First Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JENNIFER

ear Friends, Easter always comes at the perfect time. The days are getting warmer, tulips emerge from the ground, leaves develop on the branches of trees, colorful flowers materialize, and farmers welcome newborn livestock and baby chicks. New life is truly all around. Here in Minnesota, where we've suffered long and hard during the long season of winter, Easter comes and it *usually* means that we won't see any more snow. It may not be really warm yet, but hey - at least the snow is gone. Good news!

When we celebrate Easter, it's not just for a day but also for the whole of our lives.

We should take notice of God's creation and learn an important lesson from it – the promise of resurrection lies not only in that climactic event 2,000 years ago but also in every moment of our lives. When we celebrate Easter, it's not just for a day but also for the whole of our lives. That's why we say that every Sunday – even the Sundays in Lent – are a celebration of the Resurrection.

We must always be asking ourselves, "Where might we find meaning, purpose, and hope in a world that reeks of betrayal, broken relationships and dreams, school shootings and suicide bombers, guilt, grief, fear, death?" Easter can't become simply a remembrance of history, but a dynam-

ic view of the world shaped by our faith in Jesus and his victory over death. After all, as Luther said "faith is God's work in us, that changes us and gives new birth from God."

Our faith is an Easter faith, one that is always being made new by God, just as Jesus was made new that first Easter morning.

I hope that you can join us for our Triddum - the three days services as we prepare to hear the great news of the resurrected Jesus - who gives us life and joy forever. Join us on Maundy Thursday at 7 PM as we celebrate the first communion of our 5th graders. Join us on Good Friday at 7 PM as we hear the story of Jesus' death - for you! Join us at the Easter Vigil at 8:12 PM (The time of Sunset) as we see the first glimpse of Easter Joy! And join us for Easter Worship at 8:30 and 11 AM with fellowship and an Easter Egg hunt at 10 AM - Easter Joy Bursting all over!

Our faith is an Easter faith, one that is always being made new by God, just as Jesus was made new that first Easter morning. We are Easter people - so may our Easter faith sustain us today – and all the days of the year.

In Christ's Joy, Pastor Jennifer





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Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Opportunities to Gather

TENTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION

otice is hereby given that the Tenth Triennial Convention of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the Minneapolis Convention Center, July 11-13, 2017.

Delegate credentialing will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2017. Delegate orientation will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 2017. The convention will open at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

All are encouraged to attend triennial convention plenary sessions where the business of the organization will be conducted.

All are also encouraged to attend "All Anew," the

Women of the ELCA gathering that will follow the convention. Opening session for the gathering is on Thursday, July 13, 2017, at 7 p.m., followed by a reception. Closing worship for the gathering is scheduled for Sunday, July 16, 2017 at 9 a.m.

Rebecca J. Shurson, Secretary
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Churchwide executive board

Pick up a copy of the All Anew registration packet from the info counter or download a copy at welcatg.org or call us at 800-638-3522, ext. 2730.

"Love Days" Quilters

Meets every Monday 9:00 am- 3:00 pm Hope you'll join us!

WELCA Board Meeting

No meeting in April

Circles

Sarah: Wednesday, April 26th 9:30 am at Pioneer Pointe

Hannah: Wednesday, April 26th 1:00 pm at First Lutheran Church

For



FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

Spring Conference 7
April 24, 2017
4:30 p.m.

Augustana Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls

Come and enjoy fellowship with woman of area ELCA churches.

Watch upcoming bulletins for details and registration information

A NOTE FROM LOVE DAYS QUILTERS

he Love Days ladies are busy making quilts! They are looking for cotton fabric and printed or colored sheets. This is a great opportunity to donate sheets you no longer use and clean out your closets! 86 quilts were donated last year and they want to continue that mission. They are always welcoming helping hands to sew, tie, etc. The group meets every Monday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the quilting room at First Lutheran Church.



APRIL MESSENGER



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 9, 16 and 23. Please sign-up early!



Sunday School News

Super Hero Sunday School

We challenged our Sunday School students to bring in 10,000 points worth of supplies and goods for the Food Shelf this month.

They have been steadily bringing in canned goods and boxed food to contribute! Ideas are flowing about how to celebrate reaching our goal! They range from pizza parties to Bounce Houses and beyond! The students are learning how they

are mighty helpers (hero's) in God's world that can make a difference! We appreciate all your contributions also!



