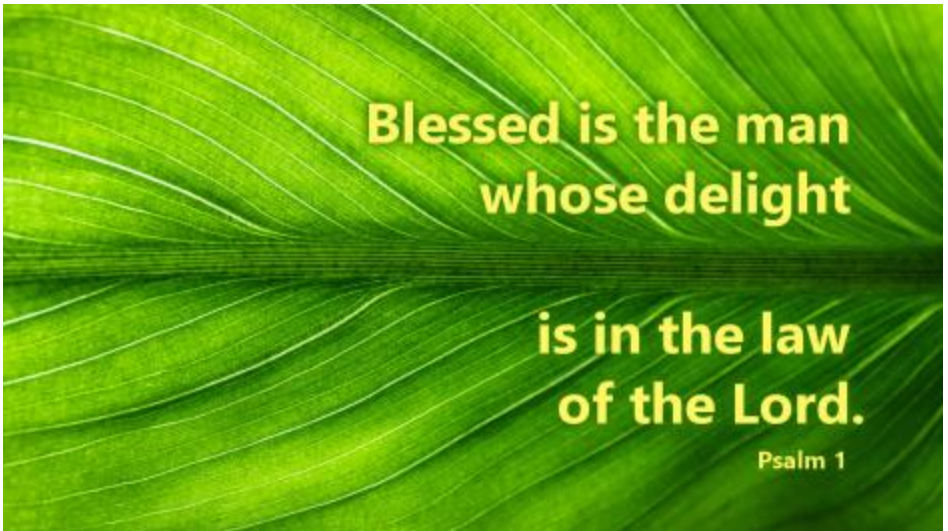


First Lutheran Church, NALC

St. Ansgar, Iowa



Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 12, 2024



An asterisk (*) denotes when worshipers are invited to stand.

If it is better for you to sit for any or all of those occasions, please sit.
God understands and so will we.

REMINDER: Please turn your cell phones off during the worship service.

“MY HOUSE IS THE HOUSE OF PRAYER”

First Lutheran Church
Saint Ansgar, Iowa
Phone 713-4873

Pastor Christopher Staley
May 12, 2024
9:00 A.M.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

WE COME BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

Gwen Mellmann

WELCOME & WORSHIP NOTES

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN *We Praise You, O God*

LBW #241

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OPENING DIALOG (from Romans 10)

P: The Word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the Word of Christ.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... **All: O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth Whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

GOD SPEAKS TO US

The First Lesson Acts 1:12-26

The apostles returned to Jerusalem following Jesus' ascension and began the task of carrying out his commission to them by choosing someone to replace Judas so that their number would once again be twelve, a reflection of the twelve tribes of Israel. Peter cautioned that it should be someone who was a witness to the whole of Jesus' ministry. Lots were drawn and Matthias was chosen.

¹²{The apostles} returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus

and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. ¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about ¹²⁰) and said, ¹⁶“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰“For it is written in the Book of Psalms, “‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and “‘Let another take his office.’” ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us — one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm Psalm 1 Spoken responsively by verse

Blessed are those who walk in the ways of the Lord and delight in his law. They are like trees planted near water that flourish and grow. On the contrary, those who are wicked are like the chaff which the wind scatters.

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on his law day and night.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

Second Lesson 1 John 5:9-15

John concludes his letter reiterating the very essence of his testimony regarding Jesus. God has given us the assurance that we may approach him and ask for anything according to his will. God is not far off and distant, but approachable and grants us eternal life through Jesus.

9If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. 10Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. 11And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. 14And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***The Gospel Acclamations (spoken)**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, reading in the Seventeenth Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

***The Holy Gospel John 17:11b-19**

Jesus prayed for his disciples asking his Father to protect them so that they would be one just as he and the Father are one. His fervent prayer was that his followers would have the fullness of his own joy within them and that they would be protected and sanctified as they were sent out into the world which would neither fully understand nor accept them.

11b{Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said,} "Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. 12While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 14I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

SONG OF THE MONTH In Christ Alone (CCLI#3350395)

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what
depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here, in the love of Christ, I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin, on Him, was laid
Here, in the death of Christ, I live
There in the ground, His body lay
Light of the world, by darkness, slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave, He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ
No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Could ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here, in the power of Christ, I stand

THE SERMON

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

LBW #158

L: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in Him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

P: God has made us His people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith

***THE CONFESSION OF FAITH (The Nicene Creed)**

Pastor: God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin
Mary, and was made man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins:

A time of silence is held for self-reflection

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer,

C: we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

P: O God the Father in heaven, **C:** have mercy upon us!

P: O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **C:** have mercy upon us!

P: O God the Holy Spirit, true Comforter, **C: have mercy upon us!**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgiven us all our sins. To them that believe on His name, He gives the power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all! **C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward all!**

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you.

