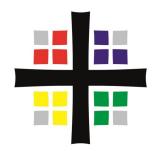
First Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN



A NOTE FROM PASTOR ERICK

aster is upon us and so is spring. Flowers are blooming, school is about to break for the summer, and the church is living in the season of Easter. So, the question on my mind is: What does it mean to live as an Easter people? We hear part of the answer from Jesus in John 10: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." We have been given the gift of life, and not only that, abundant life. The key is trying to figure out how we live those lives of abundance lesus is talking about. For many people, a life of abundance comes from living in God's grace, day after day. This is not as easy as it may sound, but is more practical than you might first think.

Living in God's grace involves first recognizing how much we have been given, or to put it another way, gratitude. If we adopt a daily practice of naming things we are grateful for, we will begin to see how gifted we are. This practice might come from a morning prayer, or through some quiet time in the middle of the day, or through a family practice before bed (which is my own family's method for naming gratitudes). Gratefulness will gradually lead us to a place where we see how God's grace has been richly poured out on us. From here, the abundant life is not far off as we begin to see over and over again how God answers our petition from the Lord's Prayer,

"give us today, our daily bread." In addition, we will begin to hear God's callings in our lives quite differently.

You've probably seen and heard an invitation to be part of one ministry or another at First Lutheran. And, you may have thought to yourself, "I just don't have time, energy, or resources to help." Yet, once we have reframed our lives around gratefulness, these invitations start to sound less demanding to us. Instead, God's calling to be part of the mission of the church starts to sound like it might actually be fun and rewarding. Indeed, studies have shown that people who practice gratefulness and who volunteer their time in service to others are happier (I have articles I'd be more than happy to share and discuss with you!). Moreover, with this happiness comes the abundant life that Jesus was talking about: a life that is not focused on what we don't have or how we've been cheated by life. Rather, we start living a life that begins every day with joy and gratitude because our loving God has given us so much and continues to fulfill his promise to be present with us every day. Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Peace, Pastor Erick John 10:10
"I came that
they may have
life, and have
it abundantly."

Inside this issue:

OWLs Events	2
Summer Ministry Opportunities!	2
Sunday School News	4
FLY News	5
Other announcements	6
Transition Team Update	6
Summer Worship	6

OWLS UPCOMING EVENT: "THE SAVANNAH SIPPING SOCIETY" AT OLD LOG THEATRE

e will travel by coach to the Old Log Theatre in Excelsior on **Thursday, May 18** to enjoy lunch and the comedy "The Savannah Sipping Society." Sign up at the Info Counter and pay **\$46, per person,** by check to "First Lutheran OWLS" before May 10. Check Kiosk for details. Questions? Ask Marlene Wilde or Margaret Kratzke.

- Load coach at 8:20 am
- Coach leaves at 8:30 am (one stop on way there)
- Lunch at 11:30 am
- Play at 1:30 pm



Old Log Theatre, Excelsior, MN

See the kiosk at church for more info. and sign up at the info counter today!



ARE YOU AN OWL? (OLDER WISER LUTHERAN)

en and women over 55 years of age at First Lutheran automatically become OWLS. We're waking up from winter and plan 4 to 6 events during the year. Theater and dinner trips are popular, but we would love to hear your ideas on more "in-town" activities. Please call Margaret Kratzke at 218-736-3697 with your ideas—would you like to help plan an event? Please let Margaret know!

SUMMER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Irist Lutheran continues to create opportunities for people to get involved in various ministries at church. We have Ministry Opportunity cards on our info counter that allow everyone to tell us which ministry they may enjoy and we also have sign-up sheets in our Narthex that let people pick and choose which services and Sunday work with their schedule. This is truly a great way for new people to get involved and get to know our congregation. Our bookkeeper, Katrina, has been organizing our Ministry Volunteer schedules. If you would like to be on our calling list please let us know by filling out one of the Ministry Opportunity cards or calling the church office at 218-739-3348.





Confirmation Sunday is May 21st at 11:00 a.m.



First Lutheran Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

MAY 2017

CINDY LARSON

Opportunity to be a Superhero!

Sunday School will be visiting The Veteran's Home on May 7 to connect with residents by visiting and singing a few songs. Preschoolers are encouraged to come on the bus with a parent, or in their parents' vehicles to meet us there. The rest of the students may ride the school bus to the Veteran's Home. A permission slip

must be signed by
parents prior to our
trip. We intend to
spread a little sunshine
on that day and invite
all congregation members to meet us there
for some outreach and
intergenerational fun!



