

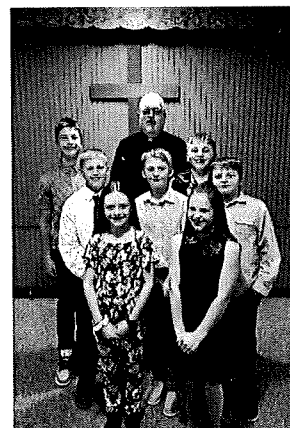
NewsNotes

First Lutheran Church
Saint Ansgar, Iowa
Phone: 713-4873

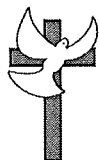
May 2024

Pastor Christopher Staley
Parsonage 713-2852
VOL. 63 NO. 5

First Holy Communion: Sam Porisch, Bentley Myers, Kellan Mayer, Hudson Schulz, Baker Tews, Lucy Stricker and Paige Sponheim celebrated their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28th.



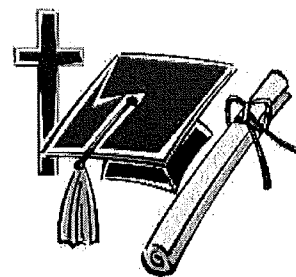
Confirmation 2024 will be held on Sunday, May 5th. Three young members of our congregation will affirm their faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit first given to them in Holy Baptism. They are:



Victoria Hermanson
Ella Horgen
Trey Johanns

Our 2024 Graduating Seniors will be honored at a baccalaureate service on Sunday, May 19th at 9:00 A.M. They are:

Kinsey Anderson, daughter of Jeff & Dawn Anderson
Madeline (Maddie) Berg, daughter of Josh & Ashley Berg
Hannah Clevenger, daughter of Drew & Gretchen Clevenger
Jacob Eberling, son of Jason & Marjorie Eberling
Nehemiah Huebsch, son of Brian Huebsch & Johnnie Huebsch
Isabelle (Izzy) Malmin, daughter of Kyle Malmin and Brandi Meier
Drew Powers, son of Derrick & Amy Powers



Graduates: Please wear your gown (not the cap) to worship and meet in the church basement. A special place will be reserved for you in church. Invite your family and friends to join us at worship and to stay for the reception following worship. Also, please bring a senior picture to be used for the bulletin board to the church office as soon as possible. Please try to bring no larger than a 4 x 6 picture!

A Graduates Prayer . . .*Father, I have knowledge, so will You show me now how to use it wisely and find a way somehow to make the world I live in a little better place So all my education, my knowledge and my skill, may find their true fulfillment, as I learn to do thy will. And may I ever be aware in everything I do that knowledge comes from learning . . . and wisdom comes from You. ~Helen Steiner Rice*

First Lutheran is a member of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) You are encouraged to stay informed of what is going on in the NALC by going to their website at www.thenalc.org You may view the newsletter by looking under "Communications" on the left side of the screen and clicking "Newsletter". You can also get to the NALC website by clicking the link on First Lutheran's web page.

Miscellaneous

Flags for Memorial Day –



The flags in First Lutheran's cemetery for Memorial Day are generally put up the Thursday prior to Memorial Day (Thursday, May 23rd this year). If you are willing to help with this project – just show up around 5:00 P.M. If the time or date gets changed we will announce the changes on Facebook and in the weekly bulletins.

Plans are underway for VBS 2024! As long as the public school calendar does not change, we will plan to have it **June 10-14** 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!

NOTE: On April 28th our congregation held a special meeting. At this meeting the proposal from First Grace Lutheran, Osage, was discussed and we voted to accept the proposal with a 55-1 result.

Attention: Any student wishing to attend Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp this summer is encouraged as soon as possible – some programs are already filling up! 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 you 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.**

From Our Records...

Transfer In: Mollie Fisk from Trinity Lutheran, North Branch, MN



Merri-land Christian Preschool still has openings for the next school year! There are programs for 3 year olds through Pre-K., with options of 1 day, 3 days, or 4 days. Be sure to spread the word to anyone who may be interested! (Must be 3 by Sept. 15th and potty trained) email us at merriland.christian.preschool@gmail.com

Pentecost is . . .



**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!**

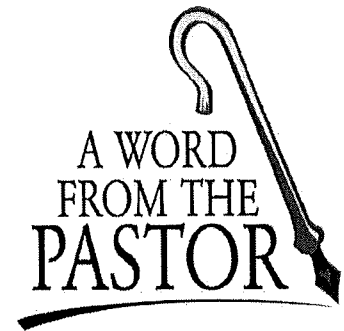
Acts 2.4

- The 50th day after Easter. The name comes from the Greek word, penta, meaning "fifty".
- The day when the Holy Spirit arrived on the disciples in a new and exciting way, with the sound of a mighty wind and appearing like tongues of flame (Acts 2:2-3)
- Also known as Whitsunday in some traditions because of the ancient tradition of wearing white clothing on this day.
- A day in recent times when many wear red or other bright colors to church to recall the flames of the Spirit.
- An opportunity to celebrate what some consider the birthday of the church.
- The last day of Easter season.

