Gary & Judy Boushley	George & Ann Mathison
Dane & Hannah Carlson	Perry Mertz
Donna Christianson	Richard & Monica Miller
Josh & Amanda Duenow	Steve & Branda Mouritsen
Doug Elliot	Mark & Megan Neubauer
Marjean Hanson	Jacqueline Ness-Ludwig
Gerald & Ruby Hanson	Brenda Piekarski
Donna Harlow	Jamie & Stephanie Swenson
David & Lorri Holt	Pete & Jody Thom
Steve & June Janssen	Scott & Kim Ward
Lorraine Kantrud	Kristi Wentworth
Lee Kittelson	Tom & Lisa Wolfe
Walter & Mary Laney	

Memorials December 2015-February 2016	
In memory of Alva Stoa	
Good Samaritan	\$50.00
In Memory of Hazel Kronemann	
Undesignated Memorials	\$55.00
Undesignated Memorials	\$20.00
Undesignated Memorials	\$20.00
Undesignated Memorials	\$20.00
In Memory of Ken Kronemann	***
Handbells	\$20.00
Handbells	\$20.00
Handbells	\$10.00
Handbells	\$20.00
In Memory of Eric Thompson	
Handbells	\$10.00
In Memory of Ivan & Helen Stigen	
Good Samaritan	\$50.00
Good Samaritan	\$185.00

GOALS FOR 2016: BENEVOLENCES

port local, national, and worldwide organizations—our benevolences. If you would like to give as a congregation and reach our \$48,000.00 goal! to a specific benevolence, please identify the organization on the memo line of your check

Our Goal for 2016 is to raise \$48,000.00 to sup- (payable to First Lutheran Church) or on the outside of an offering envelope. Let's come together Our hands, Gods work.





Local & National

A Place to Belong **Boy Scouts** Fergus Falls Food Shelf Good Samaritan Fund Habitat for Humanity Hospice Jail Ministry Luther Crest Bible Camp **Luther Seminary** Lutheran Campus Ministry Meals by Wheels Rural Internship Salvation Army Someplace Safe

Worldwide

ELCA ELCA Disaster Relief Fund ELCA World Hunger Appeal Global Health Ministries MaaSae Girls School Mama Naomi Clinic Selian/Mama Naomi Hospital

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Sustaining Rural Ministry Fund

The Outreach Committee can't say Thank you enough for each one of the wonderful volunteers that take time to help at the Red Cross Blood Drive. We had another very successful drive at the THANK YOU!!

end of March. 43 units of blood were collected, which means we can help up to 129 patients! Your volunteer hours have not gone unnoticed!!



FERGUS FALLS COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF

2015 STATISTICS

A NOTE ABOUT OUR LOCAL FOOD **SHELF**

"Never doubt that a small group of committed people Every dollar donated buys food for up to 1100 can change the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead 1901-1978 World famous Anthropologist

In 2015, our volunteers logged 5,652 hours, with the main supply of volunteers being from area

churches. We have several other groups that come from organizations, businesses and schools.

Every amount of effort makes an impact on 350+ children that come to us for help each month. people every thirty days in our own community. Please consider a donation to the Food Shelf.

Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf PO Box 136 Fergus Falls MN 58538-0136







WOMEN OF FIRST LUTHERAN—OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER

The WELCA Board does not meet in April

Love Days Quilters meets every Monday from 9 a.m.—3 p.m. All are welcome!

<u>CIRCLES</u> Wednesday, April 27th

> Sarah at 9:30 am Pioneer Pointe

Hannah at 1:00 pm First Lutheran Church

ATTENTION OWL'S (OLDER WISER LUTHERANS)

Put on your "thinking caps" and come up with some ideas for activities you think would be fun to do in 2016. Margaret Kratzke and Pastor Saul would like your input! We have

some money budgeted for OWLs Activities, so don't be afraid to think big.





CHURCH SOFTBALL!

If you are between the ages of 14-100 sign-up today to play Monday nights on First Lutheran's softball team this year!

Both male & female players are welcome! Sign-up sheets are out on the Info Counter at church... The cost is \$40 to play plus \$10 for a t-shirt.

If under the age of 18, you will need a parents signature. Let's have fun and get some exercise at the same time!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!



The Relay for Life Team would like to give a big THANK YOU to First Lutheran Members for their support to our fundraisers, whether it be buying coupon books, bringing in baked goods or buying baked goods. We raised \$275 in the com-

munity days coupon books and we raised \$507.10 at the Bake Sale. These funds will purchase luminaries in the Relay for Life Walk in June, "in honor of or in memory of First Lutheran Church members."

NEW MEMBER COMMUNITY

Pastor Saul, Pastor Jennifer & the Membership Committee will be forming a New Member Community beginning Sunday, April 10th from 4-6 p.m. If you or someone you know is interested in exploring

membership at First Lutheran – PLEASE COME. Childcare is available.

All interested persons are asked to come on April 10th, April 24th, and May 1st. This friendly, informal atmosphere offers an op-

portunity for everyone to get to know one another and take a look at our Lutheran teachings. Attending the sessions doesn't commit you to join.

New members will be received on May 15th (at

the 8:30 a.m. service).



FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH

SENIOR FLY CALENDAR:

April 6 Senior Fly (7:30-8:30)

April 13 Senior Fly (7:30-8:30)

April 20 Senior Fly (7:30-8:30)

April 27 Senior Fly (7:30-8:30)

FLY 57 & K4 CALENDAR:

(WEDNESDAY, 4:30-5:15)

April 6 Fly 57

April 13 Fly K4

April 20 Fly 57

April 27 Fly K4

FLY News



FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH

APRIL 2016

What did Jesus look like?

Have you ever wondered about that? We don't really know the answer to that question, but many Ameri-

cans and Europeans picture Jesus of Nazareth with brown hair, brown eyes, handsome—and white. Caucasian. Suntanned, maybe, but definitely white. The kind of "white" you might meet in Minneapolis, or even Fergus Falls.

But that's a myth. In all probability, Jesus was much darker in complexion than the average white American. He was born a lew, he lived as a lew, and he remained a Jew

throughout his life. More importantly, even though he entered the stage of humanity at a (lew or Gentile), class (slave or specific place and time and pos- free), and sex (male or female).

WHAT DID **JEZUZ** LOOK LIKE?

> sessed specific racial characteristics, in a larger sense Jesus transcends the barriers of race and color. The society that Jesus entered when he became

a man drew three primary distinctions among people: race

> The good news that lesus brought presented a radical departure from those distinctions, however. Paul summarized it well "There is neither lew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). As followers of lesus, let's work together to love and live in harmony

with all people, regardless of what makes us different from one another. I give thanks for you being just the way you are!

In Christ,

Summer is coming!

Before you know it, we'll be enjoying the summer sunshine! I'm starting to plan some summer activities and would like your input! Would you like to go watch a redhawks game? Go to the zoo? Catch a movie? Go for a

boat ride? Go swimming? I'm curious for your feedback. Send me a text at 218-770-8603 or find me at church and let me know what you are



most interested in! The summer calendar will be coming out soon!:) Watch for some fun soon to come!



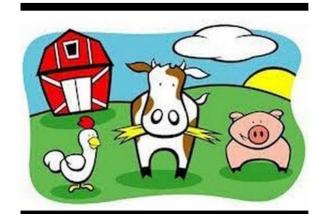
Sunday School News

Holy Cow! Challenge to SHINE

Is it easy to shine God's love through us? As members of the Education Committee at First Lutheran, we are looking for ways to help our students answer God's call to love and serve our neighbor. By raising money for Lutheran World Relief, we can purchase hens, pigs, goats, sheep and cows,... maybe a whole farmyard! This month, our students will be learning about people living in poverty around the world.

We will be challeng-

ing the congregation to help in our drive. Please consider giving a monetary gift. We will intentionally shine God's love!!



Memorization Challenges

Hats off to our students for taking the ball and running with it! When we have given them a memorization verse, a good number of our kids are ready to recite it by the next week. The last challenge not only required memorization, but also a request to find a favorite picture of Jesus on the inter-

net; print it, cut it out, show me, then place it in their Bible. I 'd heard of an older person who still has the picture in her Bible from childhood!

April 2016

Cindy Larson
Sunday School
Superintendent

"Butterflies" 0-4 yr. Olds and parents

10

10th Grade Milestone Class with parents

10

Milestone Blessing for 10th graders

HOLY COW CHALLENGE all month

Coming soon— May
Pioneer Care Visit 1
by bus! Need
parent's signatures!

- Mark your calendars:
- "Butterflies" VBS June 13-16
 - DayCamp
 June 13-16



WOW (Women of the Word) EVENT

"Coffee With Friends"



SUNDAY, APRIL 24 2:00 p.m. Our
speaker,
Jan
Smith, shares
her purse
collection to
tell
Biblical
stories!

SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX



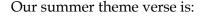
"Living Out Love!"

Join us as we partner with

Luther Crest Bible Camp!

Together, we will walk with Christ to learn how we can forgive and serve our neighbor, how we can show love to all, and how we can pray as Jesus taught!

Each day we'll enjoy games, worship, art & crafts, Bible Dive, snacks, meeting new friends, lots of laughter, and much more!



"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us."

Ephesians 5:1-2



Sign ups will start soon! Cost is \$ 30

Day Camp Dates: June 12-16 for kids who have completed Kindergarten all the way through 5th Grade age.



Contact Pastor Jennifer with any questions at the church office 218-739-3348

If you would like to volunteer, please call the church office and ask for Pastor Jennifer.









"Butterflies" Vacation Bible School

June 12-16th, Monday—Thursday

Sign up for a fun week of Vacation Bible school for preschool children (birth to 5 years old) and their parent, grandparent, or other "favorite" adult! The children will explore Bible parables through singing songs, listening to stories,

creating art projects, playing, and being in fellowship with other young families.

Monday—Thursday: 9:00—10:30 a.m. Butterflies VBS

Registration for preschool children who will attend Butterflies VBS:

Child's Name	Current Age
Child's Name	Current Age
Child's Name	Current Age

****Please include notes about allergies, special needs, and considerations, etc.****
Parent's names and phone number(s)

Fee: \$5.00 registration per Butterflies family ____

baid
paid



es VBS