Jesus Christ is Risen indeed!  
Alleluia!

Good News for the Oppressed

When Jesus came to earth he had a mission, which is expressed in these words from Isaiah 61:

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.

2 He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord’s favor has come, and with it, the day of God’s anger against their enemies.

3 To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory.

This mission has been passed on to us. Some people talk about “preaching the gospel” but may alienate those who need the Good News the most. We are in a unique position to share our faith as Evangelical Lutherans, in a way that broken people can understand and receive it.

In recent months the First Lutheran Church Council has been intentionally discerning a new mission statement for our congregation. The fruits of prayerful conversations is below:

“As faithful disciples, we serve God and welcome all people with open hearts.”

I invite each of us to instill these words in our hearts and minds as we go about worshipping God and serving one another. May God continue to bless our mission here at First Lutheran.

Sharing Christ’s Service, Pastor Gretchen

ADULT EDUCATION, SUNDAY MAY 5 AT 11:00 A.M. FELLOWSHIP HALL

Deb Forstner, MA, MS, BCC, Chaplain at Lake Region Healthcare, will be presenting

Mental Health Mission: Coming Out of the Dark

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Summer Worship on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. begins June 5! We will be traveling to the 5 ELCA churches in town for worship. Details coming soon!
Wow, what a great turn out for our Palm Sunday Festival! It was so fun to have everyone come and celebrate at all the different stations that were up. May is here and with it we enter our last few Sundays of Sunday School. It has been wonderful getting to know your children this year and to see their engagement in class learning about God and worshiping Him. One thing that has been a common lesson focus this year is Caring for God’s Creations. This can mean caring for other people, animals, but also our planet. To celebrate our last day of Sunday School this 2018-2019 season, we are going to take these teachings and apply them to our church and our community. May 19th we will be going out and cleaning up around First Lutheran and George B. Wright Park. Feel free to wear your okay to get dirty clothes, and bring gardening gloves and rakes if you wish. We will have a picnic afterwards.
Thanks to ALL who helped with Palm Sunday worship, breakfast, and the Festival!!!!
Our last month of FLY for the school year is here! It has been so much fun playing, learning, and worshiping God with these children. We will be ending the year strong with a couple more lessons, an End of the Year Party, a Picnic & Clean up day.

**May 1**- Lesson Focus: Jesus brings us Peace. Doubting Thomas (John 20:19-31)

**May 8**- Lesson Focus: God’s love changes us. Saul to Paul (Acts 9:1-20)

**May 15**- Lesson Focus: We are Jesus’ disciples! Peter and Tabitha (Acts 9:36-43)

**Sunday, May 19-- Picnic and Clean Up Day** God says to care for his Creation, we will honor that by getting a little dirty and cleaning up the church grounds and George B. Wright Park during the Sunday School hour. Picnic will follow clean up. Families are welcomed to join us.

**May 22-- End of the Year Party (Last day of FLY K-6)**

You can reach Kristy, Director of Children’s Ministries, at (218) 531-9544, Kristy@flcff.org, Remind App FLYK6

**FLY 7-9 & 10-12** Contact Calie at Calie@flcff.org or use Remind App FLY79 or FLY1012, cell 218 321-0970.

Thanks SO much to all the kids and parents who helped to make the Palm Sunday breakfast such a success!!!

Calie

Having FUN at Rock & Bowl!!!

Youth raised $35 for Sports Scholarship to YMCA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8
Confirmation Rehearsal and Dessert Reception for Confirmands and their family at 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 12
Confirmation at 11:00 a.m. worship

Sunday, May 19 Senior Recognition at worship
Please join us as we congratulate these graduating seniors

Cole Knudson                      Aaron Shelstad
Nycole Mouritsen                    Lilly Stumbo
Matthew Oehler                  Madeline Trosvig

--

Messenger Changes—for those that elected to pick up their Messenger and calendar at church, they will be located on the counter outside the office windows. For those who receive their Messenger via email link, we have changed the calendar to a 8 1/2 X 11 size, so that it will be easier to print at home. Please be sure to let the office know if you have any questions!!

