

First Lutheran

MAY MESSENGER

Issue 5, May 2015

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR JENNIFER

Dear Friends,

Poet Jan Richardson writes,

*This blessing
has come to tell you
do not be discouraged
do not be dismayed
do not berate yourself
for where you have been
searching, for the wisdom that comes
along what seems
a foolish road.*

*You will know this blessing
by how it opens its heart
to you.
You will know this blessing
by how it turns its face
toward you.
You will know this blessing
by how it approaches you
arm in arm with faith and hope.*

The blessing Richardson describes is love. In reflecting on her words, I realized that the blessing God always offers to us is love. Even when it takes the forms of daily bread, healing, encouragement, protection, or even judgment, the underlying blessing is always love – for God's motive is always love. God is not only always with us, as Matthew's Gospel announces. God is also always for us, working for our good, bringing good out of even dire situations for those who love God (Romans 8:28). This blessing, however, is not a simple one.

Richardson continues:

*You will know this blessing
not by the ease it offers you
but by what it asks of you:
patience and kindness
fear and belief
hope and endurance
and more
not because this is what
you owe
but because this is what*

*this blessing stirs in you,
what it provides for you,
what it pours into your hands
that you suddenly
find open
like your heart
that unfolds itself
in welcome,
finally knowing
and fully known.*

Love is dangerous, because it asks for our vulnerability, as well as our willingness to love over time and across distance, through conflict and storms. Love asks us to love not selectively, but inclusively. This isn't easy, is it?

I'm grateful that the journey we have taken as a congregation has been to fully enter into God's blessing of love. In worship; in meals; in conversations around Scripture; in service; in new ministries and old ones. By the grace of God, you have willingly received the blessing of God's love and tried to share that blessing. And as we have shared it, your hearts have opened wider, and your welcome of others has deepened. The joy that has overflowed has been incredible.

May we each feel God's love, incredible and difficult as it is, each and every day.

In Christ,



Pastor Jennifer

MAY WORSHIP THEMES

May 3

Sermon: "How Can I Keep from Singing?"

Text: Psalm 95: 1-7

Martin Luther once said, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." First Lutheran has truly been blessed throughout its history with this great treasure. This morning, we take time to honor, thank, and celebrate five of our music staff members for providing a combined 100-plus years of marvelous music.

May 10

Sermon: "Love One Another"

Text: John 15:9-17

Today Jesus gives us the most important commandment: "Love One Another." Today we receive the incredible gift of God's love for us and receive the encouragement to share that with our brothers and sisters, even when it's not so easy to love them.

May 17

Sermon: "Protected and Filled with Joy"

Text: John 17:6-19

As we celebrate our confirmands today, we hear Jesus' prayer for them: "Holy Father, protect them in your name.... May they have my joy made complete in themselves." Hearing from their faith papers inspires us and moves us to pray that God would continue to keep them in the faith.

May 24

Sermon: "A Very Special Prayer Partner"

Text: Romans 8:22-27

Paul assures us in Romans that even when we don't know how to pray, the Holy Spirit "Intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words." Each of our seniors has had a human prayer partner since 8th grade. Today we remind them that the Holy Spirit is their divine prayer partner.

May 31

Sermon: "Nick @ Nite"

Text: John 3:1-17

Poor Nicodemus. He has questions about his faith and he is embarrassed to ask them, so he goes to Jesus in the dark. On this Trinity Sunday, we examine some things about God that are hard to fully understand. And yet we receive the assurance that God is with us among our questions and our doubts.

Tanzania

Testimony

By: Lorri Holt

The road is paved. Goats and cows are being herded along the side of the road by Maasai warriors. We are in Africa.

Cars, trucks, motorcycles and dalla dallas – which are mini vans packed with people and all kinds of luggage – are edging each other out for the main lane of the road. It seems like chaos, but somehow it all works.

We turn onto a dirt road the width of an alley way, huge pot holes everywhere, litter lining the edges. Small houses and stores standing next to the edge of the road, some burning garbage. There is no highway maintenance or garbage pick up on Tuesday's. This is Africa.