This year Pentecost is May 19th

"This really puts things into perspective"

This sort of sentiment is one I hear quite often, usually in the face of some sort of national or personal tragedy or crisis. And it has everything to do with how distorted our perspectives can become, at times. It is a very human thing to do: allowing our perspectives to get out of whack. Perspective, after all, is about how we look at, or value things. And it usually takes some sort of tragedy or crisis for us to do a self-inventory. And almost without fail, this self-inventory brings us to an undeniable conclusion: that our perspective had previously been messed up.



It was about 10 years ago, just after the World Cup of Soccer had finished up. Being a hardened midwestern American, I watched none of it in the month it was on television, but it was hard to avoid the topic. One thing that struck me was the reaction of particularly the losing fans, most notably the Brazilian fans, whose team lost out in the semi-finals, and again in the consolation game. They had been the favorites going in, and as the host country their expectations were sky-high. But as the team fell first to Germany, and then to the Netherlands, the fans fell to despair, and even violence. The German fans, in fact, were warned to wait to be escorted out of the stadium by security personnel following their defeat of the Brazil team for fear of their being attacked by irate Brazil fans. Riots and looting followed in the streets of Brazil. All of these are, I would argue, actions of people whose perspectives are way out of whack. It's really just a game, after all. Really. On the other hand, I know that when one of the teams I root for suffers a defeat, I fall into a bit of a malaise, or if they should happen to achieve an especially noteworthy victory, I know the feeling of jubilation that can course through a person, if even for a short while.

This is all to say that all of us falls prey to the same temptation: our outlook on life can be too easily steered by our current circumstances. The story is told of Katie Luther, the wife of Martin Luther, the former Catholic monk who turned church reformer. Martin was given to fits of something like what we might call depression today and his mood became nearly violently dour. During one of those times, Katie dressed all in black complete with a veil, and closed all the shades in their home. When Martin came into the house, he noticed immediately, and asked Katie what was wrong. She told him she was in mourning. When he asked why, she told her because she had become convinced that Jesus was still in the grave. At this, Martin Luther erupted. "He is certainly NOT in the grave! He is risen!" To which Katie simply replied, "Well I certainly couldn't tell it by the way you've been acting lately."

This little story points to what could be called the proper Christian perspective in life. If we keep always central in our thoughts the truth of Christ's death and resurrection, for us, we will have a proper perspective. All the other tragedies and disappointments that could otherwise completely overwhelm and distract us are made right. And we can say with St. Paul, that there is absolutely nothing that can "separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord", and "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Pastor Staley

First Lutheran Church- Board of Deacon's Minutes

April 3rd 2024, 6:30 PM

The April 2024 Board of Deacons meeting was held on Wednesday April 3rd 2024 at 6:30 PM. Present were Pastor Staley, Kjersti Mayer, Deanne Wagner, Lynn Hemann, Ed Kleinwort, Mark Hendrickson, and Meghan Powers. Excused was Bryan Mayer. Pastor led everyone in opening devotions from 1st John, chapter 1.

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Ed Kleinwort. The previous months minutes were reviewed and approved.

Evangelism: Pastor Staley and First Lutheran Church continue to support the newly planted NALC Church, First Grace Lutheran Church in Osage, IA. They meet Sundays at 1045 in the Cedar Valley Seminary. If any of our members wish to attend a worship service there, they are more than welcome to.

Education: Confirmation is Sunday May 5th with the banquet prior on Wednesday May 1st at 5:50 PM. Honoring of our 2024 high school graduates will be on Sunday May 19th during morning service.

Vacation Bible school dates are set for Monday June 10th thru Friday the 14th.

Stewardship: Nothing new to report.

Worship and Music: We continue to look for opportunities to have special music provided at upcoming Sunday worship.

Social Ministry: Our local food bank is always looking for individuals to help as well as always taking food or monetary donations.

Other NALC Disaster warehouses can always use supplies as well. Our local area is out of Rochester, MN.

The next Deacons meeting will be held Wednesday May 1st at 7:30 pm following the confirmation banquet.

The meeting was closed with Pastor leading everyone in the Lord's Prayer.

Deacons serving communion in May:

May 5th (confirmation) Meghan and Mark

May 19th (graduation) Kjersti and Lynn

Trustee Minutes
April 10, 2024

Meeting attendees were Don Ask, Dennis Salz, Steven Wagner, Jeremy Patterson, Shawn Sponheim, Merlin Thorson, Bev Hendrickson, and Pastor Staley

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Don Ask.

Pastor opened the meeting with devotions.