Next Messenger will be combined June/July. Please have articles in by May 21!

Thank you

To everyone who helped during Lent and the busy Easter season!

...
Let’s be “WOWED” at the New Library!!

WOW invites all women to attend:
“Discover the Secrets of the New Library”
Tuesday night, May 21, 2019, meet at the library at 5:30 p.m.

Erin Smith, head librarian, is excited to guide us on a tour and tell us about all the resources now available to us! Appetizers will be served.

Sign up in the Narthex or call the church office, 739-3348.
Christ in Your Recovery
A 12 Step Spiritual Study

This study will be led by Pastor Gretchen and will begin on May 30 and run through August 22. The group will meet at the church on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for a thirteen-week, twelve-step Bible study. The Life Recovery Bible and workbook will be used, and the cost for both books is $40 (scholarships available).

Please pre-register before May 16 by emailing Pastor Gretchen at pastor@flcff.org, or call the church office at (218) 739-448 or Pastor Gretchen directly at (218) 321-0995.

Who can come?
Anyone interested in committing to a 13-week study of how the 12 steps in the Big Book of AA and the Bible can be a bridge to deepening one’s relationship with God and one another.

Church Council First Lutheran
Term ending 2020
Richard Felstul
Suzanne Demuth
Joe Ellig
Jennifer Frank
Mark Hermes
Rick West
Deb Opatz

Term ending 2021
Abbey Kwapisinski
Harriet Wicklund
Youth (open)
Fellowship (open)
Membership (open)

Executive Committee
Richard Felstul, President
Steve Guttormson, VP
Deb Opatz, Secretary
Suzanne Demuth, Treasurer

18th Annual Luther Crest Golf Scramble
Monday, August 5, 2019
Lake Miltona Golf Club, Alexandria MN
Register online www.luthercrest.org, click on special events
Need more info?
Call 320 846-2431 or email jodyj@luthercrest.org

This event helps to raise funds for Luther Crest that are crucial to the ministry we provide every year. Your participation and sponsorship help to keep fees low so that all children, youth, and family can experience the life-changing love of Christ.

May is National Bike Month; May 8 is national bike to school day and May 17 is National bike to work day. FLC is having Bike to Church Day May 19th and FLC staff is having Bike to work day May 20th! Pedal Fergus Falls, a chapter of the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota, is a bicycle and pedestrian education and advocacy group for Fergus Falls.
Mission Moment: Salvation Army

The Salvation Army of Fergus Falls has been in existence since 1893, providing aid, support and compassion to individuals in need. In addition to their thrift store, they provide free, daily lunch, emergency disaster response and children’s after school and mentoring programs. By organization, the Salvation Army is a church and hosts weekly worship services, as well as bible studies for men, women and teens.

Nancy Diiro manages the Caring Ministry Program, often referred to as the Good Samaritan Fund. This program provides support in our community in many forms. These may include vouchers for bus tickets or gas cards, rental or lodging assistance, food baskets and various other forms of support. Nancy interviews those requesting assistance to verify information and then turns to numerous area churches for financial aid. Money is never given directly to individuals, and careful records are kept to ensure that help is spread out fairly. First Lutheran Church has partnered with the Salvation Army to provide Caring Ministry support for decades.

In addition to financial support, the Salvation Army is always welcoming of volunteers to assist with morning meal prep and their after school program. They also administer the Red Kettle Program at Christmastime that many of us are familiar with. Funds collected stay within our community to support the mission of the Salvation Army—“to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.”

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Jennifer Frank, Outreach Coordinator (701) 238-0276

Drivers Needed for Meals by Wheels: May 20 through May 24
Sign up is on the counter outside the office, or you can contact Jennifer Frank, Outreach Coordinator at (701) 238-0276