Men in RED cloth wrapped around their body, women carrying bundles on the top of their heads, and children, lots and lots of children all in school uniforms walking these same dirt roads. I think it is awful. But they seem happy.

When we walk the dirt roads everyone says Hello or Jambo. The children love to try out there English on you. They also love to touch the white American's hand. They seem happy.

We are allowed to go on Hospice visits with the Hospice workers. More dirt roads and pot holes. Are we going to get stuck? Our drivers Sammy and Stephen

are excellent at maneuvering us along the dirt roads and keeping us safe. We go into a young woman's hut. Dirt walls and a dirt floor with a bed in the middle and little other possessions. She is dying. I feel like an intruder. She is ok with us being in her home and answering questions of the Hospice Worker and then praying with us. This is mentally challenging for me and my team mates, but nobody complains. We just do what is expected of us.

We leave the city. Thank God! I was really having a hard time with so many people, the smells, the people, over Two Million in Arusha. Did I mention I live on a farm by a small town of 180 people?

We arrive at the Maasai girls school. I have to meet Dr. Msinjili head of the school, I hope I am using correct manners.

"The girls are singing in the chapel. It lifts my heart up to heaven as they sound like Angels."

After chapel is over some of them surround me at where I am sitting and start introducing themselves to me. They want to shake my hand. I hope I am smiling big enough and they don't realize I am having a hard time understanding them. I should have studied my Swahili more. I don't want to offend anyone.

Off to the market. Our team is arm in arm with their host girls. So much bonding so fast. My host Beatrice is a lovely 18 year old who is very soft spoken.

Not good for an "older" woman who has a hard time hearing everything! The market is full of people, food, and clothing. All of it is on tarps on the dirt ground. Beatrice helps me buy material I want which is in shillings not dollars. She carries my packages back to the school and tells me I should rest for awhile. What wonderful hostesses they are. She is taking care of me. Shouldn't it be the other way around?

When we get back home to Fergus Falls everyone asks me if it was fun? Did you have a good time?

Was it fun? Yes it was, but it was also very mentally challenging every day. I know I can speak for myself and the other 3 chaperones when I say; The six young women on this trip experienced major culture changes and they accepted it and did what was expected of them each and every day. I/We are all so proud of them.

"Asante Sana (Thank You) dear Lord for giving me the opportunity to experience this different challenging culture in Africa with this group of beautiful young women and brave, nurturing co-chaperones."

Life changing? I will need time to process.



I want to say a very special **thank you** to all of those who came to help sew the Haiti dresses. There are going to be some happy little girls when that box is opened! We had so many workers, and jobs for all. A wonderful lunch was served by Dolores, and Wendy brought her serger which saved us so much time. We had a real fun two+ days working and the fellowship was wonderful. The dresses will be on the mission plane Monday or Tuesday. We also sent bar soap and wash cloths. Their bathtub is the river, and the sun is their towel. That is one of the most wonderful gifts to give. Thank you so much.

Right: Donna Quam, sewing a dress for a special girl in Haiti.



We were able to sew 67 dresses, and it was a real team work project. Everyone had a job and we really work well together. Dolores made us a wonderful lunch each day. We were also able to send soap and wash cloths which the people love. The river is their bath tub and the sun is their towel. They don't ask for much. We were able to have our dresses shipped out the next week. To me it just so much fun to imagine these little girls wearing the dresses we made. Isn't that hard to believe! This time we made the dresses we were so lucky to get coverage from the Journal. Thank you Ashley! **But**—something wonderful happened from the journal



Above, From left to right: Phyllis Anderson, Doris Teberg, Katie Haugrud, Jane Willet, Donna Quam, Dolores Simdorn, Zelda Sund, Judy Mouritsen, and Joan Anderson.

coverage. I got a call from 3 other churches who want to make some dresses. See how God works. They want me to come and show them how they are made. I am so excited!! Now there will be many more happy girls. Keep in mind these little girls usually have one article of clothing, an oversized t-shirt! Also there are other groups that sew for the boys, so they are not forgotten! We will be sewing dresses again in the fall. God is Good.