THE OFFERING

***THE OFFERTORY:**

LBW #410 v. 1

***THE OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Blessed are You,

All: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him Who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***THE PRAYERS**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

***BENEDICTION (spoken)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN: *The Church's One Foundation*

LBW #369

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN CHIMES

POSTLUDE

Please join us after worship for a time of food and fellowship in the Parish Center

WE LEAVE TO WORSHIP THE LORD WITH OUR LIVES

GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME to our worship services. **A WARM WELCOME** to our visitors...please sign our guest register in the narthex and come again! **GOOD MORNING** to members and friends at the Good Samaritan Center.

THE MISSION OF FIRST LUTHERAN-We are all called by God to continue to spread the Christian faith to all people.

Thank you to Marc Auger for serving as our reader this morning.

Devotional Booklets for this quarter are in the narthex – help yourself!

TOTE-BAGS FOR KIDS: There are several bags available in the narthex for families with young children to use during the service. Inside the bag are small toys, books, and etc. to use during the service. Just return them following the service.

We believe that children should be part of the worship service. Occasionally, children challenge this belief. Should you desire to use our Nursery, it is located in the basement of the church. It provides a place for the child and allows the parent(s) to continue to hear the service.



THE PASCHAL CANDLE -The tall candle burning in the chancel during the Easter season is the Paschal Candle. “Paschal” refers to “Passover”. Jesus is like the Passover Lamb which was sacrificed in Egypt so that those families who had the mark of the Lamb’s blood on their front door were spared by the angel of death. (Ex. 12) Thus, the “Paschal Candle” is the Church’s sign for Jesus, the Lamb of God, who was sacrificed for us and rose again (Rev. 5)

The Paschal Candle is burned throughout the seven weeks of Easter (until Jesus’ Ascension). It is also lighted as the sign of resurrection and new life at a Christian’s baptism, and at the funeral of a Christian

Anyone interested in joining our First Lutheran Church family or simply wanting to learn more about our church, is encouraged to contact Pastor Staley or the church office at 713-4873.

The ‘Prayer Chain’ is based on this promise: *“Again, I tell you that if two of you agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”* Matthew 18:19, 20. If you want to submit a prayer request to the Prayer chain, call Sharon Frank at 641-425-8665. If you would like to be a part of praying for the needs of our friends and families, contact your circle leader." **NOTE:** The FLCWomen are planning to re-organize/update the Prayer Chain. They are inviting all men or women who would like to be a part of this to contact Jean Lunde or Linda McKinley and let them know you are interested and the best phone number to use.

We have an active/updated website! Go to www.firstlutheranstansgar.com to see the current calendar, weekly bulletin, newsletter, links to our Facebook page, webcam, and the NALC website.



The LAST Sunday of each month is designated as “Food Bank Sunday”. You are encouraged to bring food items, paper products as well as personal hygiene items to be given to our local North Cedar Food Bank. As always, you may bring items any Sunday, but we will have a special emphasis on the LAST Sunday each month. Also bring your loose change for the Coin Jar. Any loose \$1 bills put in the offering plate that day will be given to the Food Bank.

Today is the last day of Sunday school for this school year. We thank all the people who have given of their time to help our children grow in their faith. We encourage families to bring your children to worship all summer to continue hearing and sharing in God's Word. Next week please join us as we honor our 2024 high school graduates!



NEW DATE – VBS will be held on **June 3-7**, from 9-11 a.m. for ages nursery through 5th grade (grade leaving). Any help you can provide will be appreciated! Let Amber Stricker know if you are willing to help, even if just for a day or two!

Youth completing grades 2nd – 8th from our congregation are also welcome to attend a 3 day, 2 night camp with the youth from First Grace Lutheran, held at Cedar Springs Bible Camp south east of Osage. More info about this will be coming.

Now is the time to register to attend Bible Camp this summer! If your child is interested in attending Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp. Many of the sessions fill quickly, so do not wait if they want to attend. **Again this year, you will register ONLINE yourself, and when you get to the payment section, you will enter a code for our church. This code varies, depending on which camp they choose to attend. You may contact the church office to get the needed code. As before, our church policy for this is:** You will be responsible for paying Riverside the first \$50 towards your deposit and informing the church office which program and week they are registered for. Remember that any ‘extras’ such as Camp Care, Horse Rides, Canteen Money, is the responsibility of the family. If your child chooses to attend a camp that is higher priced than a ‘regular’ week at camp, you need to pay the difference in that also. The church only pays for one week of camp for each student.

LOOKING AHEAD: Each year we send our 7th Grade students to the Fall Recharge at Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp. This year it will be on Nov. 8-9 (just one night). We ask the families with youth who will be in 7th grade to keep their calendars clear that weekend if possible.