Speaking of superhero moments, the Sunday School students, with the help of the congregation has met it's goal for the food shelf and will be celebrating with

SUNDAES ON SUNDAY,

May 21 at 10:15 a.m.

Again, the congregation is welcome to join us!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"Butterflies" VBS

June 12-14 (infants-age 6 with an adult) 9:00-10:30

FAM JAM

June 20, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Register now by calling 739-3348!

Super Summer Opportunities

All Sunday School leaders will be recognized at the 8:30 worship service on May 21st. Please come to receive your gift as a small token of our huge amount of appreciation..

"Butterflies"

Vacation Bible

School is coming up

June 12-14 from 9:00

-10:30 a.m. for chil-

dren age 0-6 with a caring adult! The information is in the narthex. We love helpers!

SOMETHING NEW!

Want to get together this summer with other families and kids for grilling and games? Our first FAMJAM will be held on June 20

from 6:00-8:00 for hotdogs, beanbags, and kickball at the park. Join us for fellowship and a good time! Next dates are July 18 and August 22.



MAY HAPPENINGS

7	
7	
14	
14	
21	
21	
21	
21	

SENIOR FLY CALENDAR:

May 3—Senior Fly 8-9 PM

May 10-END OF YEAR FLY PARTY! 8:00-9:00 PM

FLY 57 & K4 CALENDAR:

(WEDNESDAY 4:30-5:15)

May 3—Fly 57

May 10—Fly K4

May 17—END OF YEAR PAR-TY for K-7

SPECIAL **EVENTS &** ACTIVITIES

May 20-Confirmation **Brunch & Prac**tice IOAM

May 21— Confirmation Sunday

May 28— Graduation Recognition and Brunch

FLY News



FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH

MAY 2017

Pickles, Music, and Gouda!

If you were to make a list of Freaky Dancing the things God has given you, how long would it take you? An hour? Two hours? A day? A week?

It's easy to forget how generous God has been to us. We have family and friends and freedom and fun and food (and those are just some of the words that start with f!) In fact, God's generosity spans the whole alphabet:

Apples Bees

Cheddar Cheese

Dalmatians

Eyes

Gouda

Happy Meals Ice Cream

Juicy Fruit

Kit Kat Little kids

Music Noses

Orchids

Pickles Quilts

Robins Sunsets

Tickles

Umbrellas

Vines

Winter

X rays

Yesterdays

Zucchini

(Okay, maybe I was reaching a little hard at a few of those last ones, but you get the idea.) When you stop to think about it, it's hard to not see that God has been so good to us!

In the month of May, get outside and give thanks to God for all God has given you and the many blessings you have in your life!

In Christ,

Fly K-7 School's (almost) out Party!

Are you ready for summer? It's ebrate our last almost here! Join me as we celebrate that school is AL-MOST done for

the year and celday of FLY. We'll do some silly and fun things together and eat some

great snacks. Join us May 17th for a great time!



First Lutheran Church 402 South Court Street Fergus Falls, MN 56537 www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

Phone: 218-739-3348 Fax: 218-739-0916 E-mail: firstlc@live.com

Congratulations to this year's Graduation Class of 2017

from everyone here at First Lutheran Church!

Madisen Becker, Ryan Hansen, Brooke Lillemon, Kyra Loomer, Margaret Ness-Ludwig, Nate Ronning, Jordan Spangler, Corbin Vogl, and Alise Werner.



Summer Office Hours

Beginning Mon., June 1st 8 a.m.—3:30 p.m.



Summer Worship

Sundays at 9:30 am (starting May 28th)

NO SUMMER THURSDAY WORSHIP

First Lutheran Church will not be offering a mid-week service this summer due to lack of interest in prior years. Instead, we will be offering a summer devotional booklet with different devotions for each Sunday that will be in both printed and pdf format. This way, you can have devotions on Sundays during the summer when you might be vacationing and unable to worship. We will be making this available in a couple weeks, so please let us know in the church office if you are interested so that we can get it out to you ASAP.

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

The Transition Team held five listening posts and met as a team a few times since organizing this past February. They were trying to better understand the health of the First Lutheran church community and whether we were ready as a church to begin the call process for a new Senior Pastor. After careful contemplation, the Transition Team met with the Church Council at its April meeting



and recommended that First Lutheran begin the Call process. The Church Council passed a resolution to form a call committee. Many thanks to the members of the Transition Team for their hard work!

The next step is to gather the individuals to form the call committee before approving the composition of the call committee through a congregational vote. If anyone is interested in being part of the call committee, please contact the office or Greg Peterson, Council President.