-Jane Willet



Above: Katie Haugrud, Joan Anderson, and Zelda Sund; all busy learning and working together to make dresses.

IMPORTATNT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Wed. May 6—Last Children's Choir, Last FLY 57, Last Confirmation Class (both 8th&9th Grade), Last Senior FLY
- Sun., May 10 Confirmation Rehearsal and Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
- Sun., May 17- 14 New Members received, Rite of Confirmation, Last day of Sunday School
- Sun., May 17—5:30 p.m. Sr. High Recognition Dinner
- Sun., May 24—Summer worship schedule starts at 9:30 a.m. with HS Sr. Recognition Sunday that morning.
- Thurs., May 28—7:30 a.m. Last BBC



May Service Units

The following are the people in this Unit

Please say "YES" when you are called to help!

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Dana Anderson | • Katie Haugrud | • Bill & Ronda Roberts |
| • Donn Baker | • Gregg & Mindy Kollman | • Richard & Jennifer Smestad |
| • Virginia Bjorgum | • Ann Larsen | • Pr. Saul & Mary Kay Stensvaag |
| • Ronald/Linda Carey | • Bob & Vicki Long | • David & Debbie Stock |
| • David Carlson | • Roger & Audrey Neuleib | • Zelda Sund |
| • Mary Beth Dinius | • RoyNell Norby | • Mary Lou Thompson |
| • Gary Eckley | • Tedd & Patti Norby-
Steenbock | • Eric & Marie Toso |
| • Dennis & Audrey Emmen | • Shirley Peterson | • Dale & Claudia Trosvig |
| • Bob & Jana Erickson | • Teresa Rajaniemi | • Adam & Kari Vaughn |
| • Brian & Mindy Fuder | • Bill & Arlyss Sampson | • Rick & Linda West |
| • Jay Ann Grant | | • Mike & Lori Wood |



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! Sign-up sheets are at the Info Center ... The cost is \$40 to play plus \$10 for a t-shirt. If under age 18 you will need a parent's signature.

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN-UP!!

June photo sessions are filling up fast! To schedule your family portrait session for our new Photo Directory go to our website: www.firstlcfmn.com and click on the Lifetouch link or call the church office at 218-739-3348. Those who participate will receive the new directory and a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait! We appreciate your willingness to make this a complete picture directory for our Church family. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this very useful tool. For those of you who are done with your session, please pick up your 8 x 10 portrait from the info counter at church.

Pictures will be taken:

June 10-13th

Hours are 2-9 pm (Thurs. & Fri)

9 am- 4 pm (Saturday)



Summer Office Hours

Beginning May 25th

8 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Monday—Thursday

Summer Worship

Sundays at 9:30 am

(starting May 24)

Thursdays at 5:30 pm

(starting May 28)

Megan Johnson Benefit

- **Saturday, May 16th from 11:00-4:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall.** Megan was recently diagnosed with oral cancer. She had surgery on Tuesday, March 24th at Fairview University in Minneapolis. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers. You may write a check to First Lutheran Church with "Megan Johnson Benefit" on the memo line or write "Megan Johnson Benefit" on your pew envelope.

Congratulations to this year's Graduation Class of 2015

From everyone here at First Lutheran Church!

Diedre Yanske, Kyra Anderson, Emma Clark, Ean Goos, Kaylee Grant, Brittany Kollman, Keanna Overland, Sarah Overton, Annah Pajari, Katie Petersen, Eli Samuelson, Katie Shelstad, Olivia Stumbo, Sarah Taylor, and Lexi Wentworth.





UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

- **Wednesday,
May 6.—
LAST day of
FLY 57 and
LAST day of
Senior Fly!**
- **Sunday May
10—
Confirmation
Dessert and
Rehearsal, 7
PM**
- **Sunday May
17—
Confirmation
Sunday
(Congratulations, 9th
graders!)**
- **Sunday May
17—5:30 PM
- Senior Recognition
Dinner**
- **Sunday May
24 Senior
Recognition
Sunday!**

FLY NEWS

FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH

MAY 2015

Under Construction

The youth room is coming along nicely in these months, but it isn't quite complete yet. We are looking forward to completing this project, but as we work, I've been thinking about how much this relates to the life of faith that we live.