Committee reports:

Minutes from last meeting were read and reviewed. It was moved by Don and seconded by Dennis to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was discussed. It was moved by Merlin and seconded by Jeremy to approve the treasurers report. Motion carried.

Stewardship – Steven Wagner, Shawn Sponheim

No report

Parish Center – Don Ask

Looking into better internet to possibly put in cameras. Got the quote for door at the bottom of stairs but need fire marshal to approve.

Church Building – Jerad Stricker, Jeremy Patterson

The Roomba docking station is set up and Pastor is going to program. Got samples for carpet on front steps to church. It was moved by Dennis and seconded by Shawn to purchase new vent covers for church building. Motion carried.

Cemeteries – Merlyn Thorson

Dean Cemetery Care is working on the stone straightening.

Parsonage – Dennis Salz

We will be adding a railing to the west edge of new patio.

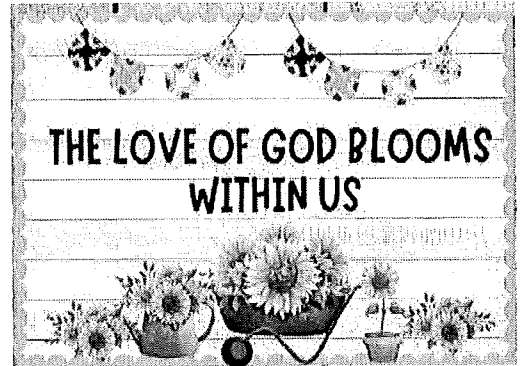
Additional Items:

Spring clean up day is set for April 20th at 9 a.m.

Adjournment followed by the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted by Steve Wagner

First Lutheran Church Women May 2024



Thanks to all who helped with our church Clean-Up Day... as well as all the other days when many are helping to do God's work.

The month of May is always special for several of our youth at First Lutheran. May 1 will be our confirmands Confirmation Banquet where they and their parents enjoy an excellent meal and the students share their confirmation verse, along with hearing praises and thank you's from church leaders and sponsors.

Later this month our graduates will be honored during the church worship hour on May 19, with a reception at the parish hall afterward.

MAY 1 Confirmation Banquet

5. Confirmation Day at church

15 9:00 a.m.

FLCW (formerly known as DebMar Circle) @
Good Sam Home. Kelly Staley = Hostess, Leader

19 9:00 a.m.

Baccalaureate Service

High School Graduation in afternoon

30 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Share Shoppe

Enjoy your Spring !
Linda McKinley

Included in this month's News are Notes from our "Do Day" activities and discussions.

FLCW Minutes

Do Day, April 3, 2024

Five members met for Do Day on April 3, 2024. The DebMar Circle served rolls. Six quilts were tied, then a meeting was held. Linda McKinley called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. Linda McKinley has been added as a co-signer at the bank as recommended in the minutes.

The treasurer's report stated that \$1100 was taken in at the Fall Bake Sale. There were no expenses as Thrivent covered those. Because of the success, we will plan to hold a bake sale again in the fall. We discussed having more than one bake day to allow younger and working women the opportunity to learn how to bake these goodies. Also, we definitely need more lefse to sell next time.

Six quilts were tied today. The total of completed quilts is 38 from spring and fall quilts done last year. The quilts donated to Bremwood were 20, to Riverside 12, and to Missions 16. The 2024 seniors have chosen their quilts. Next year, the seamstress who does the personalized tags would like them chosen earlier in the year, to give her more time to complete them. In the fall, 17 Infant Kits were given. Today 20 were given. They need to be taken to Global Health Ministries. The Infant Kits provide much to mothers. As they come back for another kit, the baby is also checked and given immunizations. It is an incentive to provide well child checks and needed immunizations for these children.

We discussed the Prayer Chain. We would like more members for the chain. We will try putting information in the bulletin or newsletter, encouraging members to sign up. A new list, using the names we have now, will be distributed at the next Circle meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the use of DebMar Circle or FLCW as our name. Since we are all together now, we thought we don't need to use both names. Judy Ask moved to use FLCW as our name. Sharon Frank seconded the motion. We will now be known only as FLCW.