OUR MEMBERS CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

* Active ** Reserves

** Marissa Stoeffler

** Collin McKinley

* Tanner Evans

* Lacey Crowley

** Leah Jorgensen

* Derek Peterson

Next Week's Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 139:1-18; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

An Unwithering Leaf

Find the 39 **bold** words from Psalm 1 (ESV)

Y C T C J H S F F A H C W U S
A O S R O T S R H D C Y A W R
D N D M E U Y I E L D S T Z E
S G E Y A E N L R F I T E S P
I R K A U E I S S E F U R T S
N E C W H G R D E W P O N I O
N G I A H N N T M L O E C S R
E A W T A A W E S Y M N A S P
R T N M T I D W S G A W K T T
S I O S T I I Z D E T N A L P
K O R H T N F U W R A E J L L
L N E A D R J B L E S S E D E
A R T S U O E T H G I R O S A
W E G I C S E V I R D T V N F
S J T N O T N I G H T L O R D

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Seventh Sunday of Easter— May 12, 2024

*“But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world,
that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.”*

- John 17:13 -

The joy of Christ is not just a future promise, it is a present reality. Those who believe in the Son of God have eternal life. It is not the promise of a place we will go one day; it is the promise of the life we live for today. We are stuck between the promise and the reality, yet even here we have the life of joy He has promised. Eternal life is for those who dwell in the word of God.

We are made holy by God’s Word. Our relationship with Christ makes us different. We are not taken out of the world but sent into the world. We must be careful that we do not become like the world; everything we do is dependent on our identity In Christ. It isn’t easy. The world hated Jesus and they will hate us, but we need not live in fear or worry. Jesus’ prayers are heard and answered and He has prayed for us. Through His prayers, Jesus assured the disciples that they were to be part of something much bigger than themselves. We have been assured, along with the disciples, that God will never abandon us.

It might not seem like God will never leave us, especially in times when we feel particularly alone. On Ascension Day Jesus returned to His Father in heaven, leaving behind the world in which He had lived for thirty or so years. He left behind the people He loved, called into service, and taught about the Kingdom. He left them with a promise, but He left them alone and they did not receive the Holy Spirit until Pentecost. For those ten days, the disciples were stuck between the ministry they did with Jesus and the ministry they would do in His name. They may have felt abandoned, alone, and afraid, wondering to themselves how could they do the work without Him?

This Sunday we experience that very brief moment of abandonment with the disciples. Though we know that the promise has been fulfilled, that the Holy Spirit is with us, we also know fear, worry, and doubt when it seems like God has abandoned us. This is when the words of Jesus are such a comfort to us; by His Word we know that we are not alone. We have the life He promised, the life of joy with Him here and now and forevermore.

How Are We Doing? A Year To Year Comparison

INCOME TO BUDGET YTD

	<u>Last year</u> <u>4/31/2023</u>	<u>This year</u> <u>4/31/2024</u>	<u>Needed to be at</u> <u>for budget</u>
GENERAL FUND/OFFERINGS	\$69,256.64	\$55,816.89	\$71,558.32
BENEVOLENCE/NALC	\$500.00	\$15.00	\$2,166.68
GO SERV GLOBAL	\$1,276.95	\$8,080.00	
OTHER BENEVOLENCES	\$1,127.86	\$2,069.00	

NON-BUDGET ITEMS COMPARISON YTD

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	
WORLD HUNGER	\$2,135.00	\$1,970.00	
HELPING HAND	\$0.00	\$0.00	
LUTHERAN DISASTER	\$0.00	\$0.00	
YOUTH ACTIVITIES	\$640.00	\$490.00	
NEW MISSION SUPPORT	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	
GENERAL FUND	\$214,675.00	\$216,464.60	
BENEVOLENCE/NALC	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	
CAMEROON MISSION	Pass Through	Pass Through	
OTHER BENEVOLENCES	Pass Through	Pass Through	

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

TODAY: MOTHER'S DAY

9:00 a.m. Worship
 Acolytes: Mitchell Frein, Victoria Hermanson

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour

10:15 a.m. Sunday school/Luther League

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

TUESDAY: 9:30 a.m. Pastor to Text Study

3:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

WEDNESDAY: 9:00 a.m. FLCW Circle at Good Samaritan Center
 Hostess & Bible Study: Kelly Staley

THURSDAY: 10:00 a.m. Preschool Program

1:00 p.m. K-Prep Program

FRIDAY: 10:00 a.m. Nursery Preschool Program

SATURDAY: - - - Pastor's Day Off

NEXT SUNDAY: DAY OF PENTECOST – WEAR RED!

9:00 a.m. Worship W/ Holy Communion
 - Baccalaureate Service
 Acolytes: Ella Horgen, Lauren Berg
 Deacons: Lynn Hemann, Kjersti Mayer

10:00 a.m. Reception & Fellowship Hour
 Faith & Care sign up (June)

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Attendance (1st week in May) : Last Year: 127

Last Week: 99