St Paul writes to the Corinthians, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creature: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Cor 5:17)

Our God is always creating us into something new. Sometimes this transforma-

tion is really obvious, like when a person colors their hair green (which, incidentally, was the color of my husband's hair when I



**You've gotta come
check out these
couches!**

brought him home for Christmas the first time... yikes). Other times, it isn't

quite so obvious, the change might be a little more hidden or internal, like when a person decides what they want to do when they grow up.

The good news is that God never gives up on us and is always looking for ways to mold us into his new creature. Thank goodness for that. Because sometimes my creature needs a little TLC.

See you in church!

Pastor Jennifer

Serve:15 Trip to Winnipeg!

You heard that right, we are going to Canada, June 28-July 1st. We will be serving at two different hunger related organizations during the day and at night we'll be experiencing some fun night life—we're

going to go paintballing and we are going to try our hand at escaping from an escape room! Seats are limited to the first 13 to register. This trip is open to all who have recently completed grades

7-12. Sign up deadline is Sunday, May 3, or whenever the seats are full. See Pastor Jennifer TODAY for more information about this amazing opportunity!



O. W. L. S *OLDER WISER LUTHERANS*

Monday, May 11, 2015 -- 1:00 p.m. - Museum

"The Changing Face of Fergus Falls"

Do you remember what Fergus Falls looked like in the 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's??

Chris Schulke will present a program using slides that were donated to the Museum by the Lillian Wething Family.

This is extremely interesting. You won't want to miss it!

Lunch at 1:00 p.m. served at the Museum (No charge)

2:00 program by Chris Schulke, Director of OTCHS

Sign up at Info Counter **before Thursday, May 7**
so we know how many to plan for.

Questions?? Call Margaret Kratzke



WOMEN'S WEEK AT LUTHER CREST MONDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 22-26, 2015

Theme for 2015: A Love That Never Ends

We will explore what it means to live out each day knowing that we have God's never-ending love. Excellent meals, goodies, treats will be provided. There will be daily speakers and presentations as well as nightly entertainment with musicians and entertainers. This is an excellent oppor-

tunity to participate and grow together in a Christ-centered community through discussion and devotion. Join in for a week of rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation. Separate programming is offered for children and grandchildren of all ages. Luther Crest offers childcare for children ages 4 and under and asks that youth ages 5 and above par-

ticipate in one of the program options offered throughout the week. What a great way to spend a week with a friend – we will also do a day trip on **Tuesday, June 23** for those wanting to go for just one day. Watch for more information in late May and early June. For more information, contact Donna Quam or Margaret Kratzke

Wednesday, June 3, 2015 - 7:30 p.m. "Some Enchanted Evening" -MSU Straw Hat Players

Welcome to the Golden Age of Broadway and the musical theater team who paved the way – Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. This production showcases their most memorable tunes, spanning more than three decades, including the title song "Some Enchanted Evening," "Climb Every Mountain," "Surrey with the Fringe on Top," and many more.

Sign up at the Info Counter and pay \$20 by check (payable to First Lutheran Owls) **before Wednesday, May 20.**

Leave First Lutheran parking lot (lower level) at 4:00 p.m. (load at 3:45)
Arrive at Doolittle's for supper 5:00 p.m.
Leave Restaurant for MSU 6:30 p.m.
Musical 7:30 p.m.
Return to Fergus Falls 11:00 p.m.

Coach sponsored by FL Foundation
Musical Ticket Price \$20 (group rate)
Supper on your own – order off menu



OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN OF FIRST LUTHERAN

Love Days Quilters
Meeting Quilters Room
Every Monday (9-3)
We invite you to join
us!