The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Jean Lunde, Secretary

If you have any additions or corrections to the birthday list or the baptismal list, please notify the church secretary or call the church office at 713-4873. Thank You!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Grace Johnson	5/2
Brooke Haugen	5/2
Julie Hansen	5/4
Ethon Koenen	5/4
Laura Cowell	5/5
Tyce Rustad	5/6
Morley Stoeffler	5/9
Ken Meitner	5/10
Hannah Clevenger	5/14
Conlin Patterson	5/14
Dylan Low	5/15
Shirley Olson	5/15
Taylor Krahenbuhl	5/15
Olivia Mayer	5/16
Anna Stricker	5/18
Hudson Stricker	5/18
Hollins Hendrikson	5/18
Ethel Lenz	5/18



Bunita Sponheim	5/19
Braden Powers	5/19
Brayton Hansen	5/20
Debra Freeman	5/21
Cade Duckert	5/21
Jim Horgen	5/23
Don Tesch	5/23
Lindy Mayer	5/25
Frankie Mayer	5/25
Derrick Powers	5/26
Carter Salz	5/27
Shawn Sponheim	5/28
Yvonne Krumm	5/29
Kaden Meitner	5/30
Lawrence Duncomb	5/31
Ryan Wagner	5/31
Kenzie Peterson	5/31

MAY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS


Chris Patterson	5/2
Joshua Hansen	5/3
Jeff Anderson	5/7
Daria Jorgensen Klingensmith	5/9
David Rustad	5/11
Annika Hemann	5/11
Ben Powers	5/13
Morgan Hemann	5/13
Patience (Niemoth) Martin	5/14
Nina Niemoth	5/14
Kateland Niemoth	5/14
Julia Niemoth	5/14



Marie Kittleson	5/18
Emersyn Schulz	5/21
Darren Dieterich	5/22
Clark Jorgensen	5/22
Taylor Wagner	5/22
Shawn Niemoth	5/23
Gerald Hansen	5/27
Ken Meitner	5/28
Julie Hansen	5/28
Hali Anderson	5/31
Morley Stoeffler	5/31

Baptismal Birthday Prayer: Dear God, we thank You for choosing each of us to be Your special child in Baptism. Remind us that You have forgiven all our sins because of what Your Son, Jesus did for us. Help us live each day as Your special children. Let us wake up each day to live the new life You have given us in our Baptism. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 a.m. Circle Study leaders 3:45 p.m. 7th grade set up - for Confirmation Banquet 5:30 P.M. Conf. Pictures 5:50 P.M. Conf. Banquet 7:30 p.m. Board of Deacons	2	3	4 Pastor's day off
5 Sixth Sunday of Easter Confirmation Day 9:00 a.m. Worship W/ Communion 10:00 a.m. Reception NO Sunday school NO Bible Study	6 [Pastor to Continuing Ed.....]	7 9:30 a.m. Pastor to text study 3:30 p.m. Bible Study W/ Pastor	8 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees	9 9:00 a.m. Communion at Good Samaritan	10	11 Pastor's day off
12 Seventh Sunday of Easter Mother's Day 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Last day of the year party! 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	13	14 9:30 a.m. Pastor to text study 3:30 p.m. Bible Study W/ Pastor	15 9:00 a.m. DebMar Circle at Good Samaritan Ctr. Hostess /Bible Study: Kelly Staley	16 Preschool Program	17 Preschool Program	18 Pastor's day off
19 Day of Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship W/Communion Baccalaureate Service 10:00 a.m. Reception Faith & Care sign up - (June) 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	20	21 9:30 a.m. Pastor to text study 3:30 p.m. Bible Study W/ Pastor	22	23 5:00 p.m. Flags put up at F.L. Cemetery Deadline for NewsNotes (June)	24	25 Pastor's day off
26 Trinity Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour Faith & Care sign up - (June) NO Bible Study	27 Memorial Day 	28 9:30 a.m. Pastor to text study 3:30 p.m. Bible Study W/ Pastor	29	30	31	JUNE Chapel at Good Sam. On June 7th

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
212 N. MAIN ST.
ST. ANSGAR, IOWA 50472

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ST. ANSGAR, IOWA 50472
PERMIT NO. 11

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

ACOLYTES FOR MAY 2024

Sunday, May 5 – Confirmation Day

9:00 A.M. Mitchell Frein, Ella Stricker
D: Meghan Powers, Mark Hendrickson

Sunday, May 12

9:00 A.M. Trey Johans, Victoria Hermanson

Sunday, May 19 – Baccalaureate Service & Pentecost

9:00 A.M. Lauren Berg, Ella Horgen
D: Lynn Hemann, Kjersti Mayer

Sunday, May 26

9:00 A.M. Leighton Rosenberg, Mitchell Frein

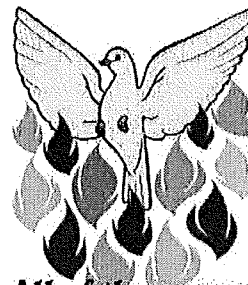
Looking ahead . . .

Sunday, June 2

9:00 A.M. Ella Stricker, Victoria Hermanson
D: TBA

Acolytes: If you cannot acolyte on the date you are scheduled, it is up to YOU to TRADE with another student. Also, please let the church office know who you switched with and for what date. Thanks!

Website: www.firstlutheranstansgar.com
E-Mail address: fic_sta@myomnitel.com
Pastor's Cell: 515-357-9052



**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!**
Acts 2.4