April 2017

Cindy Larson Sunday School Superintendent

5th grade-First Communion Class- Pottery! w/ parents	2
"Butterflies" 0-4 yr. Olds and parents	9
Palm Sunday Pro- cessional for both services	9
5th grade bread making class with parents	12
Maundy Thursday First Communion for 5th graders at 7:00 p.m.	13
Easter Sunday Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School	16
10th Grade Mile- stone Class with parents	30

Fifth Grade Milestone Class

Please join fifth graders and their parents as they learn about Communion. On April 2 we're offering a class in Fellowship Hall. On Wednesday, April 12, we're offering e a class to make the communion bread. Fi-

nally on Thursday, Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 7:00, each student will receive their First Communion using their handmade chalice and homemade bread.

- Mark your calendars:
- "Butterflies" VBS June 12-15















First Lutheran Youth
Palm Sunday, April 9, 2016
9:30-11:00 AM
Free-will Donation
Proceeds help fund Mystery Mission 2017!

<u>April Fly K4 & 57 Calendar:</u> (4:30-5:15 PM)

April 5 Fly 57

April 12 NO FLY

April 19 Fly 57

April 26 Fly K4

April Senior Fly Calendar:

April 5 Super Fly Supper—6 PM (No Fly After worship)

April 12 NO FLY

April 19 8:00-9:00 PM

April 26 8:00-9:00 PM





First Lutheran Church 402 South Court Street Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Phone: 218-739-3348 Email: firstlc@live.com

Website: www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

SPRING FLOWERING PLANTS are needed to decorate the church on Easter. If you would like to furnish a plant, please send a check for \$20 to the church office (or put in a pew envelope marked "Easter Plant" and place in the offering plate). Those purchasing a plant may take it home following the II o'clock service on Easter Sunday. Any plants left

are delivered to shut-ins on Monday.

Come worship & laugh with us on Holy Humor Sunday, April 23rd, 2017!



WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR

LORD'S PRAYER—OLD AND NEW

ou may have noticed that sometimes in worship we pray a version of the Lord's Prayer that may not seem all that familiar. For many of us, this may be jarring; we've been saying the Lord's Prayer a specific way for our entire lives, and this new language just doesn't flow. Part of me agrees with that sentiment. I too grew up saying the Lord's Prayer with the "trespasses" and the "thine is the kingdom," etc. Yet, I will admit, I didn't really understand what I was praying for a long time. Thy, thine, trespasses, etc. weren't part of my vocabulary when I was younger. It was only when I was older and it was explained to me that I realized what exactly I was praying. Then, in college, seminary, and in my first call, I began to experience the newer translation of the Lord's Prayer more often. I appreciated the newer version's updated language, but it was a little tough to pray because I didn't know it very well. What I did realize during seminary and later was that there was a potential theological issue for all of us "old version" folks (since I count myself among them).

In the older version, we use thy, thine, etc.; a version of "thou", or,

The issue lies mainly in the words we use to address God.

in other words, the "Old English" version of you. I would guess that for many of us, "thou" is a word we would think would be used in a ceremonial setting, to address royalty; a king or a queen for example. "Thou" sounds archaic and formal to our modern ear. It may come as a surprise to many of you to learn that "thou" is actually not meant to be used in formal settings at all. In fact, if we had used "thou" with a king or queen in days gone by, we might have been in serious trouble. "Thou" comes from the German "du" and is the informal in English, i.e. we're supposed to use "thou" with friends and family, not with strangers or royalty. But, we've flipped the meaning over the years, and in doing so, we've lost perhaps one of the most important aspects of the Lord's Pray-

The Lord's Prayer is a prayer between a loving father and his children, not between a king and his subjects. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, God wants us to be thinking about a loving God who is our Father, our parent. Jesus wanted us to pray in this way because he wanted to us to have a close relationship with God. Even though Jesus has died and been raised from the dead, God is with us

That is, of course, the whole reason Jesus came to earth in the first place: to be in relationship with us.

even now. And, it is this presence that we are praying for in the Lord's Prayer; a God who is not far off, remote, or distant, like a King or a Lord, but instead a God who is close, intimate, and present, like a friend or loving parent.

So, the next time you have an occasion to pray the "newer" translation (remember, Jesus prayed it in Aramaic), I encourage you to take advantage of that opportunity to look more closely at the words you are praying and remember that God your father is with you at that very moment. I hope that it makes this beloved prayer even more precious for you.

Peace, Pastor Erick