WELCA Board meeting
Tuesday, May 12 at 10:00 am
Kairos Room

Circles; Wednesday, May 27th
Sarah — 9:30 am at Pioneer Pointe
Hannah — 1:00 pm at Church
Hosted by Doris Teberg

From the bulletin of Grace Lutheran Church in Gulf Shores, Alabama:

The Lutheran Worship Service

The Lutheran Service of Worship, called "The Liturgy," (literally — "work of the people"), has its origins in the ancient forms of worship in the early Church. The order of worship is very similar to the Roman Catholic Mass, and the order of worship used in the Episcopal church.

While Luther has major theological differences with the Roman Catholic Church, he retained much of the same structure of their worship service. The Lutheran worship service is unique among the different church denominations.

While the focus of worship in the Roman Catholic Church is on the Mass (the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion); the focus of the worship in most other protestant churches is on the preaching of the Word.

Luther believed both these aspects of worship were of equal importance.

Hence, there is an equal emphasis on the preaching of the gospel and the regular celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion on The Lutheran Service of Worship.



Summer Coffee Servers Needed!!! Do you enjoy your cup of coffee and treat after Sunday morning worship? If so we need the congregation's help. Please take a minute to sign-up at the info counter for a Sunday that you can serve. We need YOUR help to have coffee on Sunday mornings.

Cemetery Spring Clean-Up!

It's that time again and your help is needed! Please meet at the North Cemetery (take Highway 59 North approximately 1 mile from town .. take a right on the gravel road to the cemetery) on **Tuesday, May 19th 5:00 p.m.** Rakes, shovels, and "elbow grease" are needed to do the job!

ALSO ... we are asking families to remove any OLD ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS/ORNAMENTS from their family gravesites prior to clean-up day on May 19 or they will be thrown away.



First Lutheran Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**CINDY LARSON****MAY 2015*****Building Faith Together, Brick by Brick***

We have had quite a year of learning and building faith. Above and beyond the usual lessons, some exciting activities have drawn us closer to each other and to God.

To mention just a few, Our Sunday School exceeded its goal of 3,000 points to help fill the shelves our local Food Pantry, and earned a Lego (Building) movie and popcorn day! The children painted bird-houses to spread around neighbor-

hoods and provide homes for wildlife. Our Palm Sunday visit from Bible characters was awesome! They will be visiting PioneerCare May 3 to connect the residents to our young community of believers.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

- “Butterflies” June 15-18 (infants-age 6 with an adult)
- Luther Crest Day Camp June 15-18 (ages K-4th)
- **Register now by calling 739-3348!**

***Last Day of Sunday School is May 17*****MAY HAPPENINGS**

May 17 is our **last day of Sunday School**. The Sunday school students will be celebrating another successful year of learning.

Teachers will be recognized at the 8:30 worship service.

“Butterflies” Vacation Bible School is coming up June 15-18 for children age 0-6 with a caring adult! The information is in the narthex. We need donated snacks, helpers, and extra hands. Contact Cindy if you would like to be one of these generous volunteers!

DayCamp is offered to kids who have finished Kdgn-4th grade. The counselors from LutherCrest hold camp outdoors for the week! Sign up in the Narthex!

<i>PioneerCare visit</i>	3
<i>Butterflies 0-3 & parents</i>	10
<i>Teacher Recognition in worship</i>	17
<i>Confirmation</i>	17
<i>Last Day of Sunday School</i>	17
<i>Senior High School Recognition</i>	24



"Everlasting Love"

Join us as we partner with
Luther Crest Bible Camp!

God's love is amazing. God loves us so incredibly much. Join us as we gather together to learn more about God's incredible love for each one of us!

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



Our summer theme verse is:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."

Deuteronomy 6:5



Sign ups will start soon! Cost is \$ 30

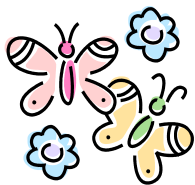
Day Camp Dates: June 15-18 for kids who have completed Kindergarten all the way through 5th Grade age.

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

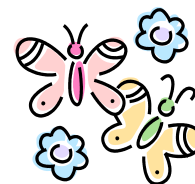
If you would like to volunteer, please call the church office and ask for Pastor Jennifer.

"Butterflies" Vacation Bible School

June 15-18th, 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